

May 24, 2022

Jim Bouley

Mayor, Concord NH

Hello Mayor Bouley,

It was good seeing everyone outside for one of the first events of the spring season at White Park last month. Amy Tullo says hi to your wife, Tara.

As the summer garden irrigation season starts up, I am again requesting that the City of Concord follow its progressive southern neighbor, Nashua by instituting winter water averaging for calculating sewage bills. As I'm sure you are aware the sewage bills are calculated based on water consumption. This is accurate for the winter months when all the water used enters the sewage system. However this is not accurate or even an honest way to calculate sewage bills in the summer irrigation months when much of the water is applied to the city's garden plots.

As an example, my average winter sewer bill is \$24.05 (January to May 2020), which increased in July 2020 to \$135.27 and in August to \$195.39, due to summer water usage. I have discussed this with Amanda Grady Sexton and Councilor Hatfield and I was going to bring the request to an appropriate Council meeting but COVID changed those plans. I received a reply from the City Manager and Chip Chelsey saying this is industry standard but this is changing as evidenced by Nashua's change. Concord as the capital city should be the innovator. There are many other cities throughout the US that use this form of billing: Portland, Oregon, San Diego, Dallas, Tx, Santa Rosa, Ca, El Dorado, Ks just to name a few.

The city also mentioned that I could put in a closed loop sprinkler system but spending \$4,000 or more on a sprinkler system is not the solution. This works well for lawn but does not work for a large vegetable garden that needs to be rotated and the ground turned. Additionally, cities should keep equity in mind when making policy decisions. The individuals that can afford a sprinkler system are not impacted as much with the erroneous sewage bills, it is the folks that are living pay check to pay check and trying to grow some vegetables to help the weekly budget. They are the ones that see any benefit to their budget from a vegetable garden, eaten by the increased sewage bills.

I am looking forward to hearing your opinion about Concord's overcharging for sewage bills during the summer months. Changing the billing practices to the fair and honest method of winter water averaging will eliminate the summer spikes in charges and provide stability so that utility customers know what their bill will be each billing cycle and are not taken by surprise by a large seasonal increase, and as we are seeing drought may become much more common.

Thank you for taking the time to read and respond to this request.

Regards,

Daniel Tullo

16 New Castle St

Concord, NH