

# Acton Water District

WINTER 2014

## Water Words Notice

In our ongoing effort to reach customers with important information, while recognizing the environmental footprint it can have, this newsletter has once again been revamped. You may recall receiving up to four paper publications from us in a given year. On the heels of scaling back our Annual Water Quality Report in June of 2013 with a postcard offering, we are eliminating a mailed copy of our Annual Report and Warrant Articles for the Annual Meeting. Instead, the Warrant Articles for our March 19, 2014 meeting are included on the following pages. The Annual report is available in its entirety at [www.actonwater.com/annualreport](http://www.actonwater.com/annualreport). This document includes budget information, reports from various operational segments of the District, and a complete copy of the Independent Auditor's Report.

We encourage our customers to provide feedback and become active in the protection and provision of your public water supply. To that end, we are now on Twitter @actonwater, our website [www.actonwater.com](http://www.actonwater.com) is being updated with more timely information, and we invite you to complete a survey on how we are doing. If you have not signed up for the Town of Acton's Connect-CTY notification system, please visit [www.acton-ma.gov](http://www.acton-ma.gov) and click on the "Notify Me by Phone" tab on the lower left menu bar. This system is utilized by both the Town and Water District to notify residents and businesses of important information during emergency situations.

### The Relevance of Groundwater Protection

The Safe Drinking Water Act emphasizes a multi barrier approach to protecting your drinking water. To that end, we continue to provide testing and treatment of water being delivered to your tap, maintaining sanitary storage and distribution facilities, and protecting the sources of supply through land ownership and local regulation. The last component can be the most difficult one to do, since many aspects of groundwater protection rely on individual choices and implementation and enforcement of Town bylaws. The existing groundwater protection bylaw was instituted in the late 1980's reflecting best practices of the time. In 25 years, understanding of groundwater protection and the regulatory environment for drinking water has matured.

This is relevant because during the fall of 2013, it came to the attention of Water District and Town officials that the Town of Concord intended to purchase land on Knox Trail for the

storage and maintenance of buses. Having recently spent both financial and staff resources understanding current land uses and purchasing property in this area, the District was concerned with this acquisition. Additionally, it served as a reminder that although we implement treatment strategies, we are still prone to land uses that could pose a threat to our water supply.

As customers and local voters, you play an important role in voicing concerns with adequate protection of your drinking water. When issues involving groundwater protection become public, you should take notice and contact local leaders or attend public meetings. This will help keep groundwater protection a high priority especially in light of competing interests for remaining land areas in Acton.



An Acton Water District crew completes a leak repair.

### All that digging!

With approximately 130 miles of water pipes under the streets of Acton and over 6,400 service lines, some of which are a century old, repair and replacement work is an ongoing necessity. Some of this work is planned, such as the work on Hayward Road and School Street in 2013. Other times this work is done as an emergency repair. When our underground infrastructure is being worked on (or another utilities), conditions are not always ideal or what we anticipate. This can lead to prolonged outages during the day, accidental rupture of water infrastructure, discolored water, and traffic delays. We ask all of our customers to understand the inherent difficulties in working underground and the need to be patient as we work to make your water system as safe and reliable as it can be.

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, April 1, 2014  
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**  
**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 19, 2014**  
**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, 2014, 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 \$50,000 to clean and rehabilitate existing wells throughout the District 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 \$50,000 for the purpose of repairing emergency water main breaks 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 \$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 9.** 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 10.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$90,000 to purchase a new dump truck and to authorize the Commissioners to trade or sell the District's 2000 F-550 dump truck 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 \$75,000 for the purpose of purchasing water meters to replace existing outdated technology on District service lines, 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 \$80,000 for the repair, or replacement of a Carbon vessel at the Clapp/Whitcomb pump station, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 13.** 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 twenty (20) years, for the purpose of a telecommunication tower and associated building, equipment and materials on land owned by the District, located off of Main Street and Wyndcliff Drive in Acton. The written lease shall include the most favorable annual rental charge received in response to a request for proposal to be issued by the District 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, to satisfy the requirements and regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection, and to be in compliance with all the terms and conditions of a special permit to be issued by the Town of Acton 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 3rd day of February in the year two thousand and fourteen.

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

A true copy. ATTEST:

Charles E. Orcutt, III  
District Clerk

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

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# Acton Water



## District

P.O. Box 953  
Acton, MA 01720

Prsrt Std  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #134  
Acton, MA



### What was it?

Two customers, Tom Smith and Bob Evans, correctly identified this as an Acton Water District re-useable water bottle. In partnership with Green Acton, these were provided at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting to replace the disposable plastic water bottles historically used by those on stage. Look for an opportunity to get your own re-useable bottle at events throughout the year.



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.