

TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday March 19, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Groton Town Hall 2nd Floor Meeting Room
173 Main St., Groton, MA

Present for Finance Committee: G. Green (Chair), B. Robertson (Vice Chair), L. Leonard, D. Manugian, J. Sjoberg, A. Prest

Present for the Board of Selectmen: B. Pease (Vice Chair), J. Petropoulos, A. Manugian, B. Pine

Attending Remotely: J. Degen (Chair)

Also present: M. Haddad, Town Manager, P. Dufresne, Town Accountant, D. Dunbar, Executive Assistant, B. Faxon, Per Diem Minute Taker, Town Department Heads, members of the Press (Ms. Sartini), members of the public.

Documents available at the meeting: 2018 Spring Town Meeting Warrant (revised: 3/16/18)
Article 9 supplemental spreadsheet - current year line item transfers spreadsheet
DPW municipal wages fund transfer document (finance committee meeting only)

Vice chair B. Pease called the BOS to order at 7:01p.m.

Chairman Green called the Finance Committee to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee agreed to consider the financial articles on the warrant at the beginning of the public hearing.

B. Pease reviewed the agenda and called for announcements from the BOS. B. Pine shared a tribute to Michael Roberts, esteemed and respected townsman, archeologist, historian, and educator. He served on the Community Preservation committee and the sustainability committee and the Historical committee. Wise elder and gentle soul. B. Pease then called for any announcements from the public and a citizen came forward to report that he put a citizens' petition on the warrant as the result of a movement called the anti-corruption act. Vice Chair Pease assured him that this would be discussed later in the meeting. M. Haddad announced that Mr. Degen is participating remotely. Consequently, any votes taken are to be roll call.

Mr. Haddad reminded the Board of Selectmen (BOS) that they will need to vote on the non-binding referendum question prior to the close of the warrant. A. Manugian asked if the Finance committee (FinCom) would be meeting with BOS again prior to

a vote being taken on this article for discussion. B. Pease deferred this to be discussed later in the meeting.

M. Haddad is in the process of collecting quotes for work at Prescott School and will return to the BOS with the cost of that work. The first adjournment of Town meeting date offered was Saturday, May 5th or Monday, May 7th. B. Pine reports not in favor of Saturday for town meeting due to youth sports conflicts and short notice to citizens. J. Degen spoke in favor of Saturdays and has seen them work well in other communities. He would like to see this reconsidered in the future. B. Pine asked for the information to be posted on the Town website. Mr. Haddad continued his report with information from other towns and private school's potential contribution towards funding the position of an additional School Resource officer (SRO). He reports that after discussion with the principal assessor, we can increase our new growth such that we would be \$87,000 under the levy limit. If the Town decides to move forward with a 2nd SRO, we can partially fund that position based on a reduction in the GDRSD assessment and an increase in PILOT contributions. At the recent school committee meeting, a discussion took place as to how both SRO officer positions can be sustainably funded. J. Degen would support this if everyone is contributing to this position. B. Robertson, stated that the funding for the second SRO should be split fairly between the towns that are utilizing the services. If Dunstable does not come up with their share, we should put this off until next year. Mr. Robertson supports establishing a plan for sustainable cost sharing before we commit to an additional SRO this year. G. Green noted that the cost of two SRO's is upward of \$150,000. Marlana Gilbert School Committee Chair, noted that the GRSD will have a FY19 budget meeting with the Dunstable school advisory committee shortly. She is against including the funding of the SRO funds in the school budget, reasoning that the SRO is a municipal position reporting to a municipal entity J. Petropoulos collected some data on the SRO position statistics of other towns and by comparison Groton is currently in an average status. D. Manugian asked about the citizens petition for adding an SRO to which Mr. Haddad responded that it is an advisory petition to the board of selectmen and will not mandate the position be added. B. Pine supports adding at least a half or part-time SRO, citing the number of social issues facing our students today, and the fact that the Police Chief, schools, and parents are asking for more coverage. A. Prest agrees, reminding those present that this was highly prioritized by the Police Chief.

At this point in the meeting (7:15 p.m.) the Board of Selectmen voted to open the public hearing on 2018 Spring Town meeting warrant. The motion was made by B. Pine and seconded by A. Manugian. Roll call vote: (YES - J. Petropoulos, B. Pine, A. Manugian, B. Pease, J. Degen)

The Finance Committee then voted to open the public hearing on the 2018 Spring Town meeting warrant. The motion was made by B. Robertson, seconded by L. Leonard. All in favor (6-0-0).

M. Haddad informed the BOS that there will be discussion on which articles will be considered appropriate for the consent agenda tonight and he will advise the committees as to what they are. Articles to be discussed first are those involving the peer board FinCom including articles #2-19 21, 22, 28, 32, 35, 36, & 38. Articles to be added to the consent agenda will be noted in the presentation.

ART 1 – Hear Reports - No comment or discussion at this meeting

ART 2: Elected Officials' compensation – Mr. Haddad stated that it is a state law requirement that elected officials need to be voted separately from the operating budget. Mr. Haddad reported that this article would be one added under the consent agenda. J. Degen asked what the percent increase in the town clerk's salary is and, how it will affect collective bargaining. Mr. Haddad deferred to Art. #3 for answer.

ART 3: Wage and Classification Schedule – Attendees discussed the proposal (health insurance and compensation package options) for the three (3) bylaw employees. J. Degen had questions regarding the impact of these options, especially in regards to how this affects the town clerk pay. P. Pease noted that the BOS will discuss this at the next meeting when Mr. Haddad can provide numbers in question.

ART 4: Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Operating Budget – Mr. Haddad announced that before the FinCom is a proposed budget (including assessments for the GDRSD and Nashoba Tech) of \$37,230,076. Finance committee has not made a final recommendation on the FY19 Operating budget. This may be provided at next BOS meeting.

ART 5: Appropriate FY 2019 contribution to the OPEB Trust – The Town is proposing to transfer to the OPEB Trust, from the operating budget an amount roughly equal to the "pay go" costs for current retirees (\$200,000) and an additional \$100,000 from Free Cash for a total of \$300,00. G. Green asked if this will also show up in the budget when we discuss it at later meetings? Yes, and no; \$200,000 is an operational cost for retiree health insurance. The \$100,000 is an additional transfer from free cash and will appear as a separate warrant article. J. Degen asked what is the percentage for retiree health insurance? Mr. Haddad said retirees pay 35% and the town pays 65%. Mr. Degen suggested making a change in the co-pay share for retirees. Mr. Haddad looks to the Board for direction, explaining this type of change would be made by town meeting. B. Pease commented that the topic of possible change in retiree copay can be taken up again as future agenda item.

ART 6: FY19 Capital Budget – B Pease read aloud Capital Budget items and asked if there were questions. B. Pine questioned #6 Municipal Building repairs wanting to know if this is a new fund. M. Haddad said that this was added last year to target specific projects such as roof repair and siding. This is similar to what is done with the IT budget, where money is appropriated annually for new equipment. Mr. Haddad explained that not all budgets have a minor capital budget, and this provides accounting for minor building expenses. He added that the municipal building minor capital budget was reduced to account for this line item. B. Pine questioned the two Country club requests #10 and #11 (Irrigation pump and lines & greens mower). She asked if they are paid for out of income. Mr. Haddad explained that when the budget is balanced, this is part of the cost added. He referenced the budget book wherein the anticipated revenues and anticipated expenses are listed; it is anticipated the budget will balance. He continued to explain that it is not an enterprise fund and not set up as such. The CC does not have a revolving fund to work with so this is how the accounting is handled. At the end of FY19 the intent is to prove that the CC revenues cover all expenses. B. Pine asked if making it an enterprise fund would be considered. M. Haddad does not want to

make any changes until more historical data is reviewed to consider the feasibility of this change. A. Manugian asked if this could be discussed at future meetings. This was affirmed.

ART 7: Construction Funding for New Senior Center – Mr. Haddad reports the proposal is out to bid and anticipate bids will come in 4/19/18. The town will have an actual cost estimate from the architect, with the expected cost of \$4.5 to 5 Million dollars. Mr. Cunningham, senior center building committee, reported that the committee has been working diligently and is now waiting for the final cost. B. Robertson raised information presented previously by the senior center building committee in a FinCom meeting. Specifically, the 3-scenario building plan comparative analysis involving 1) What is required to bring the current building up to code 2) cost of an addition to the current building, and 3) constructing a new building. The comparative analysis will be part of Mr. Cunningham's presentation to Spring Town meeting. B. Pine asked why it is considered FY19 business. Mr. Haddad explained this is due to the bidding process. It is requested that the construction can begin as soon as the money is appropriated. G. Green asked if the BOS voted to add this to the debt exclusion. He replied that nothing can be spent on this article unless the debt exclusion has been approved at town meeting and by ballot vote. A. Manugian inquired about additional information the BOS should expect to have prior to their decision. Mr. Haddad explained that a detailed cost of new construction will be made available by 4/20/18. G. Green stated the FinCom will not take a position on this article until the financial information comes in. J. Sjoberg asked for the financial data on the fire station project, i.e., what was predicted versus what was actual, prior to town meeting to illustrate the Town's historical performance with costing predictions.

J. Degen asked what are relocation plans for seniors during construction? Mr. Haddad explained they will be temporarily relocated in two buildings, the Legion Hall and Country Club function hall. He does not anticipate any extensive costs involved, and notes there is money in the budget to cover the incidentals such as minor increases in utilities. The DPW will help with moving.

ART. 8 – Acquire Land Located at 159 West Main St. – This article allows the town to acquire the land that abuts the senior center. There is a conservation restriction on this parcel and the intention is to use it for spill-over parking required for the senior center. The Conservation Commission is in favor of acquiring the site and working with the Conservation restriction thereon. No cost will be associated with this article, and this will be stated in the summary.

ART.9 Current Year Line Item transfers – Mr. Haddad provided a spreadsheet document illustrating the specific line item transfers for Spring Town meeting. This document (attached) will be given to Town meeting attendees. This is an annual administrative article to move money throughout the town operating budget to cover shortfalls. A brief explanation was given for each item needed.

Article #25 ADA self - evaluation – Mr. Haddad will propose that we remove Article #25 from the warrant and use a line item transfer for this expense. Since line item transfers are routine matters, Mr. Haddad continued, we would like this added to the consent agenda. J. Degen inquired what other account is the \$18,000 coming out of? Mr. Haddad replied unemployment and some in health insurance. This may be

the last year this article is on the warrant because it is not required by municipal law. B. Pease spoke to the idea of removing this article and supports leaving it on this year's town warrant and to let voters know that due to the modernization act, we may not be doing this again going forward. G. Green would like to have discussions among respective committees before removing this article from future town meeting warrants. B. Pease is recommending this article be put on the consent agenda until further discussions are completed.

ART. 10 Appropriate money to offset Snow and Ice Deficit – Right now, we are at a deficit of \$150,000 in this budget. Mr. Haddad is anticipating we will exceed \$200,000 in the Snow and Ice budgeted deficit. We carried \$200,000 in the previous budget so he will ask for the delta of overage to bring that back down to \$200,000. This would be a consent agenda item. B. Pease asked where the funds will come from and was told that the assessors will vote to take this from the overlay surplus account. It will not impact the tax rate. In response to a question from Ms. Pine, Mr. Haddad replied that there is no cap on budget transfers. G. Green stated we should have a policy in place on this. Mr. Haddad added that when the policy is reviewed next year, an update on such transfers could be included.

ART. 11 & 12 Transfer within the Water & Sewer Enterprise fund - These articles are requests to transfer funds to water and sewer operations taken from the E & D within their own funds. This is done annually to cover anticipated shortfalls. It is routine business and recommended for the consent agenda. These are duly elected boards and responsible for their respective budgets.

ART. 13 Transfer within the Cable enterprise fund – similar to water and sewer, this is routine business and a line item transfer within its own budget. This is currently a placeholder for the cable committee and may not be needed. Mr. Haddad is also recommending this be a consent agenda item.

ART 14 – Prior years bills – Mr. Haddad reports there are no prior year bills at the moment. If any bills are presented, they will require a 4/5 vote. May be withdrawn.

ART 15 – Install Crosswalks and Signage on Main Street – Mr. Haddad introduced Tom Delaney to speak on the crossing project explaining that the Town has received a Complete Streets grant in the amount of \$340,000. They plan to put an ADA compliant crosswalk including reworking the curb, installing ramps and installing crossing lights, located at Fairview and School Streets as they intersect with rt. 119. State approval is required for this to proceed and will be requested. T. Delaney reports the project cost will be approximately \$50,000 for engineering and construction. \$24,000 of that will be for the interactive (push button and voice active) pedestrian crossing signs. The funding mechanism has yet to be determined and depends on what happens with the SRO, and new growth. If the SRO position is not supported, the Town will be \$20,000 under the levy. A Fairview Avenue resident spoke to the dangerous situation crossing the street. A representative from Seven Hills also spoke in favor of the installation which would greatly improve public safety and accessibility to residents. Another resident spoke of her strong support of this installation to rectify a dangerous area for children and other pedestrians. The ADA committee has met with complete streets representatives. All the aspects of the project will be ADA compliant. A. Manugian asked to see a project plan.

ART 16 – Operating Funding for Prescott School – Mr. Haddad notes some confusion surrounding this article which was originally placed on the Warrant when lease negotiations were on-going. Based on recent meeting discussions, Mr. Haddad is asking if this expense should be incorporated in the operating budget. He reports that the operating cost of keeping the building open is \$32-\$35,000 annually. \$17,000 would be the cost of shuttering it (maintaining it vacant and insured). He also suggested the option of taking funds out of free cash for the first year. A. Manugian noted that this should be in the operating budget as a cost the Town should incur and is not in favor of the Article. Mr. Haddad continued that if this is to be added to the operating budget, he would need to hear from the finance committee. G. Green is not in favor of funding Prescott out of the OB because the plan was to fund through rental revenue. Because this year is unique, if it is included in the OB, G. Green would like to see a 5-year plan compiled. Vice Chair Pease tabled the discussion until more information is available. T. Delaney commented that there will likely be additional funds required (over the \$35K) requested due to incidental expenses commonly occurring in building maintenance i.e., plowing, custodial etc. B. Pine asked about the status of information regarding the current effort of leasing the building and whether we would have knowledge prior to Town meeting. Mr. Haddad is unsure. If we don't vote anything at Spring Town Meeting, the building maintenance would come out of available funds and funds would be requested at Fall Town Meeting to supplement that budget. T. Delaney reminded the boards that the building will be vacant by August 1. Mr. Haddad recommends waiting until the Fall Town Meeting when more information will be available. The Town warrant will be posted on 4/9/18. B. Pine noted that we can discuss this at the 4/2/18 BOS meeting, the discussion was tabled.

ART. 17 – Building rental revolving fund – Mr. Haddad reports that passage of this article allows rental income to be applied directly to maintenance of the facility. This will be a useful budgetary offset going forward.

ART. 18 – tabled to next meeting.

ART. 19 – Accept Local Room Occupancy Excise – Mr. Haddad explained this article imposes a 6% occupancy excise tax on Bed & Breakfast businesses and hotels. Effect date is January 1, 2018. G. Green is strongly opposed to this article at this time. He sees no clear plan as to what the Town will do with the money. He supports proceeding with this in a methodical fashion and with a definitive fiscal growth plan. Historical agreements between the Town and The Groton Inn granted them a year of business free from this type of excise tax. L. Leonard is in favor of the tax because all other towns have this in place, and it is considered normal municipal practice. A. Prest agrees with Ms. Leonard and added that it is a pass-through tax, paid by the user. J. Petropoulos recollected that they agreed to take up the issue at a future time. He is in favor of having this tax in place and defined. B. Pine is in support because it is a very common tax in all towns around Groton. A. Manugian suggested changing the effective date to July 1st to grant a grace period to the Groton Inn as a new business. She is in favor of excise tax revenues from new businesses. J. Degen would like the vote to occur at this Town Meeting and supported moving the date to July 1st. John Amaral, a corporate partner of the Groton Inn, was present. He explained that the Groton Inn will be paying \$450,000 in taxes annually. He recalled

that they had an understanding from the previous BOS that they would have relief from the occupancy tax for a year to get established. The Groton Inn is not opposed to the room tax but is seeking time to allow them to get up to speed and compete with other competitive hotels. The Operations Manager was also present. He described their business plan in which they designed rates to achieve a 3 year high based on not having the room tax initially. The Groton Inn room rates were designed without the excise tax factored in. A. Prest asked for an acceptable timeline for the tax to go into effect, to which Mr. Amaral responded that a 2%-4%-6% plan beginning 1/1/19 would allow the Inn 2 1/2 years of operation prior to the 6% rate.

(D. Manugian left the meeting at 9:00 p.m. and returned 9:15pm) Additional discussion of the room tax found that some individuals agreed with the phase in plan and felt the tax should be expected by hoteliers. Others present stated that there is no sense of urgency in installing this tax, but the Town instead should focus on a long-term relationship with the Inn. A. Manugian feels it is important to get this tax in place so other businesses understand what to expect when planning their business models. There is concern that if this excise tax is tabled now, it may be eliminated from future discussions. B. Pine is in favor of implementing the 6% tax and moving the effective date to July 1st, 2019, stating it would be a fair lead time if this was voted at this town meeting. Mr. Amaral offered to continue discussions with BOS and finance committee over the upcoming weeks. B. Pease would like to debate it on 4/2/18. J. Degen pointed out that other communities around us have the tax and it is accepted. He would like to keep the warrant article, set the date to July 1st and negotiate the rate. G. Green still wants people to be clear that implementing the tax does not solve a revenue problem. Ms. Michelle Collette gave historical evidence of a relationship between a business and the Town involving a tax break for the business (River Court) which resulted in a great benefit to the town. She would like to see the Town work with the businesses to benefit all. J. Degen would like to put 0% on the article, allowing citizens at Town Meeting to debate the merits of having the room tax. If they are in favor, they can come back at future Town meeting to establish the rate. Future discussion is planned at the next BOS meeting. Vice chairman Pease continued on to the next article.

ART. 21 – Community Preservation funding accounts Mr. Haddad does not have the numbers yet and asks to pass on that article.

ART. 22 – Community Preservation funding recommendations: a number of applications are under consideration, but no definitive action has been taken. B. Easom provided an update and said that vote will be taken a week from today. Proponents were present to discuss the projects. Old meeting house preservation phase 2 legal concerns were raised, Mr. Haddad is waiting to receive additional information at this time. Because the CPC process is a week behind the current public hearing, they aren't prepared to speak on the projects that will be supported. Vice Chair Pease suggested that if a proponent cannot attend the BOS meeting April 2nd, they can speak now. No hands were raised so the discussion will be held April 2nd.

ART. 28 -Local Option Recreational Marijuana Excise Tax – Mr. Haddad added this in conjunction with other applicable articles on the warrant. It would allow the town

to collect a 3% excise tax on gross receipts of the vendors. He is in favor of presenting all of the articles on recreational marijuana at once. J. Sjoberg asked if this is linked to the other articles or whether this be voted separately. Mr. Haddad replied yes, it could be on the books even if there is no other bylaws or regulations in place. G. Green noted that this cannot be counted as real revenue if there is no vendor. If a vendor comes forward in the future, the Town will have a business strategy in place. A. Manugian raised the point that she understands all the Recreational Marijuana articles would be debated together and asked the Town meeting moderator for comment. The Town meeting moderator stated that the articles would be moved individually on Town Meeting floor and if the proponent wishes them to be debated in aggregate, the Chair would allow it. J. Degen is in agreement with the 3% tax. B. Pine is in favor of the 3% tax. C. Sartini feels there is a need for a cohesive and well-formed plan with timelines and expectations as to what the voters should understand with regards to Recreational marijuana at Town meeting.

ART. 32 License Agreement- Surrenden Farms Agricultural – Submitted by the Conservation Commission. In order to have this property properly utilized for agriculture, it makes sense to form an agreement with a lessee for up to 10 years. J. Sjoberg inquired about any financial impact or risk and heard that whatever revenue is generated goes into the Conservation Commission revolving fund which is used for land maintenance. A potential risk may be that the Town is locked into an agreement for a longer period, but Olin Lathrop noted that this is necessary for the farmer to have a longer horizon to get return on investment.

ART. 35 Citizens petition to rezone property – No money involved with this article. Public hearing is to be held this Thursday.

ART. 36 Concept Plan approval 279 Main St. –Takashi Tada (Town Planner) reports that an April 12 public hearing is scheduled. Mr. Haddad adds that the FinCom may want to defer their recommendation on this.

At 9:40 p.m., the Finance committee left the joint meeting and reconvened in the First Floor Meeting room.

Chairman Green began taking motions for recommendations on the articles of the 2018 Spring Town meeting warrant.

ART. 3 wage and classification schedule - J. Sjoberg (J.S.) moved to support Article 3. D. Manugian (D.M.) seconded; All in Favor (6-0-0)

ART. 4 FY19 Annual Operating budget - the finance committee decided to continue the discussion due to the fact that the numbers keep evolving and there is still some evolution to the OB, based on debates over some current articles on the Town meeting warrant.

ART.5 OPEB Trust contribution - Question for P. Dufresne was what we need to stay flat. Her response is a full evaluation and audit will be completed in June, this information will help with determining how to stay level. L. Leonard (L.L) moved, B. Robertson (B.R.) seconded (YES: LL, BR, DM, A. Prest, G. Green – NO: J.S.)

ART.6FY19 Capital budget -; B.R. moved, A. Prest (A.P) to accept all FY19 capital budget items. One committee member opposed Item #5; Enclosing 2nd floor meeting room.

B.R amended the motion to accept all items except the 2nd floor meeting room. D. Manugian seconded; (6-0-0)

After further discussion A.P made a motion to accept item #5 Enclosed 2nd floor meeting room, B.R. seconded; (5-1-0 Mr. Sjoberg opposed)

ART.7 Construction Funding for new Senior Center - the committee discussed the Senior center building scenarios. Some commented on the inadequacy of the renovation scenario and the numerous issues with the water infrastructure. A. Prest expressed concern that the new building scenario may not pass at town meeting. There are serious issues with the existing building with regards to ADA compliance if it fails. A suggestion was made that if Article 7 fails at town meeting, perhaps the senior center could move in to Prescott School and create a multigenerational center. This scenario could be followed by the sale of the Senior Center. This was considered briefly with statements of concern with the logistics and complexities of creating a multigenerational center. The Finance committee took no action of recommendation on Article #7.

ART. 8 Acquire land located at 159 Main St. – Discussion included the fact that there is a Conservation Restriction on this parcel. Land protection and Land use and land exchange scenarios are currently underway including the town owned land on the other side of Wrangling Brook which has higher habitat and natural resource value. A. Prest moved to support Article 8, B. Robertson seconded; (6-0-0).

ART. 9 Current year line item transfers – The committee members agreed that these line item transfers are normal business accounting and will have no financial impact. P. Dufresne prepared a supplemental spread sheet for this article (attached to these minutes) which was reviewed by the finance committee and will be available at Town Meeting. J.S moved to support Article 9, D.M seconded; (6-0-0)

ART. 10 Appropriate Money to Offset snow and ice deficit – D. Manugian mentioned the source of funding for this article would be from the Assessor's overlay surplus account. J.S moved to support Article 10, B.R seconded; (6-0-0)

ART. 11, 12 &13 Transfer within the water enterprise fund, sewer enterprise fund, and cable enterprise fund – The finance committee decided to vote on all three articles at once considering the similarity of the articles and the nature of general business procedures of these departments. J.S moved to support Articles 11, 12 & 13, B.R. seconded; (6-0-0)

ART. 15 – Install crosswalks and signage on Main street – G. Green would like to consider this at a later date when more information is available. No vote was taken.

ART. 16 – Operational funding for Prescott school – A. Prest opined that we should have this article on the Warrant because funds will be necessary regardless of the status of occupancy of the building. Funding could be appropriated from free cash. B. Robertson would like to see a definitive plan and Request for Proposal and to have an engineering/architectural evaluation. G. Green would like to collaborate financial and planning resources with a building committee and work together. B. Robertson suggested we assume the most expensive scenario and include that figure in the article to cover expenses. The finance committee decided not to take a position until more information is available from the Town Manager.

ART. 17 – Building rental revolving fund – Discussion regarding the structure of this new fund if passed at town meeting, included creating one revolving fund with

different codes and with established costs for various building expenses and revenue. B. Robertson added that this year Prescott building could be the starting project. L.L moved to support Article 17, D.M seconded; (6-0-0)

ART. 18 – construction funding – parking lot connector – Prescott school/station ave
– the finance committee passed over this article.

ART. 19 – Accept local room occupancy excise – G. Green would like to have written policies by the Board of Selectmen and memorandum agreements implementing this tax gradually with 2% increases over a two-year period. His view is that if we implement a tax without a clear growth and financial plan in place, it would be irresponsible to both the taxpayer and business owner. L. Leonard suggested using the tax to fund the OPEB Trust.

A. Prest moved to support an amended article 19 including a 3% occupancy excise tax with an effective date of July 1, 2019. B.R seconded; The vote result was 4 in favor, 1 against (G. Green), one abstains (D. Manugian).

D. Manugian would support further information and debate on this article. He would like to table the finance committee's recommendation on this article until the next finance committee meeting.

ART. 28 – Local option recreational marijuana excise tax – J.S. moved to support article 28, L.L. seconded; (6-0-0)

ART. 32 – License agreement – Surrenden Farms Agricultural – A.P. moved to support article 32, B.R. seconded; (6-0-0).

The finance committee decided to take no action on Article 33 – Accept Land Donation – Parcel 234-2-0

The finance committee agreed to take no action on Article 38 – Citizen's petition for a school resource officer (SRO) reasoning that the finance committee does not take action on citizens petitions. Discussion continued regarding the SRO, and the committee plans to continue consultations with the town manager to achieve a fuller understanding of the impact of this proposal. B. Robertson stated his interest in the town of Dunstable's commitment to funding this position on a yearly basis. A. Prest noted that if the Town considers this position is necessary, the FinCom should work to advance a funding process. B. Robertson added that even if we need this SRO, he would not be in favor of town of Groton funding it 100%. He is strongly in favor of portioning the expense. The finance committee will wait for further updates from Mr. Haddad regarding this article. G. Green recommended that the committee not take a vote on this article. The committee concluded that they would support the SRO position if the town of Dunstable contributes 23% of the funding annually.

ART. 39 – Apply for Grants – L.L moved to support article 39, D.M. seconded; (6-0-0)

ART. 40 – Debt service for Surrenden Farms – B. R. moved to support article 40, D.M. seconded; (6-0-0).

ART. 41 – Establish limits for the various revolving funds – B. R moved to support article 41, D.M. seconded; (6-0-0)

ART. 42 – Accept law increasing real estate tax exemption – B.R. moved to support article 42, D.M. seconded; (6-0-0)

ART. 43 – Accept provisions of M.G.L Chapter 59, sec 5 – L.L moved to support article 43, D.M. seconded; (6-0-0)

P. Dufrense presented a DPW Municipal Wages Reserve Fund transfer document to the finance committee for approval. The transfer will fund custodial services reclassified from expenses to wages. (see document attached).

D. Manugian moved to approve the DPW Municipal building wages transfer as requested, B. Robertson seconded; (6-0-0).

The finance committee then voted on the draft meeting minutes of 1/27/18. B. Robertson moved to accept the January 27, 2018 finance committee minutes as drafted, D. Manugian seconded; (6-0-0)

The Committee continued to vote on the draft regular meeting minutes of 2/6/18. B. Robertson moved to accept the February 6, 2018 regular meeting minutes as drafted, A. Prest seconded; (6-0-0)

The Committee continued to vote on the amended draft meeting minutes of 2/27/18. B. Robertson moved to accept the February 27 draft meeting minutes as amended, J. Sjoberg seconded; (6-0-0).

The Committee continued to vote on the draft meeting minutes of 3/6/18. B. Robertson moved to accept the March 6, 2018 meeting minutes as drafted, J. Sjoberg seconded; (6-0-0).

The Committee continued to vote on the draft meeting minutes of 3/14/18. B. Robertson moved to accept the March 14, 2018 as drafted, D. Manugian seconded; (6-0-0)

Bud Robertson moved to adjourn at 11:00 p.m., D. Manugian seconded; A.I.F.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Faxon, Per Diem minute taker, Town of Groton

BUD FY 18 20
RFT #1 - and - #2

RFT #2 Muni Bldg

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND

(To be submitted in triplicate)

Date 3-19-18

Advisory Board
Town of Groton

Gentlemen:

Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6, of the Massachusetts General Laws:

1. Amount requested: \$ 32,000.00

2. To be transferred to: Municipal Building Wages.
(give name of appropriation)

3. Present balance in said appropriation: \$ 6,582.10

4. The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose):

Payment of Wages through end of
Fiscal year

5. This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:

Contractor position was reclassified as
employee after budget was voted for FY 18

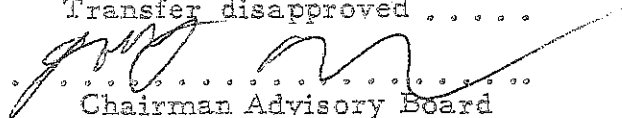

.....
Officer or Department Head

Action of Advisory Board

Date of Meeting 3/19/18 Number Present and Voting 6

Transfer voted in the sum of \$ 32,000.00

Transfer disapproved


.....
Chairman Advisory Board

Request must be made and transfer voted before any expenditure in excess of appropriation is incurred.

PROPOSED LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR THE 2018 SPRING TOWN MEETING

FUNDING NEEDED

Line Item Number	Account	Amount Needed	Reason
1022	Selectmen's Expenses	\$ 5,000	Sustainability Comm Pollinator Habitats
1022	Selectmen's Expenses	\$ 15,000	ADA Self Evaluation
1201	Conservation Commission Wages	\$ 75	Clerical Assistance Provided
1202	Conservation Commission Expenses	\$ 3,925	Advertising/signage/land management
1241	Building Inspector Wages	\$ 400	Retiree Vacation payout
1301	Police Dept. Wages	\$ 38,329	IOD Events/ 80 Common St
1542	Municipal Buildings - Minor Capital	\$ 10,000	DPW Garage Design Analysis
1660	Library Salary	\$ 1,000	Budget/Longevity Tier Increases
1662	Library Expenses	\$ 4,000	3 Mos Office Temps
1702	Country Club - Expenses trf within dept.	\$ 10,000	Enhanced Programming Expenses
1703	Country Club - Expenses trf f/ outside dept.	\$ 18,000	Enhanced Programming Expenses
2007	Short Term Debt Interest Town of Groton	\$ 4,384	BAN Paydown adj per Bond Advisor
2007	Short Term Debt Interest Town of Groton	\$ 2,433	BAN Paydown adj per Bond Advisor
	TOTAL	\$ 112,546	

FUNDING FROM

1080	Town Counsel - Expenses	\$ 25,000	Reduction in Legal Activity
1200	Conservation Commission Salary	\$ 4,000	Personnel Turnover
1242	Building Inspector Expenses	\$ 400	Reduction in Vehicle Costs
1370	Dispatch Wages	\$ 10,000	Grant Support
1541	Municipal Building Expenses	\$ 10,000	New Custodial Position Reclass
1661	Library Wages	\$ 5,000	Personnel Turnover
1701	Country Club - Wages	\$ 10,000	Reduction in Personnel Hours
2006	Short Term Debt Principal Town of Groton	\$ 2,433	BAN Paydown adj per Bond Advisor
3002	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 10,000	Reduction in Unemployment Activity
3010	Health Insurance Expense	\$ 35,713	Reduction in Plan Enrollment
	TOTAL	\$ 112,546	

REVISED: 03/16/2018

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2018 SPRING TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Monday, April 30, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

**THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 4 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 the Selectmen's Office at Town Hall at 978 448-1111 at least one week before the Town Meeting.

SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT
APRIL 30, 2018

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 thirtieth day of April, 2018 at Seven O'clock in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the twenty-second day of May, 2018 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 One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	2 Years
Vote for Two	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	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
Vote for One	Moderator	3 Years

QUESTION 1:

Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to construct a new Senior Center on the site of the existing Senior Center located at 163 West Main Street, West Groton, MA?

Yes ____ No ____

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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:
Finance Committee:

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: Town Clerk - \$ 83,936; Town Moderator - \$65; for the ensuing year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

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 2019 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:

Summary: *This article proposes a wage adjustment of two and one half (2.5%) percent for FY 2019 for the three (3) employees covered by the Personnel Bylaw. With this percentage increase, these employees will also increase their Health Insurance Cost Share from 20% to 25%. This follows the Supervisors' Union Contract, which calls for a two and one half (2.5%) percent wage adjustment in FY 2019 as well as an increase in health insurance cost share from 20% to 25%.*

ARTICLE 4: FISCAL YEAR 2019 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 (2019), 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 the 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 5: APPROPRIATE FY 2019 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:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. The Town will be appropriating the amount necessary to cover retirees' health insurance in Fiscal Year 2019. That expense will be paid directly out of the Trust. It is estimated that the FY 2019 cost is approximately \$200,000. This is money that would otherwise be funded in the Health Insurance Line Item of the FY 2019 Operating Budget. In addition, the Town Manager has recommended, and the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen have agreed, to begin to pay down the OPEB liability by appropriating an additional \$100,000 from the Town's Excess and Deficiency Fund, bringing the total appropriation to \$300,000.*

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 2019 Capital Budget as follows:

Item #1 – Pick-Up Truck

\$40,000

Highway

Summary: This is a scheduled replacement. The average life of a pick-up truck is approximately 7 years. By replacing one vehicle every couple of years, this will allow the fleet to stay in good shape. They are front line pick-ups used for day to day operations as well as snow plowing.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Item #2 – Dump Truck

\$40,000

Highway

Summary: This is a scheduled replacement of a front line truck responsible for plowing and sanding as well as normal construction duties. The truck that will be replaced in FY 2019 will be determined at the time of replacement. The anticipated cost of replacement for this truck is \$185,000. It is proposed that the Town borrow the funds required for FY 2019 through the Commonwealth's State House notes method and pay off the debt over five years.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Item #3 – IT Infrastructure

\$40,000

Town Facilities

Summary: This item in the Capital Budget was established seven years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2019, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: Ten (10) new computers; replace aging servers and storage arrays with newer equipment; investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; and network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage.

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Item #4 – Dispatch Center Upgrade**\$60,000****Town Facilities**

Summary: *The Public Safety Dispatch center was recently upgraded and remodeled in FY 2010 with Grant funds obtained by the Town. In order to keep the Public Safety Dispatch Center up to date and current, it was proposed that another update/remodel take place in 2018. Town Meeting appropriated \$60,000 last Fiscal Year for this purpose. In an effort to continue to update and improve the facility, the Chief of Police has requested two additional appropriations of \$60,000 in each of the next two fiscal years. It would be the Town's intention to apply for further Public Safety Grants to pay for this update, but it needs to be planned for in the Capital Improvement Plan.*

Board of Selectmen:**Finance Committee:****Item #5 – Enclosed 2nd Floor Meeting Room****\$50,000****Town Facilities**

Summary: *The second-floor meeting room was originally scheduled to be enclosed when the Town Hall was renovated in 1999. Due to budgetary and other reasons it was not and continues to be open to the rest of the second floor. This causes issues when meetings are going on during regular business hours. It is very loud on the second floor and very difficult to conduct meetings while regular business is taking place. This requested funding will be used to enclose the second floor meeting room, keeping with the architecture of the building, and provide new furnishings and equipment.*

Board of Selectmen:**Finance Committee:****Item #6 – Municipal Building Repairs****\$25,000****Town Facilities**

Summary: *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in our municipal building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in our municipal buildings. With a set line item which is separate from minor capital, the Town can be flexible and change priorities instead of just 'doing it because it is on a list.' Furnaces, a/c units, flooring and painting are some of the small items this capital program could support, with the flexibility the Town needs.*

Board of Selectmen:**Finance Committee:**

Item #7 – Tractor Trailer Unit**\$40,000****Transfer Station**

Summary: This will be a scheduled replacement of the existing 2004 Mack Tractor. This is the primary unit that hauls the trash and recycled materials to market. The current tractor will go to the Highway Department and be converted to a large sand truck. It is anticipated that the current 10 wheel truck at Highway, will fund the conversion. The anticipated cost of replacement for this tractor is \$140,000. It is proposed that the Town borrow the funds required for FY 2019 through the Commonwealth's State House notes method and pay off the debt over four years.

Board of Selectmen:**Finance Committee:****Item #8 – Emergency Exit Walkway****\$40,000****Library**

Summary: The south side exterior emergency exit stairs and walk need to be completely redone, as work was incorrectly done the first time - it was installed so the walkway and stairs are steeply pitched - they are not level. In winter, in icy conditions, this is a dangerous area and a major safety hazard - made even worse by the fact that there are only handrails for part of the stairs and walkway, when there should be handrails the entire length. The upper steps are crumbling and have already been patched and repaired, but are crumbling again. The north side also needs hand rails the entire length of its emergency exit path, to help guide people in the darkness at night across level ground and two flights of stairs to Main Street.

Board of Selectmen:**Finance Committee:****Item #9 – Police Cruisers****\$92,458****Police Department**

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

Board of Selectmen:**Finance Committee:****Item #10 – Replace Irrigation Pump and Lines \$23,000****Country Club**

Summary: The irrigation pump is 25 years old and needs replacing. The lines leading from the pump house to the Clubhouse are old and are mostly underwater, making repairs extremely difficult and costly.

Board of Selectmen:**Finance Committee:**

Item #11 – Triplex – Greens Mower

\$5,100

Country Club

Summary: *The Country Club owns two triplex mowers. Two years ago, the Town proposed, and Town Meeting agreed, to replace one of the mowers so that the Club would have a backup mower. One cuts the greens and the other is used to cut the tees and collars around the greens. The Town Meeting agreed to finance the mower over five years. This is the third of five payments for a total cost of \$25,500.*

**Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:**

or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

ARTICLES 7 THROUGH 15 PERTAIN TO FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUSINESS

ARTICLE 7: CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR NEW SENIOR CENTER

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 2018, for the purpose of constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Senior Center and all other costs associated and related thereto, including construction administration, on the site of the existing Senior Center located at 163 West Main Street, West Groton, MA; and to authorize the Town Manager to contract for and in the name of the Town for such purpose and to do all things necessary for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or other sources for such construction, provided, however, that no funds may be expended hereunder for this purpose unless and until the Town approves a Proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (k), or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE**

**Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:**

Summary:

ARTICLE 8: ACQUIRE LAND LOCATED AT 159 WEST MAIN STREET

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire from Groton Emergency Medical Services, Inc. by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, without limitation, all or a portion of the parcel of land located at 159 West Main Street and shown on Assessors' Map 106 as Parcel 33, described in deeds recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 56440, Page 512, said parcel containing 7.09 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 2018, 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.

SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary:

ARTICLE 9: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

ARTICLE 10: 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 2018 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 4 of the 2017 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The Town anticipates a deficit in the Fiscal Year 2018 Snow and Ice Budget of approximately \$200,000. Ordinarily, such a deficit is made up in the following Fiscal Year. However, in an effort to minimize the impact on the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, the Town Manager has recommended that some of the deficit be dealt with this year by utilizing any available funds from the FY 2018 Operating Budget, Free Cash, or the Town's Overlay Surplus Reserve. The appropriation under this Article will reduce the deficit.*

ARTICLE 11: 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 2018 Water Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Water Commission:

Summary: *This article allows the Water Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

ARTICLE 12: 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 2018 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Sewer Commission:

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

ARTICLE 13: TRANSFER WITHIN CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2018 Cable Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Cable Advisory Committee:

Summary: *This article allows the Cable Advisory Committee to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

ARTICLE 14: 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 15: INSTALL CROSSWALKS AND SIGNAGE ON MAIN STREET

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 2018, for the engineering and installation of crosswalks and lighted crosswalk signage, and all costs related and associated thereto at two locations on Main Street (Route 119) as it intersects with Fairview Avenue and School Street, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *Residents of this section of Main Street have approached the Town Manager and Public Works Director with safety concerns for pedestrians in the area of Fairview Avenue and School Street as those streets intersect with Route 119. Last year, the Town received a Complete Streets Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to make various safety improvements on various roads in Groton. One of the approvals was to install crosswalks and crosswalk signage along Route 119 on the section of the Main Street owned and maintained by the Town. This article will request approximately \$55,000 to add two additional locations to make the busiest stretch of Main Street safer for both motorists and pedestrians*

ARTICLE 16: OPERATIONAL FUNDING FOR PRESCOTT SCHOOL

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 providing funding to maintain and operate the Prescott School in Fiscal Year 2019, said funds to be used to supplement any rental income received from tenants of the building, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee has decided to relocate its Administrative Offices from the Prescott School. For the last several years, the School District had covered all of the costs associated with maintaining and operating the Prescott School. In FY 2017, the School District spent \$60,103 for this purpose. This article seeks funding to supplement any operational costs not covered by rental income from leasing the building. A full report will be made to Town Meeting for this purpose.*

ARTICLE 17: BUILDING RENTAL REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to provide for any amounts collected by the Town for Town building rentals, other than rental of school buildings, to be credited to a separate account to be expended without further appropriation by the Board of Selectmen for building-related upkeep and maintenance, and further, to accept the proviso of the second paragraph of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, §3 to allow any balance in such account at the close of the Fiscal Year to remain available for expenditure, without appropriation, for such purposes in future years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article will allow the Board of Selectmen to expend rent received from lessees of the Prescott School to cover operational expenses without needed an appropriation from Town Meeting. Revenue received from the leasing of the Prescott School will supplement funding requested under Article 16 on this Warrant.*

ARTICLE 18: CONSTRUCTION FUNDING – PARKING LOT/CONNECTION

(PLACEHOLDER – CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR PARKING LOT/CONNECTION BETWEEN
PRESCOTT SCHOOL AND STATION AVENUE)

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary:

ARTICLE 19: ACCEPT LOCAL ROOM OCCUPANCY EXCISE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, §3A to impose a local room occupancy excise at the rate of six (6%) percent, said rate to take effect on January 1, 2019, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *If the Town accepts this section of the General Laws, the Department of Revenue will collect and deliver to the Town of Groton a local excise on the rental of rooms in hotels, motels, lodging houses and bed and breakfast establishments. The maximum rate communities may impose is 6%. The local excise applies to all room occupancies subject to the state room occupancy excise. A community may not vary the occupancies subject to the excise but may adopt any rate up to the maximum. A city or town that accepts the local room occupancy excise may also amend its excise rate, but it can only revoke or amend the rate once a year. The Board of Selectmen is recommending that the Town impose the maximum rate of 6%.*

ARTICLE 20: AMEND CHARTER – CHANGE NAME OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act to amend Chapter 81 of the Acts of 2008, as further amended by Chapter 50 of the Acts of 2010, the Groton Charter, by changing the words "Board of Selectmen," wherever they appear, to the words "Select Board" and making such other clerical revisions as are required to change all references to the Board of Selectmen and its members to "Select Board" and "Select Board Members," or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on Feb. 12, 2018 to change the name of the board to the Select Board. This article is necessary in order to make the name change in the Town Charter.*

ARTICLE 21: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION 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:	\$
Open Space Reserve:	\$
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$
Community Housing Reserve:	\$
Unallocated Reserve:	\$

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 2019. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

ARTICLE 22: 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 2019, 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: Housing Coordinator Salary \$43,593

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. Four years ago, 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 for the last four years. This will be the fifth year that this position will be funded in this manner.*

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal B: Old Meeting House Preservation, Phase II \$65,000

Summary: *The First Parish Church, along with The Old Groton Meeting House Preservation Fund, have submitted this application for rehabilitation of the Meeting House structure and its façade. This funding will be used for painting, window restoration, clock repair and preservation.*

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal C: Prescott School Upgrades

\$279,180

Summary: *The Friends of Prescott have submitted this application to complete the process of restoring and upgrading Groton's historic Prescott School. The focus of this third funding application will be to install a sprinkler system that protects the entire building and for improvements that will make the building more accessible to people with disabilities.*

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal D: J.D. Poor Mural Restoration

\$25,000

Summary: *The Groton History Center submitted this application for funding to hire an experienced professional to remove several walls from the Oliver Prescott House on Old Ayer Road that are decorated with colorful landscape murals signed by J. D. Poor that were painted circa 1835. Jonathan D. Poor was the nephew of well-known itinerant painter Rufus Porter, whose murals decorate the walls of many old buildings in New England.*

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal E: Baddacook Pond Restoration

\$140,000

Summary: *This project is to fund year three of a three-year program to environmentally restore the littoral areas (shallow shoreline areas) of Baddacook Pond and to test management of invasive weeds, using mechanical methods over the next three years. The goal of the project would be twofold: 1) Restore portions of Baddacook Pond that have filled with biomass by using hydro-raking; 2) Implement aggressive mechanical weed harvesting to reduce available plant starch which will help control invasive weed infestation. Finally, this funding would be used to test year over year harvesting to see if it effectively controls the weeds.*

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal F: Marion Stoddart Riverwalk

\$19,200

Summary: *The proposed project will be only the second non-paved trail in Groton that will be designed for use by people of all abilities. This trail will meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and will provide access for people of all abilities to a rich natural landscape as well as beautiful views of the Nashua River, that is a source of great pride to Groton. The multi-use trail will provide a safe and spectacular recreational experience along the Nashua River for anyone needing a flat stable surface upon which to travel.*

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal G: Library Pocket Doors

\$9,500

Summary: *This project is to fund the restoration of a set of solid oak paneled sliding pocket doors that once closed off the 8' x 8' opening in the historic 1893 library building.*

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal H: Duck Pond Restoration

\$43,500

Summary: *This project is to fund the restoration of Duck Pond, a 26-acre pond that is rapidly eutrophying, by installing a submersed aeration system consisting of a compressor on the shoreline and ten submersed hoses to diffusers at the bottom of the pond at various locations within the Pond. This will restore dissolved oxygen at the bottom, resulting in more aerobic bacteria to consume the muck, more oxygen for fish and wildlife, and less phosphorus released to feed algae and weeds.*

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal I: Conservation Fund

\$25,000

Summary: *The Conservation Commission is requesting this funding to add to the amount already deposited in the Conservation Fund to preserve open space, protect water resources, preserve land for agricultural, forestry and recreational activities; and protect important wildlife habitats that may otherwise be developed. The goal is to have between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 in the Conservation Fund.*

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 23: ACCEPT CHAPTER 40, §8L OF THE GENERAL LAWS

To see if the Town will vote to accept section 8L of Chapter 40 of the General Laws, as added by Section 23 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, in order to expand the powers and duties of the Agricultural Commission established by Chapter 5, Agricultural Commission, of the Town Code, and vote to amend the Code by deleting Chapter 5 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

§ 5-1 Establishment; purpose.

There shall be an Agricultural Commission (Commission) to promote and develop the agricultural resources of the Town; to promote agricultural-based economic opportunities; to preserve, revitalize and sustain the Groton agricultural industry; to encourage the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle in the Town of Groton; and to represent the Groton farming community.

§ 5-2 Powers and duties.

1. The Commission shall have all of the powers and duties enumerated in M.G.L. c.40, §8L, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Buy (only with funds available to the Commission), hold, manage, license, or lease land for agricultural purposes;
 - b. Educate the public on agricultural issues;
 - c. Advocate for farmers, farm businesses and farm interests;
 - d. Assist farmers in resolving municipal problems or conflicts related to farms;
 - e. Seek to coordinate agricultural-related activities with other governmental bodies or unofficial local groups or organizations that promote agriculture;
 - f. Receive grants, gifts, bequests or devises of money or personal property of any nature and interests in real property in the name of the Town of Groton, in accordance with M.G.L. c.40, §8L, and subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen;
 - g. Apply for, receive, expend and act on behalf of the Town of Groton in connection with federal and state grants or programs or private grants related to local agriculture, with the approval of the Groton Board of Selectmen;
 - h. Advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets related to local agriculture that the Commission deems necessary for its work;
 - i. Conduct research and prepare agricultural-related plans, including a comprehensive local agricultural land plan which shall be, to the extent possible, consistent with the Town of Groton's current Master Plan and regional area plans, which may be amended whenever the Commission deems necessary, and which shall show or identify:
 1. Agricultural land areas and facilities within the Town of Groton;
 2. Matters which may be shown on a tract index under M.G.L. c.184, §33;
 3. Acquisitions of interest in land under this section;
 4. Municipal lands that are held as open space;
 5. Nonmunicipal land subject to legal requirements or restrictions to protect that land or its use for open space, conservation, recreation or agriculture;
 6. Land that should be retained as a public necessity for agricultural use; and
 7. Any other information that the Commission determines to be relevant to local agricultural land use.
 - j. The Commission may appoint a chair, clerks, consultants and other employees and may contract for materials and services as it may require, subject to appropriation by the Town of Groton;
 - k. The Commission shall maintain accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report with the Town Clerk and shall also post the annual report on the Town's website and print it in the Town's Annual Report for that year;

- l. The Commission may purchase interests in the land only with funds available to it. The Town Meeting may raise or transfer funds so that the Commission may acquire, in the name of the Town, by option, purchase, lease or otherwise, the fee in the land or water rights, conservation or agricultural restrictions, easements or other contractual rights as may be necessary to acquire, maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of, or conserve and properly utilize open spaces in land and water areas within the Town, and shall manage and control any such interests in land acquired pursuant to this bylaw; and
- m. Pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, §8L(h), the Commission may expend any income derived from deposits or investments to a duly-created agricultural preservation fund of which the Treasurer of the Town of Groton shall be the custodian.
2. The Commission shall adopt rules and regulations governing the use of land and water under its control and shall prescribe civil penalties, not to exceed a fine of \$100, for any violation of said rules and regulations.
3. The Commission shall not take or obtain land by eminent domain proceedings pursuant to M.G.L. c.79, §1 *et seq.*

§ 5-3 Membership; terms and removal for cause.

The Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the Town Manager, subject to approval of the Board of Selectmen for a term of 3 years, provided, however, that the initial members appointed under this section shall serve for terms of 1, 2, or 3 years and the Town Manager shall arrange the terms so that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the Commission's members shall expire each year. All members of the Commission must be residents of the Town of Groton. Not less than three members shall be engaged in farming, as defined in M.G.L. c.128, §1A, or employed in an agriculture-related field. If persons engaged in farming or persons employed in agriculture-related fields are not available to serve on the Commission, then the Commission shall include a majority of members with knowledge and experience in agricultural practices or knowledge of related agricultural business. The Town Manager, as the appointing authority, may remove a member of the Commission for cause, after a public hearing if so requested by the member. A vacancy created by the removal of a member for cause shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term of the removed member and in the same manner as the original appointment.

§ 5-4. Work Plan.

The Commission shall develop a work plan to guide its activities. Such activities shall include, but are not limited to, the following: serve as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Groton; promote agricultural-based economic opportunities in Town; act as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues; work for preservation of prime agricultural lands or waters within the Town of Groton; and pursue all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community.

or to take any other action in relation thereto.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *In summary, if this by-law is adopted, it will allow both Groton Conservation Commission and Groton Agricultural Commission to work together on land management. By its charter, three out of five members of the Commission must be engaged full-time in farming. We feel this will give more expertise in managing the Town's agricultural land.*

ARTICLE 24: ACCEPT NRWSRSC STEWARDSHIP PLAN

To see if the Town of Groton will accept the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan developed by the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee, together with its recommendation to seek Wild and Scenic River designation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *With Groton's support, in 2014 the US Congress authorized the study of sections of the Nashua, Nissitissit, and Squannacook Rivers to be considered for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The eleven riverfront towns — Ayer, Bolton, Brookline, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Hollis, Lancaster, Pepperell, Shirley, and Townsend — then appointed representatives to the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee and have been working together over the past three years to document the Rivers' outstanding resources and to develop a locally driven, voluntary Stewardship Plan. Over the three years, many presentations were made to town boards, public forums were held, experts were consulted, and public input was solicited through a variety of means. The resultant locally-driven, voluntary Stewardship Plan can be viewed at www.wildandscenicnashuarivers.org. The final step in this process is the approval of the "Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan" by each of the participating towns at their Town Meetings this Spring.*

ARTICLE 25: UPDATE ADA SELF EVALUATION

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 update the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self Evaluation and Transition plan, pursuant to 28 CFR §35.150(d), or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *The Commission on Accessibility is requesting \$15,000 to update the ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan to evaluate public buildings as required by ADA. The plan will make the Town eligible for grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office on Disability.*

ARTICLE 26: EXTEND TEMPORARY MORATORIUM

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

Amend **Section 218-16.2 Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments**, by deleting the words "June 30, 2018" in Section 218-16.2.C.(1) and replacing it with the words "December 31, 2018" and adding the words "and the Attorney General approves" after the word "adopts" or take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Planning Board:

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to extend the temporary moratorium on recreational marijuana establishments in the Town of Groton through December 31, 2018, based on recent guidance provided to municipalities by the Attorney General's office. The current moratorium was approved at 2017 Spring Town Meeting and is in effect through June 30, 2018. Extension of the moratorium will provide coverage for the Town while it considers adopting appropriate zoning measures to regulate marijuana establishments authorized under M.G.L. Ch. 94G.*

ARTICLE 27: AMEND CHAPTER 218 - ZONING – RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

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

Add to Section 218-4, Definitions, as follows:

Section 218- 4 Definitions

Marijuana cultivator, an entity licensed to cultivate, process and package marijuana, to deliver marijuana to marijuana establishments and to transfer marijuana to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers.

Marijuana establishment, a marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer, any other type of licensed marijuana-related business, or any combination thereof at a single location.

Marijuana product manufacturer, an entity licensed to obtain, manufacture, process and package marijuana and marijuana products, to deliver marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to transfer marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers.

Marijuana products, products that have been manufactured and contain marijuana or an extract from marijuana, including concentrated forms of marijuana and products composed of marijuana and other ingredients that are intended for use or consumption, including edible products, beverages, topical products, ointments, oils and tinctures.

Marijuana testing facility, an entity licensed to test marijuana and marijuana products, including certification for potency and the presence of contaminants.

Marijuana retailer, an entity licensed to purchase and deliver marijuana and marijuana products from marijuana establishments and to deliver, sell or otherwise transfer marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to consumers.

Marijuana transportation or distribution facility, an entity with a fixed location that delivers marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and transfers marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers. This shall include the temporary storage of marijuana products on premises associated with transportation and distribution.

And, further, to amend Section 218-13 as follows:

Section 218-13 Schedule of Use Regulations

Schedule of Use Regulations								
	R-A	R-B	NB	VB	GB	I	P	O
Marijuana Establishments any other type of licensed marijuana-related business								
Marijuana cultivator	N	N	N	N	N	PB	N	N
Marijuana product manufacturer	N	N	N	N	N	PB	N	N
Marijuana retailer	N	N	N	N	PB	PB	N	N
Marijuana testing facility	N	N	N	N	PB	PB	N	N
Marijuana transportation or distribution facility	N	N	N	N	N	PB	N	N
Any other type of licensed marijuana-related business	N	N	N	N	N	PB	N	N
On-site consumption of marijuana at licensed marijuana establishment	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

And, further, to amend, Section 218-16.1 as follows:

Section 218-16.1

Marijuana Establishments

A. Purpose

- (1) To provide for the placement of marijuana establishments in appropriate places and under conditions in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 94G.
- (2) To minimize the adverse impacts of marijuana establishments on adjacent properties, residential neighborhoods, schools and other places where children congregate, local historic districts, and other sensitive land uses.
- (3) To regulate the siting, design, placement, security, safety, monitoring, modification, and discontinuance of marijuana establishments.

B. Applicability

- (1) No marijuana establishment shall be established except in compliance with the provisions of **§ 218-13 (Schedule of Use Regulations)** and this **§ 218-16.1 (Marijuana Establishments)**
- (2) If any provision of this section or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this section, to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of those provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

C. General requirements and conditions for all marijuana establishments.

- (1) All marijuana establishments shall be contained within a building or structure.
- (2) The hours of operation of marijuana establishments shall be set by the special permit granting authority.
- (3) No marijuana establishment shall be located within 500 feet of the property boundary line of any lot in use as a pre-existing public or private pre-school, school providing education in kindergarten or any grades 1 through 12, junior college, college, licensed day-care center, church, library, park, playground, or other marijuana establishment. Distance shall be measured in a straight line from property boundary line to property boundary line.
- (4) The onsite consumption of marijuana at all licensed marijuana establishments is prohibited in the Town of Groton.
- (5) Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94G, Section 3(b) (2) the maximum number of Licensed Marijuana Establishments in the Town of Groton shall be consistent with the following provision.
 - a) Shall not prohibit one or more types of Marijuana Establishment
 - b) Shall not limit the number of marijuana retail establishments, to less than 20% of liquor licenses issued pursuant to Section 15 of MGL Chapter 138 for retail sale of alcohol not consumed on the premises in the Town of Groton. Said number to be rounded up to the next whole number.
 - c) The number of non-retail Marijuana Establishments shall not exceed one (1).

(6) No smoking, burning or consumption of any product containing marijuana or marijuana-related products shall be permitted on the premises of a marijuana establishment with the exception of product testing performed at a licensed testing facility.

(7) No marijuana establishment shall be located inside a building containing residential units, including transient housing such as motels and dormitories, or inside a movable or mobile structure such as a van or truck.

(8) Marijuana establishments shall be located within a permanent building and may not be located in a trailer, cargo container, motor vehicle or other similar nonpermanent enclosure. Marijuana establishments shall not have drive-through service.

(9) No outside storage of marijuana, related supplies or promotional materials is permitted.

(10) All marijuana establishments shall be ventilated in such a manner that no

- a) pesticides, insecticides, or other chemicals or products used in cultivation or processing are dispersed into the outside atmosphere.
- b) odor from marijuana can be detected by a person with a normal sense of smell at the exterior of the marijuana establishment or at any adjoining use or property.

D. Special permit requirements.

(1) A marijuana establishment shall only be allowed by special permit from the Planning Board in accordance with MGL c. 40A, § 9 and Section 216-32.1 (Special Permits) of this chapter subject to the following statements, regulations, requirements, conditions and limitations.

(2) No special permit for any marijuana establishment shall be issued without major site plan approval having been obtained from the Planning Board, § **218-25**, Site Plan review, of this chapter. In addition to the standards set forth within, the site plan must meet all dimensional, parking, landscaping, and signage requirements within this chapter

(3) A special permit for a marijuana establishment shall be limited to one or more of the following uses that shall be prescribed by the special permit granting authority:

- a) Marijuana cultivator
- b) Marijuana product manufacturer
- c) Marijuana retailer
- d) Marijuana testing facility
- e) Marijuana transportation or distribution facility
- f) Any other type of licensed marijuana-related business

(4) In addition to the application requirements set forth above, a special permit application for a marijuana establishment shall include the following:

- a) The name and address of owner(s) of the establishment;
- b) Copies of all required licenses and permits issued to the applicant by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission and any of its other agencies for the establishment;
- c) Evidence of the applicant's right to use the site of the establishment for the establishment, such as a purchase and sale agreement, deed, owner's authorization, or lease;
- d) Proposed security measures for the marijuana establishment, including lighting, fencing, gates and alarms, etc., to ensure the safety of persons and to protect the premises from theft. A letter from the Town of Groton Police Chief, or designee, acknowledging review and approval of the marijuana

establishment security plan is required. To the extent allowed by law, all such documents shall be confidential.

- e) All application requirements for Major Site Plan Review as specified in Section 218-25, D.(2) of this Chapter unless certain non-applicable requirements are waived by the Planning Board

(5) Mandatory findings. The special permit authority shall not issue a special permit for a marijuana establishment unless it finds that:

- a) The establishment is designed to minimize any adverse impacts on abutters and other parties in interest, as defined in MGL c. 40A, § 11.
- b) The establishment demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Planning Board that it will meet all the permitting requirements of all applicable agencies within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will comply with all applicable state laws and regulations; and
- c) The applicant has satisfied all of the conditions and requirements set forth herein.

(6) A special permit granted under this section shall have a term limited to the duration of the applicant's ownership of the premises as a marijuana establishment. A special permit may be transferred only with the approval of the special permit granting authority in the form of an amendment to the special permit with all information required.

E. Abandonment or discontinuance of use.

(1) A special permit shall lapse if a Final License has not been issued by the Cannabis Control Commission pursuant to CMR 500.103 within one year of issuance. The Planning Board may grant an extension if the applicant can demonstrate that despite diligent effort circumstances beyond their control have prevented the issuance of a Final License and demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Planning Board that issuance of a Final License is highly probable.

(2) A marijuana establishment shall be required to remove all material, plants, equipment and other paraphernalia within six months of ceasing operations.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Planning Board:

Summary: *The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment defines the types of recreational marijuana establishments authorized under M.G.L. Ch. 94G, identifies the zoning districts where such establishments are allowed, and specifies the provisions under which such establishments may be permitted. Current zoning provisions are in place for registered medical marijuana dispensaries only. The proposed zoning bylaw is intended to cover all types of recreational marijuana establishments.*

ARTICLE 28: LOCAL OPTION RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA EXCISE TAX

To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64N, §3, and impose a local sales tax upon the sale of recreational marijuana originating within the Town by a vendor at a rate of three (3%) percent of the gross receipts of the vendor from the sale of recreational marijuana, marijuana products, and marijuana edibles, said excise to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after the vote of the Town Meeting hereunder, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *By accepting this statute, should recreational marijuana sales be allowed in the Town of Groton, the Town would receive a three percent (3%) excise tax on said sales.*

ARTICLE 29: EXTEND CENTER SEWER DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to extend the "Groton Center Sewer District" as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, to include the property shown as Assessors' Lot 115-8 (21 Lovers Lane), provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner's proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Sewer Commission:

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to expand the Center Sewer District to include 17 Lovers Lane and 21 Lovers Lane, Groton. This article, if approved, will provide for extension of the Groton Center Sewer District to include the property at 21 Lovers Lane.*

ARTICLE 30: FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 190 "Sewers" of the Code of the Town of Groton, by deleting Article III in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Article III as follows:

**Article III.
Four Corners Sewer District**

§190-8. Establishment.

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 "Four Corners Sewer District" prepared by the Town of Groton and dated January 2015, on file with the office of the Town Clerk. The land zoned business or commercial within said geographical area shall be served by a system of sewerage to be provided by the Town within the territorial limits, and subject to the capacity of said system.

§190-9 Extension and Expansion of Four Corners Sewer District.

The system may be extended and expanded to serve increased land area if there remains sufficient capacity, and the land to be served is zoned business or commercial, by a vote of Town Meeting following the establishment of said Sewer System.

§190-10 Assessment for General and Special Benefit Facilities.

Pursuant to MGL C. 83, § 15, the assessment of betterments for extensions of the "Four Corners Sewer District" beyond its limits as of April 30, 2018, and the costs of general benefit facilities, including, but not limited to, pumping stations, trunk and force mains, shall be separated from the costs of special benefit facilities, including, but not limited to, the sewer mains, serving adjacent properties.

§190-11 Connections required.

The owner or occupant of a building situated within the Four Corners Sewer District (the Sewer System), as it may be amended, shall:

- A. In the case of an existing building within the Sewer System as of the effective date of this Article, connect said building to the sewer with an effective drain within one year of said effective date or, in the case of an extension of the Sewer System, within two years of the date when said sewer is available for such connection.
- B. In the case of a new building within the Sewer System constructed after the effective date of this Article, or in the case of renovation of a building which would trigger the requirement to upgrade a subsurface sewage disposal system under the provisions of Title 5 of the State Environmental Code (310 CMR 15.000) or any successor regulation, connect said building to the sewer prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy by the Building Inspector.

- C. Authority. The Groton Sewer Commission, (or in its inability to act, the Board of Selectmen acting as such) and the Groton Board of Health shall both be responsible for compliance with and oversight of §§ 190-1 and 190-2 and may act independently and cooperatively within their respective areas of responsibility. The Groton Sewer Commission shall provide administrative services, such as maintenance of connection records for properties within the Sewer District and issuance of notices to property owners. The Groton Board of Health shall address matters of compliance, enforcement, and act upon applications for variances.

§190-12 Variances.

A variance from the connection requirement may be granted by the Board of Health for any one of the following reasons:

- A. That said land by reason of its grade or level or any other cause cannot be drained into such sewer, or that a connection is economically unfeasible (defined as the cost of connection being in excess of 10% of the assessed value of the subject property). The applicant shall provide sufficient documentary evidence that a connection is not a feasible option; or
- B. In the case of property used for residential purposes, that the buildings on said land are served by a private on-site subsurface sewage disposal system which was issued a certificate of compliance in accordance with the provisions of said Title 5 as in effect on or after March 31, 1995, and, after an inspection as defined in 310 CMR 15.302, is determined not to be failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in 310 CMR 15.303. Such variance shall continue for a period of three years, provided the subsurface sewage disposal system is pumped once a year during said three years, or for a period of two years if the system has not been so pumped. After such time period the system shall be re-inspected and an additional variance may be granted if the re-inspection determines the system is not failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in 310 CMR 15.303. Any variance granted under this subsection shall expire upon the "transfer of title" to the property served by the system, as defined in 310 CMR 15.301, and the property shall be connected no later than 90 days after the date of the transfer of title.
- C. In the case of property used for nonresidential purposes, that the buildings on said property are served by a private on-site subsurface sewage disposal system which was issued a certificate of compliance in accordance with the provisions of said Title 5 as in effect on or after March 31, 1995, and, after an inspection as defined in 310 CMR 15.302, is determined not to be failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in 310 CMR 15.303. Such variance shall expire after one year. After such time period the subsurface sewage disposal system shall be re-inspected and an additional variance may be granted if the re-inspection determines the system is not failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in 310 CMR 15.303. Any variance granted under this subsection shall expire upon the "transfer of title" to the property served by the system, as defined in 310 CMR 15.301, and the property shall be connected no later than 90 days after the date of the transfer of title.

- D. In the event that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection or successor entity institutes a set of requirements for subsurface sewage disposal system performance stricter than those set forth in the then current version of said Title 5, any variances granted hereunder shall not be considered as exempting the applicable disposal system from the connection requirement. Instead, in that case, any existing systems with variances must either meet the new requirements or the property must be connected to the Sewer System. Such mandatory connections shall be made within 90 days of the effective date of the new requirements for commercial properties or six months of said effective date for residential properties.
- E. The Board of Health may review any Title 5 inspection and any approved subsurface sewage disposal works permit to determine if a subsurface sewage disposal system is protective of public health and safety and the environment in considering any variance request.
- F. A notice of any variance granted hereunder shall be recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds and evidence thereof provided to the Board of Health. Such notice shall state that the variance shall expire upon the "transfer of title" as defined in 310 CMR 15.301.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *Now that the Four Corners Sewer Project is completed, this article is brought forward to set forth the Bylaw provisions establishing how the District will function. This proposed Bylaw amendment creates a framework for operation that is similar to that in place for the Center Sewer District. The Board of Selectmen and Sewer Commission will then establish regulations for the operation of the District.*

ARTICLE 31: AMEND CHAPTER 139 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GROTON

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 262, §34, to amend Chapter 139 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Fees, by adding a new Section §139-1 as follows, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Section §139-1 – "The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to set Town Clerk fees after conducting a public hearing. All fees collected by the Town Clerk's Office for recording and issuing vital records, business certificate filings, issuance of local licenses, document certification and other services provided by the office, and fees collected on behalf of other departments shall, upon receipt, be paid into the Town Treasury."

TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 262, §34 prescribes a city and town clerk fee structure for approximately 70 items for all cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The fees set in statute are at historical levels; for example, \$1.00 for a birth certificate. The statute allows for changes to the clerk fees by a town meeting vote, and towns may adopt a bylaw to set fees in a different manner. Groton Town Clerk fees were set in 2008, and again in 2017, in public hearings conducted by the Board of Selectmen. This article is asking the Town Meeting to formally grant the Board of Selectmen the authority to set Town Clerk fees, as it holds for other town departments. The process of public hearings affords a detailed review and assessment venue by the Board and the Public. Fees collected by the Town Clerk's Office will continue to be paid to the Town Treasury.*

ARTICLE 32: LICENSE AGREEMENT – SURRENDEN FARMS AGRICULTURAL

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Manager, on behalf of the Conservation Commission, to enter into a license agreement with an individual/individuals to conduct agricultural activities at Surrenden Farm West for a term not to exceed ten (10) years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Conservation Commission:

Summary: *Surrenden Farm contains 36 acres of open fields historically used for the cultivation and harvest of hay. Due to the size of the fields and the presence of known rare wildlife on this property, the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the property emphasizes the importance of working with an individual farmer on a long-term basis. Establishing a long-term license with a farmer provides an opportunity to best manage the hay fields according to the conditions of the RMP and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife owned Conservation Restriction. This also allows the farmer an opportunity to incorporate his/her business planning into the farming operations necessary to keep the land well maintained and productive. The Uniform Procurement Act (M.G.L. c. 30B, § 12[b]) prohibits towns from awarding a contract for a term exceeding three years unless authorized by a majority vote. Therefore, the Commission believes that extending the term of a standard three (3) year license agreement to ten (10) years will provide the selected farmer the best opportunity to address the needs of the field while retaining the field in an economically viable state.*

ARTICLE 33: ACCEPT LAND DONATION – PARCEL 234-2-0

To see if the Town will vote to accept, as a donation from the owner, a parcel of land located off Lowell Road, shown as parcel no. 234-2-0 on the Groton Assessors' maps and containing approximately 1,742 square feet, said parcel to be placed under the custody and control of the Conservation Commission, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to take all actions and execute all documents necessary or convenient in connection with the acquisition of said land, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *The owner of this parcel approached the Town of Groton to consider accepting it as donated land. The parcel is land only, not buildable, and is assessed at \$5,000. The Town of Groton and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation co-own a Conservation Restriction on the adjacent 134.8-acre lot. Martins Pond Brook runs along the eastern portion of the adjacent parcel and enters a culvert which crosses under Lowell Road on Assessors' parcel 234-2-0. By owning the parcel that contains the culvert, the Town will be able to ensure that any maintenance required is completed quickly.*

ARTICLE 34: ACCEPT LAND DONATION – PARCEL 205-41-0

To see if the Town will vote to accept, as a donation from the owner, a parcel of land located off Throne Hill Road, shown as parcel no. 205-41-0 on the Groton Assessors' maps and containing approximately 0.62 acres, said parcel to be placed under the custody and control of the Conservation Commission, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to take all actions and execute all documents necessary or convenient in connection with the acquisition of said land, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *The owner of this parcel approached the Town of Groton to consider accepting it as donated land. The parcel is land only and is assessed at \$15,800. This land locked parcel is completely surrounded by 340.4 acres of conservation land owned by the Town of Groton and the Groton Conservation Trust as part of the greater Throne Conservation Area. The parcel would appear to be undevelopable based on the lack of access. Acceptance of the land will allow for it to be incorporated into the adjacent conservation parcels.*

ARTICLE 35: CITIZENS' PETITION – REZONE PROPERTY

To see if the Town will vote to zone the property situated at 186 Main street, which is shown on the Groton Assessor's Maps as Parcel 113-1 and described in a deed recorded with Middlesex County South District Registry of Deeds in Book 70228 at Page 254 as R-B (Residential-Business) and include this property in the Town Center Overlay District, Section 218-30.2 of the Groton Zoning By-Law, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Robert L. Collins	204 Gay Road	Paul G. Funch	92 Reedy Meadow Road
Ranier B. Collins	204 Gay Road	Jessica Charland	207 Whiley Road
Peter S. Cunningham	44 Smith Street	Christopher Sullivan	22 Station Avenue
Thomas D. Orcutt	12 Canterbury Lane	Frances Stanley	19 Court Street
Michelle Collette	43 Windmill Hill	Michael Bouchard	69 Hill Road

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Planning Board:

Summary: *This article would rezone the property at 186 Main Street to Residential Business and it to the Town Center Overlay District.*

ARTICLE 36: CITIZENS' PETITION -279 MAIN STREET – CONCEPT PLAN APPROVAL

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Concept Plan for converting/renovating the existing church into a four (4) condominium development and construction of a 4 car parking structure under Section 218-27C of the Zoning By-law, situated at 279 Main Street, land shown on Assessors' Map 112, Parcels 60, 61 & 62, which premises is described in a deed recorded at the South Middlesex Registry of Deeds at Book 64541, Page 233, being shown on a conceptual plan entitled "Residence at Sacred Heart" Concept Plan for Multi Family Development prepared by Christopher Lewis, dated February 23, 2018, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Heidi M. Resca	19 Dolan Drive	Joseph A. Resca	19 Dolan Drive
Jenifer B. Evans	24 Smith Street	Douglas W. Burgess	24 Smith Street
John S. Ludlow	28 Moors Road	Eileen Ludlow	28 Moors Road
Mary J. Keating	81 Culver Road	Daniel A. Ploof	15 Dolan Drive
Luis Mario Alvarez	15 Dolan Drive	Peter S. Cunningham	44 Smith Street

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:
Planning Board:

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *This article requests that voters approve a concept plan to redevelop the Sacred Heart Church as a 4-unit condominium building. The Applicant is also proposing to construct a single-story building with 4 garage bays. The proposed square footage of the garage building footprint would be approximately 2,304 square feet and the footprint of the Church building would not change. The property is located at 279 Main Street and is serviced by Town sewer and water. The Property is zoned RA.*

ARTICLE 37: CITIZENS' PETITION – RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL DONATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution supporting state and federal legislation to provide greater transparency in political donations and limit the influence of money in politics:

Resolution Supporting State and Federal Legislation to Provide Greater Transparency in Political Donations and Limit the Influence of Money in Politics

WHEREAS, recent changes in funding and disclosure rules for national, state and local political elections have degraded the goals of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, a recent decision by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) now allows an infusion of previously prohibited out-of-state money to influence local and state elections, new legislation is now required to prohibit such funding from circumventing Massachusetts state law; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to restore voter confidence in our democracy, a grassroots movement known as "Represent.Us" is working for legislative reforms to reduce the opportunity for corruption within the political system in our country by supporting a legislative reform bill known as the "American Anti-Corruption Act" (the Act); and

WHEREAS, the Act targets bribery by preventing lobbyists from donating to politicians and influencing policymaking; ends secret money by mandating full transparency; enables citizens to fund elections; closes the revolving door between Congress and lobbying firms; and enhances the power of the Federal Election Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the citizens of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts that we support tough new anti-corruption laws to close loopholes in Massachusetts' campaign finance regulations that currently allows unregulated out-of-state money to infiltrate state and local elections; and we support the goals outlined in the American Anti-Corruption Act to remove the corrupting influence of money on our political system. The Act prohibits politicians from taking campaign money from special interest groups including private industries and unions; increases transparency for campaign funding; empowers all voters through a tax rebate voucher to contribute to the candidates they support; prohibits representatives and senior staff from all lobbying activity for five years once they leave office; and places limits on super PACs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of the Town of Groton implore our elected representatives in Boston, State Senator Eileen Donohue and Rep. Sheila Harrington and in Washington, Sen. Edward Markey and Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Niki Tsongas (or their successors) to lead this effort to enact these initiatives in Massachusetts and in the U.S. Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of Groton is hereby directed to give notice to the above representatives by sending a certified copy of this resolution to each of them.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Thomas K. Callahan	468 Townsend Road	Elea Kemler	44 Willowdale Road
Courtney Spence	469 Martins Pond Road	Deborah Santoro	59 Raddin Road
Maureen Casey	180 Flavell Road	Nancy Beshansky	963 Lowell Road
Michael Foster	52 Chestnut Hill Road	Robert Fleischer	119 Nashua Road
Lynne Kavanagh	49 Mayfield Drive	Lee S. Burton	46 Wood Lane

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article would adopt a resolution supporting State and Federal Legislation to provide greater transparency in political donations and limit the influence of money in politics.*

ARTICLE 38: CITIZENS' PETITION – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

To see if the Town will vote to require the Board of Selectmen to include an additional safety personnel position in the FY 19 municipal budget to be assigned as a School Resource Officer, whereas increasing the total of School Resource Officers in the FY19 budget from one (1) full time School Resource Officer to two (2) full time School Resource Officers without decreasing the FY19 proposed school budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Kaere H. Schmidt	625 Old Dunstable Road	Nicole Pelletier	486 Old Dunstable Road
Joseph G. Matlock	625 Old Dunstable Road	Kristina Gannon	29 Reedy Meadow Road
Deborah Mendel	57 Pine Trail	Melissa J. Dawes	116 School House Road
Irene Pak	655 Longley Road	Billy Dawes	116 School House Road
Erica Monat	120 Lost Lake Drive	Kathleen Leonard	241 Lost Lake Drive

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: Currently the proposed Groton Town Budget only includes one (1) School Resource Office. This SRO currently services approximately 4000 students which include public and private school students which exceeds the recommended number of students per School Resource Officer. This was a recommendation made by Chief Palma, a recommendation that not put forth by the Board of Selectmen to the voters of Groton. As concerned citizens we believe that the taxpayers have the right to vote to include another School Resource Officer. We believe with the increased threat of school shootings, bomb threats, drug and alcohol use in our schools, we are in need of an additional School Resource Officer to properly service all of these students.

ARTICLES 39 THROUGH 43 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED BY THE TOWN MODERATOR AFTER ARTICLE 43.

ARTICLE 39: 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:
Finance Committee:**

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

ARTICLE 40: DEBT SERVICE FOR SURRENDEN 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 2019 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:
Finance Committee:
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 2019 is \$476,722. To fund this, \$80,000 would be paid from the Open Space Reserve and \$396,722 would be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.

ARTICLE 41: ESTABLISHING LIMITS FOR THE VARIOUS REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E ½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to set the FY 2019 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2019 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$50,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This Article sets the limit of annual spending for the various revolving funds authorized by previous Town Meeting vote and currently set forth in the Town's Bylaw for said purpose.*

ARTICLE 42: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, §5C1/2, inserted by Section 14 of Chapter 62 of the Acts of 2014, for the purpose of increasing the real estate tax exemptions by 100 percent to all persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Clauses 17, 17C, 17C1/2, 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F, 22G, 37, 37A, 41, 41B, 41C, 41C½, 42, 43, 56 or 57 of G.L. c. 59, §5, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Selectmen:
Finance Committee:

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. Section 5C1/2 was enacted in 2014 and replaces the special legislation that previously authorized the additional exemption, Section 4 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988.*

ARTICLE 43: ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF M.G.L., CHAPTER 59, §5

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, §5, which, for clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F of section 5, allows the Town to reduce from five consecutive years to one year the residency requirement, making certain veterans and their surviving spouses or parents, eligible for the property tax exemptions under Massachusetts General Laws, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Selectmen:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The Town of Groton has adopted the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5 Clause 22 for a Veteran domiciled in Massachusetts for 6 consecutive months before entering the service or domiciled in Massachusetts for not less than 5 years prior to filing for his/her exemption. By local option, the residency requirement can be reduced to 1 year by a vote of Town Meeting.*

Moderator's Consent Agenda to Save Time at Town Meeting

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.

The warrant identifies which articles are proposed for the consent agenda. If the articles in the consent agenda changes prior to Town Meeting but after the printing of the warrant, voters will be advised at Town Meeting.

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 and be prepared to speak to the article later in the meeting.

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 be ready to state which article(s) they wish to hold for individual consideration

Any voter with questions about Town Meeting procedure may call Town Moderator Jason Kauppi at (978) 391-4506 or email him at moderator@townofgroton.org.

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 9th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Eighteen.

Joshua A. Degen

Joshua A. Degen, Chairman

Barry A. Pease

Barry A. Pease, Vice Chairman

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Clerk

John G. Petropoulos

John G. Petropoulos, Member

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, 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

**BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE
TOWN MANAGER
AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2019**

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