



TOWN OF WESTPORT
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 02790

OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH
856 MAIN ROAD

Tel: (508) 636-1015
Fax: (508) 636-1016
Health@Westport-MA.gov
westport-ma.com

Matthew J. Armendo
Director

PRESS RELEASE

January 12, 2021

Contact: Matt Armendo, Director

The Westport Board of Health has taken an important step to help clean up the Westport River and protect drinking water wells in town through a new Septic System Water Resource Protection Regulation that is set to take effect on February 1st. It primarily applies to new construction and old cesspools.

Westport residents, septic engineers and other interested parties are invited to an open on-line Q&A session about the regulation on January 21st at 7 pm. Details for accessing the meeting online or by phone, as well as a copy of the regulation and a Frequently Asked Questions document are posted on the BOH website at: <https://www.westport-ma.com/board-health>.

The regulation requires that state-approved nitrogen reducing septic systems be installed for new construction. It also establishes system performance standards for such systems and operations & maintenance requirements. In addition, the regulation sets rules for when old cesspools must be replaced with septic systems that meet current state standards, including a 5-year deadline for the replacement of all cesspools. In conjunction with the new regulation, the Board of Health is joining the Barnstable County Innovative/Alternative Septic System Tracking Program for nitrogen reducing septic systems in town.

For homeowners who will need to upgrade cesspools or failing Title 5 septic systems, the Board of Health offers a low interest septic betterment program, which allows repayment of the costs over a 5, 10, 15 or 20 year period. The current program is almost depleted of funds and the BOH will be seeking authorization at the next Town meeting to renew the program.

MassHousing also offers low or no interest financing to help eligible homeowners upgrade failing or non-compliant septic systems. Local lenders include BankFive and First Citizen Federal Credit Union. Finally, Massachusetts homeowners may also be eligible for up to a \$6,000 tax credit over four years for replacing a failed system.

For more information, please call 508-636-1015 or email the BOH: health@westport-ma.gov.

Westport Board of Health