

Town of Groton Economic Development Committee (May 30, 2017)

- What do we do and why are we doing it?
- Who are we?

The Economic Development Committee's Objective:

The overarching objective of the Economic Development Committee is to increase the economic base and resulting non-residential commercial tax revenue in the Town so that we can more easily support the needs of the municipality and the schools without requiring large year-after-year tax increases on residents that will eventually make Groton unaffordable for less affluent citizens, as well as for our senior citizens. And we must achieve this objective without negatively affecting the character and culture of Groton.

Vision:

The Economic Development Committee Vision Statement for the Town of Groton is:

"To enhance the character, culture and commerce of Groton Massachusetts as a destination community supporting the quintessential "New England" experience through such activities as outdoor recreation, music, arts and education for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike."

Mission:

To that end, the Town of Groton Economic Development Committee's (EDC's) mission is to work proactively to promote and encourage the development of Groton's commercial tax base thereby enhancing the quality of life in Groton. The EDC will promote, support and expand our local business community in addition to engaging new business to establish, invest and grow in Groton. An expanded business community will offer resources to town residents that will enable them to live, work and thrive in an economically forward looking and financially strong community.

The Economic Development Committee's Vision and Mission Statements, and overall charge, were approved by the Board of Selectmen in December of 2016. If you would like to learn more about the Town of Groton Economic Development Committee's plans, please visit:

<http://www.townofgroton.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?PortalId=0&EntryId=22233>

Who Are We?

The Economic Development Committee is comprised of seven residents of Groton with very diverse backgrounds and education. The current members possess a vast amount of knowledge and experience, and work extremely well together as a team toward achieving a common goal.

- Russel Burke is a professional development planner and is Director of Planning at the BSC Group. Mr. Burke is also a long-time member of the Town of Groton Planning Board.
- Gina Cronin is a paralegal with over 15 years of experience in client services, communications, account management, marketing and sales
- John Konetzny is a Certified Financial Planner who previously worked for Fidelity Investments and now has his own practice located in Groton
- Art Prest retired after an extensive 45-year career in management and senior management roles in both for-profit and non-profit entities. He spent 16 years in Washington DC where he served on many industry and governmental boards, councils and committees including those that reported to Congress or supported other governmental agencies. Art is also a member of the Finance Committee and the Sustainable Budget Committee.
- Michael Rasmussen is Vice President of Commercial Lending for Granite Bank. Prior to that he held various executive positions including Senior Vice President at North Middlesex Savings Bank.
- Fay Raynor is a professional architect who has been involved in a myriad of public and private development projects

More detailed information about the current members of the Economic Development Committee are contained in the attached bios for each member. Note that there is a member of the Board of Selectmen that is also a member of the EDC. That role was filled in the past by Anna Eliot and more recently by Josh Degen. Both Anna and Josh provided vital support and advice to the efforts of the Economic Development Committee.

Russel Burke Bio

Mr. Russell J. Burke, AICP is the Director of Planning at the BSC Group with extensive public and private sector experience. In the public sector. Mr. Burke has lead economic development planning projects for numerous public clients including brownfield redevelopment, center revitalization, industrial park planning and redevelopment, and urban renewal. As a private developer, Mr. Burke has been involved in a wide range of commercial development projects including industrial and office parks, retail, manufacturing and waterfront development. Mr. Burke provides services to public and private clients in economic development projects involving feasibility studies, fiscal impact analysis, urban renewal, site planning, project development, site assembly, environmental compliance, implementation strategies, and entitlements. Having served in senior positions in public planning agencies and major real estate development firms, Mr. Burke has demonstrated knowledge and expertise in approaching complex real estate and planning issues to formulate innovative solutions. Mr. Burke holds a Bachelor's Degree from Boston College and a Master's in Urban Planning from Cal Poly.

Gina Cronin Bio

Gina Cronin is a paralegal with over 15 years of experience in client services, communications, and account management. She received her Paralegal certificate from Suffolk University's Applied Legal Studies program in 2011, where she earned the Award for Excellence in Research and Writing. Gina has been working at the Law Offices of Nancy Catalini Chew since 2012 specializing in long-term care. She assists clients who are in the process of transitioning their loved ones to MassHealth/Medicaid, focusing on simplifying the complex application process and helping them navigate the MassHealth system. After graduating from the University of Massachusetts with a B.A. in Communications Theory, Gina started her career in marketing and sales for Tiffany & CO.'s Corporate Sales Division. She then worked for Imagitas, a company specializing in public sector and private sector partnerships, in marketing and client relations before becoming the Director of Internal Communications. After leaving the corporate world to stay home with her young children, she volunteered for the Department of Children and Families in their Foster Care Review Program. It was during these reviews, while working with social workers and lawyers, that she became interested in family and elder care law and becoming a paralegal.

John Konetzny Bio

John Konetzny is a Certified Financial Planner™, an Enrolled Agent with the Internal Revenue Service and an advisor at The Practical Planner, LLC. He received his degree in Economics from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Prior to joining The Practical Planner, LLC, John spent six years at Fidelity Investments working with high net worth individuals and families constructing comprehensive financial, investment and retirement plans. John brings a wealth of knowledge to The Practical Planner in employer sponsored benefits, including Stock Option and Executive Retirement Plans. During John's tenure at Fidelity, he attained his Series 7, Series 63, Series 66, and his Life, Health and Variable Annuity Insurance License. John is a member of the Alliance of Comprehensive Planners (ACP), the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA) and the Fee-Only Network. As a NAPFA-Registered financial advisor, he is required to meet the most stringent continuing educational requirements in the industry. John resides in Groton, Massachusetts with his wife Elizabeth and their son Walter. He serves as a member of the Groton Economic Development Committee, the Groton Business Association and as an Eagle Scout, continues to stay active with the Boy Scouts in Groton. In his spare time, John enjoys cycling and running through the picturesque country roads in the area and vacationing in the family's remote cabin in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

Art Prest Bio

Art Prest holds Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Northeastern University and an MBA (with a focus on Marketing and Economics) from Boston University. He has over 45 years of work experience in management and executive positions in both profit and non-profit organizations. His background includes experience in research, development, manufacturing engineering, strategic planning, product management and marketing. During his career, he served as Senior Vice President & General Manager of a hi-tech company located in the Boston area. Following that, he served as Vice President of Science & Technology at the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) in Washington DC, where he gained an extensive "problem solving" technical and policy background in working with Federal

Government organizations including the United States Congress, the FBI, the CIA, the Secret Service, the NSA, DHS, FEMA and the FCC. In this role, he led and supported government and industry work groups focused on resolving technical and regulatory issues of wireless service providers and equipment suppliers. As part of his job, he served as an industry spokesman on technical and regulatory issues that affected the wireless industry. During this part of his career, he served on many industry and governmental boards, councils and committees including those that reported to Congress or supported other governmental agencies. His work experience in the private sector working co-operatively with the Federal Government taught him valuable lessons in how government and private industry can work together for the common good. In 2010, he decided to retire and he and his wife moved back to Groton Massachusetts where his family had owned property since 1947. Since moving back he served as President of the Groton Lakes Association and serves on the Town of Groton's Finance Committee, Sustainable Budget Committee, Economic Development Committee, the Great Ponds Advisory Committee and chairs the Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee.

Michael Rasmussen Bio

Michael has an MBA from the Dolan School of Business at Fairfield University. He is currently Vice President of Commercial Lending for Granite Bank in Amherst, NH. Prior to his position at Granite Bank, he held executive positions at various other banks including: Santander, where he was Vice President for the Business Banking Group; North Middlesex Savings Bank (n/k/a Main Street Bank), where he was Senior Vice President for Personal Banking; and North Shore Bank where he served as Vice President of Personal Banking. His professional development education includes the Massachusetts Bankers Association's School of Commercial Lending at Babson College, the National School of Banking at Fairfield University, and the Massachusetts Bankers Association's School of Financial Studies. Mike was co-founder and charter president of the Groton Board of Trade (n/k/a Groton Business Association). He has also been active in community service organizations including Rotary and Kiwanis. He held various positions at Fruitlands Museum in Harvard MA, including treasurer and president. Mike currently serves as the Chairman of the Milford, NH Rotary Club's Interscholastic Interview Competition Committee and Chairman of the Town of Groton's Economic Development Committee, where he has served since 2010.

Fay Raynor Bio

Fay Raynor attended Boston Architectural Center in Boston, MA where she received her Bachelor's degree in Architecture. Fay has been practicing architecture since 1990 in the Boston area, and has worked on many diverse projects such as The Smith Center Addition to the J.F. Kennedy Library at Columbia Point working for I.M. Pei and the Kennedy family as well as a Senior Project Manager for numerous Central Artery Projects while working in the construction industry for North American Site Developers. Over the course of the last 27 years, Fay has been engaged on public and private projects ranging from 250 Million to 15 Million Dollars, from Affordable Housing, Public Schools and Public Municipal Buildings and has currently completed design and is beginning construction of one of the largest public Net Zero Energy Buildings in the country. Fay's expertise also includes sustainable and energy efficient design and construction where she is a certified Passive House Consultant and LEED AP. Fay has extensive experience with code compliance, accessibility, and existing building renovation and design.