



Chester Water Commission
Town of Chester
15 Middlefield Road
Chester, MA 01011

Minutes for the meeting of October 23rd, 2025

The meeting was opened at 10:15am and was attended by Bob Daley, Lara Wade, Craig Gauthier, Kim Fox and Jim Zimmerman. We started by reading the minutes from the September 18th meeting and the October 1st meeting. They were accepted as read and approved by unanimous vote. We started with discussing Horn Pond activities including the possible sources of funding to replace the 800 foot of pipe with a larger diameter pipe to better utilize this resource. We also discussed the flooded end of the access road and possible solutions. Becket Conservation was contacted for proper steps to proceed with this project. Lora brought up the idea that Chester should try to purchase the 40 acre parcel to help protect this resource. We next moved on to the status of the AMP and LSL grants and Kim believes all the paperwork has been filed from our end. She will follow up on that to verify. Bob asked about Eric Lehan and the fracture studies and what else might be needed to investigate the drilling of wells to increase the sustainability of our sources of water. We spoke briefly about investigating the old emery mine as a source of water and the need to test the water before seeking studies on potential costs associated with its possible use. Cost for a test well could be \$20,000 to \$30,000 cost. We also spoke about a drought management plan and ways to protect the watershed and aquifers. We inquired about the funds for the phase 2 of the Prospect Street work and if any excess funds can be put aside for phase 3. We spoke about the new payroll requirements and specifically the Water clerk. Kim will email reminders in the beginning till everyone has a better handle on what is needed & the time lines. Lara spoke of by-laws that should be created to protect our environment and water sources. We spoke about the Safe Drinking Water Community Listening Session scheduled for November 12th 2025 at Town Hall between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. Kim will see the notice gets posted on the website and Bob arranged for it to be sent out with the Watts News. We spoke about the Fire Chief being notified that the designated hydrant for training and fire fighting is available again due to a higher flow from Horn Pond. We requested the water operators be notified incase of a fire to monitor the Water Plant clear wells to minimize issues with loss of flow or low chlorine levels. We spoke about GPS and Lara expressed interest in learning more about it in the field. We spoke about the Capital Planning Committee and what the potential needs of the Water Department might be. The meeting was closed at 11:51am