



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

John F. Reilly, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Clerk*
Alison S. Manugian, *Member*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Member*

**SELECT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022
AGENDA
SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM
2nd FLOOR
GROTON TOWN HALL**

7:00 P.M. Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public

7:05 P.M. Public Comment Period

I. 7:06 P.M. Town Manager's Report

1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Kara Cruikshank as the Executive Assistant to the Town Manager
2. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Janet Sheffield to the Cable Advisory Committee and Christine Robinson as an Election Worker
3. Consider Accepting the Nomination of the Town Manager and Appointing Richard Lynch to the Trails Committee
4. Update from Town Manager on the September 12, 2022 Special Town Meeting
5. Update on the Select Board Meeting Schedule Through the End of the Year

II. 7:10 P.M. Items for Select Board Consideration and Action

1. Consider Adopting the Proposed Liquor License Violation Policy
2. Consider Adopting the Proposed Cooling Center Policy
3. Consider Approving and Adopting the Fiscal Year 2023 Goals and Objectives
4. Consider Approving a One Day All Alcoholic License for the Marigold Re-Open House After Summer Vacation to be Held at the Prescott Community Center on Friday, September 9, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
5. Approve Letter to State Officials Requesting Additional Funding for the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project

III. 7:15 P.M. Update from the EPA on the Squannacook Sportsmen's Club Clean-up

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. Water Department – Manganese Issue
- B. PFAS Issue
- C. Green Communities Application and Implementation
- D. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project
- E. ARPA Funding

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

IV. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of August 22, 2022

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: *September 6, 2022*

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 scheduled Agenda Item on Tuesday's Agenda. Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency will be present to update the Board and answer any questions relative to the clean-up of the former Squannacook Sportsmen Club in West Groton. Enclosed with this report is information relative to this issue.

1. I have completed my search for a new Executive Assistant to replace Dawn Dunbar, who was recently appointed as Groton's first appointed Town Clerk. I have decided to appoint Kara Cruikshank to the position. Kara is currently the Land Use Departments Administrative Assistant, a position she has held since December, 2019. Kara has been a stellar employee. Within three months of starting her position with the Town, due to the Pandemic, she was sent home to work remotely and manage the various Boards and Building Department without any oversight. She rose to the occasion and did a fantastic job. She has worked with and supported the Park Commission, Historic Districts Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, in addition to her day-to-day duties within the Building Department. Her customer service skills are extraordinary and I have received nothing but excellent feedback from members of the HDC and ZBA. Both Bob Garside and Takashi Tada have highly recommended her for the position and I trust their opinions as her current supervisors. She and Dawn have an outstanding working relationship, which will aid in the transition. It is with pleasure that I make this appointment and would respectfully request that the Board ratify this appointment at Tuesday's meeting.
2. The Cable Advisory Committee has requested that I appoint Janet Sheffield to the Committee and Dawn Dunbar has requested that I appoint Christine Robinson as an Election Worker. I have made both appointments and would respectfully request that the Select Board ratify these appointments at Tuesday's meeting.
3. The Trails Committee has requested that I nominate Richard Lynch for appointment to the Trails Committee. Please consider this as my nomination for Mr. Lynch to be appointed and would respectfully request that the Board make this appointment at Tuesday's meeting.

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4. The Special Town Meeting to request additional funding for the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Dunstable Regional Middle School Performing Arts Center. The following is a brief update of issues/items related to the Town Meeting:
 - a. The Director of Accounts for the Department of Revenue has approved the additional \$9.5 million of project costs and has deemed that they are covered by the Debt Exclusion approved by the voters on May 25, 2021, and, if approved, are excluded from the provisions of Proposition 2½. An additional debt exclusion override vote will not be needed should Town Meeting appropriate the additional \$9.5 million for the project.
 - b. Brian LeBlanc, Chair of Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee, David Saindon, Project Manager, Tripp McElroy of Gilbane Building Company, and I will be holding an Informational Q&A on the request for the additional funding at the Center in West Groton on Wednesday, September 7th at 11:30 a.m. for Seniors to gain more information on the request.
 - c. The Florence Roche Building Committee will be holding a public forum (by Zoom) on Thursday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. to address the need for additional funding as well.
 - d. Select Board Member Manugian and I have developed the following Chart to show the total tax impact of the project when taking into consideration the additional \$9.5 million:

	Initial Tax Impact January 2023	Total Permanent Bonding January 2026 through January 2047			Initial Bond Paid-off January 2048	Debt Retired January 2051
\$350,000	\$231	\$588	-	\$472	\$343	\$0
\$450,000	\$297	\$756	-	\$607	\$441	\$0
\$535,100 Average Home	\$353	\$899	-	\$722	\$524	\$0
\$650,000	\$429	\$1,092	-	\$877	\$637	\$0
\$750,000	\$495	\$1,260	-	\$1,012	\$734	\$0

I look forward to discussing all of this in more detail with the Board at Tuesday's meeting.

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5. Please see the update to the meeting schedule that will take the Board through the end of the year:

Monday, September 12, 2022	Special Town Meeting
Monday, September 19, 2022	-Meet with CPAC and FinCom on Capital Budget -Meet with Geological Field Services on Nod Road Landfill -Public Hearing on Warrant for 2022 Fall Town Meeting
Monday, September 26, 2022 Tuesday, September 27, 2022	No Meeting (Rosh Hashanah) Potential Meeting Date
Monday, October 3, 2022	-Issue Warrant for 2022 Fall Town Meeting
Monday, October 10, 2022	No Meeting (Indigenous People's Day)
Monday, October 17, 2022	-Fall Town Meeting Prep
Saturday, October 22, 2022	2022 Fall Town Meeting
Monday, October 24, 2022	No Meeting (Continuation of Fall Town Meeting)
Monday, October 31, 2022	-Meet with FinCom to Establish FY 2024 Budget Guidance
Monday, November 7, 2022	No Meeting
Monday, November 14, 2022	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 21, 2022	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 28, 2022	No Meeting
Monday, December 5, 2022	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 12, 2022	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 19, 2022	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 26, 2022	No Meeting (Christmas Holiday)
Monday, January 2, 2023	No Meeting (New Year Holiday)
Monday, January 9, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Attached for the Board's consideration and approval is a proposed Liquor License Violation Policy. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving this Policy at Tuesday's meeting.

Select Board
Weekly Agenda Update/Report
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2. Attached for the Board's consideration and approval is a proposed Cooling Center Policy. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving this Policy at Tuesday's meeting.
3. With the assistance of Select Board Member Pine, I have finalized the Proposed FY 2023 Goals and Objectives of the Board. I would respectfully request the Board consider adopting them at Tuesday's meeting.
4. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving a One Day All Alcoholic License for the Marigold Re-Open House After Summer Vacation to be Held at the Prescott Community Center on Friday, September 9, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
5. Enclosed is the final draft of the letter to be sent to various State Officials requesting that they provide additional funding for the Florence Roche Elementary School Building Project. The Florence Roche Building Committee approved the letter in concept last week. I am waiting to hear if the GD Regional School Committee did the same. I have added the Chair's signatures from both Boards to the letter. I would ask the Board to approve and sign the letter at Tuesday's meeting.

MWH/rjb
enclosures



EMERGENCY REMOVAL

SITE UPDATE

Former Squannacook Sportsmans Club Site Groton, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Former Squannacook Sportsmans Club Site (the Site) is located at 159 West Main Street, Groton, MA. The property was used in part as a shooting range from 1959 until potentially the late 1980s or early 1990s. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) did an environmental investigation at the Site in August and September 2021. Sampling results determined that there is lead and arsenic contamination present in surface soil at the former shooting range, Groton Senior Center, and on a neighboring residential property.

PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION:

EPA will be joining the Groton Board of Selectman meeting on September 6th at 7:30 pm to provide an update and answer questions. The meeting will be held in-person at 173 Main Street on the second floor in the Town Hall.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Groton did an assessment in 2021 of the Former Squannacook Sportsman Club property and found that there was an increased presence of lead in surface soil. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) confirmed the presence of lead above state standards in soil and referred the site to EPA.

In August and September of 2021, EPA collected soil samples, surface water samples, and groundwater samples from the former shooting range, the Groton Senior Center, and adjacent residential properties. Sampling results indicated the presence of lead and arsenic in soil samples above the EPA

KEY CONTACTS:

ALLYSON BOWDEN

U.S EPA On-Scene Coordinator
617-918-1359
bowden.allyson@epa.gov

CHARLOTTE GRAY

EPA Community Involvement
Coordinator
617-918-1243
gray.charlotte@epa.gov

KEVIN DAoust

MassDEP Emergency Response
Section Chief
508-767-2805
kevin.daoust@state.ma.us

EPA TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-888-EPA-7341

LEARN MORE AT:

response.epa.gov/Squannacook-SportsmansClub

cont. >>



Removal Management Levels for residential properties. EPA determined that an imminent hazard to public health and the environment is present at the site. To address the imminent hazard, EPA will conduct a removal action to address the threat presented by the contamination.

REMEDIAL ACTIONS:

The actions that EPA will be taking are as follows: removal of vegetation, trees and debris; excavation of soil contaminated with lead; and removal of lead shot. During this work, a temporary fence will be erected around excavated areas until they are backfilled to grade and/or contaminated soil is made inaccessible. Additionally, the contaminated portions of the building on the source property will be removed. During this whole process, dust control and air monitoring will take place to prevent dust moving off-site. Soil and trees that must be removed during the excavation process will be replaced.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Starting early to mid-September 2022, as cleanup work begins, the community should expect to see personnel and heavy equipment moving around the site. Normal working hours will be between 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The removal action is expected to take several months with an estimated completion sometime in spring/early summer 2023. Workers will be wearing white Personal Protection Equipment due to their direct contact with potentially contaminated materials. Disposal of the contaminated materials will take place at an off-site licensed facility. During this entire process, EPA will continue to work with the Town of Groton and MassDEP.



An abandoned building on-site where the indoor shooting range is located.



The outdoor shooting range covered in vegetation and debris.



SELECT BOARD POLICY

Policy Category:	Public
Policy Number:	PUB – 2022 - 01
Latest Revision Date:	September 6, 2022

POLICY NAME: LIQUOR LICENSE VIOLATION POLICY

I. PURPOSE

This policy is established for the Select Board, acting as the Local Licensing Authority, to address violations of Liquor Licenses issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138 §1 et seq.

II. POLICY

1. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138 §1, et seq., the Groton Select Board has been established as the local licensing authority for the sale of all alcoholic beverage licenses and all wine and malt beverages licenses, on premises (M.G.L. c. 138 §12) and off-site (M.G.L. c. 138 §15).
2. Pursuant to the authority of law, the local licensing authority is responsible for the enforcement of all statutes, by-laws and regulations established for the sale of alcoholic beverages both on-site and off-site, and further is authorized to administer appropriate penalties for violation of said statutes, by-laws and regulations.
3. Pursuant to the authority of law, the local licensing authority may modify, suspend, revoke, or cancel a licensee's license. It shall be the policy of the local licensing authority for the Town of Groton, that prior to taking any action to modify, suspend, resolve or cancel a license, proper notice and a reasonable opportunity to be heard, shall be given a licensee, as required by G.L. C.138 §64.
4. After notice and hearing and upon finding by the local licensing authority that a violation of a statute, by-law or regulation has occurred, said local licensing authority may impose the following penalties.

1st Violation – Letter of Reprimand and/or suspension of license up to three (3) days or both.

2nd Violation – Suspension of License from three (3) to ten (10) days.



SELECT BOARD POLICY

3rd Violation – Suspension of License from ten (10) to thirty (30) days.

4th Violation – Revocation of License.

For the purpose of counting violations, any prior actions on other occasions by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission taken against the Licensee within the previous three (3) years will be counted as violations that as violations that will be applied to the guidelines above.

If it is found that multiple violations occurred within a single business day (opening time until after two (2) hours of closing), such will be counted as a single violation when determining the number of violations to be considered when applying the above guidelines.

The Select Board, at its sole discretion, may impose harsher penalties if it finds the nature of the violation warrants a more severe repercussion.

5. Pursuant to the provisions of law, any license holder aggrieved by a decision of the local licensing authority shall be allowed the opportunity to appeal the local licensing authority's decision to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, as provided for in G.L. c.138 §67.



SELECT BOARD POLICY

Policy Category:	Public
Policy Number:	PUB – 2022 – 02
Latest Revision Date:	September 6, 2022

POLICY NAME: **COOLING CENTER POLICY**

I. **PURPOSE**

This Policy shall establish The Groton Center in West Groton as a Cooling Center during extreme heat events. The purpose of a "Cooling Center" or "Cooling Shelter" is an air-conditioned location that has been designated as a site to provide respite and safety during extreme heat.

II. **POLICY**

1. The Emergency Management Team made up of the Town Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Council on Aging Director determines whether or not The Center is needed as a "Cooling Center" based on extreme heat conditions.
2. Once determined if The Center is utilized as a "Cooling Center" the Groton COA in conjunction with the IT Department and The Groton Channel communicate with the community when the "Cooling Center's" hours are available. The Groton COA also communicates through an automated voicemail call, flyer distribution, and direct outreach to those at-risk alerting residents of the opportunity to stay cool at The Center.
3. At a minimum the Center will be open for at least four (4) hours on any day when the temperature is expected to be above 90 degrees, or for longer periods of time as determined by the Emergency Management Team.

FISCAL YEAR 2023

GOALS OF THE GROTON SELECT BOARD

1. Environmental Contamination Issues

Select Board Member Assigned:

Goal:

1. Monitor/Manage efforts to mitigate contamination and protect public health. Become better informed as a Board to the emerging environmental issues that are/will confront Groton.
2. Monitor PFAS issues already identified, and work to reduce further PFAS contamination
3. Monitor and address Nod Road Landfill site to the extent necessary

Measurable Benchmark:

Develop monitoring plan to keep Board apprised of steps taken to address said issues. Hold Public Forum on Broadmeadow improvements in the Fall of 2022 to help finalize plans for Broadmeadow improvements. Apply for Grant Funding to pay for project by May, 2023.

2. Climate Change

Select Board Member Assigned:

Goal:

Explore opportunities to address climate change and reduced the use of fossil fuels in town-owned buildings. Support efforts to inform and educate Town residents about opportunities to reduce energy use and costs.

Measurable Benchmark:

Schedule workshop with the Sustainability Commission by December 31, 2022 to discuss developing policies and processes to address this goal.

3. Reducing Costs of Government
Select Board Member Assigned:

Goal:

Explore ways to reduce costs of Government. Continue to review and explore ways to expand PILOTS. Seek Federal and State Grants for town projects whenever possible.

1. Work with Capital Planning Advisory Committee to understand long term capital needs of all Town Buildings and Facilities
2. Meet with Town Finance Team to review and update previous attempts to understand limits of Commercial Growth.
3. Continue to work with the various Non-Profit organizations in Groton on PILOT payments
4. Monitor the use of ARPA funds to ensure they are being used for the greatest benefit to Groton residents.
5. Review progress on Green Communities energy-reduction requirements, and future Green Communities Grant Applications. Understand impact of Green Community funds toward reducing costs for taxpayers.

Measurable Benchmark:

Schedule Meeting with Finance Team by December 31, 2022 to discuss Tax Policy and how new Growth is determined. Revisit PILOTs with various organizations by March 31, 2023

4. Affordable Housing and Housing Diversity
Select Board Member Assigned:

Goal:

Support the work of the Affordable Housing Trust, the Groton Housing Authority, and the Housing Partnership to make tangible progress on increasing the number of Affordable Housing Units on the MA Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI). Analyze current open market housing values and affordable sale prices. Consider setting up a program to purchase homes for sale in Groton and sell them as an affordable in perpetuity. Support efforts by all of Groton's Housing Committees, and any needed Zoning changes, to increase the supply of Affordable Housing. Work with Planning Board on updating the town's Master Plan. Explore potential zoning revisions to promote less-expensive housing in Groton.

Measurable Benchmark:

This is the second year of a two-year goal and the benchmark will be developed as progress is made. Benchmarks may include identifying properties for affordable housing, supporting warrant articles to create more Affordable Housing and issuing RFPs for the creation of affordable housing.

5. Diversity, Equality and Inclusion
Select Board Member Assigned:

Goal:

Work with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to formulate impactful Select Board and Groton-wide interventions to recognize, denounce, and prevent incidents of prejudicial hatred and injustice, such as Anti-Semitism, Racial and Religious Bigotry, Homophobia, and White Supremacy.

Measurable Benchmark:

Schedule Workshop with Diversity Task Force by February 15, 2023



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Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

September 6, 2022

Honorable Charles Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth
State House, Room 280
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Edward Kennedy, Senator
First Middlesex District
State House, Room 513
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable John Cronin, Senator
Worcester and Middlesex District
State House, Room 504
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Danillo Sena, Representative
37th Middlesex District
State House, Room 39
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Florence Roche Elementary School Construction
Massachusetts School Building Authority Funding

Dear Governor Baker, Senator Kennedy, Senator Cronin and Representative Sena:

We are writing to seek your assistance in a serious situation affecting our town and our school system. Recent unprecedented cost escalations, caused by the recent uptick in inflation, in the construction industry have placed the completion of our new elementary school in serious jeopardy. Town Meeting voters had approved a budget of \$77.9M for the new Florence Roche elementary school in May, 2021 to replace the existing school which was over 70 years old and not adequate to meet student needs. The Florence Roche School Building Committee developed a plan for a new school that was consistent with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines and was awarded a grant by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to help fund the project.

During the early phases of the project the rapid increases in the cost of building materials, supply chain issues and other factors affecting the construction industry caused the project budget to be reduced through value engineering by \$6M without impacting the core elements of the educational program. However, even with this reduction, the continuing unprecedented increase in inflation and in construction costs impacting the industry has created the scenario where the budget for this project is now anticipated to be \$9.5M over budget.

Governor Baker, et. al.
September 6, 2022
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It is not possible to further reduce the cost of the new Florence Roche School without impacting the core educational plan approved by DESE and the grant awarded by MSBA. This dynamic is not unique to Groton as there are over 25 other school construction projects currently underway that are experiencing the same problem. It appears that the underlying cause of this issue is the impact the pandemic has had on all aspects of the construction trade. We also understand that the Commonwealth of MA still has remaining ARPA funds that have not yet been allocated, and given that the core purpose of these Federal dollars was for pandemic mitigation, it would seem appropriate that some of this money (and/or other funds that may be available) be directed towards the MSBA so they can increase their grants to those school construction projects similarly impacted.

We appreciate your consideration for the serious nature of this problem and its impact on our schools and would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively on possible solutions.

Sincerely yours,
GROTON SELECT BOARD

John F. Reilly, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Matthew Pisani, Clerk

Alison S. Manugian, Member

Peter S. Cunningham, Member

GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FLORENCE ROCHE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Brian LeBlanc, Chair

Fay Raynor, Chair

GSB/mwh

Cc: Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee
Florence Roche Elementary School Building Committee

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

SB Members Present: John F. Reilly, Chair; Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair; Matthew F. Pisani, Clerk; Alison S. Manugian, Member; Peter S. Cunningham, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patricia DuFresne, Town Accountant; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Tammi Mickel, Assistant Assessor; Bud Robertson, Chair Finance Committee; Colby Doody, Finance Committee; David Manugian, Finance Committee; Scott Whitefield, Finance Committee; Michael Sulprizio, Finance Committee; Gary Green, Finance Committee; Bruce Easom, Community Preservation Committee; Dan Emerson, Community Preservation Committee; Carolyn Perkins, Community Preservation Committee; Richard Hewitt, Community Preservation Committee; Bob DeGroot, Community Preservation Committee; Anna Eliot, Community Preservation Committee; Raquel Majeski, Diversity, Quality and Inclusion Committee; Fran Stanley, Diversity, Quality and Inclusion Committee

Mr. Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

Mr. Robinson calls the Finance Committee to order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Pine said Dawn Dunbar was sworn in today as Town Clerk and she congratulated Ms. Dunbar.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Robinson said the Prescott Oversight Committee met with the Friends of Prescott. For their year-end, August 31, 2022, their preliminary gross revenue is \$362,000 of which net is \$238,000. Overall, they think they will break even and they have cash in excess of \$100,000. He said they have done some great work.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said he asked the Finance Committee to be present tonight to go over the warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled on September 12, 2022. Mr. Haddad said he met with the Select Board and members of the Building Committee Team to discuss the potential \$9.5 million anticipated short fall in the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction budget. The Select Board called for a Special Town Meeting on September 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School Performing Arts Center to consider one Article for additional funding for the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction to increase the authorization of the \$76,495,360 that was approved in May of 2021. There has been an unprecedented escalation in construction costs across Massachusetts since the project was approved in May of 2021. The current estimated project cost is \$85.9 million, \$9.5 million more than was previously authorized.

Mr. Haddad asks the Board to accept the warrant, authorize its issuance, vote to release the warrant. He said the warrant will go to the printer Tuesday morning and be posted by the constable and delivered to all Residents on August 26, 2022. Please note the Town Clerk has confirmed that the Quorum for the meeting is 173.

Mr. Cunningham said part of the documentation was sent to the Department of Revenue and asked when do we get an answer from them? Mr. Haddad said he sent the packet of information to the Department of Revenue asking to give authorization to bond \$9.5 million more without seeking a debt exclusion question. He said he requested to hear from them before September 12, 2022. Mr. Haddad asked the Finance Committee if they wanted to take a position on the Article.

Mr. Robertson asked for motion from the Finance Committee to recommend the Article to Town Meeting. Mr. Whitefield made such motion. It was seconded by Mr. Manugian. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Pine stated that it is her understanding that it is not a good idea to pause the project to wait until prices settle down, and we need to be prepared to answer that question at town meeting. Mr. Haddad said that will be part of our presentation, it will actually cost us more than \$9.5 million if we try to delay the project.

Ms. Pine moved to accept and issue the Warrant for the September 12, 2022 Special Town Meeting. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Robertson adjourned the meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:10 p.m.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Mr. Haddad asked Ms. Majeski to come up to present to the Board a proposed name change in the title of the Diversity Task Force, as well as, a change in the charge of the Committee. Ms. Majeski said she wanted to highlight the main changes. The new name would be the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Committee and the main goal of the new Charge is to recognize and commemorate the diversity of the residents of Groton, past and present. To do so, the Committee will examine our town for areas of unequal representation within our public institutions and spaces, both explicit and implicit, while also creating opportunities to celebrate our diversity as a community. The Committee will provide research-based observations and recommendations to the Select Board, focus on the education of our residents, and commit to open dialogue and engagement with our residents. She said the Term, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will meet beginning in August 2022 and continue through the end of July 2023, an interim report along with an Executive Summary will be delivered no later than February 15, 2023 to the Select Board. Each Committee member will complete the Racial Healing Handbook prior to beginning their term of service.

Mr. Haddad asked does that mean at the end of July 2023, the Committee will disband? Ms. Majeski said that is more for the members. She said we hope to be a committee as long as there are other existing Committees that are that are representing the needs of the residents

Ms. Pine said she hopes with the new charge to the Committee that they still see it as their role to address difficult incidents as they may happen in Town and to help us figure out how to respond them. Ms. Majeski said that is our goal and we hope to do that in a more proactive way. Ms. Stanley said they discussed being proactive, working with the Select Board and work on having a plan beforehand. Ms. Pine said her proposed goal for the Select Board is to work with the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Committee to formulate impactful Select Board and Groton-wide interventions to recognize, denounce, and prevent incidents of prejudicial hatred and injustice, such as Anti-Semitism, Racial and Religious Bigotry Homophobic and White Supremacy. She said she would hope that would be included in her committee's purview. Ms. Majeski said it would and they are working on a protocol to address "hate". Ms. Manugian said she loves the focus and the proactive piece of it. She said the Select Board needs help with this and she is happy they are willing to help and collaborate on this.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to adopt the new name and new charge of the committee.

Ms. Manugian moved to adopt the new name and new charge of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7:15PM - COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Haddad said about 3 or 4 months ago the Board was talking about the town meeting and one of the Select Board's concerns was about how projects that are on town property get on the Community Preservation docket and what role this Board should have in dealing with Community Preservation projects that are on town property that the Select Board controls the property. He said the second issue is trying to figure out how we can get to town meeting with bids in hand so we don't have a problem of not having enough money for a project. He said it is important to go out and bid before we go to town meeting. If there is a way to time Community Preservation project approval with a bid that's within 30 days of town meeting, it would be helpful. Mr. Reilly said what he heard the last few times, the process on the town's side takes so long so we are talking about change in process. Mr. Emerson said typically September is the opening period to submit a preliminary proposal to make sure it passes and fits within the CPA

requirements and all the rules and regulations. He said on the financing side one of the big challenges is how do you deal with covid and the supply chain issues. He said to me that makes it impossible to come up with a guaranteed realistic bid. Mr. Haddad said by bidding the process the price would be fixed. Mr. Haddad will work with the CPC to develop a new process on bidding prior to Town Meeting.

Ms. Pine said she wanted to mention she saw an email on tips to improve your towns Community Preservation Committee and Groton was called out positively in the best practices for having an evaluation checklist for all the projects.

Mr. Haddad said he recommend that the Select Board and the Community Preservation Committee if a project is being done on town owned property, when they give you the 2-page summary, they should be told they need to get on agenda with the Select Board before submitting their final application for approval from the Board first. Second, anything that is going to require a substantial amount of money, he would like to have the ability to sit down and talk about a process so he can handle the procurement side. Mr. Eason said we would bring them all to him and he can comment as needed.

Mr. Cunningham left the meeting at 7:37pm.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT-CONT.

2. Mr. Haddad provided the Board with the first draft of the 2022 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. He said there are 21 Articles on the warrant. There was a brief discussion on the master plan, electronic voting at Town Meeting and funding to remove 159 West Main Street Building. Mr. Haddad said the Warrant Public Hearing is scheduled for September 19, 2022.
3. Mr. Haddad reviewed the ARPA budget at Select Board member Ms. Pine's request. He said Ms. Manugian met with him that afternoon to discuss if we could use some ARPA funds to help offset the Florence Roche Construction costs. He reviewed the ARPA chart which was provided in the Select Board packet. He said the \$165,651 in available funds has the potential to go up to \$500,000 to possibly to commit to the Florence Roche. Ms. Pine asked how does that effect what we are asking the voters to approve. Mr. Haddad said the 2 biggest bids are happening after the town meeting, the building envelope and the mechanicals. He said he recommends we stick with the \$9.5 million number and we do everything we can so when we permanently finance the project 2 years from now and its audited, we do substantially less than then \$ 9.5 million and keep the available ARPA funds in our back pocket. He said there are a lot of things that could happen, the state could come through, the bids could come in better than the estimates. Ms. Manugian said there will be a public forum via zoom on September 8, 2022 to go through the whole presentation with information on this.
4. Mr. Haddad reviewed the preliminary meeting schedule through the end of the year.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTON CONT.

2. Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board to appoint Gordon Row to the Complete Streets Committee and to expire on June 30,2023.

Ms. Pine moved to appoint Gordon Row to the Complete Streets Committee. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr. Haddad reviewed the Select Board goals for Fiscal Year 2023. There was a discussion on the goals and recommended adjustments to be made. Mr. Haddad said he will make the adjustments discussed and will hopefully bring them back on September 6, 2022 to have the Board vote to approve so they can have them in place.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Haddad said 14 months after the Ixtapa liquor license violation hearing, the ABCC agreed the Board acted properly in saying Ixtapa violated the terms of the liquor license. He said the ABCC felt a 4-day suspension was too much for the particular violation and remanded the decision back to the Select Board and said they can not suspend the liquor license for more than 2 days. Mr. Haddad said that decision is subject to appeal within 30 days by either this Board or by Ixtapa. He said he felt a 2-day suspension was good. Ms. Pine said reading the ABCC's decision, there was only one violation and that's why they said 4 days was too much. She said should we have a situation again where there is a complicated situation, we should ask the police to list several violations because in this situation it wasn't just serving underage people, there were multiple things they did wrong. She said they also mentioned we didn't have a progressive discipline policy. Mr. Haddad said we may need to draft something, but the Board did do progressive discipline even though they don't have a policy. He said we should draft a policy but he always wants to hold in the pocket that the Select Board has the right to do more due to circumstances. Mr. Haddad said he recommends a 2-day suspension on September 2nd and 3rd, 2022, Ms. Manugian said September 3rd and 4th captures more lunch time as well. Mr. Haddad said he will issue a decision to Ixtapa, there is a two-day suspension on September 3rd and 4th, 2022 and they are to turn in their liquor license to the police station on those 2 days and they are to collect the license back on Monday September 5, 2022. Mr. Reilly asked can Ixtapa appeal back? Mr. Haddad said they can but they would be appealing the ABCC's decision which they granted the Board 2 days. Mr. Pisani asked how does this get monitored? Mr. Haddad said he will have the police check it out.

Ms. Manugian moved to amend the previous decision to suspend Ixtapa's All Alcoholic On Premise License from four days to two days and that the License would be suspended on September 3rd and 4th, 2022. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ON-GOING ISSUES

Mr. Haddad said he has no updates on any on-going issues.

MEETING MINUTES

*Ms. Manugian moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on August 8, 2022 and the minutes of the special meeting on August 12, 2022. Ms. Pine seconds the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.***

Mr. Reilly adjourned the meeting at 8:34pm.

Approved: _____

Matthew F. Pisani, Clerk

respectfully submitted: Tammi Mickel,
Assistant Assessor

Date Approved: