

REPORT
OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE

ON THE
PRESENT AND FUTURE WATER SUPPLY.

*Brookline Mass. Special Committee
... on water*



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WASHINGTON, D. C.

REPORT.

The Committee appointed under the following vote,—

“*Voted*, That the reports of the Water Board be re-committed to the Water Board and two citizens to be appointed by the Moderator, to consider the whole subject of the present and future water supply, and report to the town at a future meeting.”

—beg to report as follows, viz. :—

As yet the principal demand for a higher service has come from citizens whose tanks are located upon the border line between high and low water in the reservoir. During the winter, when the reservoir can be kept full, the supply to those persons is entirely satisfactory. In the spring and fall, owing to the necessity for frequently drawing down and refilling the reservoir in order to keep the water pure, the supply in their tanks is uncertain. During the summer, experience has shown that but a few feet of water can be kept pure in the reservoir, and hand pumping must be resorted to by persons located on this border line. The number of those thus situated is not now more than five or six. It is possible to give them a thoroughly satisfactory supply, either by constantly pumping, night and day, at an increased cost for maintenance of \$2,000, or, by the location of an iron tank upon the reservoir grounds, at a cost of

\$8,000 or \$10,000, and a yearly additional cost for pumping, estimated at about \$1,000 per year. But, considering the small number who would be benefitted by this expenditure, and especially that these few now have the water at all times in their basements, and during a large part of the year a thoroughly satisfactory supply, the committee do not recommend the town to go to this expense. With reference to a higher service for all parts of the town not now supplied, while the Water Board have not recommended and do not recommend the town to take immediate action thereon, it is their opinion that in the near future such action must be taken, in order reasonably to satisfy a large number of citizens, many of them heavy tax payers, located above the limits of the present service.

The experience of the Water Board has demonstrated that it is impossible to furnish a satisfactory supply at all times of the year to estates located above a contour of 190 feet above tide water. In their report upon high service (see page 86 of the annual report) they have stated in detail this area. Practically, fully sixteen hundred acres out of about four thousand acres are above the limit of present constant supply, and including the lands that would naturally take their supply from the high service when it is established, it is safe to say that one half of the area of this town will ultimately be supplied from the high service system.

It is true that throughout all this district there are spots and small areas below the line of 190 feet contour, but these are not the places that would be first built upon, and the only proper way of supplying all this territory is as a part of the high service district.

The taxable area of the town, as reported by the assessors, is 3,755 acres; according to a calculation made by Mr. Philbrick the whole town contains 4,300 acres.

The assessments of taxable property within the sixteen hundred acres are as follows, viz:—

Personal Estate	\$2,419,900
Real Estate	<u>1,276,200</u>
Total	\$3,696,100

Mr. Philbrick's estimate is in substantial accord with reference to the personal estate, but his estimate for the real estate is \$900,000, or a total of \$3,319,100. The difference in the estimates of real estate arises from the fact that the Water Board estimates the limits of present supply at a contour of 190 feet above tide water, while the other is based upon estimated actual areas, and a contour of 200 feet above tide water. The total valuation of the town for 1882 was \$24,842,800; it therefore appears that according to the larger estimate 15 per cent. of the water tax is paid by persons and property at present not supplied, or not satisfactorily supplied, from present service,—or by Mr. Philbrick's estimate 13½ per cent. The water tax for the year 1882 amounted to \$61,170.51, made up as follows, viz:—

Interest on Water Debt	\$38,055.00
Sinking Fund	29,500.00
Maintenance	8,999.08
	<u>76,554.08</u>
Less receipts	15,383.57
	<u>\$61,170.51</u>

15 per cent. of \$61,170.51, \$9,175.50.

13½ per cent. of \$61,170.51, \$8,258.08.

It is estimated by the Water Board that a high service system can be established at an expense not exceeding \$100,000. The yearly cost of such service is estimated as follows, viz:—

Interest on 100,000 bonds, at 4 per cent.	\$4,000
Sinking Fund appropriation	1,750
Maintenance	2,000
Total	<u>\$7,750</u>

With reference to further extensions of filtering galleries, the Water Board deem it important that experiments be made during the coming summer to determine in which direction such extensions should be made when necessary as is likely to be the case in a year or two. It will require an expenditure of five hundred dollars, or thereabouts, to make these experiments. The Committee unite in recommending an appropriation of \$500 for this purpose, and offer the following vote:—

Resolved, That the sum of five hundred dollars be appropriated for experiments connected with extensions of the filtering galleries, to be expended by the Water Board.

HENRY M. WHITNEY,
EDWARD S. PHILBRICK,
OLIVER WHYTE,
FRANCIS HUNNEWELL,
WILLIAM J. GRIGGS.

BROOKLINE, April 14, 1883.

The undersigned is prepared to go one step further than the Water Board in reference to a higher service, and recommends that the Selectmen be requested to apply to the Legislature, at their next session, for leave to increase the Water Debt by the sum of \$100,000.

HENRY M. WHITNEY.