

The following is a snapshot of the progress made towards the proposed sewer connection.

1. The estimated cost of the line is \$2,700,000.
2. A group of the larger property owners and other interested parties have met on several occasions in an attempt to get verbal financial commitments. Thus far we have verbal nonbinding commitments for approximately \$1,250,000. If we don't raise the money in time to allow construction of the sewer to begin in the spring, we will lose approximately 350,000-\$400,000 of that commitment. Several interested property owners have projects that must precede in the spring. Septic is the only option if the sewer line is not in process. We believe there is a possibility of raising more commitments than \$1,250,000, the amount of additional funds would be sheer speculation.
3. The Town of Rye authorized construction of the line at the March 2019 town meeting conditioned upon there being no expense to the Town of Rye.
4. Eric Wienrieb, President of Altus Engineering, Inc., has met and coordinated with NH DOT, the City of Portsmouth engineering and Severino Construction a proposed location for the line at Lafayette Road crossings.
5. Proceeding requires an inter-municipal agreement between the Rye Sewer Commission and City of Portsmouth. At meetings in late November and early December 2019, the Rye Sewer Commission approved a draft inter-municipal agreement. The inter-municipal agreement has been submitted to the City of Portsmouth and was first considered by the city council on December 2, 2019, at which time the council unanimously approved a motion to move final consideration and decision to the December 16, 2019 meeting. We anticipate approval.
6. Deputy city Attorney Suzanne Woodland has submitted the inter-municipal agreement to the New Hampshire Atty. General's office. Their review and approval are required as is the Public Utilities Commission. We were advised to expect the AG's response within a short period of time. After we receive it the Public Utilities Commission approval will follow.
7. The area in question is environmentally sensitive being close to or part of the Berry's Brook watershed. In general the soils in the area are not conducive to septic systems and as they fail, negative environmental effects are anticipated.