

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Waste Water Treatment Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

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1. The quality of the water in Madaket Harbor and the ability to sustain shellfish in the harbor is very important. -

Answer

The water quality has gone so down hill the past 25 years in my opinion. I think a bigger issue than just what is going on on Nantucket. All those contaminated clams behind Mr Roger's house!! What a shame!! It is a very fragile ecosystem, and is an important "canary in the coal mine" for all of a sudden Nantucket. My grandchildren and I are swimming in this water. I want it to be as healthy and clear as possible. In other words no human feces bacteria.

2. The quality of the water in Hither Creek, which flows into Madaket Harbor, is very important. - Comments

Answer

See above

3. The quality of the water in Long Pond is very important. - Comments

Answer

It is so obvious the main issue is leaching from the dump. The people that collect my garbage always tell me I sort mine the best of all of Tristram's properties. Perhaps because I am a Canadian. Renters must learn to respect the rules and the dumping charges should increase dramatically
Several pairs of ospreys depend upon Longpond for their daily meals.

4. The quality of the water in the Madaket Ditch is very important. - Comments

Answer

I should imagine that if any body of water is polluted, all will sooner or later have the same problem.
Can't comment because I'm not familiar with Madaket Ditch
Not familiar with Madaket Ditch. I have no idea what it is.

5. Please rank the following waterways in terms of the importance of clean water. - Comments

Answer

They're all equally important
They are all intertwined.
They all connected so equally important
How can one be more important than the other?
They are all connected. You can't have one without the other.

Hmmm. Hither Creek and Long Pond seem to be the dirtiest so should we put them first? Or do we follow the water flow..from Ditch to Creek to Harbor? Don't know the science.

6. The quality of Madaket's waterways, including the ability to sustain shellfish, is an important element of

Answer

Many years ago north of Toronto our many crystal clear lakes began to disintegrate. Between tough skeptic rules, boating rules, building codes they have recovered. I just find people more environmentally conscious if they are educated and reminded.

I don't know about the economy, but certainly it's important, if we don't want Nantucket to become just a Disneyland sort of fake place.

7. Since there is substantial evidence that on-site septic systems are major contributors to pollution of the

Answer

Properly designed and maintained septic systems do not necessarily pollute. Much of Madaket doesn't need town waste water collection and treatment while areas bordering bodies of water (fresh and salt) almost certainly do.

Failed systems are the problem!

Alternatives to conventional on-site systems AND emerging technology on-site systems should be considered.

Although I agree that failing systems are major contributors, I also believe there are other factors that should be address before forcing households to acquire new systems (ie fertilizer applications, dump runoff and other issues).

Either 21st century septic systems or a connection to Surfside.

I've put in a relatively new, expensive septic system in the last three years. I hope it works, and think everyone should be tested for compliance with the new regulations, because right now, that's the best technology we have.

This confuses me. I thought septic systems precluded waterway pollution. As a resident of Tristram's Landing, I just spent \$22,000 for a septic system that I was led to believe would help clear the waters at Madaket.

Brought to code, no distance waivers.

has to be balanced with financial considerations.

It is not clear to me that all on-site systems are causing high levels of nitrogen in Long Pond. Some systems, like mine are in use only 3 to 4 months of the year.

This should include composting systems

Enforce the septic inspection by-law. When a septic is failing, let's help the homeowner FIX IT. Failed septic have been allowed to go into a holding pattern. Owners who do not get systems inspected have not faced any penalties.

We have a tight tank-It makes one more conscious of water use.

Some people paid lots of money replacing septic systems last year!!

As a new Madaket resident, having purchased a house with a condemned septic system, I had to replace it with a new state of the art system. There are many old systems, leeching into the harbor and adding to the pollution. These old systems should all be replaced with the current state of the art system for the benefit of every ones good health.

8. Since there is substantial evidence that fertilizer use is a major contributor to pollution of the waterways, the

Answer

Preferably ban chemical fertilizers

It's probably not reasonable to assume the Town has the resources to enforce at the resident-level, but perhaps at the landscaper-level is more appropriate coupled with more education targeting residents/homeowners.

Difficult to do. Education of consumers, both homeowners and landscapers, so residents will be more inclined to get on the green wagon.

Absolutely, and it won't be easy. People love their manicured lawns.

From the data I have seen presented fertilizer use and the dump runoff are causing the problems not the septic systems of seasonal residents. Why are residents being blamed for pollution that is not actually linked to them? Just ban fertilizers and fix the dump. Most septic systems have been converted into compliance. Now people think their septic investment will be wasted with all this talk of a water plant but it is not feasible to raise that much capital for so few homes.

A no brainer.

Bylaw is in place. Landscapers understand. Now we just need to get owners to understand bright green is not good.

The nurseries (which are changing the plant ecology) bear responsibility for this. They should be contributing money for enforcement and help with educating the homeowners.

9. If there is substantial evidence that improved storm water management would reduce nutrient loading, the

Answer

Undecided

All in good time. This should be part of a long-term plan. I believe the Town should maintain what it has and include capital projects knowing it will maintain the new infrastructure as well!

N

poorly worded. all elements of question are relative. If reasonable costs would significantly reduce nutrient loading, then investment is intelligent. If cost is excessive and reduction marginal-no.

This will only get worse.

10. If there is substantial evidence that mining and capping the landfill (a process that has been ongoing) would

Answer

It is at an appropriate pace right now.

This is obviously the main reason for long ponds pollution. It seems like no one in Nantucket advocates for the dump issues. Because it is in the West End out of sight and out of mind for the well to do and most visitors. I have yet to read any summer articles about this very real problem. Out of sight out of mind.

How can you say this tremendous landfill is not causing the problem? Hmm, the bodies of water near the dump are the most polluted. Better tidal water flow into these areas would also help although I know the waterways are not allowed to be dredged. However the septic systems are nowhere near having this level of impact.

There is no way that the landfill IS NOT the MAJOR contributor to

11. The Town should build a wastewater treatment plant at the Head of the Plains in Madaket. - Comments

Answer

not sure what the costs and benefits are

Why destroy this beautiful area?

Currently do not have sufficient information to opine on this question.

Don't have enough info to form a useful opinion

This seems like a very poor investment (cost-prohibitive).

Way too expensive. There r better options.

I'd like to see more evidence how this would be better than improved septic systems.

Sorry if this response is incongruent with other answers herein, but i love the Head of the Plains as it is, and I would be upset upon viewing any kind of a structure out there.

between madaket plant and piping to surfside, either is reasonable if the more cost efficient, Both should be considered.

I don't know enough about wastewater treatment to give an opinion.

absolutely not! The cost is ridiculous and the Town could pay for alternative on-site systems at the homes that need it for far, far, far, far less and this has been shown to be the case already.

The Town has already mandated upgrades to septic systems at huge expense to homeowners. A mandatory connection to wastewater plant would cost homeowners significantly more...

I do not have enough information about the size and potential disruption of such a plant at this time

Last place!

This is a capital intensive project for 465 septic systems, most of which are seasonal. Inspect septic systems and FIX failed ones, reduce fertilizer use, etc before investing millions in a plant, and additional funds forever to maintain it.

In a perfect world, but we could make it a mission and have an (awareness Mission) with logos, innovative contests, information on what to plant-that takes little fertilizer, etc.

Agree, but don't want to see the number of houses double (or worse) as a result.

Do not know enough about this to comment.

12. Assuming that the Surfside Wastewater Treatment Plant has the capacity or could be expanded to provide the

Answer

Currently do not have sufficient information to opine on this question.

Solutions should be local and we need to reduceThe production of waste water.

This seems like a logical solution assuming the failing systems, if fixed, still won't work properly...

Like to hear the plan for that.

In 50 years the Surfside plant may be underwater or disabled by storms. Now is the time to consider a backup facility.

see comment to #11

same as above

not well versed enough to comment

If it is determined that the homes along Long Pond are causing excessive nutrient loading of Long Pond, then this should be the best solution. But first, the towns should clear up its mess at the landfill to see if that solves the problem would need much more information on this

That would require town sewer, yes?

BUT, we must check the zoning with Vorce. Once we have sewer and water, will the natural development curbs of separation between water and sewer become null?

Best to depend on ourselves-Rome is Burning.

Do not know enough about this to comment.

13. If computer modeling finds that innovative-alternative on-site septic systems would reduce water pollution to

Answer

If modeling and actual field experience (functionally and aesthetically) indicates that these systems will do the job then this approach should be seriously explored. The ultimate choice should be either I/A or town sewer--not both.

The Town should educate the residents as to the 'on-site' choices, costs and any negative side effects

We all share in the cost to operate the Surfside system whether we use it or not (that goes for the Sconset system too). Why then would the Madaket homeowners be forced to take on the full burden of buying a new system!? It would seem more logical to share the cost since the benefit is to the greater public - to meet TMDL levels and enjoy quality water... With low interest loans available or offset by subsidies. Clean water benefits all Nantucket residents.

A public sewer system is preferable to on-site very expensive systems

again-if technology if proven, rather than computer based theory, and it is more cost efficient that either plant or pipeline, it is a reasonable policy. But this comes with more if's. the other to solutions seem to be proven technology.

This is not an area to experiment in.

But what are you talking about in cost ?

But depends on cost to homeowners - can't be too extreme.

again. has to be balanced with the cost; perhaps provide tax relief or incentive for people to change as long as there is truly evidence this works; information from a trusted third, unbiased expert source
Tristrans owners have already addressed this problem and upgraded systems
I would prefer that the town find an economical way to provide town sewer service to all Madaket residents
Don't know what it is
They should ultimately connect to the sewer
Would need more information on this system
This should be phased-in and/or supported by the Town
Yes, if this option is instead of sewer.
Maybe, depending on cost. What about a tax incentive instead of a requirement?

14. The mounds associated with I/A systems are aesthetically inappropriate for Madaket. - Comments

Answer

Agree but this may be an acceptable mitigating consequence of the decision.
I've never seen a picture of a mound, so can't comment on that.
Too bad. They are aesthetically inappropriate for all town that have flat landscape
I don't know what the aesthetics are to this system.
depends on size of mounds of which I am not aware
they can be landscaped out...
an issue that would need to be addressed
I do not know enough about these systems to comment
No choice, I think.

15. The Town should build or require Madaket homeowners to install small, neighborhood wastewater treatment

Answer

This requires an effort to review all the alternatives through unbiased experts and the review of all the alternatives with cost and environmental impacts properly evaluated
Costs should be shared.
This sounds like an administrative nightmare. Again, this wouldn't address the idea of cost-sharing with the rest of the island.
A possibility but I don't have enough info
Would need more information
This is "the cart before the horse." Let's first determine if the sewage can be piped to Surfside.
no way
Never heard of this before.
could be considered
Not sure, would want more info. And dont want number of houses to increase as a result.

16. The Town should require homeowners to install tight tanks that would collect wastewater, and the Town

Answer

Currently do not have sufficient information to opine on this question.
Need a better long term real solution, not an expensive band-aid.
My understanding is that tight tanks are very difficult to permit at the state level.
I assume the town would cover the cost I assume the town would cover the cost of pumping,etc.
In homes threatened by erosion or in areas unable to be sewerred.
Sounds good, but need more information.
Not practical, except in a few ultra-sensitive areas.
Only on properties that have distance, depth, etc. problems for a new I/A system
Sounds good, but light on details.
Unsure what this means
ridiculous...my neighbor has a tight tank and it has been horrible ...
Is this feasible?
Hmmm....if one can't get a septic system installed, perhaps the lot should be declared unbuildable.
That would be helpful

17. Please rank the following sources of financing of Madaket wastewater treatment measures. - Comments
Answer

this is a difficult area to evaluate. Are we paying for the sewers now serving others etc. - again a lot of information is needed. By going with sewers your are guaranteeing future high density - humans in the long run love to maximize their returns. The 'greatest generation' is passing on. and I don't see the boomers or their children being so philanthropic, although our youngest generation is split. Timing, education transparency and an earnest effort and consensus is needed here.

I don't understand why Madaket homeowners would be burdened more than other taxpayers or rate payers. Anyone benefiting from the Surfside plant was not burdened by the funding beyond being a taxpayer and possibly rate payer. I don't see why this model should change.

Madaket residents should pay the costs of the iMadaket infrastructure as well as their portion of the capacity they require. They should share the cost of the pipe to Madaket with other areas, such as Somerset and Burnt Swamp who also will be benefiting.

This is an island expense and should be spread over a large base.

We all depend on a clean aquifer and healthy waterway, so we should all share in the costs of keeping it that way. I can accept the idea that madaket pp would pay a greater percentage, but everyone should pay something.

18. If the financing of Madaket wastewater treatment measures were to be shared, please rank the following
Answer

Again, I don't see why the homeowners should be singled-out beyond paying a hook-up fee and then being a rate-payer. I lack information of what history these treatment plants have on the Island.

In

See above.

Madaket residents contribute everything that helps all residents on Nantucket not only Madaket. And, so all of Nantucket should help Madaket.

19. Please share your opinion on the fairest means for financing wastewater treatment measures for Madaket. -

Answer

Raise taxes on island, they are so cheap, have a big future vision not just a scotch tape solution

There is no simple solution and as mentioned above a thorough analysis of the matter is required with a transparent investigation, a solution most can support and transparent implementation is needed.

Nantucket property taxes

Currently do not have sufficient information to opine on this question.

Make a decision and move on.

Property taxes of all!

First an innovative long term solution is needed.

Reduce the production of waste water

Septic waste management should be exploring non water or reduced water solutions.

If the goal is to preserve Nantucket, everyone should share the burden equally.

See above.

I don't think I am knowledgeable enough to determine this. My best opinion is that the biggest user should be the biggest payer.

50/50 island taxpayers and Madaket homeowners.

Since the pollution control will benefit the whole island, it should be shared by the whole island.

We all live here together. What benefits some of us, benefits all of us. It's a small island.

It seems that you just want to build a water treatment plant despite the fact that you have no data to support it actually improving pollution and no way to fund it. Wouldn't it be better to let people build compliant septic systems and focus on the actual causes of pollution such as fertilizer, the dump and failed septic systems. You could also reduce the rabbit population on the island, it is incredibly high in madaket and must be contributing to nitrogen runoff.

Because cleaning up the harbor, creek, ditch & pond will benefit all, I believe that the cost of remediation should be shared by all property owners.

However, a significant "hook up" fee would be a fair way to mitigate the costs borne by the non-Madaket taxpayers.

While septic systems and fertilizer may well be a part of the problem putting the emphasis on them seems to be a way of diverting attention from the landfill. Property tax monies from the whole of Nantucket should be used for solving the landfill problem as the whole of Nantucket uses it.

General town operation funds together with a pay to use,.

People who have taken control of their potential pollution already, by installing new I/A systems and those whose properties are not contributing to pollution should not have to finance others. Those already on sewers are paying their share already for their wastewater.

a balanced approach sharing the entire island community /sewage payers and landowners-the entire island benefits from this investment just as madaket residents have benefited from the investment in the existing treatment plant. Additionally, it is rather clear that the landfill is a crucial contaminater. That is certainly and island wide servicer. those user should share the cleanup

Rational fair sharing based on who benefits and to what extent. should be shared throughout the Island...

Should be a shared expense in that all in the community benefit

The cost should be shared by all Nantucket residents.

The benefits of making these improvements are "community benefits" and should be paid for by the entire Nantucket community. It is not reasonable to ask Madaket residents to fund a community benefit alone or even substantially.

I indicated a share responsibility because I think that the town has some responsibility. I say this because the on-site sewer systems were designed, permitted and installed in accordance with the town's regulations. But now the town has decided that those regulations were not good enough.

Question: How did they decide to pay for Surfside? Seems that will be the way they finance Madaket?

See above

I think this money should come from the town, as this impacts the water quality on the entire Island. It is not fair to have Maddaket homeowners shoulder a disproportionate share of the cost.

See above.

The entire tax base like Education etc,we are all part of the main.

It not fair to make somebody pay to get a top of the line septic system and then pay again to hook up to a waste water treatment plant

Not sure.

20. Property owners who have repaired or replaced defective septic systems and who are required to pay for

Answer

I agree to this to some extent - but once everyone is properly educated as to the problem and the time frames remaining open, I believe that this won't be a significant problem. One of the most difficult problems is the impact of the rising water level around the island and finding a 'safe' disposal system either through evaporation, aeration, or putting treated water into the ocean which is certainly not the most desirable solution
Not having to connect for a certain number of years could make sense. I wouldn't agree that a financial credit would make sense. This could be a can of worms.

A sliding scale would be good with a ten year time span.

For example an owner who upgraded/repaired his septic system three years ago would pay 30% of the cost (receive a 70% reduction in the cost of connecting). An owner with an eight year old sewer system would pay 80% of the cost (receive a 20% reduction).

Provided their system is inspected and pumped yearly, at the end of the season. Any that degrade and are less effective should be required to hook up to sewer.

Seems fair to me.

We have followed the guidelines and spent \$60,000 on our new system. It is clean, self renewing and is fine for our small house that gets used 3 months a year! We were so happy to know that we bought a system that would last 50 years. Why are better septic systems not being pursued?

I agree with the idea of a credit, but NOT exempting them from a requirement to hook up.

Note: should have to connect, but get a credit for money spent

Owners who have followed the by-law, at great expense should not be penalized.

Let us move forward, and watch-out for the good of the whole in the future no special dispensation for having done the right procedures in the passed

They should not have to hook of for many years or decades