

To: **Groton Board of Selectmen (BOS)**

From: Town of Groton – Economic Development Committee (EDC)
Russ Burke
Anna Eliot
Art Prest
Michael Rasmussen - C
Greg Troughton

Date: September 29, 2015

Subject: ***EDC Annual Report to BOS***

The EDC meets monthly, usually on the fourth Wednesday of the month, from September through June; the committee is on hiatus in July and August.

This is the EDC's first written report to the BOS, and is intended to outline the committee's activities over the previous twelve to eighteen months.

The EDC took positions on two issues that have or will come before Town Meeting:

- **Four Corners Sewer Project** – The EDC supported this article, both in a formal letter (to the BOS and Town Meeting) and by speaking in favor of the measure during Town Meeting.
- **Prescott School Re-Use** – The EDC has taken a position on this matter on at least two occasions, the most recent of which urged the BOS to ensure that, regardless of the ultimate re-use of the downtown property, the parking behind the school parking lot remain available for public use.

In addition to taking positions on these important issues, the EDC is working on two initiatives:

- **Town of Groton: Permitting & Approvals Guidelines** – Among the concerns voiced by the public is that the permitting and approval process (for real estate and new businesses) is onerous. The EDC is working on an abbreviated set of guidelines that will assist applicants with that process. We hope to deliver a draft by the end of this calendar year.
- **Economic Development Director** – The EDC is reviewing the possibility of a proposal that would recommend the creation of an Economic Development Director position within the Town of Groton. That proposal is currently under consideration and the EDC expects to take a position on the matter by the end of this calendar year.

Finally, it is noted that the EDC has lost two members, recently. The committee has seven slots including a chairperson, but we are down to five members, currently. That is enough to hold meetings, but just barely. We request the BOS' help in finding candidates to fill the open slots.