TOWN OF SHERMAN SANITARY HEALTH CODE
SEPTEMBER 1997

SECTION 1: GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.01 **TITLE:** This ordinance shall be known, and may be cited, as the "Sanitary Code of Sherman".

1.02 **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this code is to reduce the probability of water pollution by establishing standards for the construction of, repairs of, and replacement of water supply and sewage disposal systems, and thereby to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Sherman. These regulations are promulgated and adopted pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 19a-207.

1.03 **UNSUITE SITE:** Many proposed sites are not naturally suited to the disposal of sewage by conventional absorption means. It is the obligation of the applicant to show that the proposed site is suitable to accommodate a subsurface sewage disposal system designed, constructed, and installed in accordance with these regulations.

1.04 **LIMITS OF PERMITS AND APPROVALS:** The issuance of any permit or approval pursuant to this ordinance shall not be construed as a guarantee that the permitted, system or use has been properly constructed, or that it will function properly for any specific period of time. Nor shall such issuance in any way restrict the actions or powers of the duly appointed Director of Health of Sherman for the Town of Sherman or other authority in the enforcement of any law, regulation or ordinance.

1.05 **INCLUSION OF STATE REGULATIONS:** The Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut in its entirety, and as it may from time to time be amended, is hereby made a part of the Sanitary Code of the Town of Sherman and shall apply and govern in all cases except where such provisions of the Sanitary Code of the Town of Sherman shall prescribe more stringent requirements.

1.06 **REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL:** No residence, apartment, dwelling unit, commercial building, or other structure or improvement shall be constructed in the Town of Sherman, nor shall a permit for construction of, or zoning permit for, the same be issued, unless the sewage disposal facilities for the proposed construction, alteration, addition, or conversion are first approved by the Sherman Director of Health or his/her designee, and are in accord with the provisions of the Connecticut Public Health Code and the Sanitary Code of Sherman.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

2.01 **DEFINITIONS:** The following definitions shall apply in the application and interpretation of this ordinance:

- **Department of Health** shall mean the Department of Health of the Town of Sherman.
- **Director of Health** shall mean the Director of Health of the Town of Sherman.
- **Leachate** shall mean a product or solution containing contaminants picked up by leaching through soil.
- **Maximum ground water level** shall mean the level to which ground water rises for a duration of one month or more during the period from February 1 to May 31 inclusive.
- **Reserve Leaching Area** shall mean an acceptable area of suitable soil, which is in addition to the primary leaching area, that may be used for the purpose of enlargement or replacement of the leaching system in the event of failure. The size shall be based on its representative percolation rate and have the feasibility to be constructed in conformance with all aspects of the Connecticut Public Health Code and this ordinance for the purpose of enlargement or replacement of the leaching system in the event of failure.
- **Restrictive layer** shall be deemed the layer which impedes downward movement of flow within the proposed leaching area. This boundary will likely be the lesser of such conditions as: ledge; severely restrictive hardpan (slower than 30 minutes/inch), or seasonal high groundwater levels. If clear determination of maximum groundwater levels cannot be made during site testing then this level shall be determined by monitoring. The highest of at least five (5) readings over a month or more during the wet season of the year shall be used as a basis.
- **Sanitarian** shall mean a duly authorized representative of the Department of Health, acting under the direction of its Director and shall be registered by the State of Connecticut.
- **Sewage** shall mean domestic sewage consisting of water and human excretions or other waterborne wastes that are incidental to the occupancy of a structure used in whole or in part for residential or commercial purposes and that may be detrimental to the public health or the environment. This definition shall not include waste water from water softening equipment, blow-down from heating or cooling equipment, or surface water from roofs or cellar or floor drains.
- **Sewage system failure:** A subsurface sewage disposal system may be deemed a failure, and it a public nuisance and/or pollution problem when:
  a. Sewage reaches the ground surface or overflows in the building served.
  b. Leaching field leachate reaches the ground surface.
  c. Sewage effluent infiltrates a water supply well.
d. Leaching field leachate reaches a surface water body or a subsurface drain.

Subsurface sewage disposal system shall mean a system consisting of a house sewer; a septic tank followed by a leaching system; and such pumps, siphons, and ground water control systems as the operation of the system may depend upon or use in its operation.

Watercourse and wetland shall have the same meaning as those terms are defined in the "Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations of the Town of Sherman," as those regulations may from time to time be amended.

SECTION 3: WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES

3.01 APPLICATION: The following regulations shall govern the construction of all water supply facilities in the Town of Sherman.

3.02 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY: A public water supply, if it is owned by a "Water Company" as defined by Sec. 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes as revised to 1979 and its successors, is permitted.

3.03 PRIVATE WELLS: The construction of private wells shall comply with the provisions of Connecticut Public Health Code regulations 19-13-B51 (a) through (m) inclusive.

   a. All private wells shall be located on the same lot as the building it serves. Easements shall be permitted on existing lots providing the proposed well meets all other requirements of this code and the Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut.

3.04 LOCATION ON PLANS: The location of all proposed wells shall be indicated on proposed subdivision plans and the plot plan for individual residential or commercial lots and must meet the distances established by the Connecticut Public Health Code between wells and sewage disposal facilities, drains and any other items for which separating distances are established by the Connecticut Public Health Code. All wells shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from any property line and 35 feet from the center line of any road.

3.05 YIELD: For usual household use a yield of at least the following will be considered satisfactory:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Water-column depth = total depth - static level</th>
<th>Minimum Storage Requirement if water column depth not net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 GPM</td>
<td>100 feet</td>
<td>75 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3½ GPM</td>
<td>150 feet</td>
<td>150 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 GPM</td>
<td>200 feet</td>
<td>225 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 GPM</td>
<td>375 feet</td>
<td>400 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ GPM</td>
<td>450 feet</td>
<td>600 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS THAN ½ GPM</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For a Yield which is between the ones listed, use the lower yield to determine the required water column depth. For example, a well yielding 3 GPM must have a water column depth of 200 feet.

Storage must be provided if the required water column depth is not met. The storage in the well may be considered for this purpose. Storage may also be provided using combinations of hydropneumatic tanks and/or non-pressurized tanks with booster pumps.

3.06 PERMIT TO DISCHARGE: Prior to issuance of a permit to discharge, the Health Department must be provided with the following information in relation to wells:


   b. The well completion report to be provided on the state approved form.

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1Wells yielding less than 1 GPM must be pump tested for at least 18 hours to prove well yield. It is not recommended that a well with less than ½ GPM be used as the only supply for an individual household. (must obtain permission from the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection.)

3.07 REPAIRS: Any repairs performed on a water supply well, including hydrofracting, rebuilding and
redevelopment, shall require the contractor to obtain a permit pursuant to the requirements of Section 25-128-61 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

3.08 **ABANDONMENT:** When a water supply well is no longer utilized, it must be abandoned by a well driller licensed in the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Section 25-128-57 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The abandonment procedure will require the contractor to obtain a permit pursuant to Section 25-128-61 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**SECTION 4: SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

4.01 **PUBLIC SEWERS:** Public sewers shall not be permitted in the Town of Sherman.

4.02 **OPERATION OF SEWAGE SYSTEMS:** Subsurface sewage disposal systems shall be designed, constructed and operated in such a manner as to prevent failure of the system, resulting in a public nuisance as defined in Section 19-13-B1(d) of the Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut or pollution of the waters of the State as defined in Section 25-54b of the General Statutes.

4.03 **GARBAGE GRINDERS:** The use of garbage grinders in connection with a subsurface sewage disposal system is prohibited.

4.04 **AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN:** Disposal systems for areas of special concern shall merit particular investigation and special design. The following are determined to be areas of special concern:

1. Ledge rock less than 7 feet below ground surface or
2. Maximum ground water less than 4 feet below ground surface, or
3. Soils with slopes exceeding 10 percent, or
4. Percolation rate observed faster than 1 inch per minute or slower than 1 inch per 20 minutes, or
5. Impervious soil or hardpan observed less than 4 feet below original ground surface, or
6. Any site for a subsurface sewage disposal system within 150/200 feet of the edge of any watercourse or wetland.

   a. Plans for new subsurface sewage disposal systems in areas of special concern shall be designed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Connecticut.

4.05 **SITE TESTING AND APPROVAL:** Site testing, approval of plans, final inspections, and final approval of a subsurface sewage disposal system shall be performed by a Sanitarian certified by the Commissioner of Health Services.

4.06 **PERCOLATION RATES:** Where land is being subdivided, percolation rates slower than 1 inch in thirty minutes are not acceptable for sewage disposal systems. Lots pre-existing August 29, 1979, the date this ordinance was adopted, shall not have percolation rates slower than 1 inch in forty minutes.

4.07 **SEPARATION FROM BOTTOM OF LEACHING FIELD:** There must be a minimum of thirty inch separation between the restrictive layer or perched water tables and the bottom of the leaching field except that ledge rock shall be at least four feet below the bottom of the leaching field.

4.08 **SLOPE:** Leaching systems shall not be permitted on slopes greater than 20 percent. In leaching systems on slopes greater than 10 percent, a minimum of 66 inches of original soil shall be required for construction of the leaching system.

**SECTION 5: SOIL TESTING**

5.01 **ORIGINAL SOIL:** Designs for installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems shall be based on soil tests conducted in original soil.

5.02 **PERCOLATION TEST AND DEEP OBSERVATION HOLE:**

   a. In residential subdivisions, a percolation test and a minimum of two deep observation holes to a minimum depth of 7 feet or 4 feet below the bottom of any proposed system or refusal in the location of both the primary and reserve areas of the proposed sewage disposal system on each proposed lot shall be performed prior to the approval of the proposed subdivisions.

   b. In proposed commercial development, a minimum of two percolation tests and two deep observation holes to a minimum depth of 7 feet or 4 feet below the bottom of the proposed system or refusal in the location of both the primary and reserve areas of the proposed sewage disposal system shall be performed, and the results submitted with site plans required by the Sherman Subdivision Regulations.
c. Prior to the issuance of a septic permit the drainage characteristics of the soil and high ground water level shall be determined by a minimum of one percolation test and two deep observation holes to a minimum depth of 7 feet or 4 feet below the bottom of the proposed system or refusal in the location of the proposed system, said testing to be under the direction of the Director of Health or his agent.

5.03 GROUNDWATER MEASUREMENT: High groundwater may be measured directly in a standard observation hole placed during the wet season between February 1, and May 31, using the following procedure: In an undisturbed location a post hole digger will be used to manually dig a hole at least four feet deep. Place three inches of gravel into the bottom. A solid 4" PVC pipe, long enough to extend above the grade and whose bottom has been covered with septic filter fabric, is placed into the hole and the outside backfield with excavated soil. Place a cap on top to prevent rain from entering. Three to four monitors are required depending on the size of the subsurface sewage disposal system. Pipes are to be monitored once a week by the engineer and once a week by the sanitarian, but at different times. To be monitored between one and two months in normal situations and longer if groundwater is consistently high. From June 1, through the end of January, the high groundwater level may be ascertained by examining the soil profile and ascertaining the upper level at which mottling appears, which shall then be considered to be the level of high ground water. When the conditions of the soil are inadequate for the Sherman Director of Health or his/her designee to ascertain the existence of mottling, the test shall be deemed inconclusive and high groundwater must be measured between February 1, and May 31.

5.04 PERCOLATION TESTS: Percolation tests conducted from June 1 to the end of January are acceptable for purposes of this sanitary code only if they are conducted on dates which the Sherman Director of Health has ascertained in advance to be suitable for percolation testing. Said Director of Health or his/her designee shall post a notice in writing in the Sherman Town Clerk's Office when ground conditions are not suitable for testing. Said notice shall be posted at least three (3) days prior to the date on which it is effective and shall continue until rescinded by a further notice in writing posted in the Sherman Town Clerk's Office that conditions are again suitable for the testing. The determination by the Sherman Director of Health or his/her designee that the ground is not suitable for testing shall depend on whether or not the ground is drier than the driest conditions found between February 1, and May 31, in a year with average rainfall for those months. Percolation tests conducted between February 1, and May 31, are acceptable for purposes of this Sanitary Code.

5.05 SUPERVISION OF TESTS: Deep hole and percolation tests must be conducted under the direct supervision of the Director of Health or his certified agent.

SECTION 6: MINIMUM SEPARATING DISTANCES

6.01 SPECIAL BODIES OF WATER: Adjacent to Timber Lake, Valley Lake, Deer Pond, Quaker Brook, Morrissy Brook (Naromi Brook), Squantz Pond, Lake Mauweehoo, Pepper Pond, Green Pond, Spring Lake, Havidland Mill Pond, Ten Mile River or the Housatonic River™ no portion of any subsurface sewage disposal system shall be located within 150 horizontal feet of the high-water line of said lakes or ponds or the top of the bank of said watercourses. No portion of any subsurface sewage disposal system shall be located within 200 horizontal feet of the high-water line of Lake Candlewood™. In the case of a previously approved lot where the above setbacks cannot be met, a setback of not less than 75 feet will be allowed provided that the system shall be designed and certified by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Connecticut.

6.02 OTHER BODIES OF WATER AND WETLANDS: No portion of any subsurface sewage disposal system shall be located within 100 feet of the top of the bank of any brook, stream or watercourse within a defined channel except as noted in 6.01, or within 50 feet of any wetland as defined by the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Sherman. In the case of a previously approved lot where the 100-foot setback cannot be met, a setback of not less than 75 horizontal feet will be allowed provided that the system shall be designed and certified by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Connecticut.

6.03 DRAINAGE: Surface, roof, foundation, cellar, cooling water or area drainage must be so disposed of as to:
   a. permit future relocation of the absorption fields when necessary,
   b. discharge beyond 25 feet of the sewage disposal area,
   c. allow for final grading, seeding and planting of the building site,
   d. provide land slopes draining away from building walls and footings, but not across or into sewage absorption areas.

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2 100 year flood line as displayed on the fema Map "Flood Insurance Rate Map" Community Panel #090166 002A dtd. 6/18/1987
3 High water elevation 430’ MSL.

SECTION 7: THE USE OF FILL
7.01 **Natural Soil:** In cases where fill is required to alter a site to accommodate a system due to the proximity of the existence of restrictive layer, a minimum of 18 inches of the 30 inch separating distance between the bottom of the leaching system and the restrictive layer must be provided in natural soil (i.e. original ground). Where the restrictive layer is ledge, a minimum of 24 inches of natural occurring soil is required on slopes less than 10%. On slopes between 10% & 20% 66 inches of natural occurring soil is required.

7.02 **Compaction:** Where a subsurface sewage disposal system is constructed entirely in fill, the fill shall be mechanically compacted in accordance with state and local codes under the supervision of a professional engineer and certified as achieving proper compaction. Minimum compaction range shall be 90 to 95% in 8 to 12 inch layers.

When such fill has stabilized, percolation testing shall be performed. The percolation rate in the fill shall be at a rate equal to or faster than the original soil.

7.03 **Fill Material:** The Septic fill material shall conform to the Connecticut Department of Transportation specification M02.06-1B for gravel gradation as forth and described below:

| **TABLE 7-1 SEPTIC FILL SPECIFICATION** |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Sieve Size** | **Percent Passing** |
| # 4             | 100%            |
| # 10            | 70%-100%        |
| # 40            | 10%-50%         |
| # 100           | 0%-20%          |
| # 200           | 0%-5%           |

Note: Percent of material passing # 40 sieve size may be increased to no greater than 75% if the percent passing through the #100 sieve does not exceed 10% and the percent passing the #200 sieve does not exceed 5%.

All fill material shall be free of large stones, masonry and masonry rubble, stumps, frozen clumps of earth, wood, tree branches, refuse and construction debris. Before fill is put into place, all trees, brush, roots and other organic material shall be removed.

7.04 **Backfill:** Absorption areas must be backfilled, carefully graded and seeded. Backfill shall be clean earth only, and at least four inches (or more if required by manufacturers’ specifications) of clean topsoil shall extend over the entire absorption area. Before building construction commences, the area reserved for the subsurface sewage disposal system shall be staked so as to prevent compaction by wheeled construction equipment.

7.05 **Erosion Control:** Effective erosion and sedimentation control practices shall be implemented at all job sites in accordance with the Sherman director of Health or his designee. Such controls shall be in addition to and exclusive of any other controls imposed by the Planning & Zoning Commission or the State Department of Environmental Protection.

**SECTION 8: SEPTIC TANKS**

8.01 **Septic Tanks:** All septic tanks shall be of concrete or other durable material approved by the Commissioner of Health; not subject to decay, frost action or to cracking or buckling.

8.02 **Location:** Septic tanks shall be located so as to be accessible by scavenger vehicles so as to facilitate removal of sludge and scum. Septic systems shall be located so as to be accessible to repair vehicles.

8.03 **Manholes:** Access manholes for tank cleaning and servicing should extend to within 12 inches of finished, ground level.

**SECTION 9: CURTAIN DRAINS**

9.01 **Specifications:** Curtain drains may be required where necessary in the judgment of the Director of Health or his/her designee to intercept and divert surface and groundwater. The bottom of the trench shall lower the water table a minimum of 30 inches below the bottom of the leaching system.

9.02 **Connections to Road Drains:** Where curtain drains are connected to any State, Town, or community drain, view boxes, easily accessible, shall be installed to monitor such discharge. View boxes shall be located on State, Town, or community property wherever possible.

9.03 **Permission to Connect to Road Drains:** No connection to, or discharge into, any State, Town, or community drain shall be permitted without the approval of the Department of Health and the agency owning the drain.
SECTION 10: SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR/EXPANSION

10.01 **Compliance:** All repairs of existing subsurface sewage disposal systems shall be in compliance with the requirements of this Health ordinance. Where not feasible, exceptions may be granted by and in the discretion of the local Director of Health, except that no such repair, alteration or extension shall be within the required separating distance to a water supply well, unless approved by the Commissioner of Health.

10.02 **Compliance with Building Size and Use:** No alteration, conversion or change in use of existing residential, commercial or public building shall be approved by the Sherman Department of Health until it can be demonstrated that a septic system exists which serves the building in question, which fulfills the requirements of this Code and which is appropriate for the building's expanded or altered use. Where not feasible, exceptions may be granted by and in the discretion of the local Director of Health, except that no such repair, alteration or extension shall be within the required separating distance to a water supply well, unless approved by the commissioner of Health.

10.03 **Documentation of Conditions:** To document that conditions listed in Section 10.02 exist, the applicant shall provide the Sherman Department of Health with a sketch to scale acceptable to the Director of Health that includes the location of all existing structures, proposed building modifications, the exact location of the septic tank and leaching system and well. No Zoning Certificate of Compliance or Building Certificate of Occupancy shall be issued until the applicant's septic system has been approved by the Sherman Department of Health.

10.04 **Accessibility:** No alteration, conversion or expansion shall reduce the accessibility of the septic system to scavenger and repair vehicles.

SECTION 11: ADMINISTRATION

11.01 **Responsibility:** The responsibility for complying with this Code rests with the owner, occupant and lessee of land involved.

11.02 **Enforcement:** Enforcement of these regulations rests with the Director of Health or his designee, who shall make inspections at any reasonable time and shall suspend any permit granted any time a violation is discovered.

11.03 **Revision:** Any revision to the original application design must be approved by the Director of Health or his designee.

11.04 **Occupying of Building:** No building shall be occupied nor shall a Certificate of Occupancy be issued until the Director of Health or his/her designee has given written approval of the installation, after his/her final inspection.

11.05 **Subdivision Criteria:** Criteria for approval of septic systems in subdivisions shall be based upon requirements stated in this Code or the Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut, whichever shall prescribe more stringent requirements. Subdivision approval does not constitute septic approval for individual lots or uses.

11.06 **Appeal:** Any person aggrieved by denial of a permit or by suspension of a permit may appeal the decision of the Health Officer to the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut within (30 days) from the date that notice of the decision was mailed by registered mail to the person aggrieved.

11.07 **Administrative Procedures:** The Director of Health shall hereby have the Authority to establish any administrative procedures reasonably required to carry out the provisions and requirements of this Code.

11.08 **Fee:** The fee for each permit for the installation, repair or enlargement of a septic system shall be set by the Board of Selectmen.

11.09 **Routine Servicing:** There shall be no permit required by the Sherman Health Department for routine servicing of a septic tank in a properly functioning system.

11.10 **Invalidity:** The invalidity of any section or provision of this ordinance shall not invalidate any other section or provision; the remainder of said ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

11.11 **Conflicts:** All ordinances, resolutions or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed, and this ordinance shall take effect and be enforced from and after fifteen days after the publication of notice of adoption by the Sherman legislative body.

11.12 **Notice of Noncompliance, Variance, or Jeopardy:** When it is determined by the Department of Health that a septic system is not in compliance with this Code or the Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut, or when a variance is granted by the Director of Health for the repair of a septic system, or when a situation is known to exist which jeopardizes the proper function of a septic system, the Department of Health shall have the authority to file a notice with the Town Clerk, directing any interested party to the Health Department.
records for a description of the situation, any stipulation between the Director and the person receiving the variance, and any corrective measures that may have taken place to the septic system that had failed. The Director of Health shall release said notice when the septic system complies with this ordinance and the Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut.

The owner of said dwelling or commercial building shall receive ten (10) days notice by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the notice shall be placed with the Town Clerk. During that time, the owner may appeal such notice to the Director of Health.

11.13 VIOLATIONS: Any person who violates any requirements of any approved plans or the conditions of approval of any permit without the written approval of the Director of Health shall have said permit revoked and shall cease and desist from all construction activity. Properties with observed or reported violations of the Connecticut Public Health Code or of the Sanitary Code of Sherman shall be required to commence corrective action within 30 days of the date of written notification of said violations by the Department of Health. When repair or reconstruction of any portion of a subsurface sewage disposal system is required by the Director of Health to correct a violation, such work shall be performed by a contractor licensed to install and repair septic systems in the State of Connecticut in conformity with this ordinance.

a. FAILURE TO CORRECT VIOLATIONS: In any case where corrective action is not commenced within 30 days of the written notification of violation, the Department of Health shall issue an abatement order and commence the enforcement procedure specified by the Connecticut Public Health Code. Such enforcement may, without limitation, include legal action by the town of Sherman to compel corrective action by the property owner. A property owner who fails to commence corrective action when required shall be subject to the maximum applicable fines specified by the Connecticut Public Health Code.

b. PUBLIC NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS: When the Department of Health determines that any property or use of property does not comply with this Code or with the Connecticut Public Health Code, or when a variance is issued by the Department of Health for repair work on said property, or when the Department of Health finds a situation to exist that jeopardizes the health, welfare and safety of the general public, the Department may file with the Town Clerk a notice to be placed on the Land Records of the Town, directing any interested party to the records of the Department. The owner of the property shall receive 10 days' notice, by certified mail, before the notice is placed with the Town Clerk, during which time the owner may appeal such notice to the Director of Health.

c. CORRECTION OF VIOLATIONS: When violations of this Code or the Connecticut Public Health Code have been corrected to the satisfaction of the Department of Health, a permit to discharge shall be issued to the property owner. Any notice filed with the Town clerk shall be withdrawn at the time the septic permit is issued.

11.14 EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective 15 days after publication.

Effective date August 29, 1998.
Revised April 7, 2018