

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025
2nd Floor Meeting Room

Minutes

Present are Chairman John McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Assistant Ann Livezey, Senior Technician Stephen Knox, Superintendent Candidate Jonathan Decker.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Haddad, Mrs. Cruikshank, and Mrs. Doig joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Interview

Mr. McCaffrey said they had six applicants and interviewed two Candidates. Jonathan Decker is being brought in again today to meet with the Water Commissioners.

Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Fishbone, and Mr. Gmeiner asked the candidate a variety of questions regarding his work experience, management experience, knowledge of PFAS and other contaminants. Mr. Decker reviewed his currently position at the lab for the Haverhill Water Department. His focus is on water quality and is well versed in testing and maintaining high quality water for customers. He has trained new operators and interns although his position is a not primarily a management role. He shows great attention to detail as he must stay in contact with the operators and ensures the water quality always matches the SCADA system.

Mr. Decker stated that the management role would be the biggest change and he is willing to take courses due to this lack of experience.

Group Discussion

Mr. McCaffrey asked everyone to give their opinion on the Candidate. The general consensus was that Mr. Decker was very smart and knowledgeable of the industry and could fill many voids in the office. There were concerns on the lack of management and field work.

The alternative would be to modify the job advertisement and re-advertise in hopes of drawing new applicants with potentially more experience in the management role.

After much discussion the group decided that Mr. Decker seems eager to learn and take on the new role and the lacking items will come with time and training.

October 22nd, 2025

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to recommend appointing Jonathan Decker as the Water Superintendent, based on references and background check, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt said we have not adopted a national code for required sprinkler systems. He also added that water suppliers cannot shut off people if they have fire protection. Mr. Fishbone asked how this handled in other states. Mr. Orcutt said for commercial properties, the fire sprinklers are dedicated lines. Mr. Orcutt does not want people putting in tanks for fire protection when ample town water is available. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we have the authority to force people to connect. Mr. Orcutt said that the Building Commissioner and Fire Chief will stand by this policy and help the enforcement. Mr. McCaffrey reiterated that we want to be able to turn water off for non-payment without affecting sprinkler.

Mr. Fishbone moved to accept the proposed policy for residential fire suppression as amended, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 12:33pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory