

March 31, 2015

Town Meeting  
Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall  
Groton, MA 01450

To Members of Groton Town Meeting & the Groton Board of Selectmen,

Groton's Economic Development Committee supports the 2015 Groton Spring Town Meeting warrant articles that would bring sewer service to the Four Corners area of Groton. At a meeting on March 17, 2015, the EDC voted unanimously in favor of drafting this letter of support. The primary factors cited for supporting the article are:

- Sewer promises greater potential for economic growth while minimizing the potential risks associated with septic system failures and growing regulations associated with septic systems;
- Certain types of businesses, like medical facilities, are prevented from locating at Four Corners due to septic capacity limitations. Bring sewer to Four Corners would remove that barrier;
- Sewer would provide the potential for more diverse goods and services available to Groton residents;
- When comparing sewer to septic, sewer represents a far more reliable and sustainable infrastructure;
- The economic potential that a sewer system unlocks provides a multiplier effect for:
  - Stabilization and expansion of the commercial real estate tax base
  - Increasing the number of local jobs
  - Groton economic growth (i.e., more money spent supporting local businesses)
- The expenses associated with approval of the inter-basin transfer of waste from Groton to the Ayer system have been paid (estimated expense was \$350,000) and the approval by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is in hand. This approval was the first of its kind and does not have an endless shelf life;

Fundamentally, when a town or municipality, that relies largely on septic, has the opportunity to add sewer capacity without having to build its own system, it should strongly consider taking advantage of that circumstance. In order to attract local businesses to grow and new businesses to locate in Groton, availability of sewer hookups is a fundamental consideration for many. The current opportunity to add sewer capacity is one that will not cost the Town anything further, while promising many benefits to

residents and businesses. Based on the foregoing, Groton's Economic Development Committee strongly supports the Four Corners Sewer article.

Sincerely,

Russell Burke  
Anna Eliot  
Peter Myette  
Art Prest  
Mike Rasmussen – C  
Greg Troughton