

# Acton Water District

WINTER 2018

## Water Words Notice

Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for March 21st at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the Acton Memorial Library. Please note the starting time for this meeting is earlier than in previous years. 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).

### District Recognized

On November 3, 2017 the Acton Water District received the Massachusetts Water Works Association's (MWWA) Executive Director Award for 2017. This award is presented annually to a MWWA member whose knowledge, accomplishments and contributions in the waterworks industry and also outstanding service to the Association entitles that individual to special recognition. For the first time since it was established in 2007, this award was presented to a utility rather than an individual. The District was chosen for this award by MWWA's executive director Jennifer Pederson for their support of the association and its programs and services to advance the water works profession. It was noted that District staff are approachable, friendly and do their best to provide their customers with great service. During the awards ceremony, Pederson also acknowledged how the

District is a progressive utility in their promotion of water conservation and efficiency, they are attune to legislative and regulatory issues facing public water systems and get involved when called upon. Locally, the Acton Garden Club recognized the Acton Water District for having the Best Waterwise Landscape in 2017. The demonstration garden in front of the District office is a partnership between the District and local organizations, such as the Garden Club and Girl Scouts, which serves to highlight water efficient gardening success. Mary Jo Bates and Beth Secinaro accepted the award at the Garden Club meeting on October 3, 2017 along with other local businesses that were recognized for having exceptional landscapes throughout town.

### Get WaterSmart!

The results are in and the success of the WaterSmart software program is confirmed by you, our customers! A recent survey indicated a high level of satisfaction with the program and this has translated to better leak detection, more convenient billing and payment services, and tools to put water use information in your hands. Please note that signing up for paperless billing through WaterSmart is not the same as signing up for automatic payment through our online payment vendor. One customer recently was alerted to a leak and had this to say "I'm impressed with the notification system. I used the coloring dye and located the leak this evening. Bravo for technology!" Although we cannot detect leaks immediately, it certainly reduces the time a customer would be responsible for water lost to leakage. Please visit [www.actonwater.com/watersmart](http://www.actonwater.com/watersmart) and register for this valuable service if you have not already signed up.

### Solar Update

During the March 18, 2015 Annual District Meeting, voters unanimously approved Article 15 to allow development of ground mount photovoltaic systems at the Lawsbrook and Knox Trail parcels owned by the District. Over the course of 2017, staff worked with a consultant and attorney to develop a request for proposals from solar developers for a 20 year lease. On January 16, 2018, the Board of Commissioners voted to award the lease to GroSolar of White River Junction, Vermont. Negotiations will commence immediately and GroSolar hopes to have the two systems operational by the end of 2018 pending approval by Eversource and state and local permitting authorities.



**Matthew Mostoller and Chris Allen accept the award from the President and Executive Director of the Association.**

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 27, 2018 • 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 • Moderator 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 21, 2018, 7 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, 2018 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 \$125,000.00 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 \$90,000.00 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 \$30,000.00 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 the Receipt Reserve for Appropriation Account (W.R. Grace settlement) the sum of \$300,000.00 for the piloting of treatment technologies for the Conant I and Conant II wells 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 \$500,000.00 to pay down short-term debt related to the Indian Village and Littlefield Road water main improvement project or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 10.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue \$100,000.00 for the removal of filtration residuals at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant 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 \$85,000.00 for the replacement of filter cartridges at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant 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 \$60,000.00 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 13.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$62,000.00 for purchase of two general service vehicles and for approval to sell or trade the District's 2003 Ford Econoline Van and 2008 Ford Ranger pick-up or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 14.** To see if the District will vote to amend the District Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, Revolving Funds, as most recently amended by Section 86 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, the Municipal Modernization Act, by inserting the following section entitled "District Revolving Fund for Mitigation" or take any other action relative thereto.

#### **District Revolving Fund for Mitigation**

**1. Purpose.** This bylaw establishes and authorizes a revolving fund for use by the District in connection with mitigation fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the District's mitigation expenses under the Water Management Act. The fund will be credited with all fees charged for mitigation. Expenditures will be authorized by the District Manager and will not exceed \$100,000. This revolving fund is established under and governed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½.

**2. Expenditure Limitations.** The revolving fund is established and authorized by this bylaw without appropriation for projects to mitigate water usage or to pay fees assessed to the District under the Water Management Act subject to the following limitations:

- No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.

- The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by District Meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the Water Commissioners.

**3. Interest.** Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this bylaw shall be credited to the General Fund.

**4. Procedures and Reports.** Except as provided in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and this bylaw, the laws, charter provisions, bylaws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of District monies and the expenditure and payment of District funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this bylaw. The District Treasurer shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the District Treasurer provides.

**Article 15.** To see if the District will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws c.44, §53E½ as most recently amended by §86 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, 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 16.** To see if the District will vote to appropriate the sum of \$9,590.00 from free cash to fund the District Revolving Fund for Mitigation 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 29th day of January in the year two thousand and eighteen.

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

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

### District Manager

Chris Allen  
**Editor**  
Matthew Mostoller

### Commissioners

Leonard Phillips  
Stephen Stuntz  
Ronald Parenti

### Design & Production

David Gerratt  
NonProfitDesign.com

**PRSRT  
STANDARD**  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No 46  
Worcester MA

Printed on Recycled Paper

## 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?

One reader from Boxborough correctly identified our last photo. The red apparatus featured here is a temporary hydrant meter. This enables us to sell bulk water for various purposes while accounting for the volume and minimizing disruptions to water quality in our distribution system. Many construction and maintenance activities require temporary or high volume connections to the water system. The unit connects to a fire hydrant and has both a water meter and back flow preventer to keep substances from being introduced into the treated drinking water system. By encouraging contractors to use these controlled access points, it minimizes water theft and unauthorized use of fire hydrants.

