

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, April 28th, 2026
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Interim Water Superintendent Robert Maloney, Town Manager Mark Haddad, Town Manager's Administrative Assistant Kara Kruikshank, Human Resource Director Melisa Doig, Michelle Collette and Richard Chilcoat from the Groton Historical Society.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:32pm and everyone introduced themselves.

Water Superintendent Discussion – Town Manager and Human Resources Director

Mr. Gmeiner was impressed with the recent candidate's interview and was impressed that they had already started to attain licenses. Mr. Maloney confirmed that she was already pursuing her T1 license. Mr. Gmeiner did not think the other two potential candidates were not going to work out. Mr. Maloney agreed that the current candidate had compliance and DEP experience which is about 50% of the job. They also had experience with the lead service line inventory which is a challenging job and was able to successfully complete it. Mrs. Crory is in favor of bringing them in for a second interview and asking further questions to ensure they could handle all aspects of the position. Mr. Haddad said to try to schedule the second interview for Friday morning at town hall. Mrs. Doig will contact them and Mrs. Crory will post the meeting.

Abatement Request – Groton Historical Society

Mrs. Crory explained that the Groton Historical Society received a large April quarterly bill and she reported it to Michelle Collette and spoke with Richard Chilcoat who immediately checked the property. A Badger meter was installed and no leaks have been seen but Mrs. Crory has seen unusual excess water usage, sometimes at odd times (midnight). Mr. Crory said this is typically not what she sees with toilet leaks. Mr. Maloney said it could be a toilet issue and suggests manually turning off each toilet for a day and checking the data. If that does not help, he would recommend hiring a plumber to check the property.

Mr. McCaffrey asked about the logistics of the building and Mr. Chilcoat explained that there were three bathrooms, two of which are rarely used and one for a tenant who has not been around much this month. Mrs. Collette said the grounds are maintained by a local gardener who is familiar with the water system and has not seen any problems.

Mrs. Collette asked if they should make partial payments while working on the issue and Mr. Gmeiner would prefer to wait until a formal abatement is voted on and then work out the

payments. Mrs. Crory assured them that no interest or late fees will be assessed while we work through the abatement process.

Operational Updates (Superintendent)

Mr. Maloney said Maher Services will start the well cleaning tomorrow and should be done by the end of the next week. Whitney I and II will be offline for about a week. Due to the delay, the operators are pushing flushing off until the fall to help protect water levels.

The UMass Hospital will be tapping the main and then will work with MA DOT on when to do the work to cross the street. The contractors are working diligently.

Mr. Maloney said the sanitary survey is usually August/September but DEP has reached out to schedule earlier.

Mr. Maloney has not gotten exact aquifer levels but monitoring and looks great. The drought status is at Level I.

Mr. Maloney said the high school connection looks good from our standpoint. The Principal is waiting for an update on drinking water which we have given them, but it seems there is a different hold up. They are working on the irrigation pump and they will be able to manually fill their cistern with instruction from the operators. Mr. Maloney said Mr. Haddad agreed to create a panel to assist with this and they are waiting on Apex.

Mr. Maloney said Mr. Knox has not sent his retirement date letter into Human Resources. Mr. McCaffrey said he just wants to make sure the new operator has time to train.

Mr. Maloney said the system is still safe and they are manually disconnected from the internet currently and they won't remote in. Mr. Gmeiner added that the current Water Superintendent Candidate has done a security audit and we can ask about that.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner informed the Commission that the residents at 138 Hemlock Park Rd have asked us to enforce the Water Department restrictions on the property as neighbors have been grading and expanding the "cut-through" road. There is an Aquifer Protection Restriction held by the Water Commission. There is also a Conservation Restriction. Any such work would need approval from the Water Commission and the Conservation Commission. Mr. Gmeiner said a letter should be sent out to cease and desist and see the Water Commission for approval of this work. Mr. Maloney will inspect the area.

Next Meetings are May 1st, 2026 (Town Hall) and May 19th, 2026 (Zoom).

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7th, 2026 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of April 16th, 2026 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:22pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

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