

SELECT BOARD / FINCOM MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023
APPROVED

SB Members Present: John Reilly, Vice Chair; Alison Manugian, Clerk; Matt Pisani

SB Members Absent: Peter Cunningham, Chair; Becky Pine

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Tom Orcutt, Water Superintendent

Finance Committee Members: Bud Robertson, Colby Doody, Michael Sulprizio; David Manugian; Mary Linskey

Mr. Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and reviewed the agenda.

Mr. Bud Robertson called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Haddad said he would like the Finance Committee to consider two reserve fund transfer requests. One request would be for funding to remediate lead paint at the Prescott School, and the other request was for funding to upgrade Woitowicz Field. He would like to discuss this during the meeting.

Mr. Reilly announced that the Annual Groton Fireworks had been postponed to Monday, July 17th, weather permitting, due to inclement weather.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

- 1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointments of Sophie Fry, Uma Samsi, and Benjamin Glanville as Lifeguards and Susan Adams as Camp Staff at the Groton Country Club.**

Mr. Pisani made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Sophie Fry, Uma Samsi, and Benjamin Glanville as Lifeguards and Susan Adams as Camp Staff at the Groton Country Club. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Consider Accepting the Town Manager's Nomination of Ron Hersch and Appoint Mr. Hersch to the Great Ponds Advisory Committee**

Ms. Manugian made a motion to accept the Town Manager's nomination and appoint Ron Hersch to the Great Ponds Advisory Committee with a term to expire on June 30, 2024. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3. PFAS Update Issue at GDRSD High School**

Mr. Haddad said he wanted to provide the Board with a brief update on the PFAS Issue at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School. He has a scheduled meeting with the Board of Water Commissioners on Tuesday, July 11th, and another meeting with the Town Administrators from Pepperell and Dunstable on Monday, July 17th, as they continue to study and determine the best option to address

bringing potable drinking water to the High School. Mr. Haddad plans on bringing a final recommendation to the Select Board meeting on July 31st. Ms. Manugian drafted a document that outlined the PFAS issues in both Groton and Massachusetts and summarized various recommendations to address PFAS. Mr. Haddad said the document was extremely insightful and helpful as it addresses PFAS. Mr. Haddad plans to post the document on the Town website. Ms. Manugian volunteered to draft a letter to urge the Town's Representatives and Senator to co-sponsor the bills that would regulate and remove PFAS from products. The Board authorized Ms. Manugian to draft a letter for review at a future Select Board meeting.

4. Recommendation from the Town Manager to Remove Prescott Playground Equipment

Mr. Haddad said at the last meeting that he included in the Town Manager's Report a recommendation to remove the playground equipment behind the Prescott School. Mr. Haddad said he withdrew it at the request of the Friends of Prescott (FOP), who wanted more time to pursue private fundraising to pay for the needed materials at the base of the equipment. Unfortunately, after examining the issue, the FOP determined that the work/renovation cost was prohibitive. Mr. Haddad explained that a local landscaper advised that there are a number of invasive species throughout the playground, which would be very difficult to contain in the future. The FOP had agreed with Mr. Haddad's assessment that the equipment should be removed and the area be filled in to reduce liability. The FOP advised Mr. Haddad that their goal is to start an after-school program for children 4/5 years old this Fall. Based on that goal, they would like to install a much smaller version of the current playground for that age group at the bottom of the hill at the end of the parking lot next Spring. That would bring the playground closer to the building, which would be more appropriate for the 4/5-year-old age group. FOP had requested that the Town allow them to keep several pieces of equipment at the current playground to repurpose them at the new playground site. Mr. Haddad said he had no issues with this and asked the Select Board to approve the request.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to close the playground, surplus the equipment as needed, and dispose of any unused equipment. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through Labor Day

Monday, July 17, 2023	Update on Town Manager's TriCom Working Group
Monday, July 24, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, July 31, 2023	Review and Consider Approval for Preferred Option to Address PFAS at the GDRSD High School
Monday, August 7, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2023	Review the First Draft of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant
Monday, August 21, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, September 4, 2023	No Meeting (Labor Day Holiday)
Monday, September 11, 2023,	Public Hearing on Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Call for and Open the Warrant for the 2023 Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Haddad said it was that time of year for the Select Board to call for and open the Warrant for the 2023 Fall Town Meeting. He said that the Board discussed this issue at the June 26th Meeting, and the consensus was to call for the Meeting on Saturday, October 28, 2023. Mr. Haddad reviewed the drafted timeline with the Board:

Monday, July 10, 2023	Warrant for 2023 Fall Town Meeting Opens
Thursday, August 10, 2023	Warrant for 2023 Fall Town Meeting Closes
Monday, August 14, 2023	Select Board conducts the first review of Articles
Monday, September 11, 2023	SB- FINCOM Public Hearing on Article
Friday, October 13, 2023	Post Warrant
Saturday, October 28, 2023	2023 Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to set the date for the Fall Town Meeting to Saturday, October 28, 2023.

Mr. Reilly made a motion to set the date for the Fall Town meeting to Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 9:00 AM. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to open the warrant effective Monday, July 10, 2023 and close it on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at the end of the business day.

Ms. Manugian made a motion to open the warrant effective Monday, July 10, 2023 and close it on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at the end of the business day. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IN JOINT SESSION WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE- LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Mr. Haddad presented the Board and Finance Committee with \$134,745 in line-item transfers. Mr. Haddad said that since the Select Board reviewed the proposed line-item transfers at the previous meeting, \$17,712.00 had been adjusted and new. Mr. Haddad said that the \$134,745 was approximately what they do in line-item transfers yearly.

On behalf of the Select Board, Mr. Pisani moved to approve the line-item transfers as presented that evening for the FY23 budget. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Mr. Manugian moved to approve the line-item transfers as presented. Mr. Doody seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Haddad presented two reserve fund transfer requests for FY2023 to the Finance Committee for consideration.

He explained that the Town of Groton is responsible for any maintenance that is not considered routine at the Prescott School. The Friends of Prescott recently had the building inspected for lead paint. They plan to provide programming for children 4-5 years of age, which triggered the inspection. Lead paint was found on the door hinges. The lead paint will need to be removed and the cost for said removal was \$4,300. Mr. Haddad would like to pay this from the FY23 Budget, so it does not impact the FY24 Budget. Mr. Haddad said he was seeking a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$4,300.

Mr. Doody made a motion to approve an FY2023 Reserve Fund Transfer of \$4,300 for the abatement. Mr. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad respectfully requested an FY2023 Reserve Fund Transfer of \$8,800 to the Highway Budget. This money would be used to convert Woitowicz Field into one dedicated field and practice area to meet the needs of Girls Youth Lacrosse. Mr. Haddad said the money would be used for additional parking, an area of trees would need to be removed, and additional loam and seed. The DPW could do all of this work, so there would be no additional labor cost. Supplies and materials would cost \$8,800 to complete this project.

Mr. Doody made a motion to approve an FY2023 Reserve Fund Transfer of \$8,800 to the Highway Budget. Mr. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ON-GOING ISSUES

NONE

Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2023

Ms. Manugian made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting from June 26, 2023. Ms. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Respectively submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.

After the Reserve Fund Transfer Vote, the Finance Committee relocated to the 1st Floor Break Room to conduct Other Business.

Re-Organization of the FinCom for FY24:

On a motion by Mr. Sulprizio, seconded by Mr. Manugian, the Finance Committee voted in the majority to appoint Bud Robertson as committee Chairman for FY24. (The Vote: 4-0-1, Mr. Robertson abstained).

On a motion by Mr. Sulprizio, seconded by Mr. Manugian, the Finance Committee voted in the majority to appoint Colby Doody as committee Vice-Chairman for FY24. (The Vote: 4-0-1, Mr. Doody abstained)

On a motion by Ms. Linskey, seconded by Mr. Manugian, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to appoint Scott Whitefield as committee Clerk for FY24 (The Vote: 5-0-0).

Mr. Whitefield arrived after voting was concluded.

The FinCom adjourned their meeting at this time.

Respectfully submitted: David Manugian FinCom Clerk