

SELECT BOARD/FINCOM MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021
FinCom APPROVED 3/29/21

SB Members Virtually Present: Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair; Rebecca H. Pine, Clerk; John R. Giger, Member; John F. Reilly, Member

Members Absent: Alison S. Manugian, Chair

FinCom Members Virtually Present: B. Robertson (Chair), C. Doody, A. Prest, M. Linskey, S. Whitefield

Also Virtually Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant; Melisa Doig, HR Director; Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant; Hannah Moller, Assistant Tax Collector/Treasurer; Michael Bouchard, Town Clerk;—Members of the School Committee – Gilbert, LeBlanc, McCabe, Cronin, Kubick, Raynor, Glod; Sherry Kersey, GDRSD Business Manager; CPC Member Bruce Easom; Eileena Long, Left Field; David Saindon, Left Field; Meryl Nistler, Studio G; Kevin Lindemer; Dr. Laura Chesson, School Superintendent; Tom Orcutt, Water Superintendent; Jim Gmeiner, Water & Sewer Commissioner; Don Black, Housing Authority; Takashi Tada, Land Use Director; Russ Burke, Planning Board Member; Nathan Shapiro; Jason Kauppi, Town Moderator

Mr. Degen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda. He asked participants to use the raise your hand function if they wished to speak because there were so many participants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Pine said that March 13th marked the one-year anniversary since the pandemic shutdown in Groton. She thanked the Town Manager, employees and all boards for all their work over the past year. She also thanked the residents for keeping them in a less dangerous position than some of their neighboring towns and most of the state.

Ms. Gilbert called the School Committee to order at 7:04pm. Mr. Robertson called the Finance Committee to order at 7:04pm.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that the CDC had issued new COVID guidelines to which he and the Fire Chief had made some changes to their policy. He said that they cut quarantining back due to exposure from 14 to 10 days and added quarantine language for those traveling with a vaccine and without a vaccine. Mr. Haddad said that they took out reference to leaves of absences from this policy adding they would follow their FMLA policy. Mr. Haddad said that these protocols would probably be changed again in a couple of weeks as more people were getting vaccinated adding he would bring any proposed changes back to the Board. He respectfully requested that the Board vote to amend and issue the new policy.

Ms. Pine moved to approve the amended Infectious Disease Control Policy effective tonight. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

2. Mr. Haddad said that Groton had moved to a green COVID status. He said that the policy was that should they be a green status again this week, they would open the Town Hall and Library to the public on March 22, 2021. Mr. Haddad said that they would stay meeting on Zoom adding they were limited to 50% capacity. Mr. Degen asked about meeting in public. Mr. Haddad said that they would remain meeting remotely for 30 days after the emergency order was lifted.
3. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to add a question to the 2021 Annual Town Election Ballot relative to the debt exclusion for Florence Roche. He said that they needed to notify the Town Clerk 35 days before the election. Ms. Pine said that the wording had been checked by Town Counsel. Mr. Haddad said that Bond Counsel had also checked the wording.

Ms. Pine moved that they add the question to the 2021 town election ballot as question 1 as printed in their packet and approved by Bond and Town Counsel. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

4. Mr. Haddad said that Bob Colman had notified him of his intention to resign in May. He said that he, Ms. Doig and Ms. Dunbar had met with the Cable Advisory Committee last week. He said that the Cable Advisory Committee wanted to see Ashley Doucette take Bob's position. He said he would like to ask the Board to waive their policy and allow him to internally post this position for a week. Ms. Pine said that she respected the recommendation of the Committee, but thought they had a policy they should follow. She added this had nothing to do with Ms. Doucette's ability to fulfill the job. She said she would prefer to not waive the policy. Mr. Reilly asked how long they would post externally. Ms. Doig said they would post for 2 weeks. She added that posting externally would be an expense for the Cable Department. Mr. Giger said he had known Ms. Doucette for a long time and thought she was eminently qualified for this job and didn't think they needed to look externally. Mr. Degen said that when they had an individual who had shown their capacities internally, he didn't think they should post externally but post it internally instead. He added that it was important to promote from within when necessary.

Mr. Reilly made a motion to waive their policy and post the Cable Director's position internally for one week. Mr. Degen seconded the motion.

Ms. Pine said they had excellent employees and thought they should promote from within but thought they needed to add new ideas in on the occasion. She thought this position was one of those positions.

Roll Call: Pine-nay; Degen-aye; Reilly-aye; Giger-aye

2020 SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Haddad read the public hearing notice into the record and asked the Board and Finance Committee to open the public hearing.

Ms. Pine moved to open the public hearing to discuss the spring town meeting warrant. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. Roll Call: Degen-aye; Pine-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

Mr. Robertson moved to open the public hearing to discuss the spring town meeting warrant. Mr. Prest seconded the motion. Roll Call: Prest-aye; Robertson-aye; Whitefield-aye; Linskey-aye; Doody-aye

Mr. Haddad reviewed the warrant article by article.

Mr. Haddad said that he met with the Finance Committee last week. He said that they had made some changes since the original proposed budget was presented in January. Mr. Haddad said that the budget had been reduced by \$108,719. He reviewed the increases and decreases. He said that the Finance Committee voted last week to allow him to reinstate the patrol officer position. He said that this would put the budget approximately \$3K under the levy limit. Ms. Pine asked if the budget would be presented in the consent agenda. Mr. Haddad said that they would be putting the 13 budget motions in a consent agenda. Mr. Degen said that a hold could be put on any item at Town Meeting that was contained in a consent agenda.

Mr. Lindemer asked why they would not get electric golf carts at the Country Club. Mr. Haddad said that they did not have the infrastructure necessary or the money available to build the infrastructure to purchase electric golf carts. Mr. Haddad said that he could find out the cost. Mr. Degen asked about the existing golf carts and whether they would be traded in or sold. Mr. Haddad said they could trade them in or auction them off. Ms. Pine asked about grants available for infrastructure. Mr. Lindemer, speaking as a Light Commissioner, said they would be interested in helping with that also.

Ms. Gilbert said that the track was an asset for both the schools and community as they found out going through the building project process of Florence Roche. Ms. Gilbert said that the track was not eligible for MSBA reimbursement but could

leverage state funding for it. She said that they decided to put together a CPA application for a new track behind the middle school. She said that if the project was approved at Town Meeting, the cost of the building project would decrease by \$1.4M. Ms. Gilbert said that the most cost-effective solution for Florence Roche was to build a new school on the existing parcel where the existing track was located. She said that they also planned to bring all Groton elementary students back to Groton with the construction of a new school.

Mr. Giger said people should understand that the track could also be included in the bond for a new school if not approved by CPA funding. Ms. Gilbert said that regardless of which way this went, it would be bonded either way. If bonded with the project, they would lose the ability to leverage CPA state funds of 40% and if part of the building project, that would also be bonded.

Ms. Gilbert said that they had spent a lot of time on this project. She said they had evaluated multiple potential sites within Groton. She said that the current parcel was the most cost-effective parcel. She said that the square footage was dictated by their academic programming and was approved by MSBA and DESE which was 109K square feet. She explained that once all Groton students came back to Groton (from Swallow Union) Groton would no longer be responsible for Dunstable capital needs at the elementary school. Mr. Degen asked what happened if this was voted down. Ms. Gilbert said that if voted down, they had 120 days to come up with an alternative solution. Ms. Gilbert said that they would also be walking away from MSBA reimbursement and could not afford to build this on their own. Mr. Prest said that they needed to replace the school adding they had no other choice. He said it wasn't going to be easy to get this passed but thought they needed to work hard to get the word out there.

Mr. Orcutt said article 9 was to request engineering funding of \$722,300 for the Whitney Well Treatment Facility.

Mr. Orcutt said that article 10 was requesting engineering funding for a new source well at Whitney Well. He said that preliminary testing and drilling had been very successful and could yield them 350 gallons per minute. Mr. Degen asked if the water at this new potential well location had been tested for manganese. Mr. Orcutt said that the water tested negative for manganese but would be treated like the other wells.

Mr. Orcutt said article 11 was no longer needed and could be removed. Mr. Orcutt said that the Commissioners would vote tomorrow to have this removed.

Mr. Gmeiner said that article 12 was put on the warrant on behalf of the applicant. He said that they would be holding a hearing in early April on this. It was asked that the property owners be invited to the meeting next week. Ms. Pine said she thought they could tie in if sewer went past their property. Mr. Gmeiner said that they had to be in the district to connect not just have access to it.

Mr. Easom said that article 13 was the normal article that allocated money into the CPA bins. He said that this year they included an additional \$15,500 in operating expenses to cover wages and benefits for the CPA Administrators time. Mr. Haddad said that due to the budget issues, he asked the CPC to cover their admin's time. There was a request to have in the packet the amount of money in all the buckets.

Mr. Easom said that they were moving 12 applications forward for Town Meeting discussion within article 14. Mr. Easom reviewed the recommended projects. Mr. Degen asked if they could be listed as they were ranked by the CPC. Ms. Pine said she didn't agree with doing that adding they had never been presented in that manner in the past. She said she didn't see any benefit to this other than building controversy. Ms. Gilbert said divisiveness came to mind when hearing this suggestion. She said she understood the ranking process, but did not understand how there could be extremely far out rankings in certain categories on some projects. She said she was not comfortable with 100% of the rankings she listened to and the criteria being used. She said she agreed with putting the projects through as a whole. Mr. Giger said he agreed with Ms. Gilbert and Ms. Pine. Mr. Haddad said that projects had to be moved forward by the Committee adding no matter what the ranking was, they were voted to be moved forward. Mr. Degen said he was fine with leaving it but thought the rankings needed to be made available adding they didn't need to spend all the money just because it was there. Mr. Reilly asked if the projects were ranked

by their categories. Mr. Easom said that they were ranked based on the merits. Mr. Reilly said he didn't see the need to show any rankings.

Ms. Eliot said she had problems with the Affordable Housing Trust's (AHT) application. She said that the statement made by the AHT recently was inconsistent with the application itself. She said that removing the Surrenden Farm parcel from their application was problematic for her. She felt it should be brought back to the CPC for discussion. Ms. Pine said that Ms. Eliot was correct adding the process was focused on that parcel when the draft application was done. She said that there were significant problems realized after the deadline for the final application. She said that they reached out to the CPC and requested permission for an expansion of the scope which had been granted. Ms. Eliot said there should be a meeting of all the parties before this went any further.

Mr. Degen said that the GD Field Restoration Plan was seeking Groton CPA funds and asked if Dunstable was being asked for funding. Ms. Gilbert said that Dunstable CPC would be requesting funding at their Town Meeting this spring also. She said that this project was long overdue and needed this to be approved for the safety of their students. She said that they had been trying to find way to take care of their assets and this was one way of funding that. She said that Dunstable was going forward with a request for 23% of the funding as per the regional agreement. Ms. Pine asked if GD@Play was contributing toward this. Ms. Gilbert said that they donated \$100K adding some of these funds would be going toward equipment to maintain the fields.

Mr. Lindemer explained article 15 which was to extend the center sewer system under the golf course, by means of an easement to his property on Boston Road.

Mr. Burke explained article 16 to amend the medical marijuana zoning bylaw and remove language relative to medical marijuana dispensaries to be in compliance with state law. He said that they were waiting for Town Counsel to opine on this.

Mr. Burke said that the Schedule of Use Regulations needed to be updated for accessory apartments.

Mr. Black said the Groton Housing Authority was seeking a title land transfer of parcel 227-135 consisting of 8.8 acres to the Housing Authority. Ms. Pine said that there was an easement which would need to be cleared up and that prior contamination of the site was possible. Ms. Pine said it wasn't clear what or why the transfer of ownership was needed adding the parcel was in the Town's name already. She said the AHT thought it might be premature at this point.

Ms. Collette said that article 19 had been discussed with Select Board Member Giger for some time now. She said that this proposed by-law banning polystyrene was based on what had been adopted in Westford in 2016. She said that polystyrene, otherwise known as Styrofoam, was a known carcinogen and could not be recycled. She said that the Board of Health would hold a hearing on April 5th.

Mr. Nate Shapiro provided some background on Surrenden Farm. He said that 14 acres had been set aside as a reserve parcel. He said that the area had become a recreational site. She said a legal agreement existed which said that if the reserve parcel was developed, Joy Lane would be discontinued and moved. He said he wanted to remove the parcel from reserve and transfer it to the Conservation Commission to remain recreational space.

Mr. Haddad said that articles 21-34 would be part of the consent agenda and reviewed those articles.

Mr. Haddad said that he held a town meeting planning meeting last week. He said that a couple of recommendations were to start at 9am instead of 10am and that a change in time would require a vote of the Board. He said that they also talked about the preference to not break for lunch and encourage people to bring snacks / bag lunch because of the logistics of checking people back in and out. He said he also wanted permission to have porta toilets rented so people wouldn't have to go into the school for facilities. Ms. Gilbert asked if a projector screen was going to be used at Town Meeting adding they wanted to show a walk through of Flo Ro at Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad said that they talked about it but they decided to not bring in a screen. He said that lighting would be an issue as well as rental costs. He said that in one town, they spent \$30K on a jumbotron adding they didn't have that kind of money to spend. Mr. Degen suggested using a QR code at Town Meeting for

people to view the walkthrough at Town Meeting. Mr. Reilly asked if the walkthrough was going to be shown in advance of Town Meeting. Ms. Pine said she was in favor of all recommendations.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to vote to change the start time to 9am on May 1st.

Ms. Pine made the motion. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to continue the hearing until 7:30pm on March 22nd.

Ms. Pine made the motion. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

Mr. Robertson adjourned the Finance Committee meeting at 9:22pm.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

5. Mr. Haddad reviewed the Board's upcoming schedule.

ON-GOING ISSUES

Ms. Pine asked about Green Communities and whether they had heard back from them yet. Mr. Haddad said he had no update on this.

MINUTES

Ms. Pine moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 8, 2021 as presented. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call: Degen-aye; Pine-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

Mr. Degen adjourned the Select Board meeting at 9:26pm.

respectfully submitted:
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2021 SPRING TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Track
342 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Beginning Saturday, May 1, 2021 @ 10:00 AM

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**

Pandemic Safety Procedures for Town Meeting

Due to the pandemic, the Spring Town Meeting will be held outdoors on the field behind the Florence Roche Elementary School. Voters and non-voters attending the meeting are asked to follow these procedures:

- Attendees should wear masks, even while speaking, and observe social distancing whenever possible.
- Keep at least 6-feet of distance from others while in the voter check-in line.
- Voters should arrive early, check-in, receive a voter card, and proceed directly to a seat.
- A cart will be available for anyone who needs assistance moving from the parking lot to the field.
- Single and household-pair seating will be six or more feet apart and should not be moved. Attendees may bring their own chairs.
- Children may accompany parents who are asked to bring a seat for the child. Families with two or more children are asked to provide their own chairs.
- Voters will speak from their seats when called on by the moderator. Wireless microphones will be brought by an usher and sanitized between uses.
- Voting will be by raised voter card and not by voice.
- Anyone unable to wear a mask may sit in a reserved section with a dedicated microphone.
- At the end of the meeting, voters are asked to observe social distancing while exiting the field.

Rain Date: In the event of inclement weather, the Town Meeting will be held the following day, May 2nd at 1 p.m. in the same location. If the Town Moderator postpones the meeting, notice will be made on the town website, posted in three public places, and through news and social media.

Please direct questions regarding the meeting procedures to Jason Kauppi, Town Moderator, at moderator@grotonma.gov or call 978-391-4506.



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.

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 in the Middle School South adjacent to the Middle School Track.

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 Select Board's Office at Town Hall at 978 448-1111 at least one week before the Town Meeting.

SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MAY 1, 2021

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 Track in said Town on Saturday, the first day of May, 2021 at Ten O'clock in the morning, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the twenty-fifth day of May, 2021, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., 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	Select Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for Two	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	2 Years
Vote for Three	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Town Clerk	3 Years
Vote for One	Town Moderator	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Trustees of the Groton Pubic Library	2 Years
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	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 bond issued for the purpose of funding the design and construction of a new kindergarten through fourth grade elementary school with an approximate square footage of 109,855 square feet located at 342 Main Street in Groton, Massachusetts, inclusive of abatement and demolition of the existing school structures on said property, new parking lots, relocation and construction of the existing track, various other site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

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 Select Board and other Town Officers and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

SELECT BOARD

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions and to accept the annual report and other reports that may be presented to Town Meeting.*

ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to set the compensation for the elected officials of the Town for the ensuing year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

SELECT BOARD

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager. The Town Clerk is proposed to receive a salary of \$90,853 in FY 2022 and the Moderator is proposed to receive a salary of \$65 in FY 2022.*

ARTICLE 3: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2022 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD
TOWN MANAGER**

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to set the wage and classification schedule for the three (3) employees covered by the Personnel Bylaw. Under the policy of the Select Board, these employees receive the same benefits as contained in the Town Supervisors' Union Contract. These employees will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in Fiscal Year 2022.*

ARTICLE 4: FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2022), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
SELECT BOARD
TOWN MANAGER**

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *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 Finance Committee's and Town Manager's Report which includes the Finance Committee's and Select Board's recommendations.*

ARTICLE 5: APPROPRIATE FY 2022 CONTRIBUTION TO THE OPEB TRUST

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, 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.

**SELECT BOARD
TOWN MANAGER**

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. The Select Board and Finance Committee have adopted a funding policy for this purpose. One of the funding goals is to commit to an annual appropriation to the Trust that would keep the Net Present Value Liability from growing until such time as the Town can begin to pay down the liability. In Fiscal Year 2022, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$177,094. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$177,094 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

ARTICLE 6: FISCAL YEAR 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget, or to take another other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Summary: *The following is the proposed Town Manager's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022:*

Item #1 – Engine 1 Refurbishment **\$225,000** **Fire/EMS**

Summary: *Engine 1 is a truck that is currently in good condition thus making it a prime candidate for a refurbishment to extend its life. Proactive refurbishment before major issues occur can save significant money on major unexpected repairs and lengthen the life of the Truck. Due to its level of use, the refurbishment of Engine 1 would be best served in FY 2022 to minimize corrosion caused by salt and other weather.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #2 – Dump Truck **\$60,000** **Highway**

Summary: *This vehicle will be a scheduled replacement of a front-line truck responsible for plowing and sanding as well as normal construction duties. The anticipated cost of replacement of this truck is \$185,000. It is proposed that the Town borrow the funds through State House notes and pay off the debt over five years. The appropriation this year is the fourth of five payments of the Truck replaced in Fiscal Year 2018. The Town will begin repaying the bond on the Truck purchased this year in Fiscal Year 2023.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #3 – IT Infrastructure **\$40,000** **Town Facilities**

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established six years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2022, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: 10 replacement computers; replace aging servers and storage arrays; investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; and network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #4 – 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. In FY 2022, these funds will be used to perform brick pointing on Town Hall by the back door as well at Legion Hall.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #5 – Tractor Trailer Unit**\$20,000****Transfer Station**

Summary: *At the 2018 Spring Town Meeting, the Meeting authorized the acquisition of a new Tractor Trailer Unit for the Transfer Station by borrowing the necessary funds (\$140,000) through the Commonwealth's State House Notes method and pay off the debt over four years. This will be the final payment for the Unit.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #6 – Reconstruct Library Parking Lot**\$45,000****Library**

Summary: *The parking lot behind the library has been patched and repaired, but in FY 2022 it will be 23 years old. It is worn, tired, cracking, not draining water properly, and becoming uneven in spots. It will need a full and complete reconstruction.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #7 – Property Improvements**\$25,000****Park Department**

Summary: *The Park Commission has been working over the past several years developing a strategy to address deficiencies in the various Park Department Properties located throughout Groton. By appropriating \$25,000 each year, the Park Commission can develop a capital improvement program that will allow them to keep our various park locations in good shape and avoid a major construction project.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #8 – Golf Carts**\$25,000****Country Club**

Summary: *Seven years ago, we replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with new 2012 Club Car DS gas powered carts using a five-year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of approximately \$25,000. Beginning in FY 2022, the Club will need to replace the Carts in the same manner.*

Item #9 – Cart Path/Tee Box Repairs**\$10,000****Country Club**

Summary: *This funding will be used to extend the Cart Path from the fourth hole green to the fifth hole forward tee. In addition, it will pay for repairs the second hole tee box.*

Item #10 – Country Club Roof**\$50,000****Town Facilities**

Summary: *This is a needed replacement of the roof on the main building. The Tavern Building's roof was repaired four years ago. The back of the main building is in reasonable shape, but the front of the building is need of replacement.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #11 – Police Cruisers**\$100,000****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 lesser 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.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

TOWN MANAGER

ARTICLE 7: CPA RECOMMENDATION – MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws, to construct a new Middle School Track, and all costs associated and related thereto, and to implement such recommendation, borrow pursuant to any applicable statute and/or appropriate a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws, said funds to be expended by the Town Manager, or to take other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The sitework expenses associated with the Florence Roche Elementary School Project campus track relocation are not eligible for reimbursement through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Approval of this Article will authorize the track relocation expenses to be paid for with Community Preservation Funds. These funds include an annual state match to local dollars; construction costs for residents will be reduced by over half a million dollars. Relocation of the track will only occur if the Florence Roche Elementary School Project is approved at Town Meeting and at the Ballot.*

ARTICLE 8: FLORENCE ROCHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of Florence Roche Elementary School Building Committee, for the design and construction of a new kindergarten through fourth grade elementary school, known as the Florence Roche Elementary School, with an approximate square footage of 109,855 square feet located at 342 Main Street in Groton, Massachusetts, inclusive of abatement and demolition of the existing school structures on said property, new parking lots, relocation and construction of the existing track, various other site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto, which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years and for which the Town may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"). The Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town. Any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-three and thirty-nine hundredths percent (53.39%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; or to take any other action relative thereto.

FLORENCE ROCHE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *An extensive Feasibility Study of K-4 education of Groton students has determined that the most cost effective and educationally beneficially solution is to rebuild the Florence Roche Elementary School on the current parcel. The relocation of the Middle School Track is an incidental cost to the Florence Roche Elementary School Building Project. As outlined in the GDRSD Regional Agreement, capital expenses are assessed to each member town based on the five-year rolling enrollment average per building. Because no Dunstable students have attended Florence Roche in recent years the cost of the Florence Roche Elementary School construction is the sole responsibility of the Town of Groton. Approval of this Article allows for short-term borrowing of funds for construction. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) reimbursements will be made during the construction phase. Approval of this Article allows for long term consolidation of borrowed funds once construction has been completed; which is estimated to be in 2025. As stated in the Article, a Debt Exclusion of Proposition 2½ at the Annual Town Election will also be required.*

ARTICLE 9: ENGINEERING FUNDS – WHITNEY POND TREATMENT FACILITY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, to pay costs of engineering design services and owners project manager services related to improving the Whitney Pond Water Treatment Facility, commencing in fiscal year 2021, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Water Commissioners:

Summary: *This article allows the Board of Water Commissioners to expend the sum of \$____,____, to be raised through water rates, for the Design Engineering Services and the Owners Project Manager services related to the new Manganese Treatment Facility at the Whitney Pond Well Site.*

ARTICLE 10: ENGINEERING FUNDS – WHITNEY POND WELL #3

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, to pay costs of engineering design services and owners project manager services related to developing the new Whitney Pond Well #3, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Water Commissioners:

Summary: *This article allows the Board of Water Commissioners to expend funds, to be raised through water rates, for the Design Engineering Services and the Owners Project Manager services related to the new source well at the Whitney Pond Well Field (Whitney Pond Well #3).*

ARTICLE 11: PURCHASE CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

To see if the Town will vote to Authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Board of Water Commissioners, to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain, a Conservation Restriction on a parcel of land identified as Map 128 Lot 3-0 for purposes of the Water Commissioners controlling and/or owning the Zone I as identified under 310 CMR 22.00, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Board of Water Commissioners:

Summary: *This article is for the purchase of a Conservation Restriction of approximately XXX (X) acre of land associated with proposed future Whitney Pond Well #3. This Department of Environmental Protection requirement is needed in order to secure the entire 400' radius around municipal drinking water well head known as the Zone I as identified under 310 CMR 22.00.*

ARTICLE 12: EXTEND GROTON 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 on Assessors' Map 109, Lot 43-0 (108 Pleasant Street) but only for the exclusive use of 108 Pleasant Street, and its successors or assigns, and 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

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Sewer Commissioners:

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to expand the Center Sewer District to include 108 Pleasant Street, Groton.*

ARTICLE 13: 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:	\$ 20,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Unallocated Reserve:	\$528,930

} 784,900

or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Select Board:

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 2022. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

ARTICLE 14: 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 2022, 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 Select Board, 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: Maintenance and Mausoleum Restoration \$65,000

Summary: *The Groton Cemetery Association is requesting \$65,000 in CPA funds to repair and restore both the Maintenance Building and the Mausoleum located at the Groton Cemetery. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal B: Field and Recreation Feasibility Study \$20,000

Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$120,000 in CPA funds to carry out a Feasibility Study that would include Cow Pond Fields, Woitowicz Field, and Cutler Memorial Field, to determine that they are providing maximum and safe playing surfaces on their acreage while correcting the issue of parking and travel on their properties. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal C: Non-Point Sources of Pollution \$40,000

Summary: *As part of the continuation of the Lost Lake/Knops Pond Long-Term Lake Management Plan, the Great Pond Advisory Committee and the Groton Lakes Association is seeking \$43,000 in CPA funds to complete a major component of this plan namely the dataset identifying the non-point sources of pollution entering Lost Lake and the development of a mitigation plan to correct these problems. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal D: Site Assessment Study \$150,000

Summary: *The Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) is exploring possible locations for the development of affordable housing. As part of this process, the AHT is seeking \$150,000 in CPA funds to pay for investigatory pre-development and engineering work and/or expert advice in order to assess the costs and feasibility of any potential site for development. Funds may also be used to prepare grant applications to support the creation of affordable housing. Either town-owned or privately-owned parcels may be considered and evaluated. The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal E: Squannacook River Rail Trail

\$30,000

Summary: *Squannacook Greenways is requesting \$30,000 in CPA funds for construction of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) from the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area to the northern Crosswinds Drive crossing for a total distance of .65 miles. The construction of the entire SRRT is being conducted in phases due to environmental requirements which limit construction activity to a period of between November 15th and March 15th. Squannacook Greenways is also relying on DCR Trails grants to underwrite a large portion of construction costs and has been the successful recipient in the last two rounds of grant cycles. Squannacook Greenways will be applying for a DCR MassTrails grant for FY 2022 and will be relying on CPA funds as the local match requirement. If successful, it is their intention to commence construction in November, 2022. The amount of \$2,000 to be paid from the Open Space Reserve and the amount of \$28,000 to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal F: Duck Pond Restoration, Phase 2

\$19,800

Summary: *The Great Pond Advisory Committee is requesting \$20,000 in CPA funds to help with the continuation of the restoration and preservation work completed during Phase 1 of the previously approved Duck Pond Restoration project. Phase 2 of this project that is currently being proposed will provide three years of funds for electricity to operate the Compressor (8 months / year), three water quality tests per year, periodic muck-depth measurements ("polling"), and a written final report. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal G: Housing Coordinator

\$51,617

Summary: *This application is requesting \$51,617 in CPA funding from the Community Housing category to fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator position (25-hours/week). The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal H: Groton Dunstable Field Restoration Plan \$230,232

Summary: *The Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee is requesting \$234,080 in CPA funds to use towards the renovations of the GDRHS Stadium Field and GDRHS Softball Field. After assessing the conditions of the 25 acres of athletic fields in the district, these were found to be two of the three filed restoration projects that have been identified as needing to be completed in order for the fields to be considered safe and usable for the student athletes and community usage. This project will include total replacement and restoration of the stadium high school natural turf field and resolve tree overgrowth at the high school softball field to address the wet field preventing the use of the field. The amount of \$98,232 to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve and the amount of \$132,000 to be paid through a five-year Bond.*

*100K f/ GD at play
23rd f/ Dunstable*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal I: Conservation Fund FY 2022 \$350,000

Summary: *The Conservation Commission is requesting \$350,000 in CPA funds to be added to the Town's Conservation Fund to help preserve open space, protect water resources and wildlife habitat, and preserve land for agricultural, recreational, and forestry activities. The Conservation Fund allows the Town to move quickly in the event a priority parcel becomes available. In the past, the Conservation Fund has been used to purchase Conservation Restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and fee ownership of conservation land in the Town. The Commission's goal is to maintain an amount between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 in the Conservation Fund. As of the December 1, 2020 the Conservation Fund balance is \$320,129. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal J: Multi-Use Recreational Courts \$157,480

Summary: *Friends of Groton Pickleball is requesting \$170,184 in CPA funds to help fund the restoration project at the Groton Country Club that will create new multi-use recreational courts, consisting of 8 pickleball courts, 1 tennis court and a half of a basketball court. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

Summary: *The Groton Public Library is requesting \$3,000 in CPA funds to restore and fortify the original piece of the building fabric that is part of the Library's original interior skylight. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 15: GRANT EASEMENT FOR SEWER CONNECTION – 227 BOSTON ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant an easement to Christine R. and Kevin J. Lindemer, and their successors and assigns, for the purpose of placing and maintaining a subsurface sewage disposal line to service 227 Boston Road below existing grade surface and under the surface of Town owned property under the control of the Select Board located at 94 Lovers Lane, shown on Assessors Map 115, Parcel 34, Recorded Deed Book 20265, Page 302 at the South Middlesex Registry of Deeds, as shown on the plan on file with the Office of the Town Clerk, on terms and conditions deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interest of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

SELECT BOARD

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The 2018 Fall Town Meeting approved the extension of the Groton Central Sewer District to 227 Boston Rd. The extension will allow for the development of one additional house lot, connection of the existing house, and conversion of the barn to residential use. The extension will be a private connection and will not extend beyond the confines of what is currently 227 Boston Rd. The work will be done using directional drilling from the site of the new house lot and is not expected to result in surface disturbance except for a small area at the point of connection to the town sewer at the edge of the golf course across from Johnson's Restaurant. The owners of 227 Boston Rd. (Kevin and Christine Lindemer) will pay for the cost of construction and connecting to the existing sewer line. It is anticipated there will be no cost to the Town of Groton for the connection and maintenance. In addition, if the work is completed as envisioned, property tax revenue to the Town of Groton will increase in addition to the added town sewerage fees.*

ARTICLE 16: AMEND ZONING BYLAW – MEDICAL MARIJUANA

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw as follows:

1. Amend Section 218-5.2 Schedule of Use Regulations by deleting the following titled rows in their entirety and renumber subsequent Sections accordingly:

“96 Registered medical marijuana dispensary, up to 25,000 square feet gross floor area, see § 218-10.4”

“97 Off-site registered medical marijuana dispensary, up to 2,500 square feet gross floor area, see § 218-10.4”

2. Amend Section 218-3 Definitions by deleting the following definitions:

OFF-SITE REGISTERED MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY (ORMMD)

A registered medical marijuana dispensary that is located off site from the cultivation/processing facility (and controlled and operated by the same registered and approved not-for-profit entity which operates an affiliated RMMD) but which serves only to dispense the processed marijuana, related supplies and educational materials to registered qualifying patients or their personal caregivers in accordance with the provisions of 105 CMR 725.00.

[Added 4-24-2017 ATM, Art. 22]

REGISTERED MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY (RMMD)

A not-for-profit entity registered and approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in accordance with 105 CMR 725.100, and pursuant to all other applicable state laws and regulations, also to be known as a "medical marijuana treatment center," that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as edible marijuana-infused products, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to registered qualifying patients or their personal caregivers. A RMMD refers to the site(s) of dispensing, cultivation, and preparation of marijuana.

[Added 4-24-2017 ATM, Art. 22]

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Planning Board:

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to delete obsolete references to registered medical marijuana dispensaries in the Zoning Bylaw Table of Uses and Definitions. The land use permitting for Medical Marijuana became absorbed into Non-Medical Marijuana following the adoption of MGL 94G. The deletion of the references to Registered Medical Marijuana Dispensaries will eliminate future regulatory confusion and conflict over retail marijuana sales.*

ARTICLE 17: AMEND ZONING BYLAW – CLARIFICATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw as follows:

Amend Section 218-9.4 Attached Accessory Apartment by deleting the word “Attached” so it reads as follows: “Section 218-9.4 Accessory Apartment”

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Planning Board:

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to cleanup and clarify various sections of the Zoning Bylaw.*

ARTICLE 18: TRANSFER TAX TITLE LAND TO GROTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the title, jurisdiction, custody and control of Parcel 227 – 135 (Groton Assessors Map 227 and Parcel 135) from the Groton Tax Collector to the Groton Select Board for general municipal purposes, and further to authorize the Groton Select Board in turn to transfer such title, jurisdiction, custody and control of said Parcel to the Groton Housing Authority for use as Groton Housing Authority owned and operated housing on such terms deemed advisable by said Select Board, provided, however, that such title, jurisdiction, custody and control of said Parcel so conveyed shall be subject to reversion to the Town of Groton Select Board in the event that the housing use for which the conveyance is being made is not commenced by the Groton Housing Authority within a five year period from the date of conveyance, or to take any other action related thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This property was originally owned by the North Middlesex Mutual Aid Association and used as a training site for Firefighter training. In 2012, after going unused for many years, the Town took title to it through Tax Title Possession. This article would transfer title to the Groton Housing Authority, whose goal it would be to construct Senior Affordable Rental Housing for Groton Citizens. This transfer will help us to address the needs for affordable housing in Groton and continue our policies and strategies to meet the needs of our Seniors.*

ARTICLE 19: BYLAW PROHIBITING USE OF POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter 199 of the Code of the Town of Groton, entitled Polystyrene Container Restrictions for Food Service Establishments as follows:

Chapter 199: Polystyrene Container Restriction for Food Service Establishments

§ 199-1. Findings and Intent.

- Whereas, the Town has a duty to protect the health of its citizens and the natural environment.
- Whereas, Polystyrene sometimes known by Dow Chemical Co. brand name of Styrofoam is a synthetic plastic that biodegrades so slowly (hundreds of years) it is considered to be non-biodegradable.
- Whereas, expanded polystyrene containers are not part of the Town's regular recycling program.
- Whereas, styrene, the key ingredient in expanded polystyrene, was recently added to the National Toxicology Program's list of carcinogens (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). Styrene can leach from polystyrene containers into food and beverages. It has become a major component of plastic debris in the ocean and animals often mistake it for food. It is also hazardous to marine life, transferring toxic chemicals to the food chain.
- Whereas, appropriate alternative products are readily available from vendors and are already being used by many local businesses.

§199-2. Effective Date.

This bylaw shall take effect January 1, 2022.

§199-3. Definitions.

Disposable food service container shall mean single-use disposable products for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-consume food or beverages, including, without limitation, take-out foods and/or leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared by a food establishment. This includes, but is not limited to plates, cups, bowls, trays, hinged or lidded containers, cups, lids, straws, and utensils. It does not include single-use disposable packaging for unprepared foods.

Polystyrene shall mean blown polystyrene (polystyrene that has been expanded or blown using a gaseous blowing agent into a solid foam) and expanded and extruded forms, which are thermoplastic petrochemical materials utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited to fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, form molding, and extrusion-blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene).

The term also includes clear or solid polystyrene, which is also known as "oriented," or referenced in this bylaw as "Rigid Polystyrene." Rigid Polystyrene is generally used to make clear clamshell containers, lids, and cutlery.

The term also includes products with a Polystyrene coating.

Fineable offense is use of a polystyrene – item or items restricted by this bylaw

Food establishment shall mean any food service operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, as further defined in 105 CMR 590.002. Any establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishment, 105 CMR 590.000, et seq., shall be considered a food establishment for purposes of this bylaw.

PFAS/PFOA- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Prepared food shall mean any food or beverage prepared on the food establishment's premises using any cooking or food preparation technique. Prepared food does not include any raw uncooked meat, fish or eggs unless provided for consumption without further food preparation. Prepared food may be eaten on or off the food establishment's premises.

Acceptable replacement product shall mean any food container, disposable cutlery, or other limited use item provided with food meeting all functional and safety requirements and not containing Polystyrene or other known or emerging environmental contaminants such as PFAS/PFOA.

Town Facility shall mean any building, structure, land, or recreational area owned, leased, or operated by the Town of Groton.

§199-4. Prohibitions.

1. Except as provided herein, food establishments are prohibited from dispensing prepared food and drink in disposable food service containers made from polystyrene. All food establishments are required to use acceptable replacement products for such purposes. All food establishments are strongly encouraged to use reusable food service containers and cutlery, and when possible biodegradable, compostable alternatives. Compostable materials must meet ASTM (American Society of the International Association for Testing and Materials) Standards for compostability.
2. Town departments or agencies shall not purchase or use disposable food service containers and / or utensils made from polystyrene while in the performance of official Town duties.
3. Individuals, contractors, vendors, or other entities shall not use disposable food service containers and / or utensils made from polystyrene in a Town facility or Town property while acting or performing under a Town contract, lease, license, permit, grant, or other agreement.

§199-5. Variance.

1. Any food establishment or Town Department and its agencies may make a written application to the Board of Health for a variance from this bylaw.

2. Every application for a variance is subject to a public hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be posted as part of a public notice of the Board of Health meeting at which the application will be considered. Notice shall be posted no less than two weeks (14 calendar days) before the meeting.
3. By vote of a majority of its full authorized membership, the Board of Health may grant a variance in cases where a suitable biodegradable, compostable, reusable or recyclable alternative does not exist for a specific usage, and/ or enforcement of this bylaw would cause undue hardship to that food establishment or Town Department.
4. A variance may be granted for up to six months and extended for like periods upon submission of a renewal application.
5. Any variance granted by the Board shall be in writing.
6. A copy of the variance granted under this Section shall be available for public inspection on the premises for which it is issued.

§199-6. Enforcement, Penalties and Fines.

1. The Board of Health or its designee shall have primary responsibility for enforcement of this bylaw. This shall include establishment of regulations or administrative procedures, inspections, and issuance of citations for violations.
2. The Board of Health, after a hearing conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in 105 CMR 590.14 and CMR 590.15, may suspend or revoke the license or permit for any establishment failing to comply with this bylaw.
3. A person, individually or by his servant or agent, who violates any provision of this bylaw may be penalized by a noncriminal disposition pursuant to MGL C. 40, § 21D, and the Town's noncriminal disposition bylaw. The following penalties apply:
 1. First offense -- a written warning specifying the violations and appropriate penalties for future violations
 2. Second offense -- \$100
 3. Third Offense -- \$200
 4. Fourth and subsequent Offense -- \$300

Fines for repeated violations in a one-year period are cumulative as provided in Chapter 1, Section 1-4B, of the bylaws.

§199-7. Severability.

If any provision of this bylaw or any application thereof is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity shall be limited to said provision(s) and the remainder of the bylaw shall remain valid and effective.

or take any action relative thereto.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The purpose of this bylaw is to establish restrictions for the use of polystyrene food containers because polystyrene has been added to the US Department of Health and Human Services list of known carcinogens. Additionally, restricting the use of polystyrene containers will have a positive impact of the environment by reducing solid waste because polystyrene cannot be recycled.*

ARTICLE 20: CITIZENS' PETITION - TRANSFER CONTROL OF LAND

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting that authorized a fee interest in 14 acres, more or less, of land to be owned by the Town and managed and controlled by the Select Board for all uses allowed by statute under the Community Preservation Act, said parcel located in the southwest corner of Lot 7 as shown on a Plan of Land entitled Community Preservation Act Acquisition by the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, prepared by Beals Associates, Inc. and dated April 21, 2006, and transfer said control to the Conservation Commission for open space and recreation purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Nathan Shapiro	133 Shirley Road	Melanie O'Leary	21 Old Orchard Road
Mark Martel	10 Whiting Avenue	Dan O'Leary	21 Old Orchard Road
Ken Kolodzies	44 Farmers Row	Joshua Stark	9 Old Orchard Road
John Smigelski	150 Mill Street	Erin Stark	9 Old Orchard Road
Laurie Smigelski	150 Mill Street	Stacey Vow	43 Joy Lane

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: This Article proposes to place the Surrenden Farm Reserve Parcel under the control of the Groton Conservation Commission and to restrict its use to open space or recreation. This will more permanently preserve the land, akin to its surrounding ~345 acres. In 2006 the Town of Groton, Groton School, the Groton Conservation Trust, the Trust for Public Land and others, raised \$19 million to rescue 360 acres of Surrenden Farm from building development. Conservation restrictions were placed on all of Surrenden Farm with the exception of a 14-acre parcel known as the Reserve Parcel. The Reserve Parcel is owned by the Town and is currently open space used for passive recreation. The Reserve Parcel is on the East side of Shirley Road, adjoining the Ayer town line to the South and the General Field to the East and North. Importantly, as part of the 2006 arrangements, the Town of Groton and Groton School entered into an agreement which provides that if the town allows the use of the Reserve Parcel for a use other than undeveloped land, then the Town would give the current Joy Lane to Groton School. To access the Reserve Parcel, the Town would then have to relocate Joy Lane to the General Field and upgrade the existing partially paved and partially dirt and gravel "way" that winds through the General Field into a widened two-lane road that meets Town Subdivision Road Standards, greatly altering the park-like feel and inhibiting the recreational use of the General Field. Since 2006, the General Field has become a much-used public space. The proponents of this Article believe that relocating Joy Lane to the General Field would have a significantly adverse effect on it. The proposed Article would transfer management and control of the Reserve Parcel to the Conservation Commission and restrict its use in order to preserve the Reserve Parcel and to make any use of the land that would trigger the construction of a road across the General Field unlikely.

ARTICLES 21 THROUGH 34 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED BY THE TOWN MODERATOR AFTER ARTICLE 34.

ARTICLE 21: CURRENT YEAR LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

SELECT BOARD

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 22: 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 2021 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 4 of the 2020 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in Fiscal Year 2021.*

ARTICLE 23: TRANSFER WITHIN WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

50K

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Water Commissioners:

Summary: *This article will request a transfer of funds from Water Surplus to help fund the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Department's Operational Expenses. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

ARTICLE 24: TRANSFER WITHIN CENTER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

150K?
210K

Select Board:
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 2021 Center Sewer Budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

ARTICLE 25: TRANSFER WITHIN FOUR CORNERS SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

35K

**Select Board:
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 2021 Four Corners Sewer Budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

ARTICLE 26: 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 2021 Cable Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Select Board:
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 2021 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

ARTICLE 27: 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.

SELECT BOARD

**Select Board:
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 28: AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM FREE CASH

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$71.92 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the FY20, 911 EMD Grant and furthermore, to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$167.16 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the FY20 911 Training Grant. The total to be charged to Free Cash for this purpose is \$239.08, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts routinely awards the Town of Groton grant money to be used for 911 Dispatch operations. These are reimbursable grants; the award is not forwarded to the Town until after the expense has been made. In regards to the grants noted above, the Commonwealth disallowed a small portion of the Town's reimbursement request after the vendors had been paid. These deficits must be cleared to close out these accounts for Fiscal Year 2021 year end.*

ARTICLE 29: AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM FREE CASH:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,861.04 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the Fire Details Agency Account, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *Town of Groton Firefighters routinely work private details when construction projects in Town involve blasting activities. These officers are compensated for their time through the Town's payroll, and the vendor requesting the detail is billed to recover those funds. Occasionally, one of these vendors is unable to pay for the service provided (for instance in the event of a business failure) and after attempts to work with that vendor prove unsuccessful, the receivable is judged uncollectible and must be written off.*

ARTICLE 30: 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 2022 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

Select Board:

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 2022 is \$. To fund this \$ would be paid from the Open Space Reserve and \$ would be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Last payment

ARTICLE 31: ASSESSORS QUINQUENNIAL CERTIFICATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Board of Assessors, for the purpose of completing the five-year full certification program necessary to achieve full and fair cash value in accordance with the requirements of G.L. c. 40, § 56 and c. 58, §§1, 1A and 3 and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *Assessors in every city and town are responsible for developing a Revaluation program to completely analyze and revalue all property within its borders every year. Revaluation annually, is required under Massachusetts law and is regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Bureau of Local Assessment (BLA). The rationale for revaluation is to always maintain property at fair market or fair cash value to ensure equity for all classes of property. Every fifth year the Massachusetts Department of Revenue requires a full certification with BLA oversight. The Assessors are seeking \$29,200 to cover the cost for appraisal services of Real Property to be conducted by Vision Government Solutions.*

ARTICLE 32: ESTABLISHING LIMITS FOR THE VARIOUS REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to add or delete any revolving account and/or to set the FY 2022 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2022 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$10,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Select Board:
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 33: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTIONS

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

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article is geared toward 70+ seniors, surviving spouses (widows/widowers), legally blind persons and veterans with service-connected disabilities. It would increase the exemption under state statute up to 100% of the exemption. These state exemption programs all have different eligibility requirements (inquire within the Assessor's office for specific eligibility requirements) in order to receive the specific exemption and are designed to help the neediest within our community to continue to remain in their homes by helping to relieve some of the property tax burden.*

ARTICLE 34: ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF M.G.L., CHAPTER 59, §5, CLAUSE 22F

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, §5, clause 22F last paragraph, 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 for, making certain veterans and their surviving spouses or parents, to be eligible for the property tax exemptions of said clauses 22 through 22F under Massachusetts General Laws, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *M.G.L.Ch. 59, s.5, clause Twenty-Second F, Last Paragraph. Notwithstanding this section, in any city or town which accepts this clause, the exemptions available pursuant to clauses Twenty-second, Twenty-second A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second D, Twenty-second E and Twenty-second F may be granted to otherwise eligible persons who have resided in the commonwealth for 1 year prior to the date of filing for exemptions pursuant to the applicable clause.*

Consent Agenda Explanation

The Moderator has the option to use a procedure known as a consent agenda. It is the bundling of a group of main motions into a single motion to be voted on by Town Meeting. A consent agenda can save time by not requiring a main motion, a second, an explanation and a vote on multiple articles 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 Select Board and Finance Committee. Articles that change bylaws or introduce new spending are typically not included.

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 may later be asked to speak to the article.

After the meeting agrees on which main motions to include in the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every motion included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail as a group. 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 in the proposed contents of 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@grotonma.gov.

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 12th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One.

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Chair

Joshua A. Degen

Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Clerk

John R. Giger

John R. Giger, Member

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, 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 2022**

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad

Groton Town Manager

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Robertson, Chair

Gary Green, Vice Chair

Colby Doody

Mary Linskey

David Manugian

Arthur Prest

Scott Whitefield

Town of Groton Finance Committee