

TOWN OF HAMILTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER BAN UPDATE NOTICE
SEPTEMBER 17th, 2024

The discharge flow rate of the Ipswich River near the Willowdale Dam continues to stay below the flows rates deemed necessary by MassDEP to sustain a healthy watershed. The latest reading at the gauge was 0.27 ft/s. Under the MassDEP Water Registration Permit, the Town of Hamilton must enact water necessary conservation measures when the Ipswich River discharge falls below 52.5 ft/s. As stated, currently the discharge has been and continues well below this threshold.

For the reason stated above and pursuant to Chapter XXV, Section 5 of the Town of Hamilton By-Laws, the Hamilton Select Board determined on July 15th, 2024 that additional conservation restrictions need to be put in place to ensure that an adequate supply of water is available to all users, including **fire-fighting operations**, and that water withdrawal volumes remain within permitted and registration limits; and that any conditions set forth in the Town's water withdrawal Permit are satisfied.

Since July 15th, 2024, Hamilton and surrounding communities have lacked precipitation and with no appreciable rain noted in the forecast, there is great concern with having our current age and fragile water sources, infrastructure, and adequate fire protection to serve the community. Secondly, with the very dry soil conditions, Fire Danger has also increased.

The Hamilton Water Department and Select Board strongly encourages, with heightened emphasis that residents abide by the following restrictions, conditions, or requirements:

H. Outdoor Sprinkler Use: The use of lawn and garden sprinklers of all types, including the use of drip irrigation hoses or other devices that use subsurface application is prohibited. Hand watering is permitted. This ban includes water from private wells.

Any person violating this By-law shall be subject to a penalty, which shall inure to the Town, in the amount of \$50.00 for the first violation and \$100.00 for each subsequent violation. Fines shall be recovered by indictment, or on complaint before the District Court, or by non-criminal disposition in accordance with G.L. Ch. 40, Sec. 21D. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

We would like to thank all residents for their understanding and cooperation.

Timothy J. Olson
DPW Director
Town of Hamilton