

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, May 27th, 2026
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Interim Superintendent Robert Maloney, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Groton Historical Society Member Michelle Collette, Resident Tammy Rutledge.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Operational Updates

Mr. Maloney said the wells were cleaned and everything looks good. They are waiting on curve test to see what was gained from the cleaning. The cleaners ran into a few major parts that needed to be replaced which increased the cost by about \$15,000.

Mr. Maloney said the UMass Emergency room is getting put online soon and was just chlorinated and they have begun sampling. Mr. Fishbone asked about their opening date and Mr. Maloney said they were waiting on water results before they can pave but believes they are hoping to open this fall.

Mr. Gmeiner said one of our operators is waiting to give his letter with his retirement date but Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Maloney would like to pursue the process of hiring the new operator now. Mr. Fishbone thinks it is a good idea and asked if we have a potential date. Mr. Gmeiner said it would be September but could change given the lack of the Superintendent. Mrs. Crory will speak with the Human Resources Director to let her know they would like to move forward now.

Groton Historical Society – Abatement Request

Mrs. Crory reviewed the abatement request at the Groton Historical Society. They received a large bill on April 1st and did not have an explanation for the increased usage. The Water Commission agreed to bill the excess usage at the lowest tier.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the Groton Historical Society's Water Abatement in the amount of \$215.37, Mr. Fishbone seconded.

138 Hemlock Park Dr

Groton resident Tammy Rutledge attended the BOWC Meeting to express concerns about abutting neighbors doing work on the cut through road to Hemlock Park Dr as well as other areas of the property. The Water Department holds a Conservation Restriction which states that any work done in this area must be approved by the Water Commission. It was reported that neighbors were grading and expanding the cut through road. Mrs. Rutledge wants it noted that

she and her husband are not doing the grading and do not want to be in any violation with the Town.

Mrs. Rutledge is also concerned that the work on the road allows for more traffic past her property.

The Commissioners reviewed maps of the property and Mrs. Rutledge explained the history and the areas of concern.

The Conservation Commission also holds a Conservation Restriction in this area and has discussed the issue and sent a cease-and-desist letter to the abutters.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to send a cease-and-desist letter to the abutters of 138 Hemlock Park Dr, Mr. Fishbone seconded.

Mr. Gmeiner told Mrs. Rutledge that the Water Commission would mail certified and first-class letters to the abutters of her property stating the easement restrictions and reiterating that all work should be stopped and any future work would need to be approved by the Water Commission.

Other Business

Mrs. Crory said the Jim Luening reached out the Water Commission regarding their \$10,000 annual contribution to the Baddacook Weed efforts. The Water Commission has formerly voted to contribute up to \$10,000 per year as a match to what the Town contributes. Mr. Gmeiner asked which fiscal year they would be looking for payment. Mrs. Crory reviewed Mr. Luening's response but it was not exactly clear. She said that historically it has been paid in the fall so she will assume it is next fiscal year and will tell Mr. Luening the Water Commission is still in agreement to match the Town's contribution (up to \$10,000) in FY27.

Next Meeting is June 9th, 2026.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory