

Areas of possible growth in Pownal identified

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POWNAL — Bradley Aldrich, of the engineering firm Forcier Aldrich & Associates, told the Board of Sewer Commissioners Thursday that the total cost of the waste-water treatment system would likely be \$26.6 million. The total cost earlier had been estimated as high as \$30 million.

Aldrich said he didn't know how much grant money was still available for added work on the plant. He said he hoped to find out soon, as there are some small projects to be completed in the spring.

Aldrich also said he was looking at some areas in Pownal where sewer service could possibly be extended. He said Barber's Pond Road, Swallow Hill Road, Snake Hill Road and Furlong Road had been identified as places to consider.

Darcy Pruden, chief operator of the treatment system, said she had been contacted about people wanting to do construction projects on Furlong Road.

Brownell said the former Green Mountain Race Track might have up to 149 housing units built on it, and that he had been contacted about certain properties being converted into restaurants.

"Some of this is starting to happen now, and we should be aware of that," Brownell said.

Brownell said not all areas allowed to be hooked up to the treatment facility's system under its Act 250 permit have been connected. He said the areas allowed under the permit in North Pownal, Pownal Center, and Pownal Village were drawn to encourage growth in the village centers.

He said the planning pre-dated the town's study for its application to become a state growth center. Designated growth centers receive incentives and have the permit processes streamlined for development.

Pruden said the plant is currently processing 70,000 to 90,000 gallons of water per day, and can take on 130,000 more. She said it would be wise to be conservative when issuing water reservations to developments.

Brownell said anyone living in an area who would like to be connected to the sewer system should contact the sewer board. Anyone with a defective septic tank should do so as well, he said, because being able to identify areas to the state that show an interest in hooking on to the system, or are pollution points, makes it easier to get funding to connect those areas.

Brownell said Pownal residents should become familiar with the sewer ordinance. He said anyone outside the 200-foot connection zone could still be connected, they just had to pay for the connection beyond the 200-foot mark.

Commissioners also voted Thursday to approve a change in the scheduling of fees. Brownell said the change would make it so that the interest on unpaid late fees shows up on bills, rather than coming due all at once.

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