

Acton Water District

Water Words Notice

WINTER 2016

Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for March 16th 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.

Ice Pigging

At the conclusion of our fall flushing program, it was determined that additional cleaning was necessary to avoid future issues with water discoloration. This was due to changes in how water is running through the pipes in South Acton, as a result of combining our two treatment facilities into one. To sufficiently remove the decades of historical buildup in this older system pipe, Ice Pigging technology was selected to clean the water main on School Street from Main Street to Route 2. Since you are surely asking what an ice pig is by now, it is a 70 foot long slug of ice slurry pumped into the water main through a fire hydrant (see photos). Since this technology is minimally intrusive, due to no excavation being required, with the assistance of the vendor, Utility Service Group, we were able to get the entire 12,000 linear feet done in just over a week. The technology employs the principals of glacial ice moving over ground picking

up debris in its path. The results were quite eye-opening, and we were very pleased with the outcome. Due to its success, we will be employing this cleaning technology in other critical, older portions of the piping distribution system in the future.

Superfund Update

Efforts to delineate the extent of 1,4-dioxane contamination emanating from the W.R. Grace and Nuclear Metals, Inc. Superfund sites is ongoing. Beginning in late August and continuing through January 2016, additional monitoring wells were installed in the vicinity of Knox Trail and the Assabet River, including on District property. In our comments to the United States Environmental Protection Agency in January 2015, we requested delineation of the contaminants under the river and into Acton, towards our Assabet wells. This was done to make sure that our interests were being adequately addressed since the groundwater contamination was not the main concern at the NMI site. The District continues to work with an Environmental Consultant and has retained Special Environmental Legal Counsel to help navigate the ongoing issues at these Superfund sites. Additional information, including the Record of Decision issued in September 2015 for the NMI site, is available at www.nmisite.org. This is the legally binding plan to clean up the site, including efforts to address 1,4-dioxane.

Come Celebrate!

Please join us on Saturday May 7, 2016 from 10am to 1pm at the South Acton Water Treatment Plant. The plant is located at 332 High Street, across from Acton Ford. We will be hosting an open house for our customers and other interested people in Acton. Tours of the new facility will be available along with light refreshments, giveaways, and information about your water system.

Samples of the water are collected before, during, and after the process to determine the effectiveness of the ice pigging. Ice is generated onsite with this mobile unit.



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 29, 2016 • 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

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 16, 2016, 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, 2016, 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 authorize the District to seek special legislation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to expand the District's borders or otherwise to allow it to service and to supply water to a property in Concord, abutting 37 Knox Trail in Acton, for Concord's use of the property in Concord (former WR Grace property) to use as a bus maintenance depot, and other future uses, and to authorize the Commissioners to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement to determine the terms and conditions of such provision of water on terms determined by the Commissioners or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 6. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Receipt Reserve for Appropriation Account (W.R. Grace settlement) 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 7. 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 8. 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 9. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$40,000 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 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 11. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$150,000 for maintenance and repair to the District's water storage tanks 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 \$65,000 for the purchase of two new service vehicles and to authorize the Commissioners to trade or sell the District's 2002 Chevrolet 2500 Silverado service truck 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 \$1,000,000 for water main improvements in the Indian Village neighborhood and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Water Commissioners, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$1,000,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Sec. 8, or other enabling authority and the Board of Water Commissioners is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project 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 \$35,000 for the engineering costs for future water main improvements in the Indian Village neighborhood or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 16. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$25,000 for the costs required to commission an engineered Residuals Management Study for the filtration plants or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 17. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners to transfer to Surplus Revenue 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. Unexpended balance in the sum of \$2,684.25, Article 10 of the Annual Meeting of March 19, 2014, for the purchase of a new dump truck.
- B. Unexpended balance in the sum of \$5,000.00, Article 10 of the Annual Meeting of March 18, 2015, for upgrades to the Clapp Whitcomb well site.
- C. Unexpended balance in the sum of \$15.10, Article 13 of the Annual Meeting of March 18, 2015, for water meter replacement.
- D. Unexpended balance in the sum of \$2,650.00, Article 11 of the Annual Meeting of March 18, 2015, for the leak detection survey.
- E. Unexpended balance in the sum of \$188.04, Article 11 of the Annual Meeting of March 19, 2008, for the Indian Village water main project.

Article 18. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners to transfer to the Receipt Reserve for Appropriation Account (W.R. Grace settlement) the following unexpended balances remaining after the completion of projects authorized by vote of the District:

- A. Unexpended balance in the sum of \$3.00, Article 19 of the Annual Meeting of March 21, 2012, for the South Acton Treatment plant pilot.
- B. Unexpended balance in the sum of \$3,786.26, Article 11 of the Annual Meeting of March 16, 2011, for carbon replacement.
- C. Unexpended balance in the sum of \$7,886.24, Article 12 of the Annual Meeting of March 15, 2006, for the initial engineering and related costs and expenses for testing on the Assabet 3 well site.

Article 19. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners to rescind the borrowing authority previously authorized by vote of the District to borrow transfer for the remaining balances unissued on the following accounts:

- A. Unissued balance in the sum of \$200,000, Article 14 of the Annual Meeting of March 20, 2002, for water main improvement projects.
- B. Unissued balance in the sum of \$200,000, Article 13 of the Annual Meeting of March 19, 2008, for construction of the North Acton Treatment Plant.
- C. Unissued balance in the sum of \$340,000, Article 11 of the Annual Meeting of March 19, 2008, for on Mohawk Drive, Seneca Road and Oneida Road in Acton.
- D. Unissued balance in the sum of \$400,000, Article 13 of the Annual Meeting of March 18, 2009, for Arlington Street water mains.

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 25th day of January in the year two thousand and sixteen.

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

A true copy. ATTEST:

William T. Stanford
District Clerk

Acton Water



District

P.O. Box 953
Acton, MA 01720

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for all customers of the
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What is it?

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



What was it?

Apparently our photographer was too tricky during our summer 2015 What is it? No customers responded with a correct answer. The photo was taken at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant during a desktop treatment optimization program started in the fall of 2014. The pink liquid is potassium permanganate, which is injected into the water to oxidize iron and manganese. This allows the minerals to be filtered out of the drinking water.

