



# Town of Williamstown

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## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 22, 2025

### GEOHERMAL DRILLING BYLAW

**Article 27.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows, by:

Amending §70-7.4.2(a) Use Table by adding the following use;

- Closed Loop Ground Source Heat Pump Geothermal Well

The following use shall be permitted via special permit in both WRD 1 & 2.

*And by*

Amending ~~§70-7.4.2(d)(4)~~ by adding

~~[7] For installations of closed loop Ground Source Heat Pump Geothermal Wells utilizing propylene glycol or any other chemical heat transfer fluid other than potable water in the WRD 1 & 2 Districts the applicant must submit, at the applicant's expense, a report from the then current Town Department of Public Works aquifer consultant, certifying that the system as proposed poses no threat to the health and safety of the artesian aquifer that supplies public water to the Town of Williamstown.\*~~

~~Or take any other action in relation thereto.~~

**The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

**The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.**

*This zoning amendment will regulate the installation of ground source heat pump wells that use glycol or other chemical heat transfer fluids in the Town's Water Resource Districts. These are overlay districts that regulate activities in areas known to recharge ground water that supplies both public and private wells.*

Proceeding: Peter Beck moved article 27 and it was seconded by Jane Patton. Ken Kuttner provided the planning board report on the article. Blake Clark, 406 Water Street proposed an amendment to this article. Strike: poses no threat to the health and safety of the artesian aquifer that supplies public water to the Town of Williamstown and replace with: is compliant with industry best practices and state regulations to minimize the risk to the artesian aquifer that supplies public water to the Town of Williamstown. The amendment was seconded. After no further discussion, the town voted on the amendment by electronic voting device. The amendment failed majority vote with 72 in favor and 137 opposed for a total of 209 votes. The

original motion passed with a supermajority vote of 173 in favor and 39 opposed totaling 212 votes. This article requires a 2/3 vote in affirmative. Electronic voting devices were used to vote for both the amendment and the original motion.

**\*By determination dated December 8, 2025, the Massachusetts Attorney General disapproved of the language shown as stricken through, above, and therefore that language is not part of the Town's Zoning By-law.**

A true copy, attest:

*Nicole E. Beverly*

Nicole E. Beverly  
Town Clerk  
December 19, 2025

