

# Acton Water District

WINTER 2017

## Water Words Notice

Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for March 15th at 7:30 pm in the meeting room of the Acton Memorial Library.

The winter edition of our Water Words Notice also includes the Warrant Articles to be voted on at this meeting. If you are interested in learning more about the budget, reviewing reports on activities of the District during the past year, or reviewing a complete copy of the Independent Auditors report, the Annual Report of the District is available at [www.actonwater.com/annualreport](http://www.actonwater.com/annualreport).

### Drought Status

Drought conditions experienced in 2016 were a cumulative set of circumstances that quickly escalated throughout the State of Massachusetts. Although improvements have been made, the time necessary to completely recover from drought is still in progress. On January 5, 2017, the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force met for its monthly update on conditions and necessary response actions. Coming out of this meeting, the State indicated that the Acton area was improving and we were now in a Drought Watch instead of the more serious Drought Warning. With this declaration, we officially lifted the mandatory outdoor water use restriction put in place on August 12, 2016. We want to sincerely thank our customers for the responsiveness they showed in curtailing water use during this time. Although we understand it was difficult for many people to lose the convenience of outdoor water use, conditions were worsening at that time and it was not clear how long the drought would last. The efficient use of water year round, by you our customers, helped to position Acton in a better place during the drought than many Massachusetts communities. Details on spring and summer outdoor water use restrictions for the 2017 growing season will be determined at a later date. Please check [www.actonwater.com/conservation](http://www.actonwater.com/conservation), call the office, or follow us on Twitter @Actonwater before undertaking any major outdoor water uses in the coming months.

### Passive Water Efficiency

In July 2016, the frequency of water meter reading for many of our customers was increased from quarterly to monthly. Although all customers still receive a quarterly water bill, the monthly readings help customers better understand water usage and make meaningful changes to conserve. Only customers

with the most up to date meter technology can take advantage of this new capability. If we contact you for a meter upgrade, please call the office to schedule that as soon as possible. One of the most important aspects of this is the early detection of potential leaks in your home or business. During 2016, we have detected 2,372 possible leaks related to almost 900 accounts. With increased reading and better meter technology, we can reduce the amount of time these leaks go on before being fixed. This can translate to a significant amount of wasted water, in this case, water that would be paid for by the customer. By detecting a possible issue early, it can help you and the Water District intervene and save water, money, and possibly prevent damage to your home. We will reach out to customers via email or phone when a timely issue arises so please provide local contact information in addition to the billing information that we typically have for each account. In a year like 2016, leak detection and repair were critical in helping to reduce water use once the State declared drought conditions. As noted in the previous article, being water efficient year round helps to position Acton to better manage resources in years of drought or during other water curtailment periods.

### Rain Barrel Promotion

Once again we will be offering discounted rain barrels to our customers. The deadline for ordering will be on April 28th with pick up at the Acton Water District office on May 4th between 2pm and 6pm. Additional details on the barrels and our promotion will be available on [www.actonwater.com](http://www.actonwater.com). As in previous years, we will offer each customer a \$25 discount for the first barrel they purchase. Rain barrels are a great way to help reduce your outdoor water use and keep plants alive during times of drought.

**Rain barrels come already painted in three colors or you can buy one and paint it to match your home.**



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Middlesex, ss.



To the Clerk of the Water Supply District of Acton, GREETINGS:

You are directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Acton who are qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to assemble at their precinct:

Precinct 1, 2 & 6 —Conant School, 80 Taylor Rd.  
Precinct 3, 4 & 5 - Blanchard Auditorium, Junior High School, 16 Charter Rd.  
Acton, Massachusetts

On Tuesday, March 28, 2017 • Between 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.  
Then and there to bring their votes on one ballot for the following officers:

**Commissioner for three years • District Clerk for three years**

You are further directed to notify the legal voters of the Town of Acton, as aforesaid, to assemble at:  
Acton Memorial Library, 486 Main Street, Acton, Massachusetts

**On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 7:30 P.M.**

Then and there to Act on the following Articles:

**Article 1.** To fix salaries of the elected officials.

**Article 2.** To act on the reports of the Commissioners, the Treasurer and other officers and committees of the District.

**Article 3.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to borrow in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 4.** To see what sums of money the District will vote to raise and appropriate to defray the usual expenses of the District.

**Article 5.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$150,000 for the maintenance and repair of the various treatment facilities including, but not limited to, media replacement in the filtration tanks, aeration tower repair, and replacement of packing material, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 6.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$65,000 to clean and rehabilitate existing wells throughout the District or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 7.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$35,000 for the purpose of replacing old water mains, renewing old water services, replacing old fire hydrants or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 8.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$15,000 to complete a system-wide leak detection survey or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 9.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of repairing emergency water main breaks or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 10.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Commissioners to enter into a long-term written lease, with options to extend for a period not to exceed thirty (30) years, for the purpose of a pump and treat system for 1,4-dioxane remediation on a 100' X 150' segment of land owned by the District at 16 Knox Trail in Acton. The written lease shall include an annual rental charge of not less than the current fair market value rent for the use of the property and shall provide for annual increases based on the consumer price index. The lease shall include other terms, conditions and limitations as the Commissioners shall deem necessary and proper to protect the public water supply and to satisfy the requirements and regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 11.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$60,000 for the replacement of the granular activated carbon media at the Clapp and Whitcomb well sites on Massachusetts Avenue in Acton or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 12.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$70,000 for purchase of two general service vehicles, and approval to sell or trade the District's 2004 Chevrolet 2500 Silverado Service Truck and 2007 Ford Escape or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 13.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$500,000 for water main improvements throughout the District's water system or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 14.** To see if the District will vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for an engineered update to the District's Master Plan or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 15.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$50,000 for the purchase of a residuals management tank for the Clapp and Whitcomb treatment facility or to take any other action relative thereto.

Hereof fail not and make due returns of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Water Commissioners on or before the time of holding of said meeting.

Given under our hand this 23rd day of January in the year two thousand and seventeen.

Stephen C. Stuntz  
Leonard A. Phillips  
Ronald R. Parenti, Water Commissioners

A true copy. ATTEST:

William T. Stanford  
District Clerk

# Acton Water



District

P.O. Box 953  
Acton, MA 01720

Prsrt Std  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
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Matthew Mostoller

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Ronald Parenti

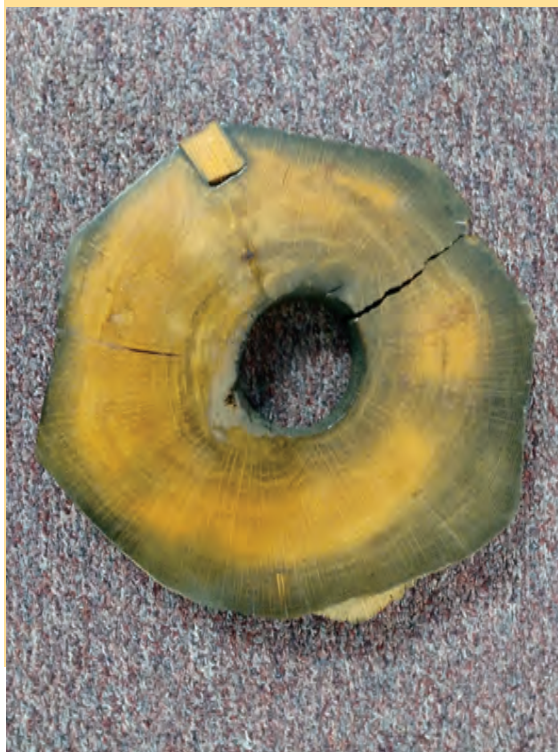
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## What is it?

Please email your answers to [webgeek@actonwater.com](mailto:webgeek@actonwater.com). Winners (and the correct answer) will be posted in the next *Water Words Notice*.



## What was it?

Don Kimball was the only customer to correctly identify our summer 2016 What is it? The photo was taken at our South Acton Water Treatment Plant of the test ports on a back flow prevention device. This particular device prevents chemicals utilized for cleaning the membrane filters within the treatment plant, from accidentally being siphoned into the potable water system. Cross connections such as this example, can involve complex chemical systems or something as simple as a garden hose left in a bucket at your house.

