



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
TOWN OF ARLINGTON  
51 Grove Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02476  
Phone: (781) 316-3104 Fax: (781) 316-3281

Memo to: Select Board

From: Mike Rademacher, DPW Director

Date: March 6, 2019

Subject: ARTICLE 30 BYLAW AMENDMENT/WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

---

Honorable Select Board-

I am writing in support of proposed Warrant Article 30. The Town of Arlington, like every other New England community, is faced with maintaining an infrastructure beyond its useful life. One of the many elements we attend to is our water distribution system. Every year the Town invests over one million dollars to replace outdated, maintenance prone water mains in public and private ways. Our work on these projects ends at the edge of the road along the project limits. This is because the water service from the sidewalk to the building is the responsibility of the property owner. So while we are replacing leak prone pipe in the street, pipe of the same age or older often remains on private property.

This presents several problems. One, this older pipe is often so badly corroded that water may be leaking from it. These leaks are occurring prior to the meter on the property so its volume is not being captured resulting in a financial liability to the Town. Second, inspection of the service line is often overlooked during the sale of a home, possibly leaving a new homeowner with the added cost of replacing the water service should it fail.

The intent of the proposed bylaw, as I understand it, would require water service lines to be inspected prior to the sale of a property, and if found to be defective, that the line be replaced prior to the sale.

I believe such a bylaw will have the benefit of protecting new home buyers as well as help the Town reduce its unaccounted for water.

Sincerely,

Michael Rademacher