

Since 2011, the Municipality has been working to review and, where necessary, update our Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law. The process we followed to do this work included a multitude of public meetings and information sessions were designed and held by professional planners. The Planners, in turn, report to and are guided by a committee of Council - the Planning Advisory Committee or PAC.

The PAC - after countless hours of review and discussion - formulated draft documents, with staff assistance, ultimately recommending a final product to Council for debate.

We understand and appreciate that changes to by-laws, particularly substantial ones like the updating of the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use By-law (LUB), bring with them the potential for concern either in whole or in part.

Throughout the consultation and feedback phase of the 2019 draft, the Municipality has collected and responded to questions regarding the proposed documents. The Municipality has noticed there is particular interest regarding on-site sewage with specific reference to the allowing of pit privies.

The following information has been put together by municipal staff to aide in the understanding of the use of pit privies as an on-site sewage system.

Frequently Asked Questions about On-site Sewage

Q: Who has jurisdiction over the installation of outhouses/pit privies?

A: All matters related to wastewater (water that has been used in the home, in a business, or as part of an industrial process) fall under the jurisdiction of [Nova Scotia Environment](#).

Q: Does the Municipality allow these to be used?

A: : All on-site wastewater systems (those **not** connected to municipal sewer networks) are subject to the regulations and technical guidelines for on-site waste water management as outlined by Nova Scotia Environment not by the Municipality of the County of Kings.

As part of the Building and Development Permit application process, the application is reviewed to determine how wastewater is being addressed. If the applicant is proposing a building which will be served with water, (has a bathroom or kitchen sink, with plumbing installed) the Municipality's Building Official will require a Notification from [Nova Scotia Environment](#), and a report from an Engineer or Qualified Person for an on-site system prior to issuing a permit.

If the applicant is proposing a building which will not be served with water (no plumbing in the structure) an outhouse/pit privy may be installed. As part of these permit applications the Municipality's Building Official will require confirmation that the lot qualifies for the construction of an on-site system by requiring [Nova Scotia Environment](#) Notification and a report from and Engineer or

Qualified Person prior to issuing a permit. However the installation of the on-site system is not required to be completed to obtain occupancy approval.

The Municipality processes applications in this manner so that we are not creating the potential for future conflict when and if a building owner wants to install internal plumbing, e.g., water, basins etc.

Q: Who can install privies?

A: NSE permits a property owner to install provided they follow installation requirements for pit privies, e.g., 15 metres from a drilled well, 30 metres from a dug well or watercourse, 3 metres from any property line

Q: Who does the enforcement of the outhouse requirements?

A: Nova Scotia Environment under the *Environment Act* would be required to enforce any violations.

Q: I have more questions. Where do I direct them?

A: Questions regarding the regulation of pit privies or the Environment Act should be directed to Nova Scotia Environment (www.novascotia.ca/nse). Questions regarding the County of Kings proposed Municipal Planning Strategy and/or Land Use By-law may be directed to Laura Mosher, Manager Planning and Development electronically at lmosher@countyofkings.ca or by calling (902) 690-6102.