



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

Water Commission Meeting Minutes for December 2nd, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 10:04AM with Lora Wade, Craig Gauthier, Bob Daley, Veronica Marr and Jim Zimmerman in attendance.

Lora spoke about Wetlands Bylaws to protect watershed properties. She also asked about the possibility of purchasing the 40 acre parcel by Horn Pond to protect the area. Bob Daley said Dave Johnson of Becket is speaking with the owners about selling the property to the Town of Becket. Bob said he would try to contact him and find out the progress.

MM & T Excavating has been working on the access road to Horn Pond to repair the damage done by flooding caused by a beaver dam.

Tom Bean had the gate locks rekeyed to a single key. We spoke about the possibility of swapping back to Austin Brook Reservoir for safety reasons. Veronica Marr asked about the parcels surrounding Horn Pond. Lora Wade asked about the testing schedule and will review the QA/QC program. She also showed interest in training for the T-1 license.

Lora Wade will see if the land around Horn Pond might be eligible for funds from a State Grant. We spoke about the Water /Well presentation at Town Hall. Bob explained about the slide program presentation. Lora spoke about working with RCAP. Bob spoke about Senator Mark's work with the private well legislation. Drought management was spoken about briefly.

Bob spoke about grant opportunities through DOR. He spoke about the need for a grant writer and possibly funding a part-time one through the enterprise fund. We spoke about the work done by Limited Budget to address some of the concerns brought up by DEP during the Sanitary Survey. A new containment skid was purchased and the others were cleaned and repositioned to better address containment needs.

I (Jim Zimmerman) was going to call Linda Tims about two items on the survey check-list. Bob Spoke about a security system for the plant with cameras. We will check on what is already in place. Bob spoke about the Workforce Development Task Force. Also the possibility of another apprentice program through Gateway. We also spoke about financing, test wells and about the proposed zero-based budget. This is not feasible with the limited manpower we have and the uncertainty of operations in water departments in general.

We ended with speaking about a possible Facebook page, an upcoming operator program to be presented by Josh Schmeel of Springfield Water & Sewer. We spoke about cleaning the Horn Pond Screens. The Meeting adjourned at 11:59AM

1/14/2026