

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Resident Margaret Roberts, Residents Keith & Beth Downer.

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

Operational Updates

Mr. Gmeiner wanted to commend the operators on their hard work at a very challenging water main break over the weekend. Mr. Fishbone also saw them working long hours to repair the leak. Mrs. Crory explained that the leak was so challenging due to an odd sized fitting that the operators had to figure out how to repair. Mr. Gmeiner added that those mains are very old and are oval shaped which is not the typical standard of mains these days. Due to the complexity, an outside company from Sterling named Hydra Tech was called in for reinforcement. The leak was ultimately temporarily repaired and a permanent repair will need to be scheduled for overnight work. The water will have to be turned off during the permanent repair which will affect many schools, homes, and businesses in the center of town. They certainly couldn't have turned off the water that weekend due to a wedding taking place and many guests staying at the Groton Inn.

Mr. Fishbone asked how this will affect or budget and Mrs. Crory explained the cost of the overtime and the use of Hydra Tech. She said although the costs were unexpected, we should have enough funding left in the fiscal year to cover them.

Hemlock Park Dr

Mrs. Roberts said the residents of Hemlock Park Drive received a letter from the Water Department about restrictions on the access road due to conservation restrictions.

Mr. Gmeiner explained that there are restrictions in place and any work done to road needs approval from the Water Commissioners. Mrs. Roberts said that one neighbor has special needs children and they need to maintain a smooth road for those children to safely travel by car. She was concerned that if a large pothole was present, and they had to wait for the Water Commission approval, it could become a problem for those residents and deliveries etc. Mr. Gmeiner said that we could outline a new letter of understanding that allows clean filling (pre-washed gravel) of potholes as needed.

Mrs. Downer asked if snow removal is allowable and Mr. Gmeiner said it is. The big issue is the maintenance and regrading of the road or expansion of the road.

Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Downer said there so been no expansion of the road. They also explained various concerns they had within the neighborhood regarding police report and disputes.

Mr. Fishbone reiterated that the Water Commission is only concerned with protecting the aquifer and cannot speak to any other neighborhood issues.

Mrs. Downer agreed to draft a letter of understanding between the neighbors and Water Commission to be approved at the next Water Commission meeting. Mr. Fishbone would like to make sure the Conservation Commission also sees and approves the letter.

New Water Main (Chicopee Row)

Mrs. Crory explained that the Board of Health is working on detailed instructions on well decommissioning on the Chicopee Row water main extension as well as a variance application process for wells that have non detect for PFAS.

Financial Updates – Business Manager

Mrs. Crory is still forecasting FY27 Enterprise Fund to be in the low \$200,000s. However, she did get a call about a large connection fee and will try to get that in for this fiscal year which will help increase the Enterprise Fund Balance.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to transfer up to \$10,000 from debt to wages, Mr. Fishbone seconded.

Mr. Fishbone asked why there were extra funds left in debt and Mrs. Crory explained that the engineering portion of the Treatment Plant project and the Whitney Well III project are still short-term notes which are estimated at budget season but final numbers may be a little off (depending on final interest rates)

Abatement Request – 365 Riverbend Dr

Mrs. Crory presented the abatement request for 365 Riverbend which showed a large irrigation bill last year due to a broken sprinkler head. The customer provided receipts for the sprinkler head repair and Mrs. Crory confirmed the leak has stopped.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve an abatement of \$383.99, Mr. Fishbone seconded.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of June 9th, 2026 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded.

Next Meeting July 14th, 2026.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 8:42pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory