



# **Restoring & Preserving Lake Health Through Local Septic System Ordinances**

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**Spofford Lake Association and Chesterfield Conservation Commission**



# The Problem

Cyanobacteria Blooms

Excess Nitrogen

Excess Phosphorus

Low Dissolved Oxygen

A Toxic Stew on Cape Cod  
Human Waste and Warming Water  
New York Times | January 1, 2023

# Process

**COMPLETE:** Watershed Management Plan

**EDUCATE:** On the goal of reducing current phosphorus loading and preventing future loading from development

**DEFINE:** Establish a lake zoning district within 500 feet of the Lake shoreline

**CREATE & IMPLEMENT:** A “Town Health Regulation ... pertaining to wastewater disposal systems in the Spofford Lake District”

# **Actions and Conclusions**

- 1) Properties surrounding Spofford Lake are about 30% of Chesterfield's total property assessment**
- 2) Health Ordinance was approved November 2020**
- 3) Of 312 properties, 90% have complied or are in the process**
- 4) Town administration requires designated & responsible individual(s) and adequate budget appropriation:**
  - ❖ Creating administration procedures is time consuming**
  - ❖ Costs decline as improvements are made**
- 5) Reaction from the Spofford Lake community has been very positive**

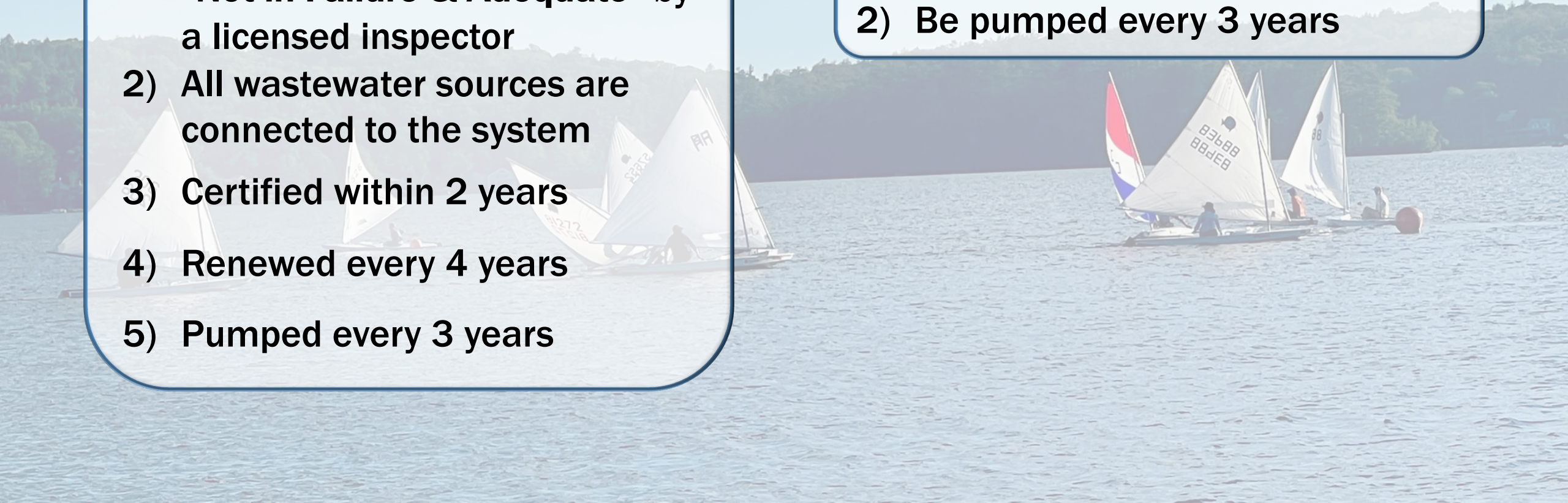
# Requirements for Existing Septic Systems

## No DES Approval On File

- 1) Inspected and certified as **“Not in Failure & Adequate”** by a licensed inspector
- 2) All wastewater sources are connected to the system
- 3) Certified within 2 years
- 4) Renewed every 4 years
- 5) Pumped every 3 years

## DES Approval On File

- 1) Follow any ongoing inspection and pumping requirements
- 2) Be pumped every 3 years



# Requirements for a New Septic System

- 1) System is in failure**
- 2) Number of bedrooms has increased**
- 3) System cannot be certified as adequate**
- 4) Property is sold or transferred and no valid operation system is on file at NH DES**

# Recommendations

- 1) Use science and your watershed management plan to demonstrate need
- 2) Educate town officials and residents
- 3) Start with Chesterfield as a model
- 4) Plan your implementation steps

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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