



IMPORTANT MEETING ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PLEASE READ AND ATTEND ON JANUARY 19, 2023

To all owners and consumers of drinking water located on Swanson Road, Codman Hill Road, and 1740 Massachusetts Avenue in Boxborough:

If you have received this notice, your drinking water is contaminated. You have received notices about some of the contamination described below and you may be receiving bottled water because of the contamination. As public water suppliers, the property owners are legally responsible for supplying water that meets state standards. One of the ways they may do that is to install treatment on all affected wells at their expense. But, another option has become available: Using state funds, Littleton Electric Light & Water Department (LELWD) could extend water service from Littleton to consumers along Swanson and Codman Roads. You are invited to attend a webinar on January 19, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 PM so you can learn more about the issue and the opportunity.

What is the water contamination issue about?

The drinking water at these properties is contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 over the drinking water standard may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS6 may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. For more information on PFAS see: **MassDEP Fact Sheet – Questions and Answers for Consumers**

<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>

Several of the public water systems also have elevated sodium and chloride in the drinking water due to road salt contamination. Significant elevated chloride concentrations in drinking water, combined with other factors, may accelerate corrosion of pipes which may lead to lead and copper leaching into the water supply. This may not only cause damage to equipment, requiring costly repairs, but could also raise health concerns.

What needs to be done?

The public water systems on Swanson Road, Codman Hill Road, and at 1740 Massachusetts Ave. must submit corrective action plans to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to address the PFAS6 contamination. In addition, there have been ongoing discussion with some of the systems and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to address the sodium chloride contamination in the water.

In general, there are two corrective options - installing new treatment systems to remove the PFAS6 (and if applicable for sodium chloride too) or connecting to another water system that does not have PFAS6 or elevated sodium chloride in the water being served to users. Currently, the owners' only option is to install individual treatment systems and make costly upgrades to their public water systems. This will involve long term costs for the owners and users to ensure safe drinking water.

What is the proposed Water Line Extension from Littleton?

The Littleton Electric Light & Water Department (LELWD) has been meeting with the Boxborough Water Resources Committee, MassDEP, and MassDOT about constructing a water line from Littleton to connect the 11 public water systems to its public water system. This would result in a robust long-term solution eliminating the need for new individual water treatment systems with associated costs for water quality sampling programs, maintenance and operations, upgrades to wastewater discharge systems, etc.

Massachusetts is receiving an unprecedented amount of federal funding for water infrastructure improvements related to PFAS contamination. The federal funds are distributed by the state through 0% loans with the potential for 20% principal forgiveness. With this funding, LELWD could move forward with the water line extension, but there are strict deadlines for submitting project designs. Although there would be no cost to the Town of Boxborough and no increase in property taxes, LELWD does estimate that the annual cost for the project will be approximately \$244,400 to \$458,600 to be divided among all 11 water systems. (Equivalent to \$383 to \$719 per year, per residential unit) These costs would be offset by the cost savings realized from not installing, operating, and maintaining individual water systems, including costs of the PFAS6 treatment systems required by MassDEP.

To move forward successfully and access the full federal funding, the project will require agreements between the Town of Boxborough through its Select Board, and the Littleton Water Department, and support by the residents, owners and occupants of the affected properties who will benefit. If you support the water line project, representatives of the owners' associations and management at each of the condominiums and other properties are encouraged to request the assistance from LELWD by sending a signed letter of support to the Boxborough Select Board by **March 31, 2023**. Unless there is support for the water line, the project will not be able to move forward. Each of the public water systems would then need to install treatment systems and pay for all operational and maintenance costs. This will be in addition to all current costs incurred for operations and additional costs needed to improve the aging infrastructure that has not been addressed in some of the systems.

What do I need to do?

You are invited to attend a virtual webinar via Zoom on January 19th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM to learn more about the issues and opportunity. The Boxborough Select Board and RCAP Solutions are sponsoring the event which will have speakers from MassDEP, MassDOT, LELWD, and Weston & Sampson Engineers to provide information and address questions. Owners and residents: as soon as possible, please contact the Boxborough Select Board, your condominium association and property manager to show you support this effort to provide clean drinking water for you. An example letter is attached to this notice.

How do I join the meeting on January 19th?

The webinar event will be posted on the Boxborough Town Calendar for **Jan 19, 2023, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**.

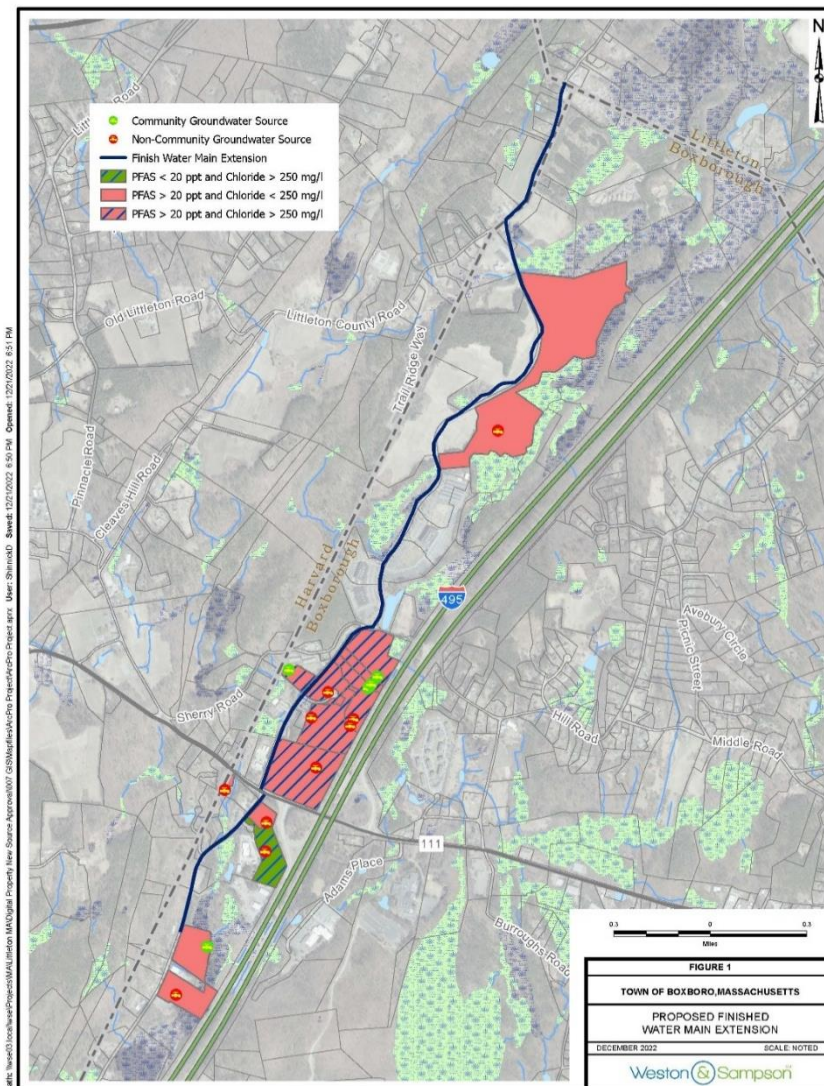
It will also be found under Town News.

<https://www.boxborough-ma.gov/> and also available at <https://bit.ly/3IAZgyf>

To join by phone: +1 929 205 6099 Webinar ID 824 4345 2786

Residents can also watch this informational session on BXBTv channels (Comcast 9 /Verizon 39) and Boxborough's On-Demand Streaming site <http://boxborough.vod.castus.tv> by clicking the Live tab and the meeting title to play.

Where would the new water line be?



Who do I contact with questions?

Danielle Desmarais, Community Specialist - Community and Environmental Resources

Cell Phone: 774-502-8409

DDesmarais@rcapsolutions.org

<https://www.rcapsolutions.org/community-resources/>

RCAP Solutions, Inc, is a non-profit Boxborough and Littleton Water Department have asked to help facilitate outreach and communications. RCAP Solutions is the Northeast affiliate of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. RCAP is a national network of regional nonprofit organizations that provide comprehensive, on-site technical assistance and training to help small, rural communities address their drinking water, wastewater, and other community development needs.

Questions regarding your public water system may be directed to:

Marielle Stone, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Water Resources

Cell Phone: 508 713 3528 or Marielle.Stone@mass.gov

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-environmental-protection>