

# Acton Water District

WINTER 2024

## Water Words Notice

Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th at 6pm at the RJ Grey Junior High School Auditorium located at 16 Charter Road. This 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).

### Upcoming Actions on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The understanding and regulatory impacts of PFAS have evolved considerably over the last four years and are anticipated to continue to do so. In March 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced a draft federal drinking water standard for PFAS, which seeks to establish Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS as individual contaminants and four other compounds as a PFAS mixture. USEPA's proposed standard, which differs from the current Massachusetts standard, is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks. With regulatory changes on the horizon, we continue to refine our PFAS response strategies and plan for impacts to our costs, operations, and available water supply.

To recap both our actions to date and our immediate plans for addressing PFAS, we have summarized our progress and goals below. A full summary is available on our dedicated PFAS webpage at [www.actonwater.com/pfas](http://www.actonwater.com/pfas).

- The PFAS filtration system at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is nearing completion. Construction on this project began in July 2023 and has experienced delays due to long lead times on certain critical components. We anticipate an early spring 2024 completion of this project, resulting in full use of this facility being restored.
- After activating the Assabet 3 well in February 2023, resulting in consistent PFAS concentrations below the MCL during 2023, the next action for our South Acton WTP is the construction of PFAS filtration. This project will be going out for bid in March and is expected to be operational by the summer of 2025.
- The approval and construction of the bedrock wells in Acton Center is gaining momentum as the acquisition of the 549 Main Street property was completed on December 7, 2023. The work to connect these new wells to the Central Acton WTP will be done in conjunction with PFAS filtration

upgrades at this location. We hope to have the new wells operational before the filters come online, which will allow greater flexibility in managing PFAS concentrations in our existing Conant wells and return some capacity to our system. This project is anticipated to be fully completed by the fall of 2025.

The patience and understanding of you, our customers, has been appreciated as we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of PFAS. We continue to provide the most recent PFAS data on our website at [www.actonwater.com/pfas](http://www.actonwater.com/pfas) and encourage you to sign up for our email updates, which notify you when new information is available. This can be done by sending your name and address to [wq@actonwater.com](mailto:wq@actonwater.com) requesting to receive updates.



**District Manager Matthew Mostoller (l) presented Matthew Walsh (r) with a unique retirement gift—a custom-made hydrant table!**

### Comings and Goings!

This past summer, long-time treatment plant operator Matthew Walsh retired after almost 11 years of service to the District. Prior to joining our operations group, Matt served as the Chief Water Operator for the Town of Pepperell's Water Division for over a decade. His experience, candor, expertise, and willingness to get the job done were all assets to the District. Lucky for us, Matt opted to rejoin the District on a part-time basis only a few weeks after his official last day to help meet our current staffing needs. We look forward to benefiting from Matt's knowledge while he pursues other adventures in semi-retirement!

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:

All Precincts voting at Blanchard Auditorium  
R.J. Grey Junior High School, 16 Charter Road, Acton, Massachusetts

On Tuesday, April 30, 2023 • 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 Moderator for three years**

You are further directed to notify the legal voters of the Town of Acton, as aforesaid, to assemble at:

R.J. Grey Junior High School, 16 Charter Road, Acton, Massachusetts 01720

**On Wednesday, March 20, 2023, 6:00 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, 2024 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, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to establish a \$100,000 limitation on expenditures from the revolving fund captioned "District Revolving Fund for Mitigation," or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 6.** To see if the District will vote, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to establish a \$100,000 limitation on expenditures from the revolving fund captioned "District Revolving Fund for New Service Meter Installations," or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 7.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Grace Stabilization Fund (W.R. Grace settlement) the sum of \$125,000 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 8.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$100,000 to clean and rehabilitate existing wells throughout the District, 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 replacing old water mains, renewing old water services, and replacing old fire hydrants, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 10.** 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 11.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$200,000 for the replacement of filtration media at the District's water treatment plants, 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 \$500,000 to pay costs of improvements to the District's water system and water mains in Acton, 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 \$83,106 to pay for three months of Fiscal Year 2024 lease payments for the North Acton Water Treatment Plant PFAS Filter Lease, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 14.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$200,000 for purchase of a vacuum tank trailer truck, or other comparable vehicle, 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 \$75,000 for the acquisition of a new general service vehicle, by purchase or lease, and to authorize the sale or trade of the District's 2010 Chevrolet utility truck, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 16.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to transfer the following unexpended balances remaining after the completion of projects authorized by vote of the District, or to take any other action relative thereto:

A. Unissued balance in the sum of \$19,520 from Article 1 of the Special District Meeting held on September 22, 2008, to the funds appropriated for the purchase of new general service vehicles pursuant to Article 12 of the Annual Meeting of 2021.

B. Unissued balance in the sum of \$1,010 from Article 17 of the Annual Meeting of 2020 to the funds appropriated for the purchase of new general service vehicles pursuant to Article 12 of the Annual Meeting of 2021.

**Article 17.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB) the sum of \$109,347 to fund health insurance benefits for retirees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 18.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$50,000 for costs associated with addressing corrosion of the pitless adapters at the Kennedy Wells, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 19.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$30,000 for costs associated with replacing the roof at the District's office building at 693 Massachusetts Avenue, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 20.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$30,000 for costs associated with upgrades to the District's Nagog Hill water tank at 287 Nagog Hill Road, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 21.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$75,000 for costs associated with obtaining a study of water supply alternatives available to the District, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 22.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Commissioners to enter into a long-term written lease, for an initial term not to exceed twenty (20) years, for use of a cell tower on a portion of the land owned by the District located at and known as 287 Nagog Hill Road, which lease shall provide the most favorable annual lease payments and other terms received in response to a request for proposal issued by the District, and subject to other terms, conditions and limitations as the Commissioners shall deem necessary and appropriate, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 23.** To see if the District will appropriate the sum of \$500,000 or any other amount, to pay costs of implementing the recommendations of the Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacement Plan, and to meet said appropriation by transferring from available funds, or borrowing, which may include the borrowing of funds through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, or any combination thereof, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 24.** To see if the District will vote to amend the District Bylaws by replacing the current District Bylaws in whole with the proposed District Bylaws dated February 26, 2024. The full text of the proposed Bylaw is available at [www.actonwater.com/bylaw24](http://www.actonwater.com/bylaw24).

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 26th day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-four.

Erika Amir-Lin  
Barry Rosen  
Stephen C. Stuntz, Water Commissioners

A true copy. ATTEST:

William T. Stanford  
District Clerk





## 549 Main Street: The Next Chapter

For those of you that have been following the District's source exploration efforts in Acton Center, we have exciting news to report—we officially acquired 549 Main Street for \$4.9M, below market value, in December 2023! For those of you that are new to this project or could use a refresher, please read on to learn more about the significance of this 56.85-acre parcel and this important milestone.

In 2018, the District began conducting well explorations on and adjacent to the 549 Main Street property, which was then owned by the Conant family. As a result of these efforts, new viable sources of supply were discovered; two 600-foot-deep bedrock wells known as Wells D and E that together are anticipated to provide just over 0.25 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) of water. The addition of these wells will help diversify the District's water supply portfolio, provide a measure of drought resilience to the community, and improve the quality of water supplied by the Central Acton WTP.

At the Annual District Meeting on March 15, 2023, voters appropriated \$2.4M to construct Wells D and E, which will enable the District to move forward with connecting these new sources to the Central Acton WTP upon final approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). With the recent acquisition of 549 Main Street, final approval is expected soon and the invitation to bid for this project will be released in March. The hope is that these wells will be operational by early 2025, barring any unforeseen construction delays.

In addition to the many water supply-specific benefits 549 Main Street offers, its protection will provide the community with a number of climate resiliency benefits while also preserving the unpaved portion of the historic Isaac Davis Trail

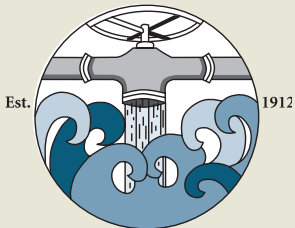
on the property in perpetuity. At the Town of Acton Annual Meeting on May 1, 2023, voters unanimously approved Article 10, which authorizes the Select Board to acquire a Conservation Restriction (CR) on the property from the District utilizing \$1.0M from the Community Preservation Fund balance. Once finalized, this CR, which will be held jointly by the Conservation Commission and the Sudbury Valley Trustees, will enable public access to the existing trail network on the property, providing another significant asset to the community.

To learn more about the grants awarded in support of this land acquisition and to stay up to date on project progress, please visit our website at [www.actonwater.com/source-protection/549-main-street](http://www.actonwater.com/source-protection/549-main-street).



The District recently acquired 549 Main Street, which sits at the prominent intersection of Brook and Main Streets.

## Acton Water



### District

P.O. Box 953  
Acton, MA 01720

*Water Words Notice* is published twice a year for all customers of the Acton Water District

#### District Manager

Matthew Mostoller

#### Editor

Alexandra Wahlstrom

#### Commissioners

Erika Amir-Lin, *Chair*

Barry Rosen

Stephen Stuntz

### 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*. Customers with a correct answer, as determined by District staff, may receive a prize—in addition to the fame of having your name published in this space!



### What was it?

Our last photo stumped readers, as no one correctly identified this autoflusher which is installed in the Avalon Acton neighborhood. These devices help improve water quality, especially on dead-end water mains such as this one, by removing aging water to increase chlorine residual and reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts. This unit is remotely programmable and flushes at a flow rate designed to avoid water quality disturbances.

