

## Paul Campbell

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**From:** Mathias Rosenfeld <mathias@newhabitatpartners.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:45 PM  
**To:** West Acton Sewer Action Advisory Committee  
**Cc:** Paul Campbell  
**Subject:** Support for West Acton Sewer Project

Dear Members of the WASAAC:

Thank you for the effort you are putting in to study the complex issues around bringing the sewer to West Acton. My company, New Habitat Partners LLC, is responsible for the planning, construction, and management of West Acton Villageworks — home of True West, Acton Coffee House, and more than 30 other independently-owned small businesses. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed West Acton Sewer project. Sewers are not appropriate for all applications and in all locations, but a sewer is exactly the critical piece of infrastructure West Acton needs to sustain the expanding village economy. It will support the walkable and lively town center that residents of our community say they want.

Acton's existing treatment facility was designed with additional capacity for West Acton. If it is not used in West Acton—a district where zoning specifically promotes and encourages the kind of vibrant mix of uses that a sewer enables—this excess capacity may be used in a far less desirable location that could result in more car-dependent, sprawl development. A sewer in West Acton will enable local investment and vibrancy where zoning intends.

When planning Villageworks, we went to great lengths to adequately handle the wastewater flows generated from our property. Among other things, this included the acquisition of a land parcel that is now almost exclusively dedicated to housing a large, private wastewater treatment system with multiple levels of treatment. This system was costly to build, consumes a large amount of land (which is scarce in the Village), and is expensive to operate. It also limits how tenants can run their businesses. For example, septic systems place restrictions on seating capacity or can require less environmentally-friendly disposable plates and utensils rather than reusable service items. A municipal sewer system will provide the town and its property owners with reliable long-term treatment in a more compact space, much greater flexibility in business operations and practices, and the opportunity to bring new uses that flow-restricted septic systems cannot support.

I believe that now is the time to move forward with this project, as it will only grow more expensive as years go by. This is a special opportunity to make a tangible investment together as a community that will benefit West Acton Village for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Mathias Rosenfeld

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