



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

CHARTERED 1763

P.O. BOX 88 5420 SHELBURNE ROAD SHELBURNE, VT 05482

Clerk/Treasurer
(802) 985-5116

Town Manager
(802) 985-5111

Zoning & Planning
(802) 985-5118

Assessor
(802) 985-5115

Water Quality FAX Number
(802) 985-3700 (802) 985-9550

April 18, 2017

To Shelburne residents and other interested parties:

On April 17th at approximately 11:45 AM the Wastewater Department responded to a potential sanitary sewer overflow near the intersection of Route 7 (Shelburne Road) and Bay Road. An active overflow was observed and the Department acted swiftly and the overflow ceased within twenty minutes of discovery. Unfortunately it appears that the overflow had occurred for at least eight days. The actual quantity of the overflow is unknown but is estimated to be approximately 100,000 gallons.

A person jogging in the area of Munroe Brook on Bay Road noticed a sewer smell. This individual left a phone message at WWTF#2 on April 11th. Unfortunately this answering machine is not checked daily and the message was not received until the morning of Monday, April 17th. It is very uncommon for the department to be notified of an emergency at the facility number called. The Department is taking steps to prevent this from occurring again by adding an emergency contact number to the facility's messaging system and updating any website information. The emergency contact is Shelburne Dispatch at 985-8051. Calling this emergency number will ensure that the on-call operator is notified immediately at all times of the day or night.

This is a very unfortunate event that the Town does not take lightly. Many factors were involved that allowed this overflow to continue for such a long duration. The Wastewater Department's answering machine was not checked on a regular basis. This will be corrected. The manhole that overflowed is not located within or adjacent to any roads and is a cross-country line. The location of cross-country lines make it difficult to detect overflows. The Town's Wastewater system includes a very sophisticated alarm system (+/- 500 alarms) that monitors each facility and sixteen pump stations. However, the Wastewater Department does not have any means to detect manhole overflows other than being notified by the public. The Town currently owns approximately 900 manholes.

A follow-up call was made thanking the person who notified the Department on the 11th. We appreciate any and all assistance in protecting public and environmental health.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at crobinson@shelburnevt.org or at 985-3700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher R. Robinson".

Chris Robinson
Water Quality Superintendent
Town of Shelburne