

# Acton Water District

## Water Words Notice

WINTER 2020

Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for March 18th at 7:00 pm in the Public Safety Facility at 371 Main Street. 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).

### Conservation & Efficiency Updates

Managing the drinking water resources available to us in Acton most effectively takes efforts from multiple stakeholders. You, our customers are on the front line of this, but we also depend on the development community to help out. Additionally, the District as the water supplier has a role to play. Through this three-pronged partnership, water use in Acton has been declining over a 20-year period. Despite seeing an approximately 17% increase in single family homes served, water use for this customer class has decreased by approximately 25%. Although single-family homes make up our largest category by use and connections, these changes are similar across all customer classes.

Historically we relied on multiple outreach programs, incentives, improved fixtures and appliances, and water use limitations to drive these results. The District itself has also been working to better manage water demand. This is through proper metering of water, both as it leaves our treatment plants and when it enters customer's properties, data management, as well as leak detection and repair. Finally, when properties in Acton are developed or redeveloped, we expect these projects to be as water efficient as possible. Using a toolbox of regulations, financial incentives and penalties, and planning we can work with the development community to achieve water saving goals.

To assist in ensuring that needed capacity is available for future users, projects that are increasing water use pay money into our mitigation fund. These funds defray the cost of seeking additional water supply, offering efficiency programs, and implementing programs associated with our withdrawal permits. To further aid our existing customers we are overhauling our rebate program to increase the incentives for toilets and washing machines while adding a rebate for other WaterSense rated fixtures. Please visit [www.actonwater.com/rebates](http://www.actonwater.com/rebates) for additional program details and as always, thank you for your efforts in using water wisely!



Kelley's Corner  
MassDOT Project File No. 608229  
Acton, MA

### Project Area



The project area targeted for water system improvements is underneath Main Street and Mass. Ave.

### Kelley's Corner Water Infrastructure

Based on the 2018 notification from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Town of Acton, the District began planning for its role in the improvements being slated for the intersection of Main Street and Massachusetts Avenue, known as Kelley's Corner. We were aware of this project but were eventually notified by MassDOT that work on buried infrastructure is not within the scope of their project. At that point we had to consider if we wanted to improve water mains within the project scope, recognizing that we would need to finance that ourselves; or leaving the existing infrastructure and potentially needing to make repairs or upgrades in the future. Since some pipes in this area are part of the original water system dating from 1912, and others are at least 50 years old, the decision to replace our aged infrastructure in this area was made.

Although this work was not in our Master Plan, it would appropriately support the investment the community was making and avoid having to potentially dig up the newly improved streetscapes. We engaged our engineering consultant, Wright-Pierce Engineers, to estimate the cost and design the water mains. At this time the water main has been designed and submitted for inclusion in the larger project plans, which are 75% complete. The entire Kelley's Corner project is scheduled for bids in December of 2021 with work to commence in 2022. In anticipation of this approximately \$1.25 million project in the near future, we have not been rehabilitating or replacing water mains during the past few construction seasons.

As the project moves forward, those impacted by the water infrastructure work will be notified. Additional information on the larger project can be found on the Town of Acton's website: <https://www.acton-ma.gov/628/Kelleys-Corner-Project>.

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 Road, Acton, Massachusetts

On Tuesday, March 31, 2020 • 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 Public Safety Facility, 371 Main Street, Acton, Massachusetts

**On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 7:00 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, 2020 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 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 6.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Receipt Reserve for Appropriation Account (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 7.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$75,000 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 \$30,000 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 \$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 transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$65,000 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 \$85,000 for the replacement of filter cartridges at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 12.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$100,000 for the removal filtration residuals at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant 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 \$100,000 for purchase of a general service vehicle and for approval to sell or trade the District's 2004 Ford F-350 service truck 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 \$100,000 for the purpose of exploration and/or permitting of a new well source or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 15.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Commissioners to enter into a long-term written lease, with two 5-year options to extend, for a total term of thirty (30) years, for use of a ground-mount solar photovoltaic system and associated equipment and materials on land owned by the District located at Knox Trail and Lawsbrook Road in Acton. The written leases will include the most favorable annual lease payment and power purchase agreement terms received in response to a request for proposal issued by the District and will provide for electric power supply to the District's wells and treatment facilities. The lease and power purchase agreement shall include other terms, conditions and limitations imposed by Article 97 special legislation and as the Commissioners shall deem necessary and appropriate to protect the public water supply or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 16.** To see if the District will vote to establish a stabilization fund in accordance with Article 97 special legislation and G.L. Ch. 40, sec. 5B for the purpose of dedicating a certain percentage of the rental revenues derived from the District solar leases on Knox Trail and Lawsbrook Road as required by state law, statutes and regulations, effective for fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020 or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 17.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus revenue the sum of \$50,000 to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise, all necessary utility easements needed in support of the project upgrades and infrastructure work at the Conant II well site and the central Acton treatment plant as follows:

1. An expanded access and utility easement under that certain private road commonly known as formerly known as Technology Drive, now Post Office Square, and the Access and Utility Area, owned by Acton Technology Park Real Estate Trust, and shown on a Plan of Land recorded in Plan Bk. 01984, Pg. 1544.
2. An expanded and modified access and utility easement to the District's existing easement recorded in Bk. 28286, Pg. 458, with plan recorded in Plan Bk. 25911, Pg. 35.
3. A small easement off the parcel identified in Bk. 68673 Pg. 454, 533 Main St.
4. A small easement off the parcel identified in Bk. 64784 Pg. 264, 6 Post Office Sq.

and to take any other action necessary to secure necessary and useful easements and similar property interests in support of the project or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 18.** To see if the District will vote to establish a stabilization fund pursuant to G.L. Ch. 40, sec. 5B for the purpose of funding new construction, extraordinary maintenance or repairs throughout the water supply system, as requested by the Board of Commissioners, and to authorize the Commissioners to fund that stabilization fund with the entire balance of District funds in the WR Grace Receipt Reserved for Appropriation Account (WR Grace Fund) 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 27th day of January in the year two thousand and twenty.

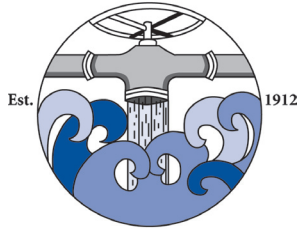
Stephen C. Stuntz  
Erika Amir-Lin  
Barry Rosen, Water Commissioners

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

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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*.