



# *Town of Winchester*

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Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Tuesday, November 1, 2016

## BUSINESS

Docket Item G - 7:

Lead Piping Plan

### Supporting Documents:

G - 7:

Memo from Town Manager

### Action Required:

G - 7:



# Town of Winchester

Richard C. Howard,  
Town Manager

Docket Item:  
G - 7:  
November 1, 2016

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## MEMORANDUM

October 28, 2016

TO: Board of Selectmen  
FROM: Richard C. Howard, Town Manager  
SUBJECT: Lead Line Project

As you know the ad hoc committee formed at Spring Town Meeting has continued to meet in order to review relevant data and provide the Board with recommendations for a plan to deal with known lead piping in the water system.

The group was lead by Peter Hale, Town Moderator, Kerry Bartlett, Board of Health Commissioner, and James Whitehead of the Board. The information reviewed revealed the following general points:

1. There are approximately 700 "lead necks" believed to be left in the system. A lead neck is a small piece of pipe on the public side of the water system. The DPW has been eliminating these pieces with an annual removal program that removes about 40-50 per year.
2. There are approximately 75 private lead lines that exist in homeowners piping systems.
3. The MWRA has offered a "zero interest" loan program to member communities that put in place an approved program to "fully remove lead piping". Winchester could receive approximately \$400,000 under that program. Loan amounts would be repaid over ten (10) years.
4. The average costs for removing both lead neck piping and lead services piping is \$6500.00 (about \$3,500.00 to remove a lead line).
5. A comprehensive program to remove all of the remaining known lead necks will take about two (2) or three (3) construction seasons.

After careful review of all the Water Department records and the MWRA's Local Water System Assistance Program, the group is recommending a project approach that includes the following features:

1. Continuation of the DPW annual program to eliminate so-called "lead neck" piping which exists in the public way;
2. Acceptance of MWRA financing to enhance the lead neck removal program with a public works contract;

3. Acceptance of MWRA financing to prioritize the elimination of lead lines which exist on the private property side of the water system. This would include a recommendation to grant \$1,500 towards the homeowner's cost of removing this piping;
4. Notification of the availability of testing services to interested homeowners who would want to have their water tested for the level of lead content;
5. A public information effort that will provide specific homeowners, and the general public, about the features of the programs.

The DPW has taken the initiative to eliminate all problematic issues (approximately 3) within the Winchester Public Schools over the summer months.

/pcm