TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

Monday, March 23, 2015, Selectmen’s Meeting Rm
Groton Town Hall, 173 Main St. Groton, MA, 7:00 p.m.

Present for Finance Committee: R. Hargraves (Vice Chair), G. Green (Chair), B. Robertson, Barry Pease, Art Prest, M. Bacon, D. Manugian, P. DuFresne (Town Accountant, Recording)

Absent: None

Also Present: M. Hartnett (Town Treasurer), T. Orcutt (Water Superintendent), M. Haddad (Town Manager), J. Petropoulos (Board of Selectmen), R. Swezey (Principal Assessor), P. Cunningham (Member Board of Selectmen), A. Eliot (Board of Selectmen), S. Schulman (Board of Selectmen), K. Lindemer (GELD Commissioner), and members of the press and public.


Mr. Green called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Town of Groton Budget Update - Mr. Haddad explained that a snow & ice deficit of $200,000 was built into the FY15 Operating Budget, however, due to the severity of the past winter, that deficit is approaching $300,000. In an effort to avoid impacting the tax rate for FY16, he suggested offsetting a portion of that deficit ($175,000) with Overlay Surplus funds recently released by the Assessors. The Board of Selectmen has already voted to add an article to that effect (Article 20) to the warrant.

Mr. Lindemer requested information as to what drives the year over year municipal budget increases. He expressed concern that these increases trend above the level of inflation. Mr. Haddad agreed that the municipal budget is projected to increase about 5.4% for FY16 and that the particular cost drivers were listed in his original budget message. He summarized that $27,000 of the increase is due to the Pepperell SRF project transferred to General Government from the Sewer Enterprise, $71,000 is due to the proposed SRO position in the Police Department, $38,210 will be used to open Sargisson Beach, $101,299 relates to Health Insurance rate increases, and $180,066 is due to an 11% increase in the County Retirement assessment. Mr. Pease noted that while the major cost drivers account for much of the overall budget increase, there are a number of smaller cost increases spread over several categories which taken together account for the difference. Mr. Green said that the Town does not budget to inflation. Furthermore, the Finance Committee has deliberated on every line item of the proposed budget and is comfortable that costs proposed for services are legitimate and reasonable. Mr. Lindemer asked how the Finance Committee could consider voting to support a budget that was going to result in a tax rate increase for FY16. Mr. Green replied that while the Finance Committee was appreciative of Mr.
Lindemer's presentation on March 3rd regarding municipal budget trends, the FinCom plans to use this meeting for taking positions. He would prefer not to entertain questions regarding general trend analysis, but would be happy to address questions regarding specific line items should Mr. Lindemer have any such concerns. Mr. Haddad added that the Town had cut the municipal budget last year in an effort to resolve the school budget crisis; the proposed FY16 budget attempts to restore certain of those items where warranted. Mr. Robertson said that Town departments typically spend at levels that overreach inflation, and Town Meeting has supported this. However, going forward, the Finance Committee will attempt to play a larger role in labor negotiations to ensure that voted increases are sustainable.

Mr. Haddad informed the Finance Committee members that the major increases to the budget for Protection of Persons & Property was due to the proposed new SRO position as well as the recently ratified union contracts which "front-loads" the wage increases for the Police Patrolmen and Sergeants. Mr. Robertson said that he has not yet received a copy of the SRO job description. Ms. Dufresne apologized for overlooking this request and agreed to obtain that document from the Police Chief. Mr. Hargraves mentioned that filling this position will help to mitigate overtime costs during the summer when school is out of session and the SRO duties will presumably be lighter. The Finance Committee deferred taking a position on the Public Safety budget until the job description for the SRO is received.

Mr. Haddad said that due to flat Groton enrollment figures for Nashoba Valley Technical High School, the increase to this budget over FY15 is relatively small. Other towns are experiencing very high assessment increases due to planned expansion of program offerings coupled with higher enrollment. Mr. Prest said that this is an argument for providing adequate funding at the GDRSD. It costs more to educate a student at the Vocational Tech schools; when programs are cut or underfunded at GDRSD students tend to migrate to the NVTSD instead. Mr. Green and Mr. Robertson agreed that the NVTHS was requesting a reasonable budget for solid programming. Mr. Pease would like to explore the possibility of developing analytics that would predict which students at the middle school level would be seeking out voc-tech secondary schools. Mr. Petropoulos wondered what the options were for this budget line. Mr. Haddad replied that a majority of the towns that participate in the NVTHS district have to support the budget, or the district will have to cut the budget and have it re-voted. Mr. Lindemer felt that budget increases in the school categories were warranted.

The Library & Citizens’ Services budget is decreasing for FY16 due to the proposed changes in the Country Club business model (primarily due to the lease of the Function Hall and sharing one Admin Asst. position with DPW). A portion of this decrease was reclassed to General Government (liability insurance and the Admin. Asst. position). Mr. Haddad said that the new Golf Pro has started, and that he is very confident that the Country Club can look forward to a successful season.

Mr. Haddad mentioned that the Town has taken on new excluded debt to pay for the Fire Station construction, but that the Lost Lake Sewer BAN has been paid off. A new BAN for FY16 has been proposed for initial funding of the Public Safety Radio Project, Lost Lake Fire Protection, and the Four Corners Economic Development Project. The Town is estimating interest costs of $125,000 in FY16 for this short-term debt.

The Employee Benefits budget has increased due to health insurance rate increases, and an increase to the pension assessment due to recent retirees whose service years have not been allocated among the
contributing municipalities. This adjustment will result in a lower assessment for FY17. The County Retirement budget line has historically been fully funded even though the Town can generally take a 2% early pay discount. Mr. Haddad cautioned that it is the Treasurer’s responsibility to determine whether sufficient cash flow exists to pay this assessment in full in July. Mr. Pease felt that the Finance Committee could help to ensure that cash is available to enable the Town to take advantage of the discount. Mr. Hartnett replied that the cash flow position is dependent on collections as well as a variety of other factors. Mr. Robertson suggested funding this line at the discounted amount and utilizing short term borrowing to make up the difference if cash flow is insufficient in any given year.

**Voted Positions on Budget** — The Finance Committee voted positions on General Government, Land Use, Schools, Public Works, Library & Citizen Services, Debt Service, Employee Benefits, Water/Sewer/Cable Enterprises, and the Overlay Surplus offset for Snow & Ice. Please see the Finance Committee Positions on Articles worksheet attached. Discussion highlights are as follows:

**Four Corners Economic Development Initiative**— Mr. Haddad explained that he is still working with the property owners to establish the parameters of the project in a way that will be fair to all involved. The attorney for Craven’s Package Store and Ixtapa (neither of whom would receive a benefit from town sewer services) will advise in writing as to whether these businesses would prefer not to be in the new sewer district. Mr. Haddad clarified that the Four Corners Sewer District once created will remain separate from the Town Center Sewer District, and while it will be managed by the current sewer commissioners, it will be accounted for in a separate Enterprise Fund. The full cost is still estimated at $3 million including engineering. He is recommending that the all project costs be reimbursed through betterment assessments. Meetings with the other property owners and the neighborhood association are ongoing as well. The Town is looking into the possibility of requesting partial funding through a MA Works Grant. Applications for this grant will only be considered for “shovel ready” projects, therefore Mr. Haddad would like to seek an appropriation for $285,000 from Town Meeting this spring to do the design and bid work. If the grant is successful, it will be that much easier to get authorization to move ahead with the construction at the fall Town Meeting. If the grant is not successful, TIF agreements can be used to offset some of the costs, and the creation of an Economic Opportunity Area may allow for state tax credits. Mr. Prest asked for an estimated cost to be borne by the Town. Mr. Haddad replied that the short term interest cost will amount to approximately $52,500 in FY16; this will be recovered through betterment assessments once the construction is complete. Mr. Pease suggested amending the language in Article 13 as follows: to correct the spelling of the word “benefited” in line #6, to replace the word “authorize” with the word “require” in line #5, and to replace the word “cost” with the phrase “total cost including all design and net construction sums” in line #6. Mr. Robertson felt that the real question is not whether the Town should pay for the engineering. He believes that the question is whether or not the Town needs sewer infrastructure at Four Corners. If so, then Town Meeting should be asked to appropriate the costs of the entire project, and the full costs should then be recovered through betterments (or grant revenue). Mr. Haddad reminded the group that if the project is designed, but not built, those engineering costs cannot be recovered through betterment assessment. Mr. Manugian requested an explanation of how the betterments would be allocated. Mr. Haddad said that it will most likely be based on estimated sewer flows, but that the engineers would help refine that calculation.

Mr. Hargraves would like to see an analysis showing what the estimated tax revenue to the Town would be based on maximum build-out at Four Corners. Mr. Haddad replied that a conservative estimate (using

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retail use valuations) would be around $100,000. Mr. Petropoulos thought it would be a more valid calculation if Mr. Wong’s property were excluded (as his potential build-out is not dependent on the sewer project) and also New England Power (as they are unlikely to develop significantly). Excluding those parcels would yield incremental tax revenue of only $35,000 annually. TIF agreements would serve to delay this already modest return on investment. Mr. Green noted that (aside from the issue of tax revenue) the Economic Development Committee is concerned about blight in this area of town. Filling vacant buildings with prosperous businesses would also be considered a positive outcome. Mr. Petropoulos replied that the business owners to be impacted should have the final say on whether or not to proceed with this project. Mr. Prest mentioned that Mr. Wong’s decision to downsize his original site plan may have been influenced by the lack of sewer infrastructure. Mr. Lindemer would like to know which of the property owners has specifically asked for this project. Ms. Eliot said that the neighborhood residents approached the Board of Selectmen because they were concerned about potential blight at Four Corners. The addition of sewer infrastructure there will increase the value of these properties. Mr. Petropoulos replied that if that is the case, the businesses will then request that the project move forward, and the Town should not make the decision until that happens. Mr. Green noted that there is no financial risk to the Town if the funding is recovered through betterments. Mr. Lindemer felt that the size of the betterments would be injurious to the businesses, which amounts to a risk to the Town. Mr. Green replied that the Town Manager has already said that this project would not be forced on the businesses if they do not want it; and if they want it, it can be assumed that they accept the risk. Mr. Prest said that the leasing companies for the undeveloped pads cannot lease the properties without sewer capacity. Furthermore, complete build-out of all properties at the Four Corners is necessary to ensure sufficient foot traffic to make all the business owners profitable. Mr. Robertson opined that Shaw’s is probably the only business there that knows whether or not this project should be undertaken. If Shaw’s agrees to it, then he would be ready to support it. Mr. Petropoulos said that he would like Article 13 broken down into three separate motions:

1. Construction of the Sewer Infrastructure
2. Funding Plan for Construction of Sewer Infrastructure
3. Request to Provide a Stub to the 4th Corner Residential Property

Mr. Haddad clarified that the fourth corner is currently zoned residential, but if it is re-zoned at some point, the state has already said it could be included as part of the district. That is why the project currently includes stubbing that property. Mr. Schulman wondered if stubbing that property could lead to 408 projects. Mr. Haddad said that Town Counsel is looking into that question.

**Proposed Line Item & Reserve Fund Transfers** - Mr. Haddad summarized the Line Item Transfer Requests as currently estimated for Town Meeting. He stressed that these may be adjusted as budget needs through year-end become clearer. (Please reference the Line Item/Reserve Fund Transfer spreadsheet attached). Of particular note, the Police Department is currently tracking a bit higher than would be hoped ($20,000 - $22,000), but this is mostly due to an unexpected retirement payout. It is possible that this budget may recover prior to year end, therefore it is not yet included as a request. Mr. Haddad listed the following as potential Reserve Fund requests: Fire Department expenses of $17,000 for critical equipment needs and $30,500 for wage support related to extreme weather and litigation issues, and $3,500 for Accounting Department unanticipated audit expenses. The legal budget will require support of $62,000 as mediation efforts have failed with regards to the Planning Board/ZBA litigation issue. Additionally, $20,000 will be requested to replace the dilapidated pool chairs at the Country Club. Repairs

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to the locker rooms and pro shop at the Club are already underway, and provided expenses do not exceed current estimates, will be funded through a transfer from the Country Club wage line. Mr. Haddad reminded the group that the current list of Line Item Transfer requests is subject to change as the year progresses. The Finance Committee deferred taking a position on this article.

**Lost Lake Fire Protection** - The Finance Committee briefly discussed the issue of providing potable water as well as fire protection to the Lost Lake area. Mr. Robertson wondered if there was a particular reason this service could not be offered to the residents; perhaps some kind of remuneration could be offered to the Town by the Water Enterprise. Mr. Haddad said that he would ask the Water Commissioners to respond to this question.

**CPC Project Funding Recommendations** – Mr. Green said that as the CPC is currently meeting to take their own positions regarding these projects, any discussion regarding Article 30 would be deferred by the Finance Committee to March 31st.

**Charter Review Committee Update** – The Finance Committee has received four letters of interest from individuals wishing to act as designee to the Charter Review Committee. The members briefly discussed the procedure they will adopt for making a final choice (a public vote will be taken either in writing or by roll call).

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Approval of minutes was deferred for a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Green officially adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dufresne, Recording Secretary
## Line Item Transfers

**Spring 4/27/15 for FY15**

**DRAFT**

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<th>Budgetary Use</th>
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<td>Fire Dept Expenses</td>
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<td>Nozzles &amp; Ladder Truck Repair</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td>Ending Reserve Fund Bc</td>
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### Line Item Transfers

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**Ending Reserve Fund Bal:** 86,300

### Reserve Fund

- Reserve Fund: 137,300
- Ending Reserve Fund Bal: 86,300

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<td>IT Wages</td>
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### Line Item Transf GF

- Line Item Trsf GF: 171,110

### Free Cash Beginning Bal

- 400,358.00

### Free Cash End Balance:

- 316,473.04
- 83,884.16

### Enterprise Funds

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<td>Hear Reports</td>
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<td>Elected Officials Compensation</td>
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<td>Wage &amp; Classification Schedule</td>
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<td>Water Enterprise</td>
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<td>Swap Loader</td>
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<td>IT Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Item 5</td>
<td>HVAC Upgrade Town Hall</td>
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<td>Building Security Upgrade</td>
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<td>Bobcat/Utility Loader</td>
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<td>Field Improvements Parks</td>
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<td>Establish 4 Corners Sewer Dist</td>
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<td>Design/Construct 4 Corners Sewer</td>
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<td>Item 19</td>
<td>Auth IGA with Ayer</td>
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<td>Item 20</td>
<td>Est 4 Corners as an E.O.A.</td>
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<td>Item 21</td>
<td>GDRSD Stabilization Fund Auth.</td>
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<td>Item 22</td>
<td>Add'l Parking on Main St.</td>
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<td>Purch Sta Ave Parking Lot</td>
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<td>Current Year Line Item Trfs</td>
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<td>Item 25</td>
<td>Offset to Snow/Ice Deficit</td>
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<td>Item 26</td>
<td>Water Enterprise Transfer E&amp;D</td>
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<td>Sewer Enterprise Transfer E&amp;D</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Replace Voting Machines</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Deficit Grant Balances FY13</td>
<td>1,884</td>
<td>Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>HVAC Upgrade Town Hall</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>Bud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Fund Trf to LL Watershed Cmte</td>
<td>17,639</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Rezone 73 Pepperell Rd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Sale or Lease of Tarbell School</td>
<td></td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>CPA Funding Accounts</td>
<td>677,500</td>
<td>David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>CPA Funding Recommendations:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Accessible Trail Project</td>
<td>24,932</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Conservation Fund Cash</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Old Meetinghouse Rehab</td>
<td>203,333</td>
<td>Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Basketball Court Repairs</td>
<td>109,000</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>ADA Park/Open Space Study</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>Bob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Housing Coordinator Salary</td>
<td>49,509</td>
<td>Mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Milestone Engraving</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>Bob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Zoning Amendment 218-25</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Zoning Amendment 218-33C</td>
<td></td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Citizens’ Petition 152-156 Boston Rd Rezone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Acceptance of MGL 5.53 Sec 18B Ballot Question Summary</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Home Recycling Revolving Fund</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Barry</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Apply for Grants</td>
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<td>David</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Surrender Farms Debt Srvc</td>
<td>480,000</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Stormwater Revolving Fund</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Cons Comm Revolving Fund</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article #</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Dollar Amount</td>
<td>Moved</td>
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<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Affdbl Hsg. Revolving Fund</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Real Estate Tax Exemption Inc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mark</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Taxation</td>
<td>33,298,830</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FY15 Free Cash Carryforward</td>
<td>400,358</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Free Cash committed</td>
<td>84,599</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FY15 Free Cash Bal. Remaining</td>
<td>315,759</td>
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</table>

N=Voted Against Recommendation  
A= Abstained  
y= Voted to Recommend

Voted 3-16-15
Voted 3-31-15
Voted 4-6-15
Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON

2015 SPRING TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Beginning Monday, April 27, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 8 IS AVAILABLE IN THE BACK OF THE WARRANT
Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

Parking – Universally accessible parking spaces are available in the parking lot in front of the Groton Dunstable Middle School South. There is a ramp providing access from the parking lot to the front door of the Middle School.

Wheelchair Accessible & Companion Seating – Wheelchair spaces, seating for people with mobility issues and companion seats are available in the center aisle on both sides of the auditorium.

Sign Language – A Sign Language Interpreter will be provided for the hearing impaired, upon request, at least one week prior to the meeting.

Speaking at Town Meeting – There will be volunteers available to bring hand-held microphones to voters who have mobility issues or cannot stand in line and wait at the microphones.

Restrooms – Accessible restrooms are available near the entrance to the auditorium.

Transportation to Town Meeting - The Council on Aging van will be available to Groton residents attending Town Meetings at no charge. All riders will be at the meeting prior to the start. However, the van will depart the school at 10 PM regardless of the status of the meeting. The van is wheelchair accessible. Your reservation can be made by calling the Senior Center at 978-448-1170. Seats will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Questions or concerns - If you or a member of your household has questions or would like to request a sign language interpreter, please contact ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette at Town Hall at 978 448-1105 at least one week before the Town Meeting.
Middlesex, ss.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of April, 2015 at Seven O’clock in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the nineteenth day of May, 2015 at an adjourned session thereof to give their ballots for:

| Vote for One | Board of Assessors | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Board of Health    | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Board of Selectmen | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Commissioner of Trust Funds | 3 Years |
| Vote for Two | Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee | 1 Year |
| Vote for One | Groton Electric Light Commission | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Park Commission   | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Moderator         | 3 Years |
| Vote for Three | Planning Board | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Sewer Commission  | 3 Years |
| Vote for Two | Trustees of the Groton Public Library | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Water Commission  | 3 Years |
| Vote for One | Groton Housing Authority | 5 Years |
| Vote for One | Town Clerk        | 3 Years |

**ARTICLE 1: HEAR REPORTS**

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions.*
ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to allow the following compensation for the following elected officials:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Compensation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selectman (four)</td>
<td>$ 760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Selectmen, Chairman</td>
<td>$ 910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Assessors, Chairman</td>
<td>$ 910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Clerk</td>
<td>$ 74,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Moderator</td>
<td>$ 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessor (two)</td>
<td>$ 760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

for the ensuing year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Deferred - Petropoulos)
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager.

ARTICLE 3: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2016 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article proposes a wage adjustment of two (2%) percent for FY 2016 for the three employees covered by the Personnel Bylaw. This follows the Supervisors' Union Contract which calls for a two (2%) percent wage adjustment in FY 2016 as well.
ARTICLE 4: CITIZENS' PETITION – TOWN MANAGER'S CONTRACT RENEWAL

On June 30, 2016, the Groton Town Manager’s contract will expire. We, citizens of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, ask that our Selectmen not renew the contract of the existing Town Manager.

A Yes Vote: Would inform the Selectmen that Town Meeting objects to the renewal of the current Town Manager contract upon its expiration on June 30, 2016.

A No Vote: Would inform the Selectmen that Town Meeting has no objection to a renewal of the current Town Manager contract upon its expiration on June 30, 2016.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert T. Flynn</td>
<td>425 Nashua Road</td>
<td>Scott T. Eggimann</td>
<td>547 Martins Pond Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen M. Harrington</td>
<td>310 Chicopee Row</td>
<td>Jeffrey D. Casale</td>
<td>64 Hollis Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane W. Grant</td>
<td>247 Main Street</td>
<td>Bruce E. Dubey</td>
<td>80 Ames Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawn Hunter</td>
<td>173 Wintergreen Lane</td>
<td>Michael E. Bushnell</td>
<td>105 Northwoods Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley J. Burrill</td>
<td>478 Main Street</td>
<td>Fred Anthony Correia</td>
<td>11 Cow Pond Brook Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Board of Selectmen: (2 Against, 1 In Favor - Degen, 2 Deferred – Eliot, Petropoulos)
Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: This Article has been submitted as a Citizens’ Petition by the above ten (10) registered voters of the Town of Groton for Town Meeting consideration.

ARTICLE 5: OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS LIABILITY TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws to establish a separate trust fund, to be known as the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against - Degen)
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: In 2008, the federal Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which promulgates ongoing accounting standards for governmental entities, required that all governmental entities disclose on their financial statements the costs and liabilities associated with Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). OPEB are non-pension benefits provided to retirees, primarily consisting of health insurance. The Town of Groton has a current OPEB liability of $7.2 million. In an effort to continue receiving a AAA Bond Rating from the rating agencies, the Town of Groton needs to start addressing this Liability. The first step in the process is to establish a dedicated Trust Fund for this purpose. MGL, c. 32B, §20 authorizes the creation of the OPEB Trust Fund. Not only does this Fund allow the Town to address the Liability, it allows the Town to pay for retirees' health insurance out of the Trust funds. It is the
Town's intention to begin to pay one portion of this Liability, the current cost of retiree health insurance, out of the Fund. The purpose of this Article is to accept MGL, c32B, §20 so that the Town can create the OPEB Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 6: APPROPRIATE FY 2016 CONTRIBUTION TO THE OPEB TRUST

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (3 In Favor, 1 Against - Degen, 1 Deferred - Eliot)
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: The purpose of this article is to begin to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. To start out, the Town will be appropriating the amount necessary to cover retirees' health insurance in Fiscal Year 2016. That expense will be paid directly out of the Trust. It is estimated that the FY 2016 cost is approximately $200,000. This is money that would otherwise be funded in the Health Insurance Line Item of the FY 2016 Operating Budget. There will be no additional tax increase in FY 2016 for this purpose.

ARTICLE 7: CREATE ENTERPRISE FUND FOR LOCAL ACCESS CABLE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53F½, to create an Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Local Access Cable Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: Recently, the Massachusetts State Legislature amended Chapter 44, §53F½, allowing communities that accept this Section of the Law to create an Enterprise Fund for the operation of Local Access Cable Departments. The Cable Advisory Committee recommended to the Town Manager that such a fund be created to manage the finances of the Department. All costs associated with the management of this Department will be paid from revenues received from the two cable providers in the Town of Groton.
ARTICLE 8:  FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next fiscal year (2016), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary:  Budget – In accordance with Section 6 of the Town Charter, the Finance Committee conducts its annual budget process by receiving the Town Manager's proposed balanced budget on or before December 31st; meeting with department heads and boards; holding public budget hearings in preparation for issuing its recommendations to Town Meeting; and presenting its budget recommendations at Spring Town Meeting. The budget handout for this Article is contained in Appendix A of this Warrant. Please also see the Town Manager's Report which includes the Finance Committee’s and Board of Selectmen’s recommendations.

ARTICLE 9:  FISCAL YEAR 2016 CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget as follows:

Item #1 – Swap Loader  $105,000  Fire/EMS

Summary:  Utilizing the $50,000 that was allocated in the FY 2015 budget for the building of a brush truck, the Fire Department is requesting additional funds for a swap loader unit. This swap loader would allow for quick changes to the body in the rear of the truck to make a change from the role of a brush truck to a lighting plant or a flatbed truck. The switch out process takes approximately 3-4 minutes and gives a tremendous multi-role capability. One module will be the brush unit. This will allow the truck to act as a brush truck in the dry season, thus taking out of service a 1985 brush truck currently in use. In cooperation with the Police Department, a lighting unit will be constructed to allow the vehicle to go to incidents or events and provide a significant power and light source. A flat bed will also be purchased so that the vehicle can be used to move equipment such as the UTV, boats or other loose equipment to incident scenes or for maintenance.

Board of Selectmen:  Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Deferred – Petropoulos, Eliot)
Finance Committee:  Recommended Unanimously

2015 Spring Town Meeting Warrant
Page 6
Item #2 – Fire Chief’s Vehicle

$46,900

Fire/EMS

Summary: The current Chief’s vehicle (a 2008 Ford Expedition) is in line for replacement in FY 2016. The new vehicle will most likely be a Chevy Tahoe, which is similar to what was purchased by the Police Chief and Lieutenant and will allow for the reuse of the current vehicle in the apparatus replacement program. The Expedition will be traded in with any money received used to offset the cost of the new vehicle.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #3 – Dump Truck

$180,000

Highway Department

Summary: This is a scheduled replacement. The vehicle to be replaced is a front line truck responsible for plowing and sanding as well as normal construction duties.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #4 – IT Infrastructure

$50,000

Town Facilities

Summary: This item in the Capital Budget was established six years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2016, the following items are proposed to be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: Sixteen Replacement Desk Top Computers; Four Replacement Lap Top Computers; 3 Replacement Servers; Disk Storage Array; 2 Cisco Switches; 16 Hours of Technical Support

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #5 – HVAC Upgrade – Town Hall

$90,000

Town Facilities

Summary: The original system was installed in 1991 and will be almost 25 years old in FY 2016. The system will be in need of updating in FY 2016. This will be put out to a formal bid.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #6 – Building Security

$30,000

Town Facilities

Summary: This is the second year appropriation of a three year plan to upgrade and update the alarms in all Town buildings. It will include video, and swipe cards as well as other entry protective measures to enhance the safety of our employees and the public. This measure is a recommendation of the Police Chief.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
**Item #7 — Bobcat/Utility Loader**  
$35,000  
Transfer Station

**Summary:** The Utility Loader at the Transfer Station is used to move recyclables at the Transfer Station as well as snow removal and other maintenance issues. Due to the increase in recyclables, a larger Loader is needed to accommodate the work required. It is a real workhorse at the Transfer Station. An alternative piece of equipment that was considered was a forklift, however, it is more expensive and cannot be used for snow removal and other uses that a Utility Loader can perform.

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*  
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

**Item #8 — Carpet Replacement**  
$22,645  
Library

**Summary:** The 1999 carpeting on the second and third floors of the library needs replacing. There is much wear in the heavy traffic areas. The Children's Room, Stairs, Lobby, Sibley Hall, and Community Meeting Room were redone 5-7 years ago. This replacement will be phased over two years. In FY 2017, a request of $20,000 will be made to complete the replacement program.

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*  
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

**Item #9 — Field Improvements**  
$45,000  
Parks

**Summary:** This request is to install lights & fencing at Cow Pond Brook Fields to allow for safety and greater utilization of existing field space. Currently portable lights are used for certain events. The new Baseball Field had lights installed when it was constructed 4 years ago. The fields require additional seeding, fertilization and irrigation.

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*  
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

**Item #10 — Playground Improvements**  
$50,000  
Parks

**Summary:** Cutler Field will be utilizing the existing playground equipment from the Prescott School. The playgrounds are in need of resurfacing with CSPC standard safety products (poured rubber and engineered wood fiber chips). Additionally a shade canopy will be provided for sun protection at the Christine Hansen Memorial Playground.

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*  
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Item #11 – Police Cruisers $85,000 Police Department

Summary: This request is to purchase two police cruisers and related equipment to replace two cruisers that are no longer cost effective to maintain. Maintaining six marked cruisers allows for less mileage per year, better maintenance scheduling, assignment of cars to officers and for a programmed replacement schedule that ensures that line cars are rotated out at reasonable mileage and wear, and also that un-marked cars are rotated in the same fashion.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #12 – Rough Mower $10,000 Groton Country Club

Summary: This essential mower is used to regularly cut the “rough” adjacent to the fairways. Four years ago, the Town replaced a very old mower that was inoperable and not repairable with a new Jacobsen rough mower. The Town purchase of the mower is on an installment basis, with an annual lease to buy cost of approximately $10,000 for each of five years. This item is for the final installment payment.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #13 – Golf Carts $20,000 Groton Country Club

Summary: In FY 2013, the Groton Country Club replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with new 2012 Club Car DS gas powered carts using a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of approximately $20,000. This article seeks funding for the fourth of five installment payments.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #14 – Boom Sprayer Unit $6,500 Groton Country Club

Summary: In FY 2014, the Groton Country Club replaced this essential sprayer that is needed to regularly distribute fertilizer and pesticides over the golf course throughout the entire golf season. This machine enables the Club to use concentrated liquid chemicals which are both much more efficient and cost effective than granular chemicals. The cost of this Unit is $32,500. The Town financed this purchase with a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of $6,500. This item is for appropriation of the third of five installments.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER
ARTICLE 10: JOINT RADIO PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase, equip, replace and upgrade all radio systems utilized by the Public Safety Departments of the Town of Groton, including the Police, Fire, Highway and Water Departments, and for all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Deferred – Eliot, Petropoulos)
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: The Police Chief and Fire Chief have proposed a joint radio project to upgrade the departments’ radio systems. This is a major upgrade. Currently the Police and Fire department radio systems are inadequate for a community the size of Groton. This issue creates major “dead” areas that are unacceptable and place personnel needlessly at risk. One of the most common contributing factors in firefighter and police officer injuries and deaths is communications issues. Approximately $650,000 will be required to complete the project. While the Town at this point appears to be the bearer of the entire project cost, some relief through competitive grants is currently being pursued.

ARTICLE 11: LOST LAKE FIRE PROTECTION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to construct water main extensions on Lost Lake Drive, Pine Trail, Boston Road, Lakeside Drive and Summit Drive, two (2) 50,000 gallon underground fire cisterns and one (1) “dry” fire hydrant for Fire Protection Purposes in the Lost Lake Area of Groton, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (5 In Favor, 1 Against - Green)
Finance Committee: Recommended

Summary: This article seeks to extend a 12" ductile iron water main approximately 2,700 linear feet on Lost Lake Drive and Pine Trail, a 12" ductile iron water main approximately 1,600 linear feet on Boston Road, 800 linear feet of 8" ductile iron water main on Summit Drive and 1,000 linear feet of 8" ductile iron water mains on Lakeside Drive. In addition, two (2) 50,000 gallon underground cisterns will be installed, with one installed on Weymissit Road and one installed on Off Prescott Street. Finally, one (1) "dry" fire hydrant for fire protection purposes will be installed. The Fire Protection deficiencies have been identified in the report from the Lost Lake Fire Protection Study Committee in August of 2013. The total cost of said improvements is estimated to be $1,972,200. A detailed breakdown will be provided at Town Meeting.
ARTICLE 12: ESTABLISH THE FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to establish a new sewer service area in the Town of Groton to be known as the "Four Corners Sewer District" under the provisions of Chapter 83 of the Massachusetts General Laws, for the purpose of providing a system of sewerage to serve the so-called Four Corners portion of the Town, said service area to subject to expansion by a vote of Town Meeting.

Four Corners Sewer District

A. There is hereby established a Sewer System within the Town entitled "Four Corners Sewer District" comprised of land situated in a geographical area bounded and described on a plan of land entitled the "Four Corners Sewer District" drawn by the Town of Groton and dated January 2015, on file with the Office of the Town Clerk, the said geographical area shall be served by a system of sewerage to be provided by the Town within the territorial limits and capacity of said system.

B. The system may be extended and expanded to serve increased land area if there remains sufficient capacity and the land is zoned Business or Commercial by a vote of Town Meeting or a Special Town Meeting following the enactment of this article.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: This article proposes creation of a new sewer district to serve the Four Corners area with a Wastewater Collection System.

ARTICLE 13: DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR CORNERS SEWER SYSTEM

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the design and construction of the Four Corners Sewer System; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust or otherwise; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Board of Sewer Commissioners to assess betterments upon the properties benefitted thereby for the cost of the System, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Summary: This article seeks an appropriation for the Board of Selectmen to construct a sewer collection system in the Four Corners Area of Town in order to promote economic development. The Sewer Collection System is for properties zoned Business or Commercial. This system is not for residential users. The cost of the sewer system will be borne by the end users through betterments.

ARTICLE 14: AUTHORIZE INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH AYER

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Ayer for the discharge of Groton wastewater to the Ayer Sewer Collection System for treatment, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: An affirmative vote under this article will permit the Board of Selectmen to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Ayer for the purpose of discharging wastewater to the Town of Ayer’s Wastewater Collection System for treatment.

ARTICLE 15: ESTABLISH FOUR CORNERS BUSINESS DISTRICT AS AN E.O.A.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit to the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council an Application for Designation of Economic Opportunity Area(s) to designate the Four Corners Business District area as an Economic Opportunity Area, said Area to be comprised of the following parcels: 102-1, 120-3, 133-1, 133-10, 133-11, 133-54 and 133-55, or take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: In an effort to help revitalize the Four Corners Business District, the Board of Selectmen would like to apply to the State to designate Four Corners as an Economic Opportunity Area. If approved, any renovation to a building that has been vacant for more than two years (defined as at least 75% vacant for at least 2 years) in the EOA will then be eligible for a 10% Massachusetts Abandoned Building Renovation Tax Deduction (ABRTD) based on the cost of the renovations in the first year. The Board believes this will help revitalize some of the vacant buildings in the Four Corners Business District.
ARTICLE 16: GDRSD – CREATE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Committee vote on February 11, 2015 to a) establish a Stabilization Fund, pursuant to Section 16G½ of Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws, said Stabilization Fund to be invested and to retain its own interest earnings as provided by law, and b) to set up an operational line item for the transfer of available monies into said Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

GDRSD COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This account, if approved by Town Meeting in both Member Towns, allows the Regional School District to set aside funds for future capital expenses in a Stabilization Account. Projects eligible for Stabilization Account funds use include any for which the district could borrow money or which are approved by the Director of Accounts in the Department of Revenue. This account is a tool that will aid the district in saving for future capital expenses in advance of work. Funds would be added to this account directly from the Towns, via approval at future Town Meetings, or from the GDRSD Operating Budget. At this time we are not requesting Town funds for the account and the 2017 Fiscal Year would be the first time funds would be added via a line item in the Operating Budget. Establishment of the Account allows GDRSD a tool to maintain its current fiscal stability into the future.

ARTICLES 17 THROUGH 28 PERTAIN TO FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUSINESS

ARTICLE 17: ADDITIONAL PARKING ON MAIN STREET/STATION AVENUE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015, to construct a municipal parking lot on land located at 167 Main Street and shown on Assessors’ Map 113 as Parcel 48, which premises are described in a deed recorded at the South Middlesex Registry of Deeds at Book 12634, Page 361 and owned by Bank of America, and on land located at 163 Main Street and shown on Assessors’ Map 113 as Parcel 47, which premises are described in a deed recorded at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds at Book 13572, Page 703 and owned by Shames Realty Trust, and all costs associated and related thereto; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to obtain easements by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for the permanent use of the parking lot for municipal purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (3 In Favor, 1 Against – Petropoulos, 1 Deferred - Degen)
Finance Committee:
**Summary:** In an effort to create more parking, the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board have been working with the owners of Bank of America and Citizens Bank on Main Street to create a municipal parking lot in the rear of both properties. The Town will seek easements for the construction and maintenance of this lot for municipal use. A detailed cost breakdown will be provided to the Spring Town Meeting.

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**ARTICLE 18: PURCHASE LOT ON STATION AVENUE FOR MUNICIPAL PARKING**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire from 14 Station Avenue, LLC by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, including, without limitation, for use as a municipal parking lot, a parcel of land located on Station Avenue, shown on Assessors' Map 113 as Parcel 60, described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 62225, Page 73, said parcel containing 0.32 acres, more or less, in the aggregate, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow, or any combination of the foregoing, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015, for such acquisition and costs related thereto, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and execute on behalf of the Town any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purpose of this article, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**TOWN MANAGER**

**Summary:** For the past two years, the Town has been leasing land, owned by 14 Station Avenue, LLC, between the Town Hall and former Center Fire Station for municipal parking. This lot is fully utilized and has added needed parking on Station Avenue for Town Hall and other uses. The Town Manager has recommended to the Board of Selectmen that this parcel be obtained by the Town for a permanent parking lot. The Town will be working with the new owner of the former Center Fire Station to make improvements to the lot once it is owned by the Town.

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**ARTICLE 19: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2015 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Summary:** To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.
ARTICLE 20: APPROPRIATE MONEY TO OFFSET SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2014 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: Due to the severity of this winter, the Town anticipates a deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 Snow and Ice Budget of over $300,000. Ordinarily, this deficit is made up the following Fiscal Year. However, in an effort to minimize the impact on the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, the Town Manager has recommended that some of the deficit be dealt with this year by utilizing funds from the Town’s Overlay Surplus Reserve. This Article will reduce the deficit.

ARTICLE 21: TRANSFER WITHIN WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2015 Water Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Water Commission:

Summary: This article allows the Water Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.

ARTICLE 22: TRANSFER WITHIN SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2015 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Sewer Commission:
Summary: This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.

ARTICLE 23: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money for the payment of unpaid bills from prior fiscal years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Finance Committee:

Summary: Town Meeting approval is required to pay bills from a prior fiscal year. A list of unpaid bills will be provided at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 24: REPLACE VOTING MACHINES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for the purpose of replacing the voting tabulators used by the Town to tabulate votes during all elections, and all costs associated and related thereto, in Fiscal Year 2015, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This request for a minor capital item is to replace the Town's voting tabulators. The Town uses three OpTech III-P Eagle precinct ballot tabulators for all elections. These machines are of 1985 design, and have been in use in Groton since the late 1990s. In 2011, the vendor (Elections Systems and Software) announced an "end-of-life" for these machines, citing particular concern for replacement part availability. While these machines have been solid performers, we have noticed a higher than normal service incident rate over the past two years. The vendor has committed to support of the OpTech Eagle through the 2016 election cycle. In 2014, the State certified two replacement machines as meeting federal and state standards. Both replacement machine types have similar functionality to the OpTech Eagle. If this item is approved by Town Meeting, a Request for Quotes will be issued.
ARTICLE 25: APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR DEFICIT BALANCES IN GRANTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from available funds to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2013 Training and EMD Grant, and, further, to transfer a sum or sums of money from available funds to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2013 911 Support and Incentive Grant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: Over the last several years, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has awarded the Town of Groton grant money for upgrades and maintenance to our 911 Dispatch equipment. These are reimbursable grants and the award is not forwarded to the Town until after the expense has been made. In regards to the two grants noted above, the Commonwealth disallowed a small portion of the Town’s reimbursement request after the vendors had been paid. These deficits must be cleared in order to close out the grants for the FY 15 year end.

ARTICLE 26: TRANSFER FUNDS TO LOST LAKE WATERSHED COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining funds appropriated under Article 16 of the 2011 Fall Town Meeting, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015, for use by the Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee for engineering or other related purposes to carry out the Charge of the Committee approved by the Board of Selectmen, or to take any other action relative thereto.

LOST LAKE WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Deferred – Eliot)
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: There is approximately $17,600 remaining in the appropriation voted under Article 16 of the 2011 Fall Town Meeting that was for study of the potential of a sewer in the Lost Lake Area of Town. The Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee has replaced the original Lost Lake Sewer Advisory Committee and a new charge to study the entire watershed has been approved by the Board of Selectmen. In order for the new Committee to utilize the remaining funds, Town Meeting needs to transfer these funds for this purpose.
ARTICLE 27: REZONE PARCEL 102-44 FROM PUBLIC USE TO RESIDENTIAL – AGRICULTURAL “R-A”

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map established under Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton to rezone from Public Use (P) to Residential-Agricultural (R-A) a parcel of land located at 73 Pepperell Road consisting of approximately 1.44 acres, and shown on Assessors’ Map 102 as Parcel 44, or take to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee: Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Deferred, 1 Abstain)
Planning Board:

Summary: Currently, the Tarbell School is zoned for public use because it is owned by the Town and was used for municipal purposes. The Board of Selectmen has solicited proposals for the sale of the Tarbell School and expects to have a proposal for Town Meeting consideration. Since the building will no longer be used for municipal purposes, it should be rezoned accordingly.

ARTICLE 28: SALE OR LEASE OF TARBELL SCHOOL

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or lease, for a period not to exceed 99 years, the building known as the Tarbell School, which comprises approximately 8,300 square feet, and all or a portion of the 1.44 acre site on which it is located at 73 Pepperell Road, West Groton, Massachusetts, to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said building, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee: Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Deferred, 1 Abstain)

Summary: The Tarbell School has been vacant for the past six years. Prior to vacating the property, the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee conducted several public hearings on the re-use of the building. A report was drafted and the School Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen develop an RFP requesting developers to submit proposals that are compatible with the neighborhood in West Groton. The Selectmen have issued an RFP and will present a proposal to Town Meeting based on the best proposal received.
ARTICLE 29: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FUNDING ACCOUNTS

To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund:

Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts:

- CPC Operating Expenses: $7,500
- Open Space Reserve: $67,750
- Historic Resource Reserve: $67,750
- Community Housing Reserve: $67,750
- Unallocated Reserve: $466,750

or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

Summary: This is an accounting procedure that is necessary to ensure the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during Fiscal Year 2016. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 30: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2015, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws, and by authorizing the Board of Selectmen, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A: Accessible Trail Project $25,845

Summary: The Trails Committee has applied for a State Grant that will fund the creation of the Nashua River Accessible Trail. It will be the first trail of any kind in Groton to provide access for people of all abilities to a peaceful forest experience as well as beautiful views of the Nashua River and one of its oxbow ponds. The proposed trail will provide a unique recreational experience along the Nashua River for all, including parents with children in strollers, wheelchair-bound individuals, and anyone who needs a flat stable surface upon which to travel.
The Nashua River Accessible Trail will be entirely within the J. Harry Rich State Forest, which is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The proposed trail will intersect Nod Rd. about 0.5 miles east of where Rte. 119 crosses the Nashua River. The grant application is for $25,845. The grant has a requirement for 20% matching funds, which means the Town must provide $5,1845 towards the project. This article is seeking the full amount in the event the grant is not awarded. Any unexpended funds will be returned to the CPC.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal B: Conservation Fund $200,000

Summary: The Conservation Fund has been used by the Conservation Commission to purchase Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and to purchase conservation land outright within the Town of Groton. Placing CPA funds into the Conservation Fund makes them instantly available to the Conservation Commission for acquiring open space that may be available for purchase for only a short period of time.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee: Not Recommended Unanimously
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal C: Rehab a Portion of Old Meetinghouse $203,333

Summary: The First Parish Church is responsible for the stewardship and maintenance of the Old Groton Meetinghouse. It has provided repairs over the years and have continued to maintain the structure. Recently, it privately raised $17,000 to hire an architect to complete a comprehensive assessment of the structure. Based on this assessment, the architect has recommended a phased approach to rehabilitate and stabilize the Old Groton Meeting House. Phase I calls for addressing pressing structural repairs to rehabilitate the steeple, bell tower and attic. It will also correct exterior paint failures of the façade, the bell tower and the steeple, while also repairing the brick masonry at the front entrance. Phase I is estimated to cost $305,000 to complete. The First Parish Church is requesting $203,333, or 2/3's of the anticipated cost, while raising the remaining amount privately.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:
CPC Proposal D: Repair to Town Basketball Courts $98,055

Summary: The Park Commission is proposing to repair the basketball courts located at Town Field and Cutler Field. Both of these courts serve large communities within the Town of Groton and are in serious need of repair. The repairs at Town Field will include removal and replacement of existing surface, fencing, posts, backboards and timed lighting, as well as correction of drainage issues. It will also include a new ADA compliant sloped path to support additional town functions such as the Fourth of July Celebration and other activities that take place at Town Field. The Cutler Field repairs will include patching of cracks in the existing court, installation of timed lighting, replacement of posts and backboards and court painting.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal E: ADA Compliant Park and Open Space Study $5,850

Summary: The Commission on Accessibility has requested funding to work with the Northeast Independent Living Program to prepare a self-evaluation/transition plan for 28 park and open space properties in the Town of Groton. The plan will identify reasonable improvements along with a timeline for implementation in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project will involve active participation from the Park Commission and other community organizations.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee

CPC Proposal F: Housing Coordinator Salary $49,509

Summary: The Town established the position of Housing Coordinator in 2009. Since that time, the Community Preservation Administrative Account has paid the salary of this position. Last year, the Community Preservation Committee approved the increase of the position to 25 hours and requested that it become an annual funding item to be approved by Town Meeting, with the funding to come from the Community Housing Reserve. Town Meeting approved this last year. This will be the second year that this position will be funded in this manner.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:
CPC Proposal G: Milestone Engraving $25,000

Summary: Last year, the Town Meeting appropriated funding from the Community Preservation Fund to repair 20 of the mile markers originally installed in 1902 and 1903. The project was a success. The Groton Historical Commission is requesting additional funding to continue this restoration project by completing the remaining work on the local milestones. This will include resetting, etching and restorative cleaning of the milestones.

Board of Selectmen:  
Finance Committee:  
Community Preservation Committee:

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 31: AMEND CHAPTER 218-25 - ZONING CODE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows:

Amend Section 218-25 Site Plan Review by deleting Section 218-25 in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Section 218-25, Site Plan Review, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen:  
Finance Committee: No Position  
Planning Board:

Summary: The proposed amendment to Site Plan Review simplifies the process for “Minor Site Plan Review” by enabling review by the Land Use Director and Building Commissioner after consulting with other Town Departments. The existing Level II and Level III review will be combined into “Major Site Plan Review” which will continue to require a Planning Board Special Permit.
ARTICLE 32: AMEND CHAPTER 218, ZONING CODE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows:

Amend Section 218-33C Temporary Permits by deleting Section 218-33C in its entirety, and by inserting a new Section 218-16 Accessory Use, subsection E Temporary Permits, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee: No Position
Planning Board:

Summary:  The proposed zoning amendment will remove the requirement of a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for temporary facilities and replace it with a by-right building permit, with temporary construction and office trailers subject to Minor Site Plan Review.

ARTICLE 33: CITIZENS’ PETITION – REZONE 152-158 BOSTON ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Groton’s Zoning Map to rezone from G-B (General Business) to R-B (Residential Business) certain premises located at 152-158 Boston Road owned by Peter W. Norton, consisting of approximately 30,654 square feet, which premises is described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 21298, Page 3, being shown as Parcel 5 on Assessors’ Map 222, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS’ PETITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter W. Norton</td>
<td>152 Boston Road</td>
<td>Carolyn J. Bissell</td>
<td>48 West Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca M. Babcock</td>
<td>41 West Main Street</td>
<td>Hugo H. Maahs</td>
<td>973 Lowell Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Collette</td>
<td>43 Windmill Hill Road</td>
<td>Wanda P. Maahs</td>
<td>973 Lowell Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina Beausoleil</td>
<td>103 Blossom Lane</td>
<td>Peter C. Myette</td>
<td>69 Schoolhouse Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward W. Homer</td>
<td>56 Sunset Road</td>
<td>Michael F. Bouchard</td>
<td>69 Hill Road</td>
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</table>

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee: No Position
Planning Board:

Summary:  This Article has been submitted as a Citizens’ Petition by the above ten (10) registered voters of the Town of Groton for Town Meeting consideration.
ARTICLE 34:  ACCEPT M.G.L. CHAPTER 53, SECTION 18B

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 53, §18B, regarding information for local Ballot Questions, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:  Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee:  No Position

Summary:  Acceptance of MGL Chapter 53 Section 18B will authorize the Board of Selectmen to create “fair and concise” summaries of local ballot questions when such questions appear on Town ballots. These summaries would also include one sentence describing the effect of a yes or no vote, and brief arguments for and against the question. This would be very similar to what voters see for state ballot questions. The process to create the question summaries would involve town counsel and designated question opponents and proponents. A copy of the question, summaries and arguments would be mailed to each household prior to an election. If Chapter 53 Section 18B is not accepted, the Town has no authority to create question summaries for local ballot questions.

ARTICLE 35:  HOME RECYCLING REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Home Recycling Revolving Fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½, to be expended under the direction of the DPW Director, in order to place anticipated revenues collected from the sale of recycling equipment as well as monies received through related State grants, which shall be used to purchase additional recycling equipment, advertise the availability of such items, or undertake recycling related activities and to establish the limit on expenditures from said account for Fiscal Year 2016 at $10,000, or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:  Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee:  Recommended Unanimously

Summary:  This account is proposed in order to accept receipts from both the sale of recycling equipment (including, but not limited to, recycling and compost bins) and funding obtained through related State grants, which may upon deposit be used without further appropriation to purchase additional recycling equipment or other items that will serve to enhance town-wide recycling efforts.

ARTICLE 36: APPLY FOR GRANTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for Federal and State Grants for which the Town is or may be eligible and to expend the funds received thereunder, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Summary: To allow the Board of Selectmen to apply for grants that may become available during the year.

ARTICLE 37: DEBT SERVICE FOR SURRENDEEN FARMS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5 for debt service for Fiscal Year 2016 for the Surrenden Farm Land Acquisition, as authorized under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Community Preservation Committee:
Summary: This article appropriates the debt payments for the Surrenden Farm Land Purchase. Funding for this article will come from Community Preservation Funds. The anticipated debt service for Fiscal Year 2016 is $480,000.

ARTICLE 38: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Chapter 44, §53E½ of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received under Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Stormwater Management - Low Impact Development, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee for administration, oversight and review activities under Chapter 198, with the maximum amount to be expended in said account not to exceed $10,000 for Fiscal Year 2016, or to take any other action relative thereto.

STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Summary: This article reauthorizes the use of the revolving fund for technical review and processing of applications submitted under Chapter 198, Stormwater Management - Low Impact Development.

ARTICLE 39: CONSERVATION COMMISSION REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½ for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received for agricultural or silvicultural activities conducted on Town-owned conservation land under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, said receipts and fees are to be credited to said account and expended by the Conservation Commission for oversight and management of conservation lands owned by the Town, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed $50,000 for Fiscal Year 2016, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article reauthorizes the use of the revolving fund (established in 2007) for the management of conservation land in Groton. Reauthorization allows for reduced fees for management of conservation lands in Groton.

ARTICLE 40: AFFORDABLE HOUSING REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew, under the authority of the Town Manager, a revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½ for the receipt of revenue and funding of expenses related to marketing and monitoring Affordable Housing units within developments in the Town, said revenue, in the form of receipts and fees, to be credited to said account and expended by the Town Manager for this purpose, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed $50,000 for Fiscal Year 2016, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: A revolving fund is a tool used by cities and towns to allow a particular department or board to account for its revenues and expenses for particular programs separately from the General Fund. Program expenses can be directly offset by related revenue taken in, and expenditure of those monies requires no additional appropriation. Revolving funds must be authorized annually by Town Meeting at which time spending limits are established. This particular fund will utilize revenue collected in connection with land development for the purpose of promoting occupancy of affordable housing units as they become available. The funds will be spent largely on marketing and monitoring functions.
ARTICLE 41: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Section 4, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, to allow an additional property tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2016 for those persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, not to exceed $1,000, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article is geared toward elderly persons, blind persons and veterans with service connected disabilities. It would increase the exemption under state statute up to 100% of the exemption.
Moderator’s Consent Agenda to Save Time at Town Meeting

In order to save time at Town Meeting, the moderator will use a procedure known as a consent agenda. It is the bundling of non-controversial articles into a single motion to be voted on by Town Meeting. Routinely used in other towns, the consent agenda can save time by not requiring a main motion, a second, an explanation and a vote on every routine article to which there is no objection or question.

What Articles Are Included

The consent agenda will generally consist of regular housekeeping articles unanimously supported by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. Articles that change by-laws, introduce new spending or require more than a majority vote are ineligible.

In this warrant, Articles 36 to 41 have been identified by the moderator as being appropriate for the consent agenda. At Town Meeting, voters will receive a handout with the final consent agenda, as changes are possible between the time of this writing and April 28.

How Consent Agendas Work

When the meeting reaches the first article to be included in the consent agenda, the moderator will explain the process. The moderator will read the title of every article included in the consent agenda. He will pause after each article to allow any voter who has a question on the article to loudly state, "hold."

The held article will be set aside for individual consideration apart from the consent agenda. The voter who holds an article will be asked to identify him- or herself to the moderator so that he or she may be called upon later to address the article.

After the meeting agrees on which articles to include in the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every article included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail depending on the majority vote.

The articles held from the consent agenda will then be taken up individually in the order in which they appear in the warrant.

What Voters Need To Do

Town Meeting voters should review in advance the articles in the consent agenda and note whether there are any they wish to "hold." A voter can then state "hold" when the moderator calls the article number and title to remove it from the consent agenda.

Any voter with questions about Town Meeting procedure may call Town Moderator Jason Kauppi at (978) 448-6421 or email him at jasonkauppi@gmail.com.
Hereof fail not and make return of your doings to the Town Clerk on or before time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 6th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen.

Joshua A. Degen
Joshua A. Degen, Chairman

Anna Eliot
Anna Eliot, Vice-Chairman

Stuart M. Schulman
Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk

Peter S. Cunningham
Peter S. Cunningham, Member

John G. Petropoulos
John G. Petropoulos, Member

OFFICERS RETURN
Groton, Middlesex

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have this day notified the Inhabitants to assemble at the time, place, and for the purpose mentioned as within directed. Personally posted by Constable.

Constable ________________________________ Date Duly Posted ________________________________