



# Town of Hanover

## Department of Public Works

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TOWN CLERK

September 23, 2019

To: Planning Board

From: Victor Diniak, Director of Public Works

Subject: Hanover Mall Expansion

*VJD*

It is my understanding you have been provided with a copy of my memo to CDMI Director Justin Debruin dated September 5, 2019 with the subject line Proposed Mall Water Usage. The September 5th memo is the DPW's official response to Mr. Kelley's estimates of water usage. If you have not already done so, we request that that memo, including its general conclusion and the context upon which that conclusion was made by DPW staff, be included in the record for this hearing.

My September 5<sup>th</sup> memo provided a guarded conclusion that the Town has the water, storage, and pumping capacity to meet the expected needs of both the redeveloped Mall and its residential component. However, that memo also recommended that because the real potential exists to tip the water availability balance in the wrong direction, the Planning Board continue to consider all of the DPW's requests with respect to water.

The Town is currently under an administrative consent order (ACO) with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reduce our withdrawals of raw water to below 1.39 million gallons per day (MGD). We have only been able to achieve this once since 2005 (in 2012) due to a number of reasons. Our numbers for the past fourteen years have been as follows:

Year	Raw Water Pumped (MGD)
2005	1.470
2006	1.453
2007	1.624
2008	1.443
2009	1.428
2010	1.500
2011	1.478
2012	1.381
2013	1.530
2014	1.760
2015	1.675
2016	1.599
2017	1.440
2018	1.469

Our numbers to date for 2019 thru 9/22/2019 are approximately 1.321 MGD with the annual total expected at the end of the year to be somewhere in the vicinity of 1.255 MGD.

As my 9/5/2019 memo suggested, the numbers for 2019 are very good but they are the result of a number of factors including good raw water quality which has resulted in efficient treatment plant operations, a relatively wet spring, reasonable compliance with water restrictions, improved metering, a rate structure that encourages conservation, aggressive leak detection, and some luck in detecting some very challenging leaks.

Our efforts prove that there is likely water available for additional development and redevelopment, but this is only sustainable if the factors that have brought down our numbers over the past 2-3 years continue. Of these, the three biggest things we can do are:

- 1. Continue vigilance on the removal of leaks system-wide with aggressive leak detection and repair efforts.**
- 2. Acceleration and sustainability of the meter replacement program which provides opportunities to reduce unaccounted for water and detect leaks within residences in a timely manner, hence freeing up that lost water for other more productive purposes.**
- 3. Continue to reduce and curb unnecessary water usage such as irrigation water and the use of water in commercial and industrial processes such as cooling when other methods to achieve the goals of these processes exist.**

The DPW has consistently made these statements over the past few years whenever the issue of water availability has come up. The mitigating items requested by the DPW have been discussed with the project proponents since day 1 in this redevelopment process. We have consistently spoken of the need for a true partnership between the Town and the developer to find and sustain the supply needed to support this project. We are thankful that PREP and Hanover Companies have seen the benefits of this partnership and have agreed to incorporate many of our requests into their plans. We believe it will result in a more sustainable project and provides a model for other large development and redevelopment projects that may come. However, there are still some open items. I urge you to continue to press forward with the outstanding issues, including meter replacement acceleration.