

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, June 9th, 2026
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Interim Superintendent Rob Maloney, and Business Manager Lauren Crory.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Operational Updates

Mr. Maloney said they are pumping a lot of water. The drought level was increased from Level I to Level II. Some surrounding areas are at Level III so will need to keep an eye on it. Mr. Fishbone asked how aquifer looks and Mr. Maloney said it looks fine but we are getting close to withdrawal permit. Mr. Gmeiner thinks we should put some reminders out of the odd/even water conservation program so we don't need to go to no watering. Mrs. Crory will send an email blast to customers, post on the town Facebook page, and repost in the Herald.

Mr. Maloney said the new hospital getting online soon. Lawrence Academy dining hall almost done so will need to be inspected.

Mr. Maloney said the technicians have been busy with maintaining the wells and treatment plants.

New Water Main (Chicopee Row)

Mrs. Crory explained that the Board of Health has confirmed that they will be requiring the opt-in customers to decommission their wells when they connect to the new water main. This added cost may deter customers from connecting. Mr. Maloney said this was not transparent during the previous meetings and a few connections have already taken place without notifying the customers of this requirement and Board of Health will be reaching out to them.

Mr. Fishbone asked if we should be meeting with Board of Health and Mr. Gmeiner said we may want to get on their agenda and he will talk to Michelle Collette about this more. He said this is part of their Board of Health regulations for all homes that connect to town water and is not just the area with PFAS contamination. They are concerned that an unused well will cause contamination to the bedrock.

Mrs. Crory said the Board of Health regulations state that residents can apply for a variance to avoid the decommission of the well; to possibly use for irrigation but this process can be timely as each resident would need to attend a Board of Health meeting to apply.

Mr. Fishbone said we will keep this on the agenda and hopefully can discuss in more detail and find a solution for this water main. Mr. Gmeiner said that Board of Health has agreed to waive their Well De-Construction permit fee.

Hemlock Park Dr

Mrs. Crory said the certified letters went out last week and two of the neighbors contacted the office and are willing to abide by the restrictions and approval process but had some confusion on the map. Mr. Gmeiner added that there is a child with medical needs that gets deliveries and the neighbors said the road needs to be remain passable for these deliveries. Mr. Gmeiner would like Mrs. Crory to invite them to a Water Commission meeting to review the restrictions and discuss some of the details.

Financial Updates – Business Manager

Mrs. Crory expects overall income to be at \$47,000 short. Construction was about \$170,000 short due to the delay of the Deluxe property project. Rates will be about \$130,000 over budget which is helping offset the Construction deficit.

Expenses are running over budget, mainly due to higher electric rates, well cleaning (both wells), well maintenance, and a VFD issue earlier in the year. The expenses (wages, salaries, general expenses) are forecast to be \$132,000 over budget (including the new truck which was about \$60,000).

Mrs. Crory said \$219,000 was transferred in the fall so should cover these shortfalls in the budget. After using the transferred funds and factoring in FY27 budget reserve transfers, she forecasts the reserve fund to be in the low \$200,000 range.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of April 28th, as amended, Mr. Fishbone abstained.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of May 1st, as written, Mr. Fishbone abstained.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of May 27th, as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded.

Next Meeting June 23rd, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory