



Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Select Board

Peter S. Cunningham, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Nicholas J. Degaitas, Jr., *Clerk*
John F. Reilly, *Member*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Member*

SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026
AGENDA
SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM
2nd FLOOR
GROTON TOWN HALL

6:00 P.M. **Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public**

6:05 P.M. **Public Comment Period – Zoom ID (Public Comment Only) – 898 3937 8373 Passcode - 295974**

I. 6:06 P.M. Town Manager's Report

1. Update from Deputy Police Chief Rachael Mead on the Police Camera Working Group
2. Regional Energy Manager – First Year Update
3. Presentation from Town Manager on Creating a Regional Veterans' Service Officer with Pepperell and Littleton
4. Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Update
5. Proposed Select Board Meeting Schedule through the End of the Year

II. 6:45 P.M. Items for Select Board Consideration and Action

1. Consider Approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverages License - Broken Creek Vineyard at Legion Common for Groton Fest on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
2. Consider Approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverages License - Mass Brewing LLC d/b/a Sterling Street Brewery at Legion Common for Groton Fest on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
3. Consider Approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night to be held on Friday, September 11, 2026 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

III. 7:00 P.M. In Joint Session with the Finance Committee – Public Hearing on the Various Warrant Articles Contained in the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS -

ON-GOING ISSUES – Review and Informational Purposes – Brief Comments - Items May or May Not Be Discussed

- A. PFAS Issue
- B. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility
- C. Fire Department Staffing
- D. West Groton Dam Removal
- E. Main Street Study
- F. Flock Cameras

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

IV. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of August 17, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Votes may be taken at any time during the meeting. The listing of topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting is not intended as a guarantee of the topics that will be discussed. Not all topics listed may in fact be discussed, and other topics not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



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Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Select Board*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Agenda Update/Report*

Date: *August 31, 2026*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

In addition to the Town Manager's Report, Items for Select Board Consideration and Action and a review of the On-going Issues List, there is one item scheduled on Monday's Agenda. The Select Board will be meeting in joint session with the Finance Committee to conduct a public hearing on the various articles contained in the 2026 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Enclosed with this report is the latest draft of the Warrant. Please note that I have incorporated Town Counsel's edits into this draft, with the exception of the Planning Board articles, which remain under review. I have also enclosed a memorandum to the Select Board and Finance Committee outlining my recommendations on the various Warrant articles that require funding.

1. Deputy Police Chief Rachael Mead will attend Monday's meeting to provide an update for the Board on the last meeting of the Police Camera Working Group. Enclosed with this Report are materials from the meeting that Deputy Chief Mead will go over in more detail with the Board.
2. It has been a year since Andres Correa began work as the Regional Energy Manager for the Towns of Groton, Harvard, Ayer and Shirley. Both Andres and Sustainability Commission Chair Charlotte Weigel will attend Monday's meeting to provide the Board with a summary of Andres's work over the last year. Also enclosed with this Report is copy of the Presentation they will be making at the Meeting.
3. I am recommending that the Town regionalize the Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) position with the Towns of Pepperell and Littleton. The proposed regional model is intended to provide Groton's veterans with a higher and more consistent level of service while addressing the Town's long-term staffing obligations in a fiscally responsible manner. I had previously recommended increasing the number of hours allocated to Groton's VSO position in recognition of the workload and level of service required. The Select Board did not support that request. As a result, I explored alternative approaches that would improve veterans' services without requiring Groton to assume the cost of a full-time position on its own. Regionalization provides such an opportunity.

Continued on Next Page – Over >

3. **Continued:**

Under Massachusetts Law, when a community with a population greater than 12,000 appoints a new Veterans' Services Officer, the position is required to be full-time unless veterans' services are provided through an approved regional arrangement. With Groton's population approaching 12,000, I strongly feel that it is prudent to address this issue now rather than wait until a future vacancy or population threshold requires the Town to hire a full-time position on its own. The proposed regional arrangement with Pepperell and Littleton would establish a full-time regional VSO operation with the required administrative support, with the participating communities sharing the cost of providing these services. The following chart shows the anticipated cost for FY 2027:

	Regional Budget	Pepperell	Groton	Littleton
Population	33030	11695	11315	10020
	100.00%	33.30%	33.30%	33.40%
Salary of Director	\$ 62,786.16	\$ 20,907.79	\$ 20,907.79	\$ 20,970.58
Salary of admin	\$ 53,724.24	\$ 17,890.17	\$ 17,890.17	\$ 17,943.90
Empl. Benefits	\$ 30,926.40	\$ 10,298.49	\$ 10,298.49	\$ 10,329.42
Indirect costs	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 1,698.30	\$ 1,698.30	\$ 1,703.40
Expenses	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,498.50	\$ 1,498.50	\$ 1,503.00
Total Administrative	\$ 157,036.80	\$ 52,293.25	\$ 52,293.25	\$ 52,450.29
Vet. Benefits / Service	\$ 189,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 110,000.00
Total	\$ 346,036.80	\$ 117,293.25	\$ 66,293.25	\$ 162,450.29
FY2027 Budget		\$ 100,152.00	\$ 32,722.00	\$ 153,652.00
Net need		\$ 17,141.25	\$ 33,571.25	\$ 8,798.29
Oct start net need		\$ 12,855.94	\$ 25,178.44	\$ 6,598.72
Dec start net need		\$ 8,570.63	\$ 16,785.63	\$ 4,399.15

For Groton, the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 cost is approximately \$33,571. Regionalizing at this time makes good fiscal and operational sense. It allows Groton to obtain the benefits of a full-time veterans' services operation while sharing personnel and administrative costs. It also provides greater staffing capacity, improved continuity of service, broader office coverage, and greater flexibility in responding to veterans and their families. Most importantly, it allows the Town to proactively establish a sustainable service model before Groton's population growth or a future vacancy potentially requires a more costly solution. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.

4. With regard to the Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Update, the Town Manager's and Town Administrator's Budget Working Group had another meeting this past week. I would like to take a few moments at Monday's meeting updating the Board on the meeting. I look forward to discussing this in more detail with the Board at Monday's meeting.

Select Board
Weekly Agenda Update/Report
August 31, 2026
page three

5. As this is the last meeting on the Board's schedule, I would like to propose the following schedule for the Board that will take you through the end of the year:

Monday, September 7, 2026 -	No Meeting (Labor Day Holiday)
Monday, September 14, 2026 -	Issue the Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2026 -	No Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Saturday, October 3, 2026 -	2026 Fall Town Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, October 12, 2026 -	No Meeting (Indigenous People's Day Holiday)
Monday, October 19, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2026 -	No Meeting
Monday, November 16, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 23, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 30, 2026 -	No Meeting
Monday, December 7, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 21, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 28, 2026 -	No Meeting (Christmas Holiday)
Monday, January 4, 2027 -	No Meeting (New Years' Holiday)
Monday, January 11, 2027 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

Please note that Jennifer Moore, representing GrotonFest, will attend the meeting to discuss the next two items with the Select Board. Enclosed with this Report is a layout of GrotonFest for your information.

1. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverages License - Broken Creek Vineyard at Legion Common for Groton Fest on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
2. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverages License - Mass Brewing LLC d/b/a Sterling Street Brewery at Legion Common for Groton Fest on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
3. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night to be held on Friday, September 11, 2026 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

MWH/rjb
enclosure

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF GROTON
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Select Board has scheduled a joint public hearing with the Finance Committee for Monday, August 31, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. at the Groton Town Hall, Second Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to discuss the articles contained in the October 3, 2026 Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

SELECT BOARD

Peter S. Cunningham, Chair
Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair
Nicholas J. Degaitas, Jr., Clerk
John F. Reilly, Member
Matthew F. Pisani, Member

Groton Herald
August 21, 2026



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Town Manager

Mark W. Haddad

To: **Select Board**
Finance Committee

From: **Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager**

Subject: **Proposed Fall Town Meeting Expenditures**

Date: **August 31, 2026**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Select Board and Finance Committee with a summary of the proposed Fall Town Meeting Expenditures based on the proposed Warrant Articles, along with a summary of available funds. As of the date of this memorandum, the following is a summary of available funds:

FY 2026 Levy Capacity:	\$37,714
Anticipated Free Cash:	\$2,000,000
Stabilization Fund:	\$2,873,587
Capital Stabilization Fund:	\$144,028
GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund:	\$26,593
Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) Funds*	\$275,893

**The Town of Groton has received \$275,893 from the Commonwealth through the Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) to assist with the extraordinary snow and ice costs incurred during Fiscal Year 2026. The Town's FY 2026 Snow and Ice Deficit was funded using a combination of \$180,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund and \$165,000 from Free Cash. In accordance with guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, the Town will use \$180,000 of the WRAP reimbursement to restore the amount previously withdrawn from the Capital Stabilization Fund. The remaining \$95,893 will be deposited into a Special Revenue Fund and will be available to help fund the FY 2027 appropriation for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund. Please see the further explanation in Articles 3 (page 4) and 5 (page 5) of this memorandum.*

The following is a summary of the submitted Warrant Articles, along with proposed expenditures and recommended revenue source to fund the request:

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills

Requested Amount: \$430

Currently, we have one unpaid bill from Service Tire Truck Centers in the amount of \$430. The bill came in after the Fiscal Year was closed. I recommend that this bill be paid from Free Cash as it is a one-time expenditure.

Article 2 – Amend Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

Requested Amount: \$114,071

I am proposing the following amendments to the Operating Budget:

Line Item 1022 – Select Board Expenses

Request: \$25,000

The Town is seeking a one-time appropriation of \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2027 to hire a part-time Economic Development Director/Media Consultant to assist the Select Board and Town Manager in identifying opportunities to generate additional revenue and strengthen Groton's economic future. One of the Select Board's goals for Fiscal Year 2027 is to work collaboratively with Town boards, committees, property owners, businesses, developers, and community stakeholders to strengthen Groton's economic future. The consultant will play a key role in advancing this goal by promoting economic development opportunities, improving outreach and communication, supporting existing businesses, and identifying opportunities to expand and diversify the Town's revenue base. This appropriation is intended as a pilot program. Over the next nine months, the Select Board and Town Manager will evaluate the effectiveness of the position, the results achieved, and its potential financial and community benefits. Based on that evaluation, the Town will determine whether this position warrants continued or permanent funding in future fiscal years. I am recommending that this amount come from Free Cash as it is a one-time expenditure.

Line Item 1031 – Town Manager Expenses

Request: \$20,500

When the Cow Pond Brook Field Project was defeated at the Spring Town Meeting, the Park Commission and Town Manager made the decision to reevaluate the project, with the goal of bringing a revised proposal back before voters at the Fall Town Meeting. At that time, no budget was available to compensate Activitas, the Town's consulting firm, for the additional work required to make the necessary adjustments to the Plan. Recognizing the project's importance, the consultant graciously agreed to move forward with the work and accept payment after Town Meeting, rather than delay progress. This work included redesigning key elements of the project, updating the necessary permitting, and rebidding the revised project. Without the consultant's willingness to proceed under these terms, the Town would not have been able to complete this work in time for the Fall Town Meeting. I recommend that this amount come from Free Cash as it is a one-time expenditure.

Line Item 1062 – Board of Assessors Expenses

Request: \$10,000

This request is to fund the cost of the personal property valuation work required for the Town's Fiscal Year 2027 State mandated certification. The additional funding will allow the Town's Personal Property Consultant, RRC, to complete the required valuation and review of personal property accurately and in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Revenue requirements. I recommend that this amount come from Free Cash as it is a one-time expenditure.

Line Item 1080 – Town Counsel Expenses

Request \$20,000

The Town is seeking additional legal funding for Fiscal Year 2027 to ensure that sufficient funds are available to address two specific matters that are expected to require significant legal representation. The first matter involves the Zoning Board of Appeals' recent denial of a variance associated with the proposed installation of a cell tower on the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School property. The Town has been

advised that the applicant intends to appeal the ZBA's decision. Defending the Board's decision through the appeals process could require substantial legal work and result in costs well beyond those anticipated in the Town's Fiscal Year 2027 Town Counsel Budget. The second matter involves an easement/right-of-way previously granted to the Town on Paquawket Path to provide access to the rail trail. Certain neighboring property owners are contesting the Town's interpretation of the easement and dispute whether it provides the Town and the general public with the right to cross the property to access the rail trail. Because the parties have differing interpretations of the rights granted by the easement, it may be necessary for a court to determine the respective legal rights of the Town and the affected property owners. Both matters have the potential to require significant legal expense. The FY 2027 Budget did not expect, nor contemplate these two issues. Absorbing these costs within the current appropriation could leave insufficient funding to address the Town's routine legal needs throughout the remainder of the fiscal year. I recommend that this amount come from Free Cash as it is a one-time expenditure.

Line Item 1541 – Municipal Building Expenses

Request: \$25,000

The Town is requesting a one-time appropriation of \$25,000 to fund unanticipated repairs to the HVAC system at the Fire Station. The system, which is approximately 12 years old, was not operating properly and required immediate attention. Due to the complexity of the system, the Town needed to engage the manufacturer's recommended consultant to diagnose the problems and perform the necessary repairs. This is an unanticipated expense that was not included in the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. While this expense could be covered by a Reserve Fund Transfer, the Town Manager and Town Accountant were concerned about taking such a significant amount from the Reserve Fund this early in the Fiscal Year. Based on this, it was determined that seeking a Town Meeting appropriation was the better choice. I recommend that this amount come from Free Cash as it is a one-time expenditure.

Line Item 1620 – Veteran's Service Officer Salary

Request: \$33,571

The Town is seeking additional funding to support the regionalization of the Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) position with the Towns of Pepperell and Littleton. The proposed regional model is intended to provide Groton's veterans with a higher and more consistent level of service while addressing the Town's long-term staffing obligations in a fiscally responsible manner. The Town Manager had previously recommended increasing the number of hours allocated to Groton's VSO position in recognition of the workload and level of service required. The Select Board did not support that request. As a result, the Town Manager explored alternative approaches that would improve veterans' services without requiring Groton to assume the cost of a full-time position on its own. Regionalization provides such an opportunity. Under Massachusetts Law, when a community with a population greater than 12,000 appoints a new Veterans' Services Officer, the position is required to be full-time unless veterans' services are provided through an approved regional arrangement. With Groton's population approaching 12,000, it is prudent to address this issue now rather than wait until a future vacancy or population threshold requires the Town to hire a full-time position on its own. The proposed regional arrangement with Pepperell and Littleton would establish a full-time regional VSO operation with the required administrative support, with the participating communities sharing the cost of providing these services. The following chart shows the anticipated cost for FY 2027:

	Regional Budget	Pepperell	Groton	Littleton
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Dec start net need		\$ 8,570.63	\$ 16,785.63	\$ 4,399.15

For Groton, the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 cost is approximately \$33,571. Regionalizing at this time makes good fiscal and operational sense. It allows Groton to obtain the benefits of a full-time veterans' services operation while sharing personnel and administrative costs. It also provides greater staffing capacity, improved continuity of service, broader office coverage, and greater flexibility in responding to veterans and their families. Most importantly, it allows the Town to proactively establish a sustainable service model before Groton's population growth or a future vacancy potentially requires a more costly solution. Because Groton's \$33,571 share represents an ongoing annual obligation rather than a one-time expense, the Town Manager recommends that it be funded through the Town's unexpended tax capacity.

The Total Amounts Requested By Category:	Free Cash:	\$100,500
	Tax Levy:	<u>\$ 33,571</u>
	Total	\$134,071

Article 3 – Capital Stabilization Fund

Requested Amount: \$691,000

The current balance in the Capital Stabilization Fund is \$144,028. The Town's financial policies call for maintaining a balance in the fund equal to 1.5% of the total Operating Budget. If Article 2 passes as presented, the total Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget will be \$55,994,017, resulting in a target Capital Stabilization Fund balance of \$839,910. Meeting this target would require an appropriation of \$695,882. However, to provide sufficient funding for the anticipated FY 2028 Capital Budget, an additional \$175,118 would be required, bringing the total recommended appropriation to \$871,000. As explained previously in this memorandum, \$180,000 of this appropriation would be funded from the Town's WRAP proceeds, restoring the amount previously withdrawn from the Capital Stabilization Fund to address the FY 2026 snow and ice deficit. The remaining \$691,000 would be appropriated from the Free Cash.

Article 4 – Stabilization Fund**Requested Amount: \$0**

The current balance in the Stabilization Fund is \$2,873,587. The Town's financial policies call for a balance in this fund of 5% of the total Operating Budget. Should Article 2 pass as presented, the total FY 2026 Operating Budget will be \$55,994,017, requiring a Stabilization Fund Balance of \$2,799,700. At this time, we do not need to add money to the Fund.

Article 5 – GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund**Requested Amount: \$377,514**

The anticipated Fiscal Year 2028 Capital Budget for the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District is \$500,000. The current balance in the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund is \$26,593, leaving a funding requirement of \$473,407. To fund this, I recommend that \$95,893 be provided from the Town's FY 2027 Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) funds as explained previously in this memorandum, and the remaining \$377,514 funded from Free Cash.

Article 6 – Water Enterprise Fund**Requested Amount: \$0**

At this time, it is anticipated that this Article will be withdrawn from consideration at Town Meeting as the Water Department is not expecting any unforeseen expenses at this time. This Article is being left on the Warrant in the event a need arises. Should a need arise, an update will be provided at Town Meeting.

Article 7 – Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund**Requested Amount: \$0**

At this time, it is anticipated that this Article will be withdrawn from consideration at Town Meeting as the Sewer Department is not expecting any unforeseen expenses at this time. This Article is being left on the Warrant in the event a need arises. Should a need arise, an update will be provided at Town Meeting.

Article 8 – Stormwater Enterprise**Requested Amount: \$0**

At this time, it is anticipated that this Article will be withdrawn from consideration at Town Meeting as the Department of Public Works is not expecting any unforeseen expenses at this time. This Article is being left on the Warrant in the event a need arises. Should a need arise, an update will be provided at Town Meeting.

Article 9 – Town Forest Expenses**Requested Amount: \$30,000**

From the Summary in the Warrant: The Town Forest Committee is seeking funds from their Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest to cover the cost of removing a dead stand of Red Pines that are creating a hazard in the Town Forest. The amount needed is estimated to be \$30,000, with \$12,238 coming from a reimbursement from the Division of Conservation and Recreation, based on an estimate from the Committee's consulting Forester.

Article 10 – Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements**Requested Amount: \$4,200,000**

From the Summary in the Warrant: This article requests Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding for a revised improvement project at the Cow Pond Brook Fields recreational complex. A similar proposal considered at the 2026 Spring Town Meeting was not approved by the voters. Following Town Meeting, the Parks Commission and Town Manager collaborated with user groups, Town departments, project consultants, and other stakeholders to revise the project in response to public feedback. The revised proposal reduces the overall project cost by an estimated \$800,000 to \$1 million from the original estimated budget of approximately \$4.8 million, while retaining the project's primary objectives. The revised project includes rehabilitation and modernization of one of the Town's most heavily used recreational facilities; improvements to comply with Natural Heritage requirements by addressing the existing access road; construction of ADA-compliant pathways and amenities to improve accessibility; upgrades to drainage, parking, traffic circulation, and supporting infrastructure; and improvements designed to provide a safe, functional, and sustainable recreational complex for residents, schools, youth organizations, and community groups. Approval of this article will also preserve the Town's eligibility to receive a \$1 million federal grant that has been awarded for the project. If the project does not proceed, the Town will lose access to these federal funds. The grant would significantly reduce the amount of local funding required to complete the project. The Parks Commission believes the revised proposal reflects the concerns raised during the Spring Town Meeting by reducing costs, refining the project scope, and maintaining the long-term goal of preserving and improving an important community recreational asset. If approved, this article would authorize the use of CPA funds to support the project and leverage substantial outside funding for improvements intended to serve Groton residents for many decades.

Article 12 – Irrigation/Course Improvements – Country Club**Requested Amount: \$1,700,000**

From the Summary in the Warrant: This article requests funding to construct a new irrigation system and complete targeted course improvements at the Groton Country Club. The Club's existing irrigation system provides only limited coverage and requires manual operation, making it difficult to maintain consistent playing conditions, particularly during dry weather. The proposed irrigation system would be fully automated, allowing watering during non-playing hours, and would provide comprehensive coverage of all greens, tee boxes, fairways, and selected in-play rough areas. The project is intended to improve turf health, course conditions, water management, and the overall quality of the golf course. In addition to the irrigation system, the project includes targeted improvements to enhance playability and course infrastructure. These include redesigning portions of Holes 1 through 3 to improve playability and installing a drainage system on Hole 7 to address persistent drainage issues. The preliminary planning estimate for the project is \$1.7 million. Prior to Town Meeting, the Town intends to solicit competitive bids so that a firm project cost can be presented to voters for consideration. If approved, the project would be financed through borrowing. Annual debt service would be appropriated through the Town's Capital Budget and funded from Free Cash, with the expectation that revenues generated by the Groton Country Club will support the debt service over the life of the borrowing. The project is intended to protect the Town's investment in the municipal golf course, enhance the experience for residents and visitors, and support the Club's long-term operational and financial sustainability.

Based on these recommendations, if all recommendations are accepted by the Select Board and Finance Committee and Town Meeting approves the Articles, each account will have the following balances:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>Final Balance</u>
Levy Capacity	\$ 37,714	\$ 33,571	\$ 4,143
Anticipated Free Cash	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,169,444	\$ 830,556
Stabilization Fund	\$ 2,873,587	\$ -	\$ 2,873,587
Capital Stabilization Fund*	\$ 324,028	\$ 691,000	\$ 1,015,028
GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund**	\$ 122,486	\$ 377,514	\$ 500,000

* Beginning Balance Includes \$180,000 from WRAP Funds

** Beginning Balance Includes \$95,893 from WRAP Funds

I look forward to reviewing this with the Select Board and Finance Committee in more detail. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

MWH/rjb

cc: Patricia DuFresne – Assistant Finance Director/Town Accountant
Katie Kazanjian – Treasurer/Collector
Tammi Mickel – Principal Assessor
Melisa Doig – Human Resources Director
Kara Cruikshank – Executive Assistant

enclosures

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2026 FALL TOWN MEETING

Marion Stoddart Building Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Beginning Saturday, October 3, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Attention Voters
Please bring this Document to Town Meeting

Introduction to Groton Town Meeting

Voters are familiar with casting ballots in local and state elections, but they have another important civic duty in towns, the Town Meeting.

What is Town Meeting?

The Town Meeting is the legislative body in the town form of government in Massachusetts. Town Meeting is a formal gathering of registered voters who propose, debate and vote on measures. Groton holds at least two Town Meetings per year.

What is a warrant?

The warrant is the official notice to voters that a Town Meeting is scheduled. The warrant includes the date, time, location and a description of each subject to be acted on at Town Meeting. In Groton, the warrant must be posted in two public places and mailed to each household 14 days in advance of Town Meeting. “The warrant must contain a sufficient description of what is proposed so as to constitute an adequate warning to all the inhabitants of the town.”¹ “Every action taken at the meeting must be pursuant to some article in the warrant and must be within the scope of such article.”²

How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive an electronic voting handset which is required to vote. The meeting typically acts on the articles in the order they are printed in the warrant. For each article, a main motion is made and seconded by voters and placed by the Moderator on the floor for debate. Permission of the Moderator is required to speak. The Moderator presides and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and calls and declares all votes. After debate has ended, the Moderator will call for a vote by use of the electronic voting handset.

¹ *Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law* (page 19) Massachusetts Moderators Association, Fourth Edition, 2024.

² *Id.*

Who can attend?

Town Meeting is open to the public. Only Groton voters are entitled to attend, speak and vote. Non-voters may be required to sit in a separate section. Non-voters may ask the Moderator to speak on the topic of the debate.

How long is Town Meeting?

Town Meeting concludes when all articles on the warrant have been acted upon. Town Meeting may conclude in one session or adjourn for subsequent sessions.

Explanation of a Consent Agenda

A consent agenda is a procedure to group multiple main motions into a single motion for voting. A consent agenda saves time by eliminating the reading of multiple motions and explanations when there are no objections or questions. In Groton, a consent agenda generally consists of articles unanimously supported by the Select Board and Finance Committee. Articles that change by-laws or introduce new spending are typically not included. In this warrant, the Select Board has grouped articles in consent agendas and labeled them for easy reference.

How Consent Agendas Work

As the first step to act on a consent agenda, the Moderator will read the titles of the included articles. A voter who wishes to remove an article from the consent agenda for separate debate and vote should state “hold.” The held article will be set aside and acted on after the vote on the consent agenda. After the meeting agrees on the contents of 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. Voters should read the warrant and review the proposed consent agendas to identify articles they wish to remove for separate consideration.

Electronic Voting at Town Meeting

Voting at Town Meeting will be conducted using an electronic voting system purchased by the Town of Groton as authorized by Town Meeting in October, 2022. Instead of using placards to be raised and counted, voters will use wireless handsets to cast their vote quickly, accurately and privately.



Voter Check-In

At check-in, voters will be given a handset. No record is made of which voter receives which handset. All handsets will be tested prior to the meeting. Voters physically unable to use a handset will be seated in a manual-count section and their votes will be counted by tellers. For those with visual impairments, large handsets with braille are available.

Test Vote

At the beginning of the meeting, the Moderator will conduct a test vote to get everyone comfortable with the voting procedures.

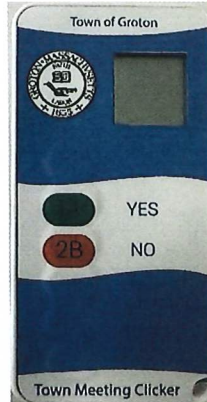
Proxy Voting Prohibited

The handset given to a voter at check-in is for the exclusive use of that voter. Voting with a handset that has been issued to another individual is strictly forbidden.

Voting

When the Moderator announces it is time to vote:

- Press 1A (green button) for YES →
- Press 2B (red button) for No →
- If you wish to not vote, press no buttons



Handset Display

The display on the handset:

- OK means the system receiver has received your vote
- A "1" for Yes or "2" for No shows the vote the system received.
- The small "R" at the top of the screen indicates the handset is communicating with the receiver
- The icons in the top left indicate the WiFi signal strength.

Help Desk

A Help Desk will be able to assist voters who have trouble with using the handset. If a handset malfunctions, a voter will receive a new handset.

Handset Return

If you leave the meeting temporarily, please keep the handset with you. If the meeting ends or you leave, return the handset to the check-in table.



Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

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

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. 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.

**FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
OCTOBER 3, 2026**

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 Marion Stoddart Building Auditorium, 344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts in said Town on Saturday, the third day of October, 2026 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider the following:

ARTICLE LISTINGS

Article 1*	Prior Year Bills	6
Article 2*	Amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Town Operating Budget	6
Article 3*	Transfer Money Into Capital Stabilization Fund	6
Article 4*	Transfer Money Into Stabilization Fund	7
Article 5*	Transfer Money Into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund	7
Article 6*	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	8
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Article 11	Citizens' Petition – Termination of Automated License Plate Reader Camera Program	10
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Article 18	Citizens' Petition – Senior Property Tax Freeze Program	30
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	Report of the Town Manager to the 2026 Fall Town Meeting	34

*Will be presented as one motion as a Consent Agenda

Article 1: *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. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 34 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 2: *Amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Town Operating Budget*

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget as adopted under Article 5 of the May 2, 2026 Spring Town Meeting and 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 Fiscal Year 2027, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee
Select Board
Town Manager

Select Board: *See Select Board's Recommendations Beginning on Page 34*
Finance Committee: *See Finance Committee's Recommendations Beginning on Page 34*

Summary: *The Fiscal Year 2027 Town Operating Budget was approved at the May 2, 2026 Town Meeting. Any changes to this Budget would have to be made prior to setting the tax rate. The purpose of this article is to make any necessary changes to balance the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 34 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 3: *Transfer Money Into the Capital Stabilization Fund*

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 added to the sum already on deposit in the Capital Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: As of the printing of this Warrant, the Fund has a balance of \$144,028. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Capital Stabilization Fund equal to 1.5% of the total annual budget. The target amount for the Capital Stabilization Fund will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 34 for additional information related to this Article.

Article 4: Transfer Money into the Stabilization Fund

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 added to the sum already on deposit in the Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: As of the printing of this Warrant, the balance in this fund is \$2,873,587. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Fund equal to 5% of the total annual budget. The target amount for the Fund will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 34 for additional information related to this Article.

Article 5: Transfer Money into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund

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 added to the sum already on deposit in the Town of Groton Capital Stabilization Fund for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: As of the printing of the Warrant, the balance in this fund is \$26,593. This fund covers the Town of Groton's share of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee's long-range Capital Plan to address its capital needs. The target amount will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 34 for additional information related to this Article.

Article 6: *Transfer Within the 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 2027 Water Enterprise Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Water Commissioners

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This Article will seek a transfer from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2027 Water Department's General Expense Budget to cover unanticipated expenses. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 34 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 7: *Transfer Within the 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 2027 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2027 Four Corners Sewer Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 34 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 8: *Transfer Within the Stormwater Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Stormwater Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2027 Stormwater Enterprise Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article allows the Stormwater Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2027 Stormwater Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 34 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 9: *Appropriation to Fund Town Forest Expenses*****

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money from Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest to Town Forest Expenses, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The Town Forest Committee is seeking funds from their Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest to cover the cost of removing a dead stand of Red Pines that are creating a hazard in the Town Forest. The amount needed is estimated to be \$30,000, with \$12,238 coming from a reimbursement from the Division of Conservation and Recreation, based on an estimate from the Committee's consulting Forester.*

Article 10: *Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements*****

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee for improvements to the Cow Pond Brook Fields as described in CPA Application 2027-11, on file in the Town Clerk's Office, 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 Massachusetts General Laws, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute a sum or sums of money, to be expensed by the Town Manager, for said purposes, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Community Preservation Committee
Parks Commission***

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article requests Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding for a revised improvement project at the Cow Pond Brook Fields recreational complex. A similar proposal considered at the 2026 Spring Town Meeting was not approved by the voters. Following Town Meeting, the Parks Commission and Town Manager worked with user groups, Town departments, project consultants, and other stakeholders to substantially revise the project in response to public feedback. The revised proposal reduces the overall project cost by an estimated \$800,000 to \$1 million from the original estimated budget of approximately \$4.8 million, while retaining the project's primary objectives. The revised project includes rehabilitation and modernization of one of the Town's most heavily used recreational facilities; improvements to comply with Natural Heritage requirements by addressing the existing access road; construction of ADA-compliant pathways and amenities to improve accessibility; upgrades to drainage, parking, traffic circulation, and supporting infrastructure; and improvements designed to provide a safe, functional, and sustainable recreational complex for residents, schools, youth organizations, and community groups. Approval of this article will also preserve the Town's eligibility to receive a \$1 million federal grant that has been awarded for the project. If the project does not proceed the Town will lose access to these federal funds. The grant would significantly reduce the amount of local funding*

required to complete the project. The Parks Commission believes the revised proposal reflects the concerns raised during the Spring Town Meeting by reducing costs, refining the project scope, and maintaining the long-term goal of preserving and improving an important community recreational asset. If approved, this article would authorize the use of CPA funds to support the project and leverage substantial outside funding for improvements intended to serve Groton residents for many decades.

Article 11: Termination of Automated License Plate Reader Camera Program

To see if the Town will vote to direct the Select Board, Town Manager, Police Department, and all other appropriate Town officials to take all necessary and legally permissible steps to discontinue the Town's use of the automated license plate reader cameras and associated services provided by Flock Safety; to terminate or decline to renew the Town's contract with Flock Safety at the earliest date permitted under the contract; to remove all Flock Safety cameras and related equipment from Town property and public rights-of-way; and to prohibit the expenditure of Town funds for the renewal, replacement, or continuation of the Flock Safety camera system, or any substantially similar automated license plate reader surveillance system, without prior authorization by Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Citizens' Petition

NAME	ADDRESS	NAME	ADDRESS
Lorraine Ostanik-Bellessa	68 Champney Street	Matthew Costa	108 West Main Street
John Bellessa	68 Champney Street	Al Solomon	31 Skyfields Drive
James McNamara	310 Riverbend Drive	Molly Solomon	31 Skyfields Drive
Tara McNamara	310 Riverbend Drive	Jonathan Kerr	98 Skyfields Drive
Christine Costa	108 West Main Street	Cassie Kerr	98 Skyfields Drive

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: This Article asks the Town to end its use of Flock Safety automated license plate reader cameras and to terminate or decline to renew the existing agreement at the earliest legally permissible date. It would also require Town Meeting approval before the Town could spend money on a replacement or substantially similar automated license plate reader system. The purpose of the Article is to ensure that the will of Groton voters is clear and that any decision to operate a system that continuously records vehicle movement is made openly and with explicit public authorization. It provides residents an opportunity to consider the system's privacy, civil-liberties, financial, public-safety, and data-security implications before determining whether its use should be permitted.

Article 12: *Install Irrigation System/Course Improvements – Groton Country Club*

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 install an irrigation system and make various improvements to the Groton Country Club Golf Course, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager
Head Professional/General Manager***

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *This article requests funding to construct a new irrigation system and complete targeted course improvements at the Groton Country Club. The Club's existing irrigation system provides only limited coverage and requires manual operation, making it difficult to maintain consistent playing conditions, particularly during dry weather. The proposed irrigation system would be fully automated, allowing watering during non-playing hours, and would provide comprehensive coverage of all greens, tee boxes, fairways, and selected in-play rough areas. The project is intended to improve turf health, course conditions, water management, and the overall quality of the golf course. In addition to the irrigation system, the project includes targeted improvements to enhance playability and course infrastructure. These include redesigning portions of Holes 1 through 3 to improve playability and installing a drainage system on Hole 7 to address persistent drainage issues. The preliminary planning estimate for the project is approximately \$1.7 million. Prior to Town Meeting, the Town intends to solicit competitive bids so that a firm project cost can be presented to voters for consideration. If approved, the project would be financed through borrowing. Annual debt service would be appropriated through the Town's Capital Budget and funded from Free Cash, with the expectation that revenues generated by the Groton Country Club will support the debt service over the life of the borrowing. The project is intended to protect the Town's investment in the municipal golf course, enhance the experience for residents and visitors, and support the Club's long-term operational and financial sustainability.*

Article 13: *Transfer of Land from the DPW to the Electric Light Department*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of a portion of the Department of Public Works property located at 600 Cow Pond Brook Road, shown as Lot 41-0 on the Town of Groton Assessor's Map 248, substantially as shown on the sketch plan entitled "600 Cow Pond Brook Road BESS Site" on file in the Town Clerk's Office, to the Groton Electric Light Department for the construction, installation, and use of a battery energy storage system on such terms and conditions as the Town Manager deems to be in the best interest of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *This article seeks Town Meeting authorization to transfer a portion of the Department of Public Works property at 600 Cow Pond Brook Road to the Groton Electric Light Department for the construction and operation of a battery energy storage system (BESS). The proposed BESS would allow the Electric Light Department to store electricity for later use, helping to manage periods of high electricity demand, improve system reliability, and support the efficient operation of Groton's municipal electric system. The specific portion of the property to be transferred is generally shown on the sketch plan on file with the Town Clerk. Approval of this article would authorize the Town Manager to complete the property transfer on terms and conditions determined to be in the best interest of the Town.*

Article 14: Establish Means-Tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the following Special Act, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF GROTON TO ESTABLISH A MEANS-TESTED SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) With respect to each qualifying parcel of real property classified as residential in the town of Groton, and as established more specifically by the select board annually pursuant to section 2, there shall be an exemption from the property tax equal to the total amount of tax that would otherwise be assessed without this exemption plus 50 per cent of the annual water and sewer expense less the sum of: (i) 10 per cent of income or other such percentage of income as determined pursuant to section 3; (ii) the circuit breaker income tax credit pursuant to subsection (k) of section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws the applicant received for the year prior to the year for which the application is being filed; and (iii) any other statutory exemptions or other forms of property tax relief including the senior tax work off program.

(b) In no event shall this exemption be greater than the cap established on an annual basis by the select board pursuant to section 5. The exemption shall be applied to the domicile of the taxpayer only. For the purposes of this act, "parcel" shall mean a unit of real property as defined by the board of assessors under the deed for the property and shall include a condominium unit. The exemption provided for in this section shall be in addition to any other exemptions allowed pursuant to the General Laws, unless otherwise removed from the calculation in subsection (a).

SECTION 2. The board of assessors of the town of Groton may deny an application for exemption if the board finds that the applicant has excessive assets that place the applicant outside of the intended recipients of the senior exemption established pursuant to this act. For the purposes of this act, what constitutes excessive assets shall be determined by regulations set by the select board. Real property shall qualify for the exemption pursuant to section 1 if all of the following criteria are met:

- (i) the qualifying real property is owned and occupied by a person whose annual household income does not exceed limitations established by the select board pursuant to section 5;
- (ii) the qualifying real property is owned by a single applicant who was 65 years of age or older at the close of the previous year or jointly by persons who are 60 years of age or older; provided, that not less than 1 joint owner was 65 years of age or older at the close of the previous year;
- (iii) the qualifying real property is owned and occupied by the applicant or joint applicants as their domicile;
- (iv) the applicant, or at least 1 of the joint applicants, has been domiciled and owned a home in the town of Groton for not less than 10 consecutive years before filing an application for the exemption;
- (v) the maximum assessed value of the domicile is not greater than the prior year's average assessed value of a town of Groton single family residence;
- (vi) the applicant files for circuit breaker income tax credit pursuant to subsection (k) of chapter 62 of the General Laws, if eligible; and
- (vii) the board of assessors approves the application for the exemption.

SECTION 3. The exemption pursuant to section 1 shall be in addition to any other exemption allowable pursuant to the General Laws, except that there shall be a dollar cap for all real estate exemptions available pursuant to this act as set annually by the select board of the town of Groton pursuant to section 5. If benefits to the applicants are limited because the cap established annually by the select board would otherwise be exceeded, the benefits shall be decreased pro rata.

SECTION 4. A person who seeks to qualify for the exemption pursuant to section 1 shall, before the deadline established by the board of assessors of the town of Groton, file an application, on a form adopted by the board of assessors, with the supporting documentation as described in the application. The application shall be filed each year for which the applicant seeks the exemption.

SECTION 5. The select board may, after consultation with the board of assessors and after holding a public hearing for which notice of not less than 7 days provided, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article requests Town Meeting approval to petition the Massachusetts General Court for special legislation authorizing the Town of Groton to establish a local, means-tested property tax exemption for qualifying senior homeowners. If enacted by the Legislature, the program would provide an annual property tax exemption to eligible seniors who meet income, age, residency, ownership, occupancy, and property value requirements. To qualify, applicants generally must meet the income eligibility requirements for the Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit; own and occupy the property as their primary residence; be at least 65 years of age (or, in the case of jointly owned property, at least one owner must be 65 and all owners at least 60 years of age); have owned and resided in a home in Groton for at least ten consecutive years; own a home with an assessed value within the annual limits established for the state Circuit Breaker Tax Credit; and, submit an annual application and supporting documentation to the Board of Assessors. The Board of Assessors would administer the program and may deny an application if it determines the applicant possesses excessive assets inconsistent with the program's intended purpose. The Select Board would annually establish the amount of the exemption. The exemption must be between 50% and 200% of the applicant's prior year's Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. The cost of the exemption would be funded through a proportional shift within the residential property tax levy, resulting in a minimal increase in the residential tax burden shared among all other residential taxpayers. The exemption would supplement, rather than replace, any other property tax exemptions for which an applicant may qualify. The special act would become effective only upon approval by the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor. The authorization would remain in effect for three years, after which Town Meeting would need to vote to reauthorize the program for additional three-year periods.*

Article 15: Small Scale Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility Siting and Permitting

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Groton by inserting a new **Section 185 Small Scale Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility Consolidated Siting and Permitting** to read as follows:

185-1 Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw, also referred to as Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility ("SCEIF") Siting and Permitting Bylaw, is to incorporate the standard conditions, criteria, requirements, and procedures for the efficient and appropriate siting and permitting of SCEIFs by the Town of Groton under 225 CMR 29.00.

185-2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this bylaw, the terms defined in 225 CMR 29.02 shall have the same meaning in this bylaw.

185-3 Applicability

This bylaw applies to the local siting and permitting of a SCEIF when an Applicant requests a Consolidated Local Permit pursuant to 225 CMR 29.00.

185-4 Compliance with Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations

The siting and permitting of a SCIEF shall be consistent with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements.

185-5 Designated Local Government Representatives

For the purpose of this bylaw, the Land Use Director shall serve as the Local Government Representative.

185-6 Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Standards

The public health, safety, and environmental standards, as codified by 225 CMR 29.06, are herein incorporated by reference into the Town of Groton Zoning Bylaws, Chapter 218.

185-7 Pre-filing Requirements

The pre-filing requirements, as codified by 225 CMR 29.08, are herein acknowledged.

185-8 Consolidated Local Permit Application Fees

A schedule of all fees for a Consolidated Local Permit Application shall be set by and reviewed from time to time by the Planning Board. If the EFSB Director accepts the Consolidated Local Permit Application for De Novo Adjudication, any permit fees paid under this section shall be refunded in full to the Applicant within 30 days of the Director's acceptance of the Consolidated Local Permit Application, or as soon as practicable.

185-9 Consolidated Local Permit Application Review

The Consolidated Local Permit Application review process, as codified by 225 CMR 29.10, is herein acknowledged. Notwithstanding, the review process shall not exceed 12 months from the date the application is deemed to be complete and no extension shall be granted by the Town of Groton pursuant to 225 CMR 29.10. Failure by the Town of Groton Representative to issue an approval or denial at the expiration of the 12 month review period the application is constructively approved by the operation of law.

185-10 Application of the Site Suitability Guidance

The Town of Groton shall implement and administer the Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facilities in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Regulations CMR 29.00 or M.G.L. Chapter 25A Sections 2 and 25.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Planning Board:

Summary: *This article proposes the adoption of a new General Bylaw to establish local permitting that complies with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) regulations found in 225 CMR 29.00. The proposed bylaw is intended to streamline and standardize the local review of qualifying small-scale clean energy infrastructure projects when an applicant seeks a Consolidated Local Permit under state regulations. The bylaw incorporates applicable state definitions, public health, safety, and environmental standards by reference, designates the Town's Land Use Director as the Local Government Representative, and establishes procedures for application fees and permit review.*

Article 16: Small Clean Energy Facilities Consolidated Permitting

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Groton as follows:

- 1. Amend Section 218-3 Definitions** by inserting the following definitions in alphabetical order:

"Small Clean Energy Facility

Includes the following Clean Energy Uses as defined in State Regulations 225 CMR 29.02 governing the Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility **S**iting and Permitting.

"Small Clean Energy Generation Facility. Energy generation infrastructure with a nameplate capacity of **more than 100 kWh and** less than 25 megawatts that is an Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Solar **Photovoltaic** Facility or Wind Facility, including any ancillary structure that is an integral part of the operation of the Small Clean Energy Generation Facility.

Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility"

Energy generation infrastructure with a nameplate capacity of **more than 100 kWh and** less than 25 megawatts that is an Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Solar Facility or Wind Facility, including any ancillary structure that is an integral part of the operation of the Small Clean Energy Generation Facility.

Small Clean Energy Storage Facility. .

An energy storage system as defined in M.G.L. c. 164, § 1 and Section 218-10.4 with a rated capacity of **more than 100 kilowatts hours and** less than 100 megawatt hours, including any ancillary structure that is an integral part of the operation of the Small Clean Energy Storage Facility.

Small Clean Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Facility.

Electric transmission and distribution infrastructure and related ancillary infrastructure, including: (i) electric transmission line reconductoring or rebuilding projects; (ii) new or substantially altered electric transmission lines located in an existing transmission corridor that are not more than 10 miles long, including any ancillary structure that is an integral part of the operation of the transmission line; (iii) new or substantially altered electric transmission lines located in a new transmission corridor that are not more than 1 mile long, including any ancillary structure that is an integral part of the operation of the transmission line; (iv) any other electric transmission infrastructure, including standalone transmission substations and upgrades and any ancillary structure that is an integral part of the operation of the transmission line and that does not require zoning exemptions; and (v) electric distribution-level projects that meet a certain threshold, as

determined by the Department; provided, however, that the Small Clean Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Facility shall be: (A) designed, fully or in part, to directly interconnect or otherwise facilitate the interconnection of clean energy infrastructure to the electric grid; (B) designed to ensure electric grid reliability and stability; or (C) designed to help facilitate the electrification of the building and transportation sectors; and provided further, that a Small Clean Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Facility shall not include new transmission and distribution infrastructure facilities that solely interconnect new or existing generation powered by fossil fuels to the electric grid on or after January 1, 2026.”

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

One or more containers or cabinets on a lot containing batteries and related equipment, assembled together, capable of storing electrical energy in order to supply electrical energy to the power grid at a future time. This includes all accessory equipment on said lot necessary for energy storage including but not limited to inverters, transformers, cooling equipment, switching gear, metering equipment, transmission tie-lines, and other power interconnection facilities and/or a project substation, but does not include public utility owned and operated interconnection equipment, regardless of location, or other interconnection equipment to be located on the real property of the public utility or within its right of way, determined to be necessary by the public utility to facilitate the BESS interconnection with the power grid whether for bringing power to the BESS or for returning it to the power grid, a stand-alone 12-volt vehicle battery, or an electric motor vehicle.

Behind the Meter Clean Energy System

~~A renewable energy system (including but not limited to rooftop and ground mounted solar or battery storage) that provides power to supplement and lower usage of power from the grid~~

Consolidated Local Permit Application

Consolidated Local Permit Applications for Small Clean Facility shall be completed and submitted by the Applicant in accordance with the requirements of 225 CMR 29.09 and the requirements of all Local Boards, Commissions, Departments that have been identified as having jurisdiction for the proposed facility. It is strongly recommended the Applicant seek pre-submission meetings with the Land Use Committee to identify/confirm the applicable jurisdictional authorities that will be involved in the consolidated permitting process.

Front of the Meter Clean Energy System

~~Utility-scale generation and storage that connects directly to the power grid, managed by utility companies to balance supply and stabilize the grid~~

2. **Amend Section 218—5.2 Schedule of Use Regulations** by inserting the following entry in the Section titled “Industrial” after the last entry and renumbering subsequent entries accordingly:

	USE	R-A ¹⁰	R-B ¹⁰	NB	VCB ¹⁰	GB	I	P ¹⁰	O
(XX)	Small Clean Energy Facility	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y”

3. **Amend Section 218-10 Special Regulations** by inserting a new Section 218-10.2 and renumbering subsequent sections accordingly to read as follows:

218-10.2

~~Front of the Meter~~ Small Scale Clean Energy Facility

An Applicant for a ~~Front of the Meter~~ Small Scale Energy Facility shall complete all pre filing requirements specified in 225 CMR29.08 before submitting a Consolidated Local Permit Application to the Planning Board for Major Site Plan Review. A Consolidated Local Permit Application submitted before the completion of all pre-filing requirements shall automatically be denied without prejudice. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek pre-submission meetings with the appropriate local authorities having jurisdiction in advance of filing the Consolidated Local Permit Application

4. Amend Section **218-2.5 Site Plan Review** under Section 518-2.5.C.(2) Threshold of Review/ Major by deleting section (c) and (d) in their entirety and inserting the following entry to read as follows and renumber subsequent sections accordingly:

“(c) ~~Front of the Meter~~ Small Clean Energy Facility.”

5. **Amend Section 218-10 Special Regulations** by inserting a new Section 218-10.4 to read as follows and renumbering subsequent Sections accordingly :

218-10.54 Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

- A. Applicability. The requirements of this bylaw shall apply to battery energy storage systems permitted, installed, decommissioned, or modified after the effective date of this bylaw, excluding general maintenance and repair. BESS subject to this bylaw are only those that exceed the following capacities:

- Lead-acid with a capacity of greater than ~~100~~70 kWh
- Nickel with a capacity of greater than ~~100~~70 kWh
- Lithium-ion with a capacity of greater than ~~100~~30 kWh
- Sodium nickel chloride with a capacity of greater than ~~100~~20 kWh
- Flow with a capacity of greater than ~~100~~20 kWh

- ~~Other battery technologies with a capacity of greater than 10 kWh~~

~~BESS that do not meet the threshold capacities above are not subject to this bylaw and are allowed as of right in all zoning districts.~~

BESS subject to this bylaw are only those that have a storage ~~more than~~ ~~less than~~ ~~100k~~4MWh. BESS with a storage capacity 100Wh or greater will be subject to review and approvals from the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) pursuant to 225 CMR 29.00.

- B. General Requirements.
 1. All permits required by state codes, including but not limited to building permit, an electrical permit, and a fire department permit shall be required for installation of all battery energy storage systems.
 2. All battery energy storage systems, all dedicated use buildings, and all other buildings structures that contain or are otherwise associated with a battery energy storage and

subject to the requirements of the State Building Code, shall be designed, erected, and installed in accordance with all applicable provisions of the State Building Code 780 CMR, State Fire Code 527 CMR 1.00, and State Electrical Code 527 CMR 12.00. All battery energy storage systems shall comply with NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems.

3. Energy storage system capacities, including array capacity and separation, are limited to the thresholds contained in NFPA 855.
4. Utility Lines and Electrical Circuitry. All on-site utility lines shall be placed underground to the extent feasible and as permitted by the serving utility, with the exception of the main service connection at the utility company right-of-way and any new interconnection equipment, including without limitation any poles.

C. Permitting Requirements for Small Scale BESS

Small Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems are allowed by right in all zoning districts, subject to applicable provisions of the State Building Code, Electrical Code, Fire Code, and other applicable codes, and are subject to ~~major~~minor site plan review and such provisions of this bylaw as are applicable:

1. Small Scale BESS are allowed as of right in all zoning districts subject to applicable provisions of the State Building Code, Electrical Code, Fire Code, and other applicable codes, and are subject to Major Site Plan Review pursuant to section 218-2.5 of this bylaw as applicable.
2. Utility Lines and Electrical Circuitry. All on-site utility lines shall be placed underground to the extent feasible and as permitted by the serving utility, with the exception of the main service connection at the utility company right-of-way and any new interconnection equipment, including without limitation any poles.
3. Signage. Signage shall comply with the requirements Groton Signage Bylaw, Chapter 196 of the Groton General Bylaws and the following requirements: in the event of a conflict between the provisions of S and this section, the requirements of this Section shall prevail.
 - a. The signage shall be in compliance with ANSI Z535 and shall include the type of technology associated with the battery energy storage systems, any special hazards associated, the type of suppression system installed in the area of battery energy storage systems, and 24hour emergency contact information, including reach-back phone number.
 - b. As required by the state electrical code, disconnect and other emergency shutoff information shall be clearly displayed on a light reflective surface. A clearly visible warning sign concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations.
 - c. Signage compliant with ANSI Z535 shall be provided on doors to rooms, entrances to BESS facilities, and on BESS outdoor containers

4. Lighting. Lighting of the battery energy storage systems shall be limited to that minimally required for safety, security and operational purposes and shall comply with Section 218-2.5.H.1.i of this Zoning Bylaw.
5. Setbacks. **Small** Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from all side, rear, and front lot lines. In addition, a minimum of 10 feet must be maintained between BESS components and all buildings, stored combustible materials, hazardous materials, high-piled storage, personnel means of egress, and other exposure hazards not associated with electrical grid infrastructure.
6. Dimensional. Battery Energy Storage Systems shall comply with the dimensional limitations or principal structures of the underlying zoning district as provided in Section 218-6 of this Zoning Bylaw, unless otherwise provided in this bylaw.
7. Screening and Visibility. Small Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems shall have views minimized from adjacent properties to the extent reasonably practicable using architectural features, earth berms, landscaping, or other screening methods that will harmonize with the character of the property and surrounding area. Such features may not inhibit required air flow to or exhaust from the BESS and components and must comply with the setbacks established above,
8. Mitigation for Loss of Carbon Sequestration and Forest Habitat. If land that is Forestland or has been Forestland within one year immediately preceding the filing an application to install a BESS, the plans shall designate thereon an area of unprotected (meaning, not subject to G.L. c. 184, sections 31-33 at time of application) land on the same lot and of a size equal to two times the total area of Forestland that will be eliminated, cut, destroyed, or otherwise disturbed by such installation. Such designated land shall remain in substantially its natural condition without alteration, including prohibition of commercial forestry or tree cutting not related to the maintenance of the installation, until such time as the installation is decommissioned; except in response to a natural occurrence, invasive species or disease that impacts the trees and requires cutting to preserve the health of the forest.
9. Fire Protection: Any such building, built or modified as a BESS shall have a full fire protection system, designed and engineered to meet the hazard regardless of building size. Any facility located in an area not served by a municipal water supply shall install a cistern of not less than 20,000 gallons for fire protection systems and firefighting operations. Cisterns shall be sized accordingly for fire protection based on the Large-scale-fire test data and modeling
10. Batteries. Failed battery cells and modules shall not be stored on the site and shall be removed no later than 30 days after deemed failed by the BESS operator or cell/module manufacturer. The operator shall notify the Groton Fire Department in advance if the type of battery or batteries used onsite is to be changed.

11. Decommissioning Plan. The applicant shall submit with its application a decommissioning plan for a BESS to be implemented upon abandonment and/or in conjunction with removal of the facility. The owner or operator of the BESS shall notify the Building Inspector in writing at least twenty days prior to when a Small Scale BESS will be decommissioned. Decommissioning of an abandoned or discontinued BESS shall be completed within six months after the facility ceases operation. The decommissioning plan shall include:
 - a. A narrative description of the activities to be accomplished, including who will perform that activity and at what point in time, for complete physical removal of all battery energy storage system components, structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines from the site;
 - b. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations; The anticipated life of the battery energy storage system;
 - c. The estimated decommissioning costs and how said estimate was determined;
 - d. The method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration;
 - e. The method by which the decommissioning cost will be kept current;
 - f. The manner in which the site will be restored, including a description of how any changes to the surrounding areas and other systems adjacent to the battery energy storage system, such as, but not limited to, structural elements, building penetrations, means of egress, and required fire detection suppression systems, will be protected during decommissioning and confirmed as being acceptable after the system is removed; and
 - g. A listing of any contingencies for removing an intact operational energy storage system from service, and for removing an energy storage system from service that has been damaged by a fire or other event.
12. Decommissioning Fund. The owner and/or operator of the energy storage system shall continuously maintain a fund or other surety acceptable to the Town, in a form approved by the Planning Board and Town Counsel, for the removal of the battery energy storage system, in an amount to be determined by the Town, for the period of the life of the facility. All costs of the financial security shall be borne by the applicant.
13. Proof of Liability Insurance. The applicant or property owner shall provide evidence of commercially liability insurance in an amount and type generally acceptable in the industry and approved by the Planning Board prior to the issuance of a building permit, and shall continue such insurance in effect until such facility has been decommissioned, removed, and the site restored in accordance with this bylaw
- D. Site plan application. For a Small Scale Battery Energy Storage System, the site plan application shall include the following information, in addition to that required elsewhere in this Zoning Bylaw and the Planning Board Rules and Regulations:
 1. A one or three-line electrical diagram detailing the battery energy storage system layout, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all State Electrical Code compliant disconnects and over current devices.

2. A preliminary equipment specification sheet that documents the proposed battery energy storage system components, inverters and associated electrical equipment that are to be installed. A final equipment specification sheet shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit.
 3. Name, address, and contact information of proposed or potential system installer and the owner and/or operator of the battery energy storage system. Such information of the final system installer shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit.
- E. Commissioning Plan. The system installer or commissioning agent shall prepare a commissioning plan prior to the start of commissioning. Such plan shall be compliant with NFPA 855 and document and verify that the system and its associated controls and safety systems are in proper working condition per requirements set forth in applicable state codes. Where commissioning is required by the Building Code, battery energy storage system commissioning shall be conducted by a Massachusetts Licensed Professional Engineer after the installation is complete but prior to final inspection and approval. A corrective action plan shall be developed for any open or continuing issues that are allowed to be continued after commissioning. A report describing the results of the system commissioning and including the results of the initial acceptance testing required by applicable state codes shall be provided to the Building Inspector prior to final inspection and approval and maintained at an approved on-site location.
 - F. Fire Safety Compliance Plan. Such plan shall document and verify that the system and its associated controls and safety systems are in compliance with state codes, including documentation that BESS components comply with the safety standards set forth in subsection 218-10. L.
 - G. Operation and Maintenance Manual. Such plan shall describe continuing battery energy storage system maintenance and property upkeep, as well as design, construction, installation, testing and commissioning information and shall meet all requirements set forth state codes and NFPA 855. Maintenance provisions will be driven by manufacturer requirements for the specific listed system
 - H. Depending on the location of the BESS in relation to and its interaction with the electrical grid, interconnection will be completed per 527 CMR 12.00. System interconnections into utility grids shall be in accordance with NFPA 855. An accessible disconnect is required per 527 CMR 12.00.
 - I. Prior to the issuance of the building permit, engineering documents must be signed and sealed by a Massachusetts Licensed Professional Engineer.
 - J. Emergency Operations Plan. An Emergency Operations Plan compliant with NFPA 855 is required. A copy of the approved Emergency Operations Plan shall be given to the system owner, the local fire department, and local fire code official. For so long as the BESS is operational, the operator shall provide the Fire Department, Police Department, Building Inspector, and Town Manager's office with contact information for personnel that can be reached 24 hours per day every day, and this contact information shall be updated by the operator whenever there is a change in the information. The operator shall also be required

to have an official representative be present onsite not later than two hours after notification by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, or their designee. A permanent copy shall also be placed in an approved location to be accessible to facility personnel, fire code officials, and emergency responders. The emergency operations plan shall include the following information:

1. Procedures for safe shutdown, de-energizing, or isolation of equipment and systems under emergency conditions to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injuries, and for safe start-up following cessation of emergency conditions.
 2. Procedures for inspection and testing of associated alarms, interlocks, and controls, including time intervals for inspection and testing.
 3. Procedures to be followed in response to notifications from the Battery Energy Storage Management System, when provided, that could signify potentially dangerous conditions, including shutting down equipment, summoning service and repair personnel, and providing agreed upon notification to fire department personnel for potentially hazardous conditions in the event of a system failure.
 4. Emergency procedures to be followed in case of fire, explosion, release of liquids or vapors, damage to critical moving parts, or other potentially dangerous conditions. Procedures can include sounding the alarm, notifying the fire department, evacuating personnel, de-energizing equipment, and controlling and extinguishing the fire.
 5. Response considerations similar to a safety data sheet (SDS) that will address response safety concerns and extinguishment when an SDS is not required.
 6. Procedures for safe disposal of battery energy storage system equipment damaged in a fire or other emergency event, including maintaining contact information for personnel qualified to safely remove damaged battery energy storage system equipment from the facility.
 7. Other procedures as determined necessary by the Town to provide for the safety of occupants, neighboring properties, and emergency responders.
 8. Procedures and schedules for conducting drills of these procedures and for training local first responders on the contents of the plan and appropriate response procedure.
- K. Ownership Changes. If the owner of the battery energy storage system changes or the owner of the property changes, the Site Plan Review approval conditions shall remain in effect, provided that the successor owner or operator assumes in writing all of the obligations of the site plan approval conditions, and decommissioning plan. A new owner or operator of the battery energy storage system shall notify the Building Commissioner of such change in ownership or operator within 14 days of the ownership change. A new owner or operator must provide such notification to the Building Inspector in writing.

L. Safety

1. System Certification. Battery energy storage systems and equipment shall be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory to UL 9540 (Standard for battery energy storage systems and equipment) or approved equivalent, with subcomponents meeting each of the following standards as applicable:
 - a. UL 1973 (Standard for Batteries for Use in Stationary, Vehicle Auxiliary Power and Light Electric Rail Applications),
 - b. UL 1642 (Standard for Lithium Batteries),
 - c. UL 1741 or UL 62109 (Inverters and Power Converters),
 - d. Certified under the applicable electrical, building, and fire prevention codes as required.
 - e. Alternatively, field evaluation by an approved testing laboratory for compliance with UL 9540 (or approved equivalent) and applicable codes, regulations and safety standards may be used to meet system certification requirements.
 2. Site Access. Battery energy storage systems shall be maintained in good working order and in accordance with industry standards. Site access shall be maintained, including snow removal at a level acceptable to the local fire department.
 3. Battery energy storage systems, components, and associated ancillary equipment shall have required working space clearances, and electrical circuitry shall be within weatherproof enclosures marked with the environmental rating suitable for the type of exposure in compliance with NFPA 70.
- M. Abandonment.
- The battery energy storage system shall be considered abandoned when it ceases to operate consistently for more than one year. If the owner and/or operator fails to comply with decommissioning upon any abandonment, the Town may, after compliance with any applicable state and federal constitutional requirements, enter the property and utilize the available bond and/or security for the removal of a BESS and restoration of the site in accordance with the decommissioning plan.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Planning Board:

Summary: *This article proposes amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw to bring Groton's regulations into compliance with new Massachusetts requirements governing the siting and permitting of small clean energy facilities. The amendments establish definitions and local permitting procedures for small clean energy generation, energy storage, and certain transmission and distribution facilities, including a consolidated local permitting process and Major Site Plan*

Review by the Planning Board. The article also updates the Town's regulations for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), including applicable size thresholds and requirements for setbacks, screening, fire protection, emergency response, safety, decommissioning, financial security, and other measures intended to protect neighboring properties and the community. The purpose of these amendments is to comply with the Commonwealth's new clean energy siting requirements while maintaining appropriate local review and reasonable protections for public safety, the environment, and surrounding properties.

Article 17: Small Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facilities

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 218-10.3 Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facilities as proposed with the tracked edits as follows:

§ 218-10.3 ~~Large~~~~Small~~-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facilities.

A. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to ~~promote the creation of new large~~~~regulate small~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations by providing standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such installations that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations. The provisions set forth in this section shall apply to the construction, operation, and/or repair of ~~large~~~~small~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

B. Applicability. This section applies to ~~small~~~~large~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this section. This section also pertains to physical modifications that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of these installations or related equipment. ~~Small scale solar ground mounted photovoltaic installations subject to this bylaw are only those that exceed a minimum nameplate capacity of 250 kw DC and do not exceed 25 MW. Ground mounted solar photo voltaic installations shall be regulated by the Energy Facilities Siting Board.~~

1. General requirements for all ~~small~~~~large~~-scale solar power generation installations. The following requirements are common to all solar photovoltaic installations to be sited in designated locations.

1.1 Compliance with laws, ordinances and regulations. The construction and operation of all ~~large~~~~small~~-scale solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings and fixtures forming part of a solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code.

1.2 Building permit and building inspection. No ~~large~~~~small~~-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed, installed or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining appropriate permits.

1.3 Fees. The application for a building permit for a ~~large~~small-scale solar photovoltaic installation must be accompanied by the fee required for a building permit.

1.4 Site plan review. Ground-mounted ~~large~~small-scale solar photovoltaic installations with 250 kW or larger of rated nameplate capacity shall undergo site plan review by the Planning Board prior to ~~construction, installation or issuance of a building permit or~~ modification as provided in this section.

1.4.1 General. All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a professional engineer licensed to practice in Massachusetts.

1.4.2 Required documents. Pursuant to the site plan review process, the project proponent shall provide the following documents:

- (a) A site plan showing:
 - i. Property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site;
 - ii. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures;
 - iii. Blueprints or drawings of the solar photovoltaic installation signed by a professional engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading from nearby structures
 - iv. One or three line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;
 - v. Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the PV panels, mounting system, and inverter;
 - vi. Name, address, and contact information for proposed system installer;
 - vii. Name, address, phone number and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents or property owners, if any;
 - viii. The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the project proponent; and
- (b) Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site (see also Subsection 1.5);
- (c) An operation and maintenance plan (see also Subsection 1.6);
- (d) Zoning district designation for the parcel(s) of land comprising the project site [submission of a copy of a zoning map with the parcel(s) identified is suitable for this purpose];
- (e) Proof of liability insurance; and
- (f) Description of financial surety that satisfies Subsection 1.13.3.

1.5 The Planning Board may waive documentary requirements as it deems appropriate

- a) ~~1.5~~ Site control. The project proponent shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed solar photovoltaic installation. Fencing along the site's perimeter shall be provided to control access to a ~~large~~small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic facility in order to prevent access to the facility. The fencing shall be compatible with the scenic character of the Town and shall not consist of barbed wire or razor wire.

- b) ~~1-6~~ Operation and maintenance plan. The project proponent shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the ~~largesmall~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, stormwater controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.
- c) ~~1-7~~ Utility notification. No ~~largesmall~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed until evidence has been given to the Planning Board that the local electric utility has approved the solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned generator. Off-grid systems less than 250 kW shall be exempt from this requirement. The Building Commissioner may issue a permit only if the ~~largesmall~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic device complies with this section.
- d) ~~1-8~~ Waivers. If the ~~proposed installation device~~ does not comply with one or more of the following ~~zoning~~ requirements, the applicant shall be required to obtain a special permit from the Planning Board waiving such requirement(s) after finding that such waiver(s) will not derogate from the intent of this chapter or be detrimental or injurious to the public.

~~1.69~~ Dimension and density requirements.

~~1.96-1~~ Setbacks. For ~~largesmall~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, front, side and rear setbacks shall be as follows:

- (a) Front yard: The front yard depth shall be at least 50 feet.
- (b) Side yard: Each side yard shall have a depth at least 50 feet.
- (c) Rear yard: The rear yard depth shall be at least 50 feet.

~~1.69.2~~ Appurtenant structures. All appurtenant structures to ~~largesmall~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures, lot area, setbacks, open space, parking and building coverage requirements. All such appurtenant structures, including, but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Whenever reasonable, structures should be shaded from view by vegetation and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.

~~1.710~~ Design standards.

~~1.710.1~~ Lighting. Lighting of solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety, security, and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. Where feasible, lighting of the solar photovoltaic installation shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution ~~consistent with dark sky provisions~~.

~~1.710.2~~ Signage. Signs on ~~largesmall~~-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall comply with the Town's sign bylaw. A sign consistent with the Town's sign bylaw shall be required to identify the owner and provide a twenty-four-hour emergency contact phone number. Solar

photovoltaic installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the solar photovoltaic installation.

1.740.3 Utility connections. Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Planning Board, shall be made to place all utility connections from the solar photovoltaic installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the electric utility. If an existing aboveground connection solution already exists, however, this can be used if it meets the requirements of the electric utility. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be ~~aboveground~~above ground if required by the electric utility.

1.740.4 Stormwater management. Calculations of storm drainage to demonstrate and assure compliance with the requirements of all applicable federal, state and local regulations and guidelines including, but not limited to, the Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Management Policy, as it may be amended, must be provided for any ~~large~~small-scale solar photovoltaic installation.

1.844 Safety and environmental standards.

1.844.1 Emergency services. The ~~large~~small-scale solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the local fire chief and electric utility. Upon request, the owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the solar photovoltaic installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

1.844.2 Land clearing, soil erosion and habitat impacts. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the ~~large~~small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws. Clearing to minimize shading is acceptable.

1.942 Monitoring and maintenance.

1.942.1 Solar photovoltaic installation conditions. The ~~large~~small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the local Fire Chief and emergency medical services. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the solar photovoltaic installation and any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way.

1.942.2 Modifications. All material modifications to a solar photovoltaic installation made after issuance of the required building permit shall require approval by the Planning Board and the electric utility.

1.1043 Abandonment or decommissioning.

1.1043.1 Removal requirements. Any ~~large~~small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with Subsection 1.13.2 of this section shall be removed. The owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than 150 days after the date of discontinued operations. The owner or

operator shall notify the Planning Board by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal. Decommissioning shall consist of:

- (a) Physical removal of all ~~large~~small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site.
- (b) Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.
- (c) Stabilization or revegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The Planning Board may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.

1.~~10~~3.2 Abandonment. Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the solar photovoltaic installation shall be considered abandoned when it fails to operate for more than one year without the written consent of the Planning Board. If the owner or operator of the ~~large~~small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section within 150 days of abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the Town may enter the property and physically remove the installation.

1.1~~03~~.3 Financial surety. Proponents of ~~large~~small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic projects shall provide a form of surety, either through escrow account, bond or otherwise in a form acceptable to Town Counsel, to cover the cost of removal in the event the Town must remove the installation and remediate the landscape, in an amount and form determined to be reasonable by the Planning Board, but in no event to exceed more than 125% of the cost of removal and compliance with the additional requirements set forth herein, as determined by the project proponent. Such surety will not be required for municipally or state-owned facilities. The project proponent shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal, prepared by a qualified engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Planning Board:

Summary: *This Article proposes amendments to Section 218-10.3 of the Zoning Bylaw governing ground-mounted solar photovoltaic facilities to ensure consistency with recent changes in Massachusetts law regulating small-scale clean energy infrastructure. The proposed amendments revise the bylaw to apply to ground-mounted solar photovoltaic facilities with a nameplate capacity greater than 250 kW DC and up to 25 MW, which are now subject to review under the Commonwealth's Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) regulations. Approval of this article will update the Town's existing solar bylaw to reflect current Massachusetts law while maintaining local oversight of project design, construction, operation, and eventual site restoration.*

Article 18: *Citizens' Petition – Senior Property Tax Freeze Program*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the following Special Act, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SENIOR PROPERTY TAX FREEZE PROGRAM IN THE TOWN OF GROTON

Section 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the town of Groton is authorized to establish a senior property tax freeze program for qualifying residential property owners.

Section 2. A qualifying property owner shall be seventy (70) years of age or older, have owned and occupied the property as his or her principal residence, have resided in the town of Groton for at least thirty-five (35) consecutive years immediately preceding the application, and shall meet any additional eligibility requirements that the town may establish by bylaw, including income or asset limits if deemed appropriate.

Section 3. The real property taxes assessed on the parcel or parcels containing the qualifying property owner's principal residence shall be frozen at the amount due for the fiscal year in which the property owner first becomes eligible for the program. The property owner shall remain responsible for paying the frozen amount each year, but no future increases in the tax assessment shall apply while the property owner remains eligible for the program.

Section 4. Eligibility shall continue only while the parcel remains the property owner's principal residence and all eligibility requirements continue to be met.

Section 5. The town's Select Board may adopt rules and regulations necessary to administer the program.

Section 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Citizens' Petition

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Samuel A. Palmer	12 Skinners Lane	Shelley Ann Bickford	127 Lost Lake Drive
Marilyn Palmer	12 Skinners Lane	Lois H. Young	28 Champney Street
W. David Nelson	282 Farmers Row	Brett E. Stevens	186 Lost Lake Drive
Violetta O'Donnell	555 Boston Road	Steven Sinatra	32 Indian Road
Cynthia Thompson	7 Castle Drive	Ryan Stevens	21 A Hazel Road

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: This article requests that Town Meeting authorize the Select Board to petition the Massachusetts General Court for special legislation to establish a Senior Property Tax Freeze Program for the Town of Groton. If enacted, the proposed legislation would permit Groton to freeze the annual real estate tax on the principal residence of eligible senior homeowners. To qualify, a homeowner would be required to be at least 70 years of age, have owned and occupied the property as a principal residence, have resided in the Town of Groton for at least 35 consecutive years immediately preceding application, and satisfy any additional eligibility requirements established by the Town, including any income or asset limitations that may be adopted. Under the proposed program, eligible homeowners would continue to pay their annual property taxes, but the amount would remain at the level in effect when they first qualified for the program. The tax would not be eliminated, and the freeze would remain in effect only while the homeowner continues to meet all eligibility requirements and occupies the property as a principal residence.

Article 19: Citizens' Petition – Study Housing Opportunities and Municipal Finance

WHEREAS, the Town faces a serious and continuing fiscal imbalance that threatens its ability to meet its financial obligations to the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District and to provide adequate staffing and resources for police, fire, and other essential public services; THEREFORE, to see if the Town will vote to request that the Select Board, Planning Board, Finance Committee, Town Manager, Board of Assessors, Affordable Housing Trust, School Committee, and other appropriate town boards, committees, departments, and officials undertake a coordinated study of a range of realistic opportunities to increase and diversify Groton's housing stock for the purpose of expanding the property-tax base, strengthening and stabilizing the Town's finances, and helping provide the revenue necessary to meet Groton's financial obligations to the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District and its essential public services. The study shall evaluate potential housing approaches in terms of their likely property-tax revenue, their expected effects on school and municipal services, their likely net fiscal benefit to the Town, and their consistency with the goals and policies expressed in Groton's adopted plans and other official town documents. The study shall consider a range of options rather than a single predetermined proposal. The participating boards, committees, departments, and officials shall present a written report of their findings, options, and recommendations to the 2027 Spring Annual Town Meeting, including any recommendation for additional study or professional assistance; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Citizens' Petition

NAME	ADDRESS	NAME	ADDRESS
Russell Harris	25 Longley Road	Effie Stewart	20 Old Orchard Street
Deborah Johnson	25 Longley Road	M. Constance Sartini	38 Mill Street
Virginia Wood	293 Old Dunstable Road	Eric Fisher	7B Lilac Circle
Jamie Christerson	189 Forge Village Road	Marc Broussard	19 Lowell Road
Robert Stewart	20 Old Orchard Street	Nancy Fleischer	119 Nashua Road

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *This citizens' petition asks Groton officials to study whether adding and diversifying housing could strengthen the town's property-tax base and help address ongoing financial pressures, including school funding and essential municipal services. The study would compare a range of housing approaches, weighing tax revenue, service costs, net fiscal impact and consistency with town plans, and report its findings and recommendations to the 2027 Spring Annual Town Meeting.*

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 14th Day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Nicholas J. Degaitas, Jr.

Nicholas J. Degaitas, Jr., Clerk

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, Member

Matthew F. Pisani

Matthew F. Pisani, 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

Police Camera Working Group

August 18, 2026

6 PM

First Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall

1. Finalize the mission statement
2. Review of the department policy on the cameras
3. Review transparency portal
4. Review of Flock cases
5. Report back regarding meeting I had with Axon on June 16
6. Compare Flock vs. Axon
7. Schedule the Forum – Week of September 21st
 - Demo of Flock
 - Discuss Flock vs Axon
 - Make sure slides answer the citizen questions we have received so far

Mission Police Camera Working Group

Option 1: Professional and Balanced

The mission of the Police Camera Working Group is to evaluate and provide informed recommendations regarding public safety camera technologies, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and community engagement. Through collaborative discussion and diverse perspectives, the group seeks to address community questions, promote understanding, and support responsible technology investments that enhance public safety and crime prevention in Groton.

Option 2: Community-Focused

The Police Camera Working Group is committed to fostering open dialogue, transparency, and public trust as Groton explores and implements camera technologies. By bringing together individuals with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints, the group will examine the benefits, challenges, and community concerns associated with these technologies and provide thoughtful guidance that serves the best interests of the town.

Option 3: Concise

To provide objective, community-informed guidance on police camera technologies by evaluating their effectiveness, addressing public concerns, and supporting transparent decision-making that enhances public safety in Groton.

Option 4: Emphasizing Public Trust

The mission of the Police Camera Working Group is to promote informed, transparent, and community-centered discussions about police camera technologies. By examining facts, addressing questions and concerns, and considering diverse viewpoints, the group will help ensure that technology investments support public safety while maintaining community trust and accountability.

Option 5: Future-Oriented

The Police Camera Working Group exists to evaluate current and emerging camera technologies, including fixed cameras, license plate readers, and body-worn cameras, through a collaborative and transparent process. The group's goal is to provide informed recommendations, address community concerns, and support technology decisions that improve public safety, accountability, and public confidence in the Groton Police Department.



GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

		DEPARTMENT MANUAL; P&P Operations	
POLICY & PROCEDURE #: 1.47		DATE OF ISSUE:	EFFECTIVE DATE:
		2/2/2026	2/2/2026
SUBJECT: Flock Safety Cameras (ALPR)		ISSUING AUTHORITY: Chief Michael F. Luth	
REFERENCE(S): Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission # 41.3.9		☒ X NEW ☐ AMENDS ☐ RESCINDS	

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the capture, storage and use of digital data obtained through the use of automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology.

II. POLICY

The ALPR technology, also known as License Plate Recognition (LPR), allow for the automated detection of license plates along with the vehicle make, model, color and unique identifiers through the Groton Police Department's ALPR system and the vendor's (Flock Safety) vehicle identification technology. The technology is used by the Groton Police Department to convert data associated with vehicle license plates and vehicle descriptions for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates and missing persons. It may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

III. DEFINITIONS

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR): A device that uses cameras and computer technology to compare digital images to lists of known information of interest.

ALPR Operator: Trained department members may utilize ALPR system/equipment as deemed by the ALPR administrator. ALPR operators may be assigned to any position within the

department and the ALPR Administrator may order the deployment of the ALPR systems for use in various efforts.

ALPR Administrator: The Deputy Chief serves as the ALPR administrator for the department.

Hot List: A list of license plates associated with vehicles of interest compiled from one or more databases including, but not limited to, NCIC, CJIS, MA RMV, Local BOLO's, etc.

Vehicles of Interest: Including, but not limited to, vehicles which are reported as stolen, display stolen license plates, linked to missing/wanted persons and vehicles flagged by the RMV or other law enforcement agencies.

Detection: Data obtained by an ALPR of an image within a public view that was read by the device, including potential images (such as the plate and description of vehicle on which it was displayed) and information regarding the location of the ALPR system at the time of the ALPR's read.

Hit: Alert from the ALPR system that scanned a license plate number may be in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), or other law enforcement database for a specific reason including, but not limited to, relation to a stolen license plate/vehicle, wanted person, missing person, or terrorist related activity.

IV. PROCEDURES [41.3.9(3A)(3B)]

Use of an ALPR is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department members shall not use or allow others to use the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose.

1. Training – No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department approved training.
2. Login/Logout Procedure – To ensure proper operation and to facilitate oversight of the ALPR system, all users will be required to have individual credentials for access and use of the system and/or data, which has the ability to be fully audited.
3. Permitted/Impermissible Uses – The ALPR system and all data collected is property of the Groton Police Department. Department personnel may only access and use the ALPR system for official and legitimate law enforcement purposes consistent with this policy. The following uses of the ALPR system are specifically prohibited:
 - a. Harassment or Intimidation - It is a violation of this policy to use the ALPR system to harass and/or intimidate any individual group.
 - b. Use based on a protected characteristic – it is a violation of this policy to use the ALPR system or associated files or hot lists solely based on a person's or group's race, gender, religion, political affiliation, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or other classification protected by law.
 - c. Personal use: it is a violation of this policy to use the ALPR system or associated files or hot lists for personal use or knowledge.

4. Anyone who engages in the impermissible use of the ALPR system or associated files and/or hot list may be subject to the following:
 - a. Criminal prosecution in accordance to applicable laws.
 - b. Civil liability
 - c. Administrative sanctions, up to and including termination, pursuant to and consistent with the relevant collective bargaining agreement and department policies.
5. Visual Verification of license plate number- the officer should verify an ALPR response through the CJIS/NCIC telecommunications system (absent exigent circumstances) before taking enforcement action that is based solely on an ALPR alert. This can be done via the MDT, dispatch or records. Once an alert has been received, the operator should confirm that the observed license plate from the system matches the license plate of the observed vehicle. Because the ALPR alert may be related to a vehicle and may not relate to the person operating the vehicle, officers are reminded that they need to have reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause to make an enforcement stop of any vehicle.
6. Only properly trained sworn officers and the department's IT liaison are allowed access to the ALPR system or to collect ALPR information.
7. Departmental computers, databases, cell phone applications or other electronic devices compatible with Flock Safety may be used for ALPR monitoring in accordance with this policy.
8. Any and all hot list, hot plate, BOLO's or suspect information entered into the ALPR system shall be approved by a supervisor.

A. Data Collection and Retention [41.3.9(3D)(3E)(3G)]

The Detective is responsible for ensuring systems and processes are in place for the proper collection and retention of ALPR data. Data will be transferred to the designated storage in accordance with department procedures.

All ALPR data downloaded to the server should be stored for no longer than thirty (30) days and in accordance with the established records retention schedule. Thereafter, ALPR data should be purged unless it has become, or it is reasonable to believe it will become evidence in a criminal or civil action or is the subject to a discovery request or other lawful action to produce records. In those circumstances the applicable data should be downloaded from the server onto portable media and booked into evidence, maintained on the investigators computer or kept within the investigator's case file.

B. Accountability and Safeguards [41.3.9(3F)]

All data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The Groton Police Department will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and stored data

1. All non-law enforcement requests for access to stored ALPR data shall be processed in accordance with applicable procedures.
2. All ALPR data downloaded to the workstation shall be accessible only through a login/password protected system (Flock) capable of documenting all access of information by name, date and time.
3. Persons approved to access ALPR data under these guidelines are permitted to access the data for legitimate law enforcement purposes only, such as when the data relates to a specific criminal investigation or department related civil or administrative action.
4. ALPR data may be released to other authorized and verified law enforcement officials and agencies for legitimate law enforcement purposes.
5. Every ALPR browsing inquiry must be documented by either an associated Groton Police Department case number or a specific reason for the inquiry. (The word 'investigation' alone is not considered specific)

C. ALPR Data Detection Browsing Audits

It is the responsibility of the Deputy Chief to ensure that an audit is conducted of ALPR detection browsing inquiries at least once during each calendar year. The department will audit a sampling of the ALPR system utilization from the prior twelve (12) month period to verify proper use in accordance with the above authorized uses. The audit shall randomly select at least ten (10) detection browsing inquiries conducted by department employees during the preceding six (6) month period and determine if each inquiry meets the requirements established.

The audit shall be documented in the form of an internal department memorandum to the Chief of Police. The memorandum shall include any data errors found so that such errors can be corrected.

D. Releasing ALPR Data

The ALPR data may be shared only with other law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for official law enforcement purposes or as otherwise permitted by law. The agency makes a written request for the ALPR data that includes:

Name of agency

Name and position of person requesting

Intended purpose for obtaining the information

The request is reviewed by a supervisor and approved prior to the request being fulfilled.

E. Training [41.3.9(3C)]

The Deputy Chief is responsible for and should ensure that members receive department approved training for those authorized to use or access the ALPR System.

Flock Questions and Answers for Select Board

1. Is this mass surveillance?

- a. The system is designed around vehicle evidence with limited retention, we have complete local control, and there are full audit trails so every search that is done is accountable, reviewable, and tied to a legitimate investigative use.
- b. LPR cameras read license plates and vehicle attributes, they do not read faces. People are not a searchable category.
- c. Flock does not have access to personally identifiable information. They can't see what is on our system due to it's encryption.
- d. Vehicle based searches reduce reliance on subjective descriptions alone
- e. The Groton Police controls access. We have opted out of external sharing, therefore, no outside police departments, both local and federal, have any access. GPD owns the data outright and for any data, the outside agency has to request the information, as they would with any town owned camera.
- f. Audits are done regularly by the Deputy Chief of Police per policy. Only three officers have access to the system. Every search that officers do is logged and is reviewable through the audit.
- g. Data retention is very limited per our policy

2. Will residents' data be shared with federal agencies, or sold?

- a. The Groton Police controls access. We have opted out of external sharing, therefore, no outside police departments, both local and federal, have any access. GPD owns the data outright and for any data, the outside agency has to request the information, as they would with any town owned camera.
- b. Data is encrypted, so only the authorized officers with accounts can view it. Flock does not have access to the data, so they can't share it or sell it.

3. How is the system used?

- a. There are 2 types of cameras, LPRs and live cameras. LPRs are the searchable cameras, the live camera is like a traditional surveillance camera. The LPRs an officer can search by vehicle attributes or license plate. People are not captured by the LPR. The LPR is taking a picture of the front or back of the vehicle, depending on the direction of travel. The live cameras are video recordings of select intersections and officers must search this manually by date and time, not by vehicle attributes. I.E. if we know an accident occurred at an intersection, we have a date and time and can pull that up. We cannot search the live cameras any other way, and people are not searchable in any way.
- b. All comparisons of license plates/vehicle attributes are done by an actual user, not the system. The system takes pictures, the pictures are searchable, and it is

up to the officer to confirm the accuracy of the picture per policy, and best practices in criminal investigations.

4. Who is reviewing how the system is used?
 - a. We only have three officers who have access to the system.
 - b. The system is audited regularly per policy by the Deputy Chief of Police.
 - c. Searches are tied to the individual users, have a time stamp, information searched and the case it is tied to.
 - d. Searches are done following MA CJIS regulations. Officers must have a valid criminal justice reason to conduct a search.
5. What about ICE and the Shield Law?
 - a. We do not share nationwide or federally. We share with two agencies outside of Groton, MA State Police and NESPIN – they are the regional crime intelligence clearing center. We regularly use them to help us solve cases
 - b. Immigration detainers and civil warrants do not constitute a need to share our data with those federal agencies per Massachusetts Law.
 - c. Per our policy, and MA law, there are search filters in place that automatically flag and block officers from searching vehicles that would violate the shield law.
6. Is Flock data secure?
 - a. Flock cameras have no public IP, therefore, are not addressable remotely to access footage.
 - b. All data collection points are equipped with secure communication protocols to protect data in transit from interception and tampering.
 - c. All data is encrypted using industry-standard algorithms (AWS Key Management Service or KMS) before being transmitted to our servers.
 - d. CJIS data is stored in the AWS GovCloud.
 - e. Flock is CJIS certified as well as NDAA, SOC2 (Type II), SOC3, ISO 27001, Higher Education Community Vendor Assessment Tool (HECVAT), HIPAA, and FERPA compliant. They are also aligned with security protocols established by NIST Cybersecurity as well as Cloud Security Alliance's CAIQ framework.

Differences between Flock and Axon LPRs

1. Primary Function & Equipment

- **Flock Safety:** Focuses primarily on fixed cameras mounted on poles or traffic lights. They capture vehicle details (make, model, color, license plate)
- **Axon:** Traditionally known for body-worn cameras, tasers, and in-car dashcams Axon also offers an automated license plate reading system designed to attach to similar surfaces as Flock, but it focuses on localized, department-only control.

2. Data Sharing and the "National Database"

- **Flock:** Operates a massive, searchable national database. This allows multiple law enforcement agencies across different cities or states to opt to share and search for vehicle tracking data easily, either nationally, statewide, or with specific jurisdictions.
- **Axon:** Their network is primarily built to be localized and controlled by the individual agency, however does allow an invite-only system for neighboring departments to share or audit footage. (so essentially the same thing)

3. Privacy and Data Control

- **Flock:** Because of the wide-ranging data sharing and partnerships (which have occasionally included federal agencies), Flock systems often face public scrutiny and pushback from privacy advocacy groups over mass surveillance concerns.
- **Axon:** Allows municipalities to strictly control their own data and because Axon does not offer cross-department data pooling, many cities are transitioning to Axon to appease local privacy concerns.

Here is what Flock has on their website about their cyber security.

- <https://www.flocksafety.com/blog/flock-safety-cybersecurity-how-we-protect-customer-community-data>
- <https://www.flocksafety.com/trust/data-privacy>

I don't know much about Axon cameras yet, and have a zoom with them in the coming weeks to learn about their products.

- <https://www.axon.com/products/axon-outpost>
- I couldn't find anything on their website about how they store their data, so I'll have to ask that, but I assume it's similar. I have a zoom meeting with them June 16th

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER AT FORUM - PAT

Rachael Mead

From: Pat Parker-Roach <Pat@parker-roach.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 11:23 AM
To: Rachael Mead
Cc: Brian Callahan; cjr@lawcjrpc.com; Mark Haddad; Michael Chiasson; Paul Garcia
Subject: Re: Police Camera Working Group Meeting

Greeting Fellow Working Group Members!

I have had some time to do a little research, read the recent Herald articles on Flock and to let things sink in a little bit. I have been participating in some Bunker Hill battle events all week in Charletown but have a little break to jot down a few thoughts.

I believe that whatever this working group recommends, the acceptance of the recommendation will be based much less on facts than on perception. The Herald article, which I believe will shape a lot of resident's perceptions on this issue, seemed long on assumptions and very short on facts relative to both the pros and cons of continued participation with Flock.

In my mind, citizens at Town Meeting will make their decision based upon the value proposition of whether the law enforcement/public safety benefits of continuing with Flock exceed their privacy concerns. In my mind, the financial balance sheet won't play much of a role.

Some thoughts/questions....

- The article in Herald referenced Chief Luth's statements regarding how the system could have been useful in previous investigations. During our meeting, Rebecca gave a real example of how the system helped make some parents feel more comfortable when they thought their daughters were being stalked. I can't remember whether the abandoned boat incident that Brian spoke to was solved or could have been solved with the help of Flock. If I remember right, we have been using Flock for at least a year. If there is any hope of convincing the public on the benefits to law enforcement/safety, we would need to present real, convincing narratives based on actual examples here in Groton. I don't think hypotheticals would carry the day.
- Regarding hypotheticals... a strong hypothetical often brought up is the Amber Alert scenario. The Herald article mentions that because Groton does not share its data with other towns, many don't share with Groton. This makes me wonder if the Flock system would be of any value in the Amber Alert situation if its use is only within our Town limits.
- The Herald article says that Mark Haddad said we are investigating the use of encryption to ensure that we are the only ones who can see our data. I personally would like a little more information on this. Does this only cover the shipping of data to/from Flock's cloud storage system? I assume that Flock already does this. My guess is that it means that the files get encrypted by us prior to

Pat Parker-Roach
Pat@Parker-Roach.com

"Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat." Sun Tzu - The Art of War

On Tue, Jun 16, 2026 at 9:35 AM Rachael Mead <rmead@grotonma.gov> wrote:

|

CITIZEN QUESTIONS #1

Rachael Mead

From: Rachael Mead
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Pat Parker-Roach
Cc: Brian Callahan; cjr@lawcjrpc.com; Mark Haddad; Michael Chiasson; Paul Garcia
Subject: Re: Questions from Paul Fitzgerald for Flock working group

Thank you Pat. This are very good points and I will add them to our agenda!

Rachael Mead
Deputy Chief
Groton Police

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Pat Parker-Roach <Pat@parker-roach.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2026 10:30:07
To: Rachael Mead <rmead@grotonma.gov>
Cc: Brian Callahan <bcallahan@grotonma.gov>; cjr@lawcjrpc.com <cjr@lawcjrpc.com>; Mark Haddad <mhaddad@grotonma.gov>; Michael Chiasson <mchiasson@grotonma.onmicrosoft.com>; Paul Garcia <paulgarcia48@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Fw: Questions from Paul Fitzgerald for Flock working group

Thanks Rachael

Looking at these questions, from what I have read from you and the Chief, we have answers to most, if not all of these questions. Unfortunately, posting them in the Herald, especially without coming to us to ask them first, will set an impression with those that read it that our working group is not transparent, is hiding things, and is sneaking money around to avoid the voice of the Town via Town Meeting. I still believe that votes at Town Meeting will be driven mostly by emotion based not so much on facts as on unfounded assertions from all sides of the issue. No matter how we might want to respond to these questions, the impression will already have been set in readers minds.

In full transparency to you, my fellow team members, I haven't taken a position yet on the "surveillance" question which I believe is different than the Flock question. I want to collect as many "facts" as possible before I advocate for anything. I have my ear to the ground leads me to believe that the motivation for the visible pushback on the Flock question isn't about "surveillance" but is about "process". There is a vocal group that is really angry about process. Specifically how we found alternate funding for the Flock contract after the Town Vote at the last meeting. Remember when we put in the "All Are Welcome" markers on the highways and the resultant uproar. In some forums after the fact, it turns out the the uproar wasn't about the markers as much as how we the decision was made to put them in. Just something I think we should keep in mind. I think we need to frame our work around a clear, concise team charter and work to keep all the other "noise" out of the public discussion.

The implementation of a new system, such as Flock, involves change. I have a theory of change - "People don't mind change as much as they mind **being changed**". I ahve been watching the Destination Groton

1. What version of Flock do we have?
2. What sharing and network options are there on our version and what has been enabled? Example:

<Screenshot 2026-05-29 at 4.16.53 PM.png>

3. During Town Meeting, I seem to recall that the Chief first said that only 3 people in the GPD can access Flock but later said Southern NH police and area police also have access. In the list on the GPD website it only has Massachusetts State MA PD and NESPIN - New England State Police Info. Are there additional entities beyond the two listed?
4. Do these entities we share with have independent access to the Groton Flock system and data or do they have to go through the 3 people on the GPD to ask for access each time?
5. What is the official GPD Flock policy on sharing?
6. An article to read for members of the Flock Study Group: <https://www.zerohedge.com/technology/flock-safety-defends-cameras-after-ai-system-triggers-wrongful-police-stops-two>
7. In the Flock Transparency Portal (<https://transparency.flocksafety.com/groton-ma-pd>) it shows the number of Hotlist Hits over the last 30 days. What percentage of hits were human verified in 2026? How are they "human verified"? What percentage of human verified were correct and incorrect? How do partial plate hits affect our Flock system? Why are some hits not acted upon? What is the ratio of correct human verified hits to Unique Vehicles Detected? What is the ratio of attempted human verified but determined to be a false hits to Unique Vehicles Detected?
8. Does the number of searches shown on the Portal include searches from the State PD, NESPIN and any and all other entities? Or is it only from GPD? What is the ratio of searches from GPD to other entities?
9. How many Amber Alerts and NCMEC from Flock have been acted on by the GPD in 2026? What is the ratio of Amber + NCMEC hits to NCIC hits?
10. How many NCIC hits in 2026 led to the car being stopped? How many of the stopped led to arrests? What is the ratio of hit stopped then arrested, to total Unique Vehicles Detected in 2026?
11. How many crimes have been solved in 2026 due to Flock? What is the ratio of crimes solved to total Unique Vehicles Detected?
12. There are 4 "LPR cameras only" but 6 "LPR and other cameras". What are the other two cameras used for by GPD?
13. What is the Pareto Analysis of the Number of Searches for 2026?
14. Could other government agencies access Groton's Flock data indirectly by going through Massachusetts State Police or NESPIN portals they have established? What does an analysis of their search histories reveal?
15. What is the total number of Searches in 2026? What does the audit of those searches show?
16. From precisely where in the GPD budget was the post-Town Meeting Flock contract payment made?

Thank you,

Paul Fitzgerald
272 Lowell Rd
Groton, MA 01450
978-337-8535 cell

CITIZEN QUESTIONS #2

Rachael Mead

From: Rachael Mead
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 1:29 PM
To: 'Big AL'; Mark Haddad
Cc: Moderator; Police; Kara Cruikshank
Subject: RE: RE: Help with town legislation

Hello Mr. Soloman,

I'm happy to take your questions to the working group. We have not scheduled the forum yet but I am looking at mid September. I will put something in the newspaper once I have a date. We are meeting later this month and will come up with a date at our next meeting.

You can also get more information on the flock cameras and what the working group has already discussed on the police department tab on the town's website. I have some frequent questions already answered here as well. They would be in the packet to the select board back in June.

Best,

Rachael Mead
Deputy Chief
Groton Police Department

From: Big AL <BigALSolomon@pm.me>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 1:22 PM
To: Mark Haddad <mhaddad@grotonma.gov>
Cc: Moderator <moderator@grotonma.gov>; Police <Police@grotonma.gov>; Kara Cruikshank <kcruikshank@grotonma.gov>
Subject: Re: RE: Help with town legislation

Hey Mark,

I wasn't expecting such a quick response. I truly appreciate how thoughtful and detailed you are here. That's how you've always operated at town meeting and it's nice to see it when it's just back to one person. This was going to be a stop gap before I could make a more detailed and comprehensive proposal on surveillance, mostly focused on data sharing. It's fantastic to hear you're already on it and I'd much rather engage in the manner you've suggested. I look forward to working with you. Only have a few questions.

Is the working group public? If not, could I submit some ideas or questions to consider?
Is there a date for the hearing or a way to be informed when it's scheduled?

Thanks again for your time,
AL

under your proposal? The DPW has installed several cameras that monitor road conditions that help with snow and ice removal. Would those need to be removed? More recently, at the request of several residents, the Town installed security cameras at Sargisson Beach to address public safety concerns. Would those cameras also have to be removed? The Working Group is reviewing Police Worn Cameras that are also used by several area Police Departments. Would these be banned as well? While your proposal appears focused on street surveillance, these examples demonstrate why clearly defining the scope of any policy is so important.

There are also legal and procedural questions regarding whether Town Meeting can require future Town Meeting approval for operational decisions or contracts in the manner proposed. Those are questions that would need to be reviewed by Town Counsel before any definitive answer could be provided. Based on my municipal experience, my initial inclination is that one Town Meeting cannot bind action on another Town Meeting. These are significant policy issues with practical, legal, and public safety implications, which is precisely why the Town established the Police Camera Working Group. My hope is that the Working Group process, including the upcoming public hearing, will allow these issues to be fully vetted before any action is considered.

That said, if after considering my position on this issue, if you still wish to move forward with a citizen petition article, you certainly have every right to do so. Please keep in mind that such an article requires the signatures of at least ten registered Groton voters and must be filed with the Town Clerk no later than Thursday, August 13, at the close of business. If you do decide to submit the petition, I would respectfully ask that you provide it to the Town Clerk by Tuesday, August 11, if possible, to allow sufficient time for the signatures to be certified before the filing deadline.

Thank you again for contacting me and for your willingness to engage constructively on this issue. I hope you will participate in the upcoming public hearing, as I believe it will provide the best opportunity for a thoughtful community discussion before any policy decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Haddad
Town Manager

The flock info site notes that we have 4 LPR but 6 total. What are the other 2?

Is there any other street level surveillance devices being used that might need to be exceptions in this article or might force a different wording?

Is requiring a future town meeting vote something that I can even put into an article at town meeting?

I truly appreciate your time,

Al Solomon

LITTLETON PD FLOCK PROGRAM FACTS

Rachael Mead

From: Rachael Mead
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 8:19 AM
To: Brian Callahan; cjr@lawcjrpc.com; Mark Haddad; Michael Chiasson; Pat Parker-Roach; Paul Garcia
Subject: FW: Littleton Police Vow Transparency After Flock Camera Miscommunication

FYI some concerns about Littleton's Flock program. The news media is painting a very different picture than the actual reality. See my response to the select board, and there is also a link to LPD's press release correcting the misinformation provided by the news media.

Rachael Mead
Deputy Chief
Groton Police Department

-----Original Message-----

From: Rachael Mead
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 8:18 AM
To: Mark Haddad <mhaddad@grotonma.gov>
Cc: Peter Cunningham <pcunningham@grotonma.gov>; Becky Pine <bpine@grotonma.gov>; Nick Degaitas <ndegaitas@grotonma.gov>; John Reilly <jreilly@grotonma.gov>; Matt Pisani <mpisani@grotonma.gov>; Kara Cruikshank <kcruikshank@grotonma.gov>
Subject: RE: Littleton Police Vow Transparency After Flock Camera Miscommunication

Hello,

I spoke with the Littleton Police Chief two days ago about this, as I was concerned about the news article as well. The news did not provide the actual facts, but a distorted story that fit a certain narrative. LPD has recently posted a press release correcting the misinformation that was provided by the news media.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JPVTQkAx3/>

In speaking with Chief Landry, they made the decision to deactivate the flock cameras after the town meeting vote. They advised LELD to remove electricity, however, did not explicitly tell Flock Safety that they were powering down the cameras. They just informed them that the town voted them down and they would not be utilizing them.

Part of the service contract is that technicians will address issues as they come up. So if a camera goes down, they come out, troubleshoot the problem and fix it so the camera is up and running as soon as possible. We have had cameras go down here in Groton and they have had them up and running within a few days. This is normal part of business with them. So when they saw the cameras in Littleton were down, they do what they do for all of the towns they have a contract with; they serviced the cameras and got them up and running. LPD admits that they did not realize that this was part of the contract, and did not think to tell them that they were deactivating the cameras. Flock Safety did not do anything "shady" as has been painted by the news media, they were just providing their customer, the Town of Littleton, with the service that they agreed to in their service contract.

I hope this helps answer peoples' questions, and it will be something I will address in both the working group, and the forum. I will be forwarding this response to the working group as an FYI so they are up to speed on local/area developments.

SALEM PD SWITCH TO AXON

Rachael Mead

From: Rachael Mead
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 6:43 AM
To: Brian Callahan; cjr@lawcjrpc.com; Mark Haddad; Michael Chiasson; Pat Parker-Roach; Paul Garcia
Subject: Fw: Salem MA cancels Flock contract

Good morning everyone!

A local news station is covering a story about the Salem Police Department who just ended their contract with Flock. The link to the story is below and is a topic was posted on the TAG forum (Talk About Groton, it's an email Google group that a number of citizens use). Salem hasn't uncovered anything that we haven't already discussed/discussing in our group in the short time we have been together. Salem PD has opted to use Axon instead. I will add this to our discussion of Flock vs Axon.

Best,

Rachael Mead
Deputy Chief
Groton Police

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Rachael Mead <rmead@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 26 July 2026 06:37:33
To: Rachael Mead <rmead@grotonma.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Salem MA cancels Flock contract

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rob Foley <Unknown>
Date: Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 7:46:48 AM UTC-4
Subject: Salem MA cancels Flock contract
To: TalkAboutGroton <Unknown>

article from WCVB Channel 5 News. It might be a good idea for our Select Board or the working group to reach out to the Salem Mayor and request the data and findings they gathered and save us a lot of time and effort.

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/flock-camera-contract-ending-salem-ma-july-24/73258537>

~~At~~ meeting next Tuesday 23 11 AM

Meeting w/ Axon RE LPRS

6.16.26 11 AM

- LPRS

- on car

- on poles

~~live stream~~

live stream
built into
one single
camera
(they can do both)

Axon ^{company}

- don't own anything it's all owned by town

- ~~town~~ own hardware etc data.

→ - hard wire/solar

- share at our discretion

- traffic trailers too

- you can move them if you want
gives you lots of flexibility

nothing is owned by Axon

attribute searches also

partial plates etc.

no people can be searched.

~~license~~

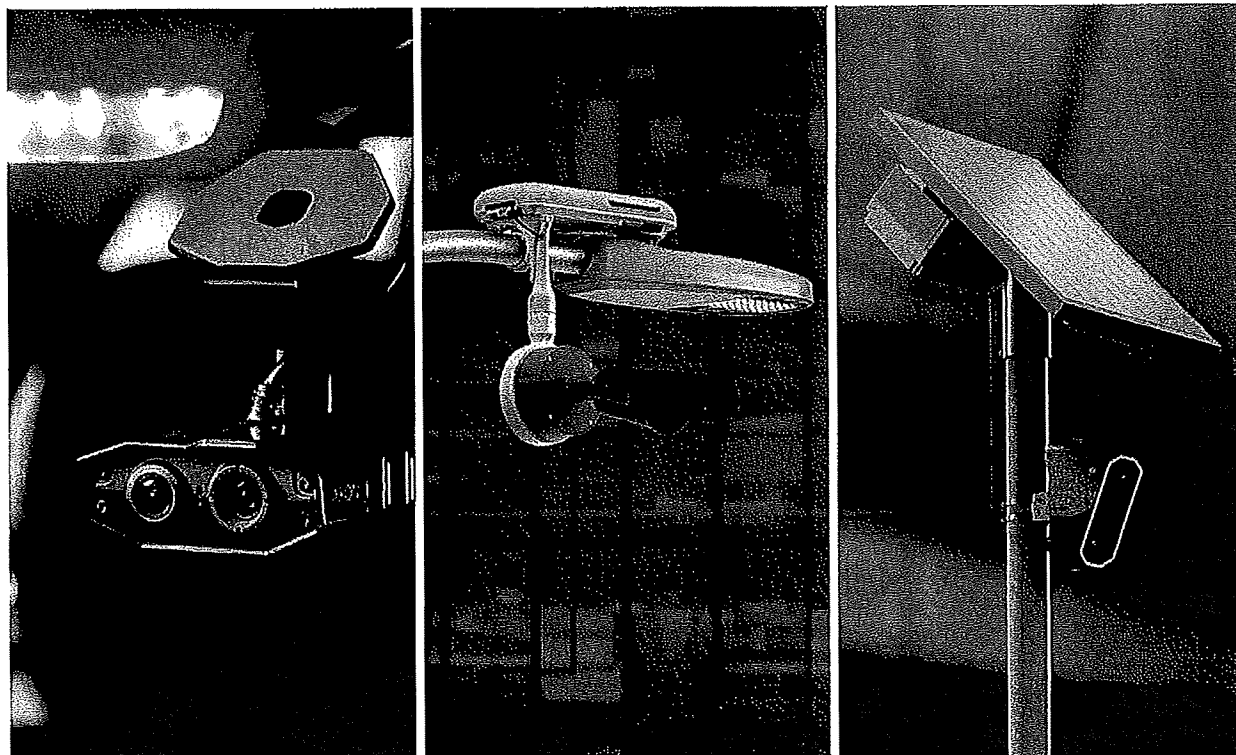
everything is customizable based
on town PD policy.

cost is more affordable than Flock

Forum, week of Sept
21-25
28-2

Protect Life, Protect Privacy

Axon ALPR: Fleet 3, Outpost and Lightpost



Why ALPR matters

More than 75% of crimes committed involve a motor vehicle.

Automated license plate recognition (ALPR) helps agencies accelerate investigations, find missing persons, and **better protect the communities they serve** by locating and identifying those vehicles faster and more accurately.

ALPR is not surveillance for surveillance's sake. When designed responsibly, it provides **safety with accountability**. Agencies retain ownership, set the rules, and preserve community trust with transparency tools. Axon Fleet 3, Outpost, and Lightpost are built around responsible use, transparency, and control. Designed in alignment with Axon's **Responsible Innovation** framework, they give agencies a model that is effective in the field and defensible in the community.

Your agency is always in control

- You own your data, not Axon
- Data sharing is opt-in, explicit invite-only, and revocable
- Retention period is policy driven by your agency
- Axon never discloses data on your agency's behalf
- All access is logged and reviewable

Axon ALPR camera overview

Axon Fleet 3:

Mobile ALPR camera capturing video and detections across multiple lanes. Introduced in 2021 and deployed in more than 75,000 patrol vehicles at 2,000+ agencies.

Axon Outpost:

Fixed ALPR camera, deployable on poles, trailers or buildings with solar or wired power. Designed to capture multiple lanes, day and night, at highway speeds.

Axon Lightpost:

Streetlight-mounted ALPR camera, developed with Ubicquia for fast deployment. Installs in under an hour and expands coverage without new poles.

All Axon ALPR cameras:

- Read license plates across multiple lanes at highway speeds, delivering reliable detections in varied conditions
- Support livestreaming for real time visibility, helping agencies improve response and accountability
- Integrate with Axon Fusus for vehicle attribute recognition, search, alerts and visualization, with data transferred into Axon Evidence for secure storage and retention
- Are covered under Axon's Technology Assurance Plan (TAP), with a five-year warranty, software updates, 24/7 support, and a hardware refresh at year five

Responsible Innovation at Axon

Every Axon product is developed under our **Responsible Innovation** framework. Connected cameras have revolutionized public safety, but legal and ethical rigor must remain paramount. For cameras, sensors, and software, we prioritize privacy, fairness, accountability, and transparency, and commit to the following principles:

Our devices help solve crime and promote transparency.

Data and evidence collected by law enforcement through Axon devices is intended to help solve crimes, reduce threats, improve training, and promote transparency and accountability.

Our customers own their ALPR data, we protect its privacy.

Agencies own and control all data collected by Axon devices. We protect that data by investing in and remaining committed to world-class information security and privacy.

We safeguard privacy as a human right.

We further enable agencies to safeguard the privacy, human rights, and dignity of individuals with tools such as access controls and redaction.



Privacy and governance standards

ALPR data received from Axon cameras, third-party cameras integrated through our certified Works with Axon program, or community devices is protected under the following standards and safeguards:

Ownership: Agencies own and control their ALPR data. Axon does not pool, resell, or repurpose agency detections.

Access & Sharing: Agencies control access to their ALPR data. Data sharing is invite-only, visible, and revocable. Axon does not operate a national pool or enable automatic sharing, and agencies always know exactly who has access to their data. Axon's access is limited to rare support cases and when explicitly authorized by the agency. Shared access does not create copies of ALPR records, and agencies retain sole ownership and disclosure authority over their data.

Lawful Requests: Warrants, subpoenas, and FOIA requests are always routed through the agency as the data owner. Axon never discloses data or responds on behalf of agencies.

Retention: All detections transfer into the agency's secure instance of Axon Evidence, where retention settings are determined by policy. Non-evidentiary data can be automatically purged.

Audit: Axon platforms maintain immutable audit logs showing who accessed data, when, and why, ensuring accountability.



Building transparency and trust

Transparency Tools: Agencies have access to a public transparency portal to share retention policies, usage metrics, and program details, with full control over what is displayed.

Edge Processing: A guiding design principle to improve speed, reduce latency, and give agencies more flexibility and control.

Privacy First: Designed with our Responsible Innovation principles at the core, with input from ethicists and community leaders to ensure data privacy and security expectations are met.



Proven scale and results

Axon ALPR empowers agencies to expand responsibly while meeting the highest standards of community trust and oversight. Today, agencies using Axon's ALPR solutions make up the largest agency-controlled ALPR network in public safety. With Axon's mobile ALPR, agencies have detected more than **8.1 billion license plate reads since 2021**—driving felony arrests and stolen vehicle recoveries nationwide—while always retaining full ownership of their data and authority over its use.

Crime statistics referenced from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

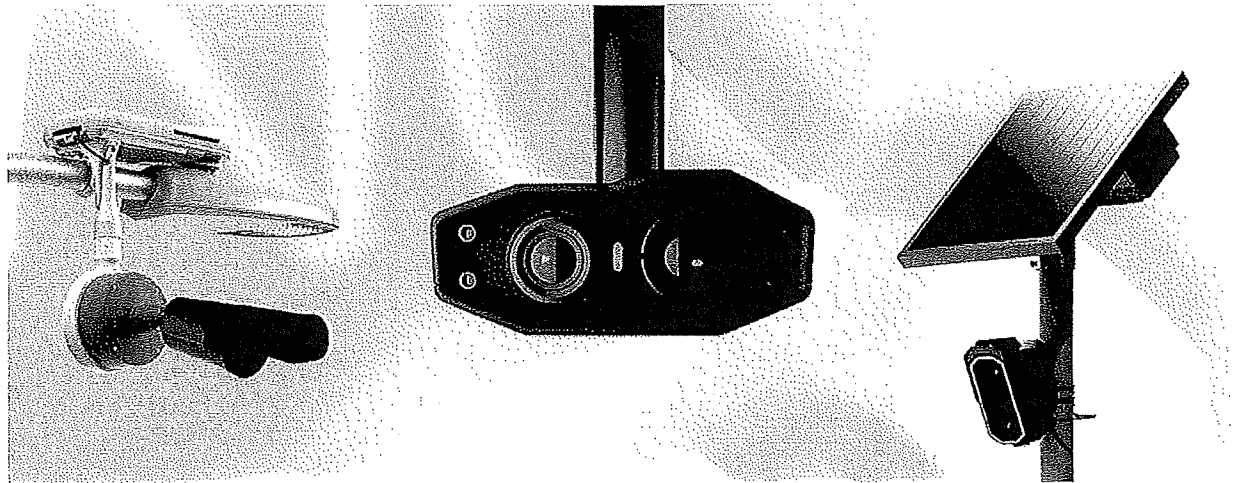
All non-Axon products, services, or trademarks are property of their respective owners.

AXON, Axon, Axon Fleet 3, Axon Outpost, Axon Lightpost, Axon Fusus and Axon Evidence are trademarks of Axon Enterprise, Inc., some of which are registered in the US and other countries. For more information visit www.axon.com/legal. All rights reserved. © 2026 Axon Enterprise, Inc.



Axon Fusus Vehicle Intelligence Search

Smarter, unified ALPR and vehicle attribute search



Over 75% of crimes in the U.S. involve a vehicle, but identifying and finding the right vehicle is the hardest part. Automatic license plate reader technology is essential for law enforcement agencies to respond to and solve crimes more quickly, but identifying the right vehicle quickly from captured data is often difficult.

Existing search tools are fragmented, limited in capability, or siloed between different LPR solution providers. This slows investigations and puts critical response time at risk. To address these challenges, Axon Fusus now delivers an upgraded search experience across Fleet 3 and other LPR solution data, bringing ALPR and vehicle attributes together in a single search experience.

Respond in Real-Time

Hotlist Alerts

Get alerts from Fleet 3 and other LPR solutions directly in Fusus.

Real-Time Search and Mapping

Search for additional results of a plate of interest in Fusus, which provides a table and a map visualization to help agencies coordinate deployment of assets to intercept based on movement patterns.

Investigate Across Sources

Powerful Attribute-Based Search

Search by full or partial plate, vehicle make, model, color, state, or visible vehicle attributes such as roof racks, window stickers, and bumper stickers, regardless of the camera source, enabling agencies to find the right vehicle faster.

Narrow Down Results by Geographical Area

Filter down search results to a specific geographical area of interest and reduce search time.

Unified Experience

Unified Axon Device Integration

Fusus automatically syncs agency and user data from Axon Vehicle Intelligence devices, including Fleet 3, Outpost, and Lightpost, making ALPR search available without manual configuration.

Search Across ALPR Systems

Clearly see which ALPR provider returned each result. If a search query isn't supported by that provider, Fusus flags it immediately.

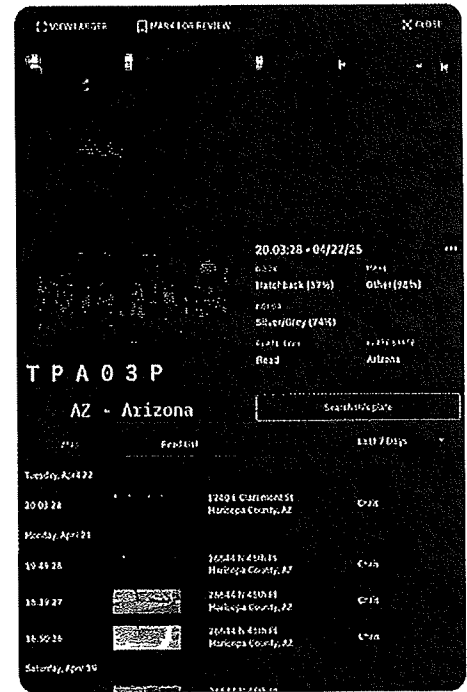
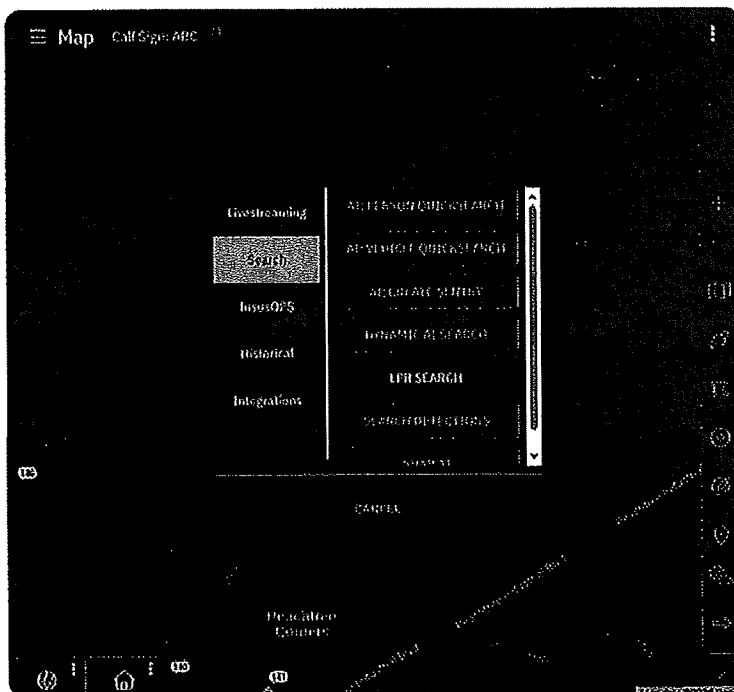
Certified Partner Integration

Works With Axon-certified LPR systems will integrate automatically into Fusus and be easily searchable, no effort required.

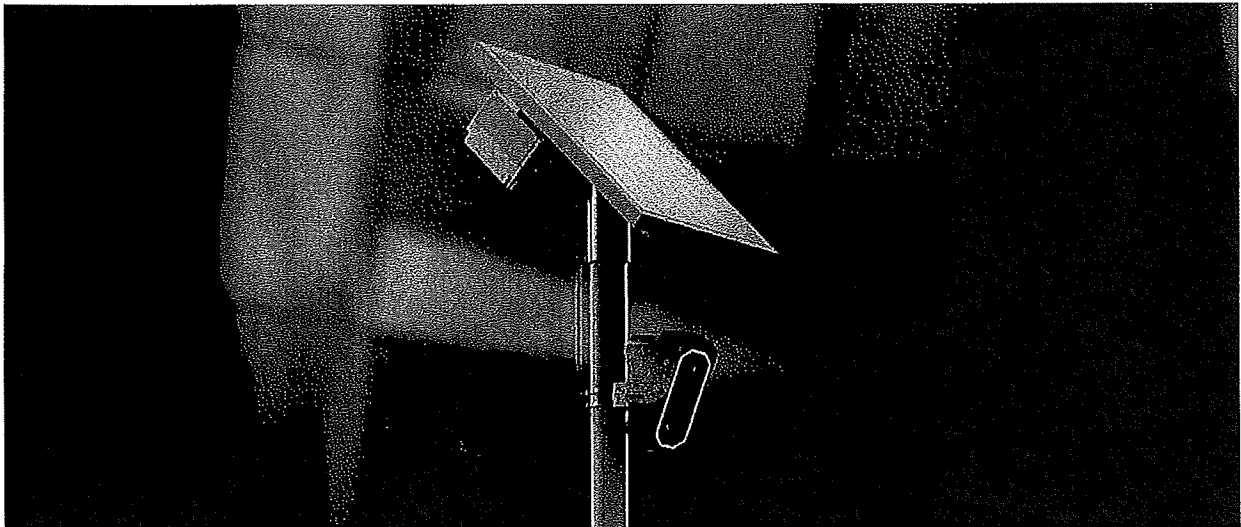
Part of the Axon Vehicle Intelligence Suite

Fleet 3, Outpost, Lightpost, and partner ALPR cameras operate as one integrated solution within Fusus — letting teams livestream, search, receive alerts, and investigate within a single, integrated Fusus experience.

Reach out to your Axon representative to learn more about the future of vehicle intelligence.



Axon Outpost



Axon Outpost represents the next leap in fixed camera technology, offering powerful performance, real-time intelligence, and seamless integration into Axon Fusus.

By combining livestreaming, ALPR, and vehicle recognition in one fixed device, Outpost goes beyond just a license plate hit to provide the full picture in real time.

Benefits

Immediate, actionable intelligence

Axon Outpost detects vehicles through both ALPR and vehicle attribute recognition and is designed to give officers immediate visibility through integrated livestreaming. It delivers reliable plate and vehicle attribute recognition in challenging conditions, such as nighttime, high speeds, and multi-lane roads.

Quicker resolution with easy search across a range of attributes

Axon's unified search in Fusus allows agencies to search the results from Axon Outpost devices by intelligent attributes — including plate, partial plates, make, color, and more — to more efficiently find what they need and take action. Fusus also enables vehicle movement history visualizations, near-instant alerts, and cross-agency sharing that is explicit, controlled and auditable.

Share at your discretion

Fusus is built with strong privacy safeguards. Agencies own and control all their own data, with configurable retention periods and data access audit logs. Sharing is intentional, outbound, and fully controlled by the data owner.

Efficient evidence management

In Axon Evidence, users can build a case file in minutes with fewer mistakes, and clearer transparency for the public. Every video, plate read and image is designed to flow securely into Axon Evidence without extra transfers, re-uploads or mismatched time stamps.

Features

Flexible deployment options

Axon Outpost can easily be deployed wherever it's needed, including on existing poles, new poles, buildings, vehicles, trailers, or trees.

Reliable capture at distance

Designed to capture multiple lanes, day and night, at highway speeds.

Installation support

Assistance with attachment agreements, permitting, site prep, and installs is provided.

Multiple power options

Opt for solar or 110V power.

Software

Outpost bundles include a full LTE subscription for real-time livestreaming and ALPR data upload. The vehicle search capabilities in Axon Fusus*, our real-time operations platform, provide visibility and insight across ALPR cameras. This means:

- Unified search across any ALPR-enabled camera by plate, partials, make, model, color, or unique attributes.
- Visualization of vehicle movement history to support interception or investigation.
- Near-instant alerts from any ALPR camera — fixed, mobile, or partner.
- Cross-agency sharing when and where you choose.

Axon Fusus also enables you to immediately get vehicle intelligence from any third-party cameras you already own that are certified Works With Axon partners.

Deployment

In order to ensure success, Axon bundles include assessment and installation services. We will:

- Evaluate and recommend installation sites, including:
 - Assessing feasibility, traffic flow and power/network availability.
 - Conducting a solar survey to evaluate viability.
- Organize permitting for Axon Outpost, including:
 - Identifying required permits and supplying drawings and specs.
 - Coordinating with local/state agencies.
 - Tracking and supporting permit progress.
- Install and activate each unit with full documentation.

Warranty & Maintenance

Our included 5-year coverage plan will protect your investment and keep your LPR system running at its best:

- Full hardware warranty including repair or replacement as needed.
- Ongoing software updates.
- Reliable technical support 24/7.
- Preventative maintenance, such as solar panel cleaning, and live telemetry for device health.
- On-site or remote assistance

Let's design an Axon Outpost deployment that fits your agency's mission and goals. Contact us today at [axon.com/contact](https://www.axon.com/contact).



Non-Binding Budgetary Estimate



Q-872754-46196SB

Issued: 06/23/2026

Quote Expiration: 12/31/2026

Estimated Contract Start Date: 04/01/2027

Account Number: 114953

Payment Terms: N30

Mode of Delivery: AUTO-GND

Credit/Debit Amount: \$0.00

SHIP TO	BILL TO
Groton Police Dept. - MA 99 Pleasant St Groton, MA 01450-1205 USA	Groton Police Dept. - MA 99 Pleasant St Groton MA 01450-1205 USA Email:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE	PRIMARY CONTACT
Spencer Bassett Phone: Email: sbassett@axon.com Fax:	Rachael Mead Phone: Email: rmead@grotonma.gov Fax:

Quote Summary

Program Length	60 Months
TOTAL COST	\$127,117.20
ESTIMATED TOTAL W/ TAX	\$127,117.20

Discount Summary

Average Savings Per Year	\$12,764.38
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$63,821.90

Non-Binding Budgetary Estimate

Payment Summary

Date	Subtotal	Tax	Total
Mar 2027	\$25,423.44	\$0.00	\$25,423.44
Mar 2028	\$25,423.44	\$0.00	\$25,423.44
Mar 2029	\$25,423.44	\$0.00	\$25,423.44
Mar 2030	\$25,423.44	\$0.00	\$25,423.44
Mar 2031	\$25,423.44	\$0.00	\$25,423.44
Total	\$127,117.20	\$0.00	\$127,117.20

Non-Binding Budgetary Estimate

Quote Unbundled Price: \$190,945.20
 Quote List Price: \$145,111.20
 Quote Subtotal: \$127,117.20

Pricing

All deliverables are detailed in Delivery Schedules section lower in proposal

Item	Description	Qty	Term	Unbundled	List Price	Net Price	Subtotal	Tax	Total
Program									
B00076	OUTPOST TAP PLAN	6	60	\$366.09	\$249.20	\$199.22	\$71,718.00	\$0.00	\$71,718.00
Fleet3B	Fleet 3 Basic	4	60	\$182.46	\$166.82	\$166.82	\$40,036.80	\$0.00	\$40,036.80
A la Carte Software									
80401	AXON FLEET 3 - ALPR LICENSE - 1 CAMERA	4	60		\$64.01	\$64.01	\$15,362.40	\$0.00	\$15,362.40
Total							\$127,117.20	\$0.00	\$127,117.20

Delivery Schedule

Hardware

Bundle	Item	Description	QTY	Shipping Location	Estimated Delivery Date
Fleet 3 Basic	101924	AXON FLEET - TAOGUAS ANT - 7-IN-1 4CELL 2WIFI 1GNSS INT	4	1	03/01/2027
Fleet 3 Basic	103346	AXON FLEET - ERICSSON R980-5GB-A+5YR NETCLOUD	4	1	03/01/2027
Fleet 3 Basic	70112	AXON SIGNAL - VEHICLE	4	1	03/01/2027
Fleet 3 Basic	72036	AXON FLEET 3 - STANDARD 2 CAMERA KIT	4	1	03/01/2027
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102032	AXON OUTPOST - CAMERA	6	1	03/01/2027
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102488	AXON OUTPOST - SOLAR PANEL - 100W	6	1	03/01/2027
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102538	AXON OUTPOST - TOP MOUNT END CAP - STANDARD	6	1	03/01/2027
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102552	AXON OUTPOST - POLE - STANDARD	6	1	03/01/2027
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102737	AXON OUTPOST - STANDARD SOLAR HARDWARE KIT	6	1	03/01/2027
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	103151	AXON OUTPOST - BATTERY & CHARGER ENCLOSURE - EXTENDED	6	1	03/01/2027
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102144	AXON OUTPOST - TAP REFRESH ONE - CAMERA	6	1	03/01/2032
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102810	AXON OUTPOST - TAP REFRESH ONE - BATTERY ENCLOSURE EXTENDED	6	1	03/01/2032

Software

Bundle	Item	Description	QTY	Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date
Fleet 3 Basic	80400	AXON EVIDENCE - FLEET VEHICLE LICENSE	4	04/01/2027	03/31/2032
Fleet 3 Basic	80410	AXON EVIDENCE - STORAGE - FLEET 1 CAMERA UNLIMITED	8	04/01/2027	03/31/2032
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102142	AXON VEHICLE INTELLIGENCE - ALPR LICENSE	6	04/01/2027	03/31/2032
A la Carte	80401	AXON FLEET 3 - ALPR LICENSE - 1 CAMERA	4	04/01/2027	03/31/2032

Services

Bundle	Item	Description	QTY
Fleet 3 Basic	100738	AXON FLEET 3 - SIM INSERTION - VZW 4FF	4

Non-Binding Budgetary Estimate

Services

Bundle	Item	Description	QTY
Fleet 3 Basic	73391	AXON FLEET 3 - DEPLOYMENT PER VEHICLE - NOT OVERSIZED	4
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102136	AXON OUTPOST - STANDARD INSTALLATION	6
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102143	AXON OUTPOST - UPGRADE INSTALLATION	6

Warranties

Bundle	Item	Description	QTY	Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date
Fleet 3 Basic	80379	AXON SIGNAL - EXT WARRANTY - SIGNAL UNIT	4	03/01/2028	03/31/2032
Fleet 3 Basic	80495	AXON FLEET 3 - EXT WARRANTY - 2 CAMERA KIT	4	03/01/2028	03/31/2032
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102135	AXON OUTPOST - EXT WARRANTY - CAMERA	6	03/01/2028	03/31/2032
OUTPOST TAP PLAN	102137	AXON OUTPOST - MAINTENANCE	6	03/01/2028	03/31/2032

Non-Binding Budgetary Estimate

Shipping Locations

Location Number	Street	City	State	Zip	Country
1	99 Pleasant St	Groton	MA	01450-1205	USA

Payment Details

Mar 2027					
Invoice Plan	Item	Description	Qty	Subtotal	Tax Total
Annual Payment 1	80401	AXON FLEET 3 - ALPR LICENSE - 1 CAMERA	4	\$3,072.48	\$0.00
Annual Payment 1	B00076	OUTPOST TAP PLAN	6	\$14,343.60	\$0.00
Annual Payment 1	Fleet3B	Fleet 3 Basic	4	\$8,007.36	\$0.00
Total				\$25,423.44	\$0.00

Apr 2027					
Invoice Plan	Item	Description	Qty	Subtotal	Tax Total
Invoice Upon Fulfillment	Fleet3B	Fleet 3 Basic	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total				\$0.00	\$0.00

Mar 2028					
Invoice Plan	Item	Description	Qty	Subtotal	Tax Total
Annual Payment 2	80401	AXON FLEET 3 - ALPR LICENSE - 1 CAMERA	4	\$3,072.48	\$0.00
Annual Payment 2	B00076	OUTPOST TAP PLAN	6	\$14,343.60	\$0.00
Annual Payment 2	Fleet3B	Fleet 3 Basic	4	\$8,007.36	\$0.00
Total				\$25,423.44	\$0.00

Mar 2029					
Invoice Plan	Item	Description	Qty	Subtotal	Tax Total
Annual Payment 3	80401	AXON FLEET 3 - ALPR LICENSE - 1 CAMERA	4	\$3,072.48	\$0.00
Annual Payment 3	B00076	OUTPOST TAP PLAN	6	\$14,343.60	\$0.00
Annual Payment 3	Fleet3B	Fleet 3 Basic	4	\$8,007.36	\$0.00
Total				\$25,423.44	\$0.00

Mar 2030					
Invoice Plan	Item	Description	Qty	Subtotal	Tax Total
Annual Payment 4	80401	AXON FLEET 3 - ALPR LICENSE - 1 CAMERA	4	\$3,072.48	\$0.00
Annual Payment 4	B00076	OUTPOST TAP PLAN	6	\$14,343.60	\$0.00
Annual Payment 4	Fleet3B	Fleet 3 Basic	4	\$8,007.36	\$0.00
Total				\$25,423.44	\$0.00

Mar 2031					
Invoice Plan	Item	Description	Qty	Subtotal	Tax Total
Annual Payment 5	80401	AXON FLEET 3 - ALPR LICENSE - 1 CAMERA	4	\$3,072.48	\$0.00
Annual Payment 5	B00076	OUTPOST TAP PLAN	6	\$14,343.60	\$0.00
Annual Payment 5	Fleet3B	Fleet 3 Basic	4	\$8,007.36	\$0.00
Total				\$25,423.44	\$0.00

Non-Binding Budgetary Estimate

This Rough Order of Magnitude estimate is being provided for budgetary and planning purposes only. It is non-binding and is not considered a contractable offer for sale of Axon goods or services.

Tax is estimated based on rates applicable at date of quote and subject to change at time of invoicing. If a tax exemption certificate should be applied, please submit prior to invoicing.

Exceptions to Standard Terms and Conditions

Rewrite Estimates

Estimated Amounts and Contract Terminations. Any amounts stated as due under existing or terminated contracts — including contract transfer balances carried forward to new or pending contracts — are estimates based on payments received as of the calculation date. These estimates may be adjusted if new contracts are not executed on the anticipated dates or if expected payments are not made.

Refresh Shipment Timing

Technology Assurance Plan (TAP) Refresh Prior to Renewal. For Customers with expiring agreements that include TAP refresh rights, Axon may, in its discretion, ship refresh hardware under the existing contract while renewal or replacement agreements are in progress. Any such shipments will be deemed made under the terms of the existing contract until the new contract is fully executed, after which any applicable updates, fees, or adjustments will apply.

Shipment Timing

Shipment Variance. Estimated shipment dates are provided for planning purposes only and are not guarantees. Axon may ship hardware before or after the estimated shipment date, and failure to meet an estimated shipment date will not, by itself, constitute a breach, provided Axon uses commercially reasonable efforts to meet estimated shipment dates.

Municipal Energy Manager (MEM) Year One Summary



1

Municipal Energy Manager

- Agenda
 - How did we get here?
 - Year One work
 - Groton
 - Harvard, Ayer, Shirley
 - Year One total grant income
 - Challenges and Lessons learned
 - Next Steps



8/31/2026

Sustainable Groton

2

Municipal Energy Manager

How did we get here?

- Municipal Energy Manager Grant provided by sponsors of Mass Save (National Grid) – this is a first-of-its-kind grant.
- 3 years, up to \$360,000
- Purpose: to help municipalities hire a dedicated resource to manage their energy use, become more energy efficient, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from facilities, with a particular focus on K-12 school buildings



8/31/2026

Sustainable Groton

3

Municipal Energy Manager

How did we get here?

- Groton, Harvard, Ayer and Shirley partnered to apply for a regional MEM, included support from all school districts
 - Application supported by Groton Sustainability Commission and the Harvard Climate Initiative Committee
- Groton as hiring entity
- Time to be split equally
- Grant awarded in June 2025
- Andres Correa started in August 2025



8/31/2026

Sustainable Groton

4

Municipal Energy Manager *Year 1 work in Groton*

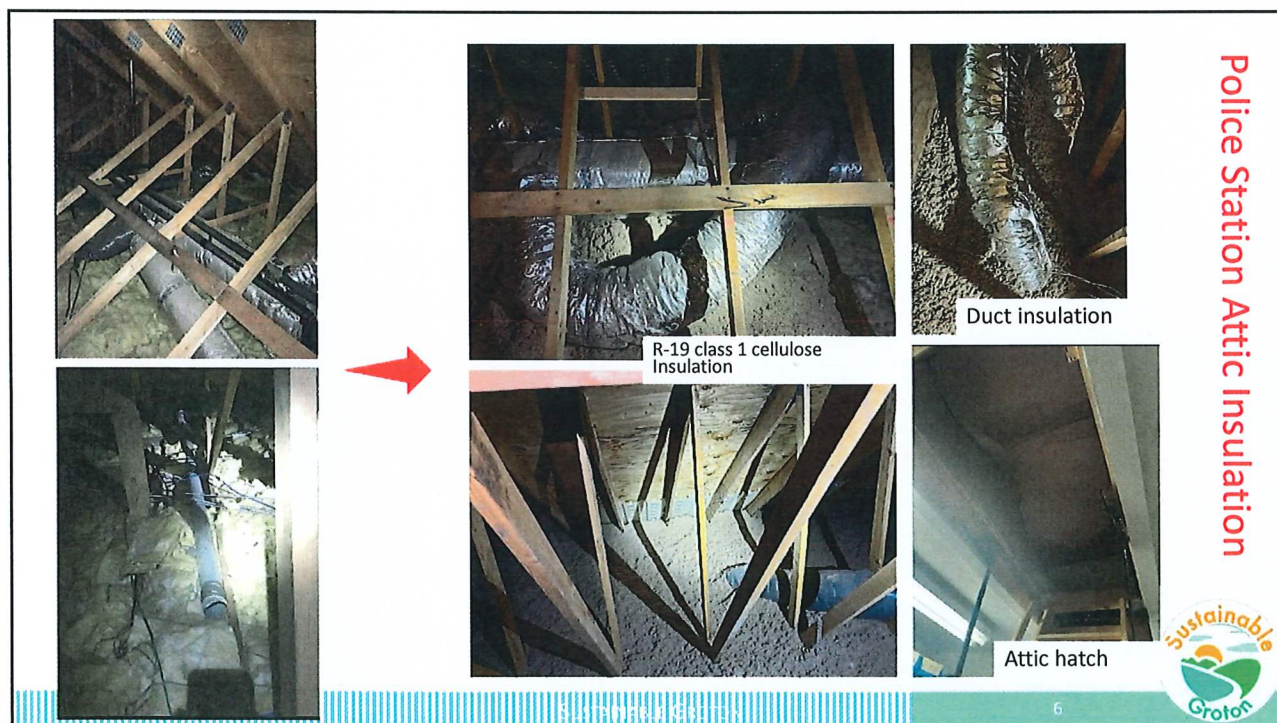
1. Applied for Green Communities grant in October 2025
 - Green Communities grants from MA Dept of Energy Resources aim to reduce municipal energy use → **reduces operating costs**
 - **Awarded in March 2026 - \$250,000**
 - \$40,000 for weatherization at Police Station – **COMPLETED**
 - Estimated to save \$1,400/year in O&M costs
 - \$210,000 for LED lighting at North and Stoddart Buildings
 - Estimated to save \$50,000/year in O&M costs
 - Estimated completion by December 2026
 - **First maximum award for Groton, nearly doubling Green Communities funding Groton has received in six years**



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Municipal Energy Manager *Year 1 work in Groton*

2. Assisted with application for Regional School District Decarbonization Grant

- Federal funding – administered through MA Dept of Energy Resources
- **Awarded July 2026 - \$138,000**
 - Gas → electric ovens for North and Stoughton Buildings
 - Ovens are a critical replacement for schools
 - Estimated completion by December 2026



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Municipal Energy Manager *Year 1 work in Groton*

3. Assisted with implementation of \$15,000 Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant

- Awarded in July 2025 for retro commissioning study of GDRHS
- Study completed in June 2026
- Recommendations have an expected payback period of 2-4 years, expected to save \$40,000/year in O&M costs and \$30,000 in incentives from Mass Save.



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Municipal Energy Manager *Year 1 work in Groton*

4. Managing completion of Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap
 - Building specs and energy use data from town and GDRSD
 - Roadmap to net zero by 2050 – Zero over time approach
 - Allows planning for *economically feasible* energy efficient capital replacements *when needed* and improvements
 - Handed off to DOER Consultant to complete Roadmap using Technical Assistance award granted in August 2025
 - Approval by Select Board and GDRSD will complete another Climate Leader requirement.
 - Climate Leader program qualifies towns for \$1.15 million in technical assistance and decarbonization grants



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Municipal Energy Manager *Year 1 grant income total for Groton*

- Total grant funding: \$388,000



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Municipal Energy Manager

Year 1 work in Harvard, Ayer and Shirley

- Harvard
 - Green Communities \$201,851 grant awarded March 2026 will fund Library's HVAC coil retrofit/replace air handling unit
 - META grant application submitted in June for procurement of HVAC project
 - Green Communities Annual Report
- Ayer
 - Comprehensive Building Assessment for three ASRSD buildings
- Shirley
 - Green Communities \$145,000 grant awarded March 2026 will fund weatherization, LED and HVAC upgrades in multiple buildings



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Municipal Energy Manager

Year 1 grant income total ALL TOWNS

- Across all towns, total grant funding: \$734,851



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Municipal Energy Manager *Challenges and Lessons Learned*

- Challenges
 - Deadlines for multiple Towns
 - Some steps in the project cycle fully depend on other departments
 - Not all towns are using Andres's time to the same degree
- Lessons Learned
 - Understanding priorities and connecting common goals
 - Every grant carries an extensive process from application to execution, which relies on interdepartmental collaboration and communication



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Municipal Energy Manager *Next Steps in Groton*

- Complete Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap
- Green Community reporting January 2027
- Next Green Community grant application Spring 2027
 - More LED lighting at Stoddart building, High School Building Management System
 - Follow up to retro commissioning study at GDRHS
 - Coordinate with GDRSD Capital plan implementation



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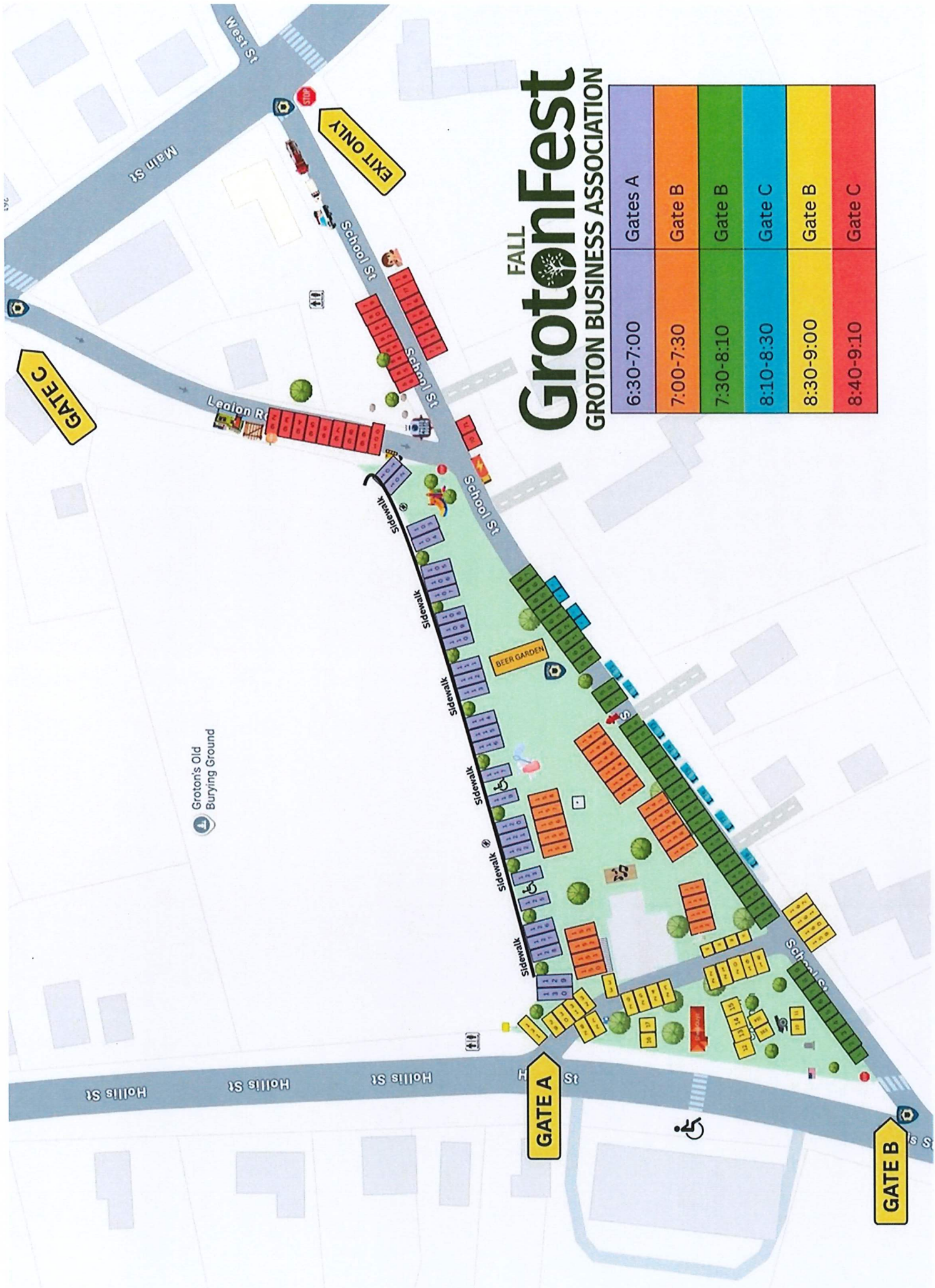
Municipal Energy Manager *Ask of Select Board*

- Help publicize MEM work so far and opportunity
- Encourage continued collaboration with GDRSD and reduce bottlenecks
- Advise on making the case for funding beyond Grant (ends mid-2028)



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FALL GrotonFest

GROTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

6:30-7:00	Gates A
7:00-7:30	Gate B
7:30-8:10	Gate B
8:10-8:30	Gate C
8:30-9:00	Gate B
8:40-9:10	Gate C

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026
UN-APPROVED**

Select Board Members Present: Peter Cunningham, Chair; Nick Degaitas Jr., Clerk; John Reilly; Matt Pisani;

Select Board Members Virtually Present: Becky Pine, Vice Chair;

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patrica DuFresne, Assistant Director of Finance/Town Accountant; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair; Deputy Police Chief Rachael Mead.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham announced that the first Town Takeover for the Town of Groton was held at Polar Park in Worcester, MA, and called it a great event. Mr. Haddad added that over 150 tickets were sold to Groton residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - Zoom

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Deputy Chief Mead-Flock Camera Working Group Update.

Deputy Chief Rachael Mead attended the meeting to provide an update on the Flock Camera Working Group. She said that a Working Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th. During this meeting, they will finalize their mission statement, review the Police Department's policy on the cameras, and review their transparency portal on the town's website that was launched. They will also review ongoing cases in which the Flock cameras are being utilized as evidence. Deputy Chief Mead outlined the top five types of cases being addressed: breaking and entering, hit-and-run car accidents, embezzlement, assault and battery, and failure-to-stop incidents. Deputy Chief Mead announced that a public forum will be held during the week of September 21st. Mr. Haddad clarified that the information collected from the cameras is not shared and that safeguards are in place to protect it. He expressed his hope that the Town Meeting will provide the Working Group an opportunity to further explore the use of Flock cameras before any decisions are made. Deputy Chief Mead will also provide another update at the Select Board meeting on August 31st.

2. Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Update.

Mr. Haddad did not have an update this evening.

3. Ratify the Town Manager's Appointment of Anna Eliot to the Historical Commission.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Anna Eliot to the Historical Commission, with a term to expire June 30, 2027. Mr. Degaitas seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Reilly-aye; Cunningham-aye; Pisani-aye.

4. Update on Select Board Schedule through Labor Day.

Monday, August 24, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, August 31, 2026-	Public Hearing on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant
Monday, September 7, 2026-	No Meeting (Labor Day)
Monday, September 14, 2026-	Issue the Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

1. Review First Draft of the 2026 Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Haddad presented the Board with the first draft of the 2026 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. He explained that the warrant closed on August 12, 2026, and it includes 19 articles. Mr. Haddad took a few moments to review the warrant articles prior to the public hearing, which is scheduled for August 31, 2026.

Articles 1 through 9 will be a consent agenda.

Article 1: Prior Year Bills- There is currently one unpaid bill.

Article 2: Amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Town Operating Budget- Mr. Haddad explained that there will be several requests for line-item transfers.

Article 3: Transfer Money into Capital Stabilization Fund- Mr. Haddad will have a clearer understanding of the funds needed once he knows about the available Free Cash.

Article 4: Transfer Money into the Stabilization Fund— Mr. Haddad is currently uncertain whether a transfer to the Stabilization Fund will be necessary.

Article 5: Transfer Money into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund- There will be funds set aside based on the anticipated capital budget.

Article 6: Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund- This is a placeholder.

Article 7: Transfer Within the Four Center Sewer Enterprise Fund- This is a placeholder.

Article 8: Transfer Within the Stormwater Enterprise Fund- This is a placeholder.

Article 9: Appropriations to Fund Town Forest Expenses- This is a repeat Article from the Spring Town Meeting for the Town Forest Committee.

Article 10: Termination of Automated License Plate Reader Camera Program- This is a Citizens' Petition.

Article 11: Install Irrigation System/Course improvements- Groton Country Club-Mr. Haddad explained that the bids are out and the bid opening is scheduled for September 9, 2026.

Article 12: Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements- This is a rebid with modifications. The original article presented at the Spring Town Meeting requested \$4.8 million. The revised bid is now \$4.2 million, reflecting adjustments to the initial proposal. The bid opening is scheduled for September 10, 2026.

Mr. Cunningham suggested moving Article 12: Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements before Article 10: Termination of the Automated License Plate Reader Camera Program. Mr. Haddad stated he would reorder the articles.

Article 13: Transfer of Land from the DPW to the Electric Light Department- This article proposes authorizing the transfer of a portion of the DPW property at 600 Cow Pond Brook Road. This is a placeholder.

Article 14: Establish Means-Tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption- Mr. Degaitas requested that this article be brought forward. Mr. Haddad said that a few Massachusetts towns have successfully submitted this article to the legislature, where it was approved. The Town of Marblehead adopted this article in 2023. Mr. Haddad stated that it is a great idea. The Assessor's Office is currently estimating the overlay's impact.

Article 15: Small Scale Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility Siting and Permitting- This article is submitted by the Planning Board.

Article 16: Small Clean Energy Facilities Consolidating Permitting- This article is submitted by the Planning Board.

Article 17: Scale Ground Mounting Solar Photovoltaic Facilities-This article is submitted by the Planning Board.

Article 18: Citizens Petition-Senior Property Tax Freeze Program- This is a property tax freeze program. If you are 70 years old or older and have occupied your principal residence for 35 years or longer, your taxes will be frozen at that amount for that year, permanently after you apply. Mr. Degaitas explained that this program is not based on income. Ms. Pine asked a few questions about the wording in Section 2.

Article 19: Citizens Petition- Study Housing Opportunities and Municipal Finance- This article is to look at potential ways to adopt different zoning regulations and review the budget.

2. Approve Letter to Community Preservation Committee in Support of the Cow Pond Brook Fields Project.

Mr. Haddad provided the Board with a letter he drafted for the Community Preservation Committee, expressing support for the Cow Pond Brook Fields Project. He noted that the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Stormwater Committee, and the Board of Health also submitted letters of support. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Select Board approve the letter supporting the project and authorize the Select Board Chair to sign it.

Mr. Reilly moved to approve the letter of support to the Community Preservation Committee and authorize the Chair to sign it. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pisani-aye; Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Reilly-aye; Cunningham-aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

Authorize the Town Manager and One Member of the Select Board to Sign Warrants for the Next Thirty Days.

Ms. Pine made a motion to authorize the Town Manager and one member of the Select Board to sign the Warrants for the next 30 days. Mr. Degaitas seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pisani-aye; Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Reilly-aye; Cunningham-aye.

On-Going Issues

- A. PFAS Issue – A public hearing on the PFAS Watermain Project was well attended on August 6th at the Town Hall. Mr. Haddad stated that the meeting was productive and that attendees asked many questions. He thanked the residents who attended and explained that a replay of the meeting is available on the Groton Channel. The new Water Superintendent, Dan Stoneking, and Apex Engineer Tyler Schmidt were present and did an excellent job.
- B. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility - None
- C. Fire Department Staffing – A draft report from the study will be completed soon by the consultant and sent to Mr. Haddad and Chief Cheeks. Mr. Haddad said he will arrange a meeting for the Fire Department Working Group to review the report. After the review, Chief Cheeks and the consultant will attend a Select Board meeting to present their findings.
- B. Main Street Study – MDM Transportation Consultants has completed its preliminary designs for improvements to the Main Street Corridor. A meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20th, with the Working Group and MDM Transportation Consultants to review the study. Mr. Haddad will share the designs with the Select Board and the Complete Streets Committee for review. The Complete Streets Committee will then hold a public hearing.
- C. Flock Cameras- Deputy Chief provided a report earlier in the meeting.

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

None

Approval of the Special Scheduled Meeting of July 16, 2026 and regularly Scheduled Meeting of July 27, 2027.

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on July 16, 2026, and the regularly scheduled meeting on July 27, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pisani-aye; Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Reilly-aye; Cunningham-aye.

Mr. Haddad explained the process for filing a complaint under the Open Meeting Law. The Select Board held a special meeting on July 9, 2026, to address an Open Meeting Law complaint submitted by Patrick Higgins. The complaint concerned the Board's meetings on June 15 and June 29, 2026. Mr. Higgins alleged that the Board violated the Open Meeting Law because the agendas for those meetings did not include the names of individuals being considered for appointments to various positions and committees. In response, the Select Board submitted a response to both the complainant and the Attorney General's Office. After the Board's response was filed, the complainant had ninety days to appeal the Board's action regarding the potential violation. Mr. Higgins is requesting that the Attorney General's Office conduct a further investigation into this matter. Mr. Haddad explained that Town Counsel advised that there are two possible remedies: either vacate the appointment made during the meetings or require the Select Board and Town Manager to attend training on the Open Meeting Law. The Attorney General could also take no further action. Mr. Haddad will keep the Board updated.

The Select Board adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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