



## 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*

**Town Manager**  
Mark W. Haddad

**SELECT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023  
AGENDA  
SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Review PFAS Issue at the Groton Dunstable Regional School District High School – Temporary Water Supply – Permanent Solution
2. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Development Update
3. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through 2023 Spring Town Meeting

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

1. Consider Request to Extend Earth Removal Certificate of Exemption Until April 11, 2025 for the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project

**III.            7:15 P.M.            In Joint Session with the Finance Committee – Public Hearing on the Various Articles Contained in the 2023 Spring Town Meeting Warrant**

**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**

**III.            Minutes:            Regularly Scheduled Meeting of March 6, 2023**

**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:** *March 13, 2023*

### **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 Item on Monday's Agenda. The Select Board and Finance Committee will be meeting in Joint Session to conduct the Public Hearing on the various Articles contained in the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting. Enclosed with this Report is the latest draft of the Warrant that has been reviewed and edited by Town Counsel (with exception of the three Conservation Articles. Town Counsel is still working on those edits. I will provide the Board with an updated draft once Town Counsel provides those edits).

1. As you are aware, we have been working with representatives of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and the Town of Dunstable to address the PFAS Issue at the GDRSD High School. We held a meeting this past week to review both temporary and permanent solutions. Originally, we were under the impression from the Department of Environmental Protection that we needed to bring in clean water to the Site on a temporary basis while we developed and permitted a permanent solution. It appears that the School District can continue to provide bottled water until such time as a permanent solution is developed. We are seeking clarification on that issue. Regardless, we need to deliver clean water to the Site on a permanent basis. There are currently two potential solutions on the table. One option would be to bring water from the Groton Water Department, while the other would be to bring clean water from the Town of Dunstable through the Town of Pepperell. I have asked our Engineers from Environmental Partners to come to Monday's meeting to discuss this in more detail with the Board. As you are aware, there is an Article on the 2023 Spring Town Meeting Warrant seeking funding for the permanent solution from Groton. We are also in discussion to develop an Intermunicipal Agreement with Dunstable to determine how this project will be paid. I look forward to discussing this in more detail with the Board at Monday's meeting.

**Select Board**  
**Weekly Agenda Update/Report**  
**March 13, 2023**  
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2. With regard to this week's update on the development of the FY 2024 Budget, as expected, the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee has voted to adopt the original Proposed Budget of the Superintendent, with the following Assessment to the Town of Groton for FY 2024:

Operating Assessment:	\$26,800,655
Capital Assessment:	\$ 542,257
Debt Assessment:	<u>\$ 465,796</u>

Total Assessment: \$27,808,707

The Town has sufficient funding set aside to cover the Capital and Debt Assessments. With regard to the Operating Assessment, the latest budget I have provided to the Select Board and Finance Committee has a proposed Operating Assessment of \$25,937,716. The Proposed Budget is now out of balance by \$862,939. That said, based on the anticipated Health Insurance rate for the District that was discussed last week (5.9% versus the original 15%), along with the preliminary Chapter 70 proposal from the Governor, the Assessment proposed last week by the Superintendent (subject to review and approval by the School Committee) is \$26,312,387. This would put the proposed budget out of balance by \$374,671. The School Committee and Superintendent have committed to working with the Town to balance the Budget by March 29<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Finance Committee did not vote to finalize the Budget at their meeting last week. We will need to continue to work with both the School District and Finance Committee to finalize the Budget prior to going to print with the Warrant. We can discuss all of this in more detail during the Warrant Public Hearing at Monday's meeting.

3. Please see the update to the meeting schedule that will take the Board through the 2023 Spring Town Meeting:

Monday, March 20, 2023	-No Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2023	-Continuation of Public Hearing on Mail In Voting at Annual Town Election
Monday, April 3, 2023	-Finalize the FY 2024 Town Operating Budget
Monday, April 10, 2023	-Approve Warrant for Posting
Monday, April 17, 2023	-No Meeting (Patriot's Day)

**Continued on next page – Over >**

**Select Board**  
**Weekly Agenda Update/Report**  
**March 13, 2023**  
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3. Continued:

Monday, April 24, 2023

-Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Saturday, April 29, 2023

-2023 Spring Town Meeting

**ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION**

1. Last April, the Select Board approved a Certificate of Exemption for the removal of up to 55,000 cubic yards of fill in conjunction with the construction of the new Florence Roche Elementary School. That Certificate is set to expire on April 11, 2023. Obviously, the project is not yet completed and there is still an amount of the 55,000 cubic yards to be removed once the current School Building is razed and the new playground area is constructed. To that end, Gilbane Building Company is requesting that the Select Board grant a two-year extension to the Certificate and have it expire on April 11, 2025. Enclosed with this report is the current Certificate, along with a request from Gilbane seeking the extension. I would respectfully request that the Board grant this extension at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb  
enclosures

## Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

# TOWN OF GROTON



## 2023 SPRING TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Saturday, April 29, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

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Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

**THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 5 IS AVAILABLE  
IN THE BACK OF THE WARRANT**

# 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."<sup>1</sup> "Every action taken at the meeting must be pursuant to some article in the warrant and must be within the scope of such article."<sup>2</sup>

## How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive a voting card 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 a show of voter cards. If the vote is too close to call by sight or if seven voters immediately question the moderator's declaration of the vote, the moderator will order a hand count to confirm the vote.

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<sup>1</sup> *Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law* (page 12) Johnson, Trustman and Wadsworth, Third Edition, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> *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.



## **Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities**

**Parking** – Universally accessible parking spaces are available in the parking lot in front of the Groton Dunstable Middle School South. There is a ramp providing access from the parking lot to the front door of the Middle School.

**Wheelchair Accessible & Companion Seating** – Wheelchair spaces, seating for people with mobility issues and companion seats are available in the center aisle on both sides of the auditorium.

**Sign Language** – A Sign Language Interpreter will be provided for the hearing impaired, upon request, at least one week prior to the meeting.

**Speaking at Town Meeting** – There will be volunteers available to bring hand-held microphones to voters who have mobility issues or cannot stand in line and wait at the microphones.

**Restrooms** – Accessible restrooms are available near the entrance to the auditorium.

**Transportation to Town Meeting** - The Council on Aging van will be available to Groton residents attending Town Meetings at no charge. All riders will be at the meeting prior to the start. The van is wheelchair accessible. Your reservation can be made by calling the Senior Center at 978-448-1170. Seats will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

**Questions or concerns** - If you or a member of your household has questions or would like to request a sign language interpreter, please contact the Select Board's Office at Town Hall at 978 448-1111 at least one week before the Town Meeting.



**SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT**  
**APRIL 29, 2023**

Middlesex, ss.  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Saturday, the twenty-ninth day of April, 2023 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the twenty-third day of May, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., at an adjourned session thereof at the following locations:

Precincts 1 & 3A	The Groton Center 163 West Main Street	Precincts 2 & 3 Middle School North Gymnasium 346 Main Street
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to give their ballots for:

Vote for One	Board of Assessors	3 Years
Vote for One	Board of Health	3 Years
Vote for Two	Select Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	2 Years
Vote for Two	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Trustee of the Groton Public Library	1 Year
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	5 Years

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- \*Will be presented as one Consent Motion  
 \*\*The Budget will be presented as one Motion  
 \*\*\*Annual Consent Agenda. To be presented as one Motion

**Article 1: Hear Reports**

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Select Board and other Town Officers and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board**

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

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

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**Article 2: Elected Officials Compensation**

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

**Town Manager**

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager. The Town Moderator is proposed to receive a salary of \$1,000 in FY 2024.*

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**Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule**

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2024 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board**  
**Town Manager**

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The purpose of this Article is to set the wage and classification schedule for the three (3) employees (Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, Human Resources Director and IT Director)*

*covered by the Personnel Bylaw. Under the policy of the Select Board, these employees receive the same benefits as contained in the Town Supervisors' Union Contract. These employees will receive a 2% cost-of-living adjustment in Fiscal Year 2024.*

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**Article 4:      *Appropriate FY 2024 Contribution to the OPEB Trust***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Select Board  
Town Manager***

**Select Board:  
Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**    *The purpose of this article is to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. The Select Board and Finance Committee have adopted a funding policy for this purpose. One of the funding goals is to commit to an annual appropriation to the Trust that would keep the Net Present Value Liability from growing until such time as the Town can begin to pay down the liability. In Fiscal Year 2024, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$185,000. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$185,000 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

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**Article 5:      *Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operating Budget***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2024), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Finance Committee  
Select Board  
Town Manager***

**Select Board:  
Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *In accordance with Section 6 of the Town Charter, the Finance Committee conducts its annual budget process by receiving the Town Manager's proposed balanced budget on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>; meeting with department heads and boards; holding public budget hearings in preparation for issuing its recommendations to Town Meeting; and presenting its budget recommendations at the Spring Town Meeting. The budget handout for this Article is contained in Appendix A of this Warrant. Please also see the Finance Committee's and Town Manager's Report which includes the Finance Committee's and Select Board's recommendations.*

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**Article 6: Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER**

**Summary:** *The following is the proposed Town Manager's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2024:*

<b>Item #1 – Ambulance 1 Replacement</b>	<b>\$108,511</b>	<b>Fire and EMS</b>
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**Summary:** *Ambulance 1 will be due for replacement in 2024. The cost of the Ambulance is approximately \$435,000. To pay for this ambulance, the Town will borrow the total amount through State House Notes and pay it back over 5 years. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Town will appropriate \$108,511 from the EMS Fund to pay the first year's Debt Service.*

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

<b>Item #2 – Command Vehicle</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>Fire and EMS</b>
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**Summary:** *In FY 2024, the Command Vehicle to be replaced is the vehicle that the Deputy Chief uses for emergency response and management of incidents.*

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Item #3 – Dump Truck****\$40,000****Highway**

**Summary:** *In Fiscal Year 2021, Town Meeting approved a bond for \$185,000 to purchase a new Dump Truck for the Highway Department, with the intent to pay it back over five years. The appropriation this year is the third of five payments for this truck.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #4 – Loader****\$220,000****Highway**

**Summary:** *The current loader is a 1995 model and is 25 years old. This is an important piece of equipment for the Highway Department as it performs many functions, including snow removal operations. This should be considered a scheduled replacement.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #5 – IT Infrastructure****\$50,000****Town Facilities**

**Summary:** *This item in the Capital Budget was established eleven years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2024, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: 10 replacement computers; Replace aging servers and storage arrays; Investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; and network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage and improve door lock and security system maintenance.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #6 – Municipal Building Repairs****\$25,000****Town Facilities**

**Summary:** *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in the Town's building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in the municipal buildings. Furnaces, a/c units, flooring and painting are some of the small items this capital program handles.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #7 – Building Maintenance Van****\$60,000****Town Facilities**

**Summary:** *This Van is used by the DPW's Maintenance Foreman to carry tools and other necessary items used in the maintenance of our buildings. The current van was purchased used (2003) four years ago and needs to be replaced. This is a vital and necessary vehicle for the maintenance of Town Facilities.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #8 – Property Improvements****\$25,000****Park Department**

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

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #9 – Police Cruisers****\$125,142****Police Department**

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

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #10 – Hazmat Storage Evidence Locker****\$40,000****Police Department**

**Summary:** *A secure twelve by twenty Out Building for the purpose of securing hazardous evidence (narcotics and flammables) as well as large items of evidence. The out building will need to have a concrete foundation and floor. The building wall will be on block construction. The overhead and wall through doors will be of industrial grade steel construction.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #11 – Golf Carts****\$25,000****Country Club**

**Summary:** *In FY 2023, the Town replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with new 21 Yamaha gas powered carts and four Yamaha electric carts using a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of approximately \$25,000. This is the second of five payments.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #12 – Driving Range Improvements****\$50,000****Country Club**

**Summary:** *This item will pay for the replacement of driving range mats, addition of range targets, addition of poles and netting on the right side of the range, as well as, addressing drainage issues throughout the range which prevents maintenance in those areas.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Item #13 – Greens Equipment****\$10,000****Country Club**

**Summary:** *The Country Club needs to replace aging greens equipment. Some pieces age better than others and the maintenance staff attempt to use all the equipment until repairing it becomes cost prohibitive. The greens superintendent and course mechanic will determine the items needed most. The Town will enter into lease purchase agreements for the equipment and pay it off over five years.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

***Town Manager***

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**Article 7: Revenue Dedication of Opioid Settlements to Special Purpose Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws to establish a special purpose stabilization fund for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors, to be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of said Section 5B to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers



or distributors to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article, effective for Fiscal Year 2023 beginning on July 1, 2022; and further, to transfer from Free Cash the amount of such judgments or settlements received by the Town to date to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article; or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The Town of Groton is eligible to receive up to \$19,295 in Opioid Abatement funds pursuant to settlements reached between the Attorney General and companies and individuals that allegedly fueled the opioid crisis. 40% of the payments to be received by the state, will be directly passed on to its political subdivisions. The allocation of abatement funds will be made over a period of 17 years, ending in 2038. These funds can only be used by the Town for very specific purposes, namely opioid abuse prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. Accordingly, in order to give municipalities time to strategize how best to meet their community's needs, as well as aid in the long-term tracking, spending and reporting requirements, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is permitting towns to create a special purpose stabilization fund to which this revenue can be dedicated. To date, Groton has received \$4,990.48 of Opioid Settlement funds that will be transferred into the special purpose stabilization fund if it is authorized.*

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**Article 8:      *Funding for Destination Groton Committee***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the purpose of providing funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Destination Groton Committee***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out its charge, which is to pursue a course of action intended to engage all Town stakeholders, including the business and non-profit communities, Town leaders, and Town residents in a series of public information forums in order to prepare for an increase in visitors to town while at the same time work to preserve its rural small-town charm. A portion of this funding will be used to hire consultants to assist in procuring grant funding to create tourism programing, strategic marketing, infrastructure and regional transportation mitigation.*

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**Article 9:      *Funding for Sustainability Commission***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of providing funding for the Sustainability Commission to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all cost associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Sustainability Commission***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Sustainability Commission to pay for their tire recycling program, pollinator garden program and provide educational materials to residents in their endeavor to have informational/educational seminars that focus on Sustainability. At the direction of the Select Board in October, 2021, the Sustainability Commission added climate change and resilience to their purview. Beginning in 2022, the Commission added climate change work projects and a tire recycling program to their ongoing pollinator garden program. Continuing and bringing these projects to fruition requires funding. The Commission is seeking \$15,000 for the above-mentioned activities in FY 2024.*

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**Article 10: Amend the Charge of the Sustainability Commission**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 20 of the April 28, 2008 Spring Town Meeting which created the Sustainability Commission by authorizing the Select Board, in conjunction with the Sustainability Commission, to create a new Charge of the Commission, including the number of members of the Commission and length of terms, and authorize the Select Board to amend said Charge and Membership from time to time as the Board deems appropriate at a duly posted meeting of the Select Board, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board**  
**Sustainability Commission**

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The Sustainability Commission has been in existence for the past 13 years operating under the original Charge and membership as voted by the 2008 Spring Town Meeting. Sustainability has taken on a more and more important role in today's world. The focus of the Commission needs to be able to adapt to changing priorities. Unfortunately, since the Commission and Charge were voted on by Town Meeting, only Town Meeting can amend it. This can cause a delay in addressing issues. The purpose of this Article is to authorize the Select Board, working with the Sustainability Commission, to draft a Charge that can be amended from time to time by the Select Board. In addition, at the direction of the Select Board in October, 2021, the Sustainability Commission added climate change to their purview. Members were added to the Commission to work on this initiative. At present, the Commission is at maximum capacity, with one alternative member temporarily authorized. However, the work involved requires additional flexibility in the membership and the expertise members can bring.*

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**Article 11: Election Equipment Purchase – Poll Pads**

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 purchase Poll Pads for use by the Town Clerk to check-in voters at all elections and Town Meetings, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Town Clerk**  
**Town Manager**

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The use of Poll Pads will help to accelerate the check-in process at Town Meetings and at Elections by taking the place of the paper check-in system we currently use. These tablets will allow the election worker to look up the voter by manually entering the first few letters of the voters first and last name or but scanning the bar code on the back of a driver's license or state issued ID. If an ID is scanned, the Poll Pad matches the name and birth date of the person on the voter list with the name and date of birth it reads from the bar code. At Town Meetings, voters will have the ability to check-in at any staffed station as the Poll Pads automatically sync to one another via Bluetooth connectivity and not Wi-Fi, which eliminates any chance of checking in more than once. The Town Clerk's Office staff will also be able to electronically record voter turnout totals, load voter history into the State Voter Registration System post-election and run essential reports in a more time efficient manner. Over 200 cities and towns in the Commonwealth are currently utilizing this technology.*

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**Article 12:     *Construct New Water Main to Address PFAS Issue at GDRSD High School***

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money for the purposes of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street In Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources, and all incidental and related costs, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *This Article is for the extension of municipal drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and the surrounding properties in Dunstable on Groton Street and Kemp Street and on North Street in Groton. In 2021, the drinking water source was tested for PFAS/PFOS as required by the MassDEP. Measured levels at the High School were well over the Mass DEP's limits for potable drinking water and the drinking water source was removed from service. It appears that the surrounding properties have also been impacted by the PFAS contamination at the High School. A new water source for the High School and surrounding properties is necessary to address this issue. The estimated cost of this project is \$9 million. The Town is seeking all available Federal and State Grants to offset the cost of this water main extension.*

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**Article 13: Community Preservation Funding Accounts**

To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund: Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$
Open Space Reserve:	\$
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$
Community Housing Reserve:	\$
Unallocated Reserve:	\$

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Community Preservation Committee**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Community Preservation Committee:**

**Summary:** *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary so that the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during Fiscal Year 2024. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

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**Article 14: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws, and by authorizing the Select Board, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

<b>CPC Proposal A:</b>	<b>Housing Trust Funds Request</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
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**Summary:** *This application is seeking \$200,000 in CPA funds to be used to help the Affordable Housing Trust meet its affordable housing goals. This application is requesting that the funding be transferred to the Affordable Housing Trust to be used for any and all allowable community housing purposes. Community housing funds can be used to acquire, create, support and rehabilitate and / or*

*restore housing if acquired or created with CPA funds. The Trust would plan to submit a CPC application each year to be considered for CPA funding. The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Community Preservation Committee:**

<b>CPC Proposal B:</b>	<b>Preservation of Lake Massapoag</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
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**Summary:** *This application is requesting \$4,000 in CPA funds to cover a portion of the 2023 rehabilitation/preservation costs for the Upper Massapoag Pond. The pond is currently overrun by invasive aquatic plants and the eighteen-acre cove portion of the pond located in Groton has added significant costs to the treatment. Both the Town of Tyngsboro and the Town of Dunstable have been supporting this project since it first started. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Community Preservation Committee:**

<b>CPC Proposal C:</b>	<b>Conservation Fund – FY 2024</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
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**Summary:** *The Conservation Commission is requesting \$400,000 in CPA funds to be added to the Town's Conservation Fund to help preserve open space, protect water resources and wildlife habitat, and preserve land for agricultural, recreational, and forestry activities. The Conservation Fund allows the Town to move quickly in the event a priority parcel becomes available. In the past, the Conservation Fund has been used to purchase Conservation Restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and fee ownership of conservation land in the Town. The Commission adheres to the Select Board's General Financial Guideline #6, which states the goal "to maintain a balance in the Conservation Fund of at least 2% of the Town's current line-item budget." However, due to the rising cost of land and the current number of properties the Commission is anticipating closing on in 2023, the need to augment the Fund is as crucial this year as ever. As of the January 1, 2023 the Conservation Fund balance is \$1,691,087. It should be noted that of this amount, \$635,000 represents a gift earmarked for the conservation of a specific parcel in the coming year. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Community Preservation Committee:**

**CPC Proposal D:****Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond****\$80,000**

**Summary:** *The Park Commission is requesting \$80,000 in CPA funds to replace an existing baseball field located at Town Field (behind the Library) that has served the Town since the 1930's. The funds will be used towards excavating and removing infield grass and clay. The excavated area will then be laser graded in which the layout will meet the major league diamond standards. A new home plate, pitcher's mound, and left and right foul poles will be set. An irrigation only well will be drilled for irrigation purposes only. An irrigation system will be installed for the benefit of the entire playing surface. An electrical service will be installed in the existing maintenance shed. The full amount to be paid from the Open Space Reserve.*

**Select Board:****Finance Committee:****Community Preservation Committee:****CPC Proposal E:****Construct Softball Diamonds at Cutler Field****\$90,000**

**Summary:** *The Park Commission is requesting \$90,000 in CPA funds to build over the site of the former Little League regulations diamonds at Cutler Field in West Groton. The funds will be used towards excavating and removing infield grass and clay. The excavated area will then be laser graded in which two softball diamonds will be constructed in adherence with the proper guidelines and standards. This project will include all necessary materials required to construct the two softball diamonds. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

**Select Board:****Finance Committee:****Community Preservation Committee:****CPC Proposal F:****Conceptual Site Engineering Costs****\$120,000**

**Summary:** *The Groton Housing Authority is requesting \$120,000 in CPA funds to cover the estimated costs associated with preparing applications for the Nashua Road Project (Parcel 227 / 135). This project requires a full scope of testing and engineering in order to determine whether the land is feasible for the purposes of generating eight affordable rental units designated for 55 and over. The process will begin with soil testing as per the conceptual plan. However, should the soil be contaminated, unsuitable or too expensive to mitigate, the project will terminate. The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

**Select Board:****Finance Committee:****Community Preservation Committee:**

**CPC Proposal G:****Housing Coordinator – FY 2024****\$55,791**

**Summary:** *This application is requesting \$55,791 in CPA funding from the Community Housing category to fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator position (25-hours/week). The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Community Preservation Committee:**

**CPC Proposal H:****Squannacook River Rail Trail****\$90,000**

**Summary:** *Squannacook Greenways is requesting \$90,000 in CPA funding for construction of Phase 4 of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) from the northern Crosswinds Drive crossing of the MBTA Railroad right of way to the Groton/Townsend town line for a total distance of .25 miles. Construction of the SRRT is being conducted in phases due to environmental permitting requirements which limit construction activity to a period of between 11/15-3/15. Squannacook Greenways is also relying on DCR MassTrails grants to underwrite a large portion of construction costs and has been the successful recipient on three MassTrails grants: 2019, 2020 and 2022. Squannacook Greenways will be applying for the next round of grants and if successful will commence construction in 11/2023. The full amount to be paid from the Open Space Reserve.*

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Community Preservation Committee:**

**Community Preservation Committee**

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**Article 15:    *An Act Merging Certain Voting Precincts in the Town of Groton***

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would merge Precincts 1 and 3A into one Precinct known as Precinct 1 as follows:

**An Act Merging Certain Voting Precincts in the Town of Groton**

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.     Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Precinct 1 and Precinct 3A in the Town of Groton shall merge and become Precinct 1 of the Town of Groton.

Section 2.     This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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; or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Clerk  
Town Manager***

**Select Board:  
Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**     *In 2021, and as a result of the 2020 Federal Census, boundary lines for Precincts 1 and 3 were adjusted due to shifts in population. The new boundary lines took effect on December 31, 2021 and are in effect for 10 years. During the 2021 process, the Massachusetts Legislature pre-empted the timeline used for reprecincting, and started redistricting simultaneously. The 2010 precinct boundaries were used to redistrict which affected part of Precinct 3. Because of this, the Town now has a sub-precinct, which you will see referred to as Precinct 3A and the Town was split the Town into two (2) Representative Districts, the First Middlesex District and 37<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District. There are currently 236 Residents residing with the newly formed Precinct 3A. This article seeks Town Meeting permission to request Special Legislation to merge Precinct 3A into Precinct 1. This merger will yield a cost savings to the Town as it would require less support during elections.*

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**Article 16: Amend Town Charter – Article 3, Section 3.2.2 (v)**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would amend the Groton Town Charter as follows:

**An Act Relative to the Charter in the Town of Groton**

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. The charter of the town of Groton, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out section 3.2.2(v) and inserting in place thereof the following:

3.2.2(v) sign all payroll and expense warrants; provided, however, that the select board, at its sole discretion, may delegate this authority to the town manager by a vote of the board at a posted meeting.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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; or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The signing of the payroll and accounts payable warrants is the responsibility of the Select Board, as identified in M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 56. This responsibility serves as an oversight on the town treasury. On a bi-weekly basis, the warrants are delivered, usually with a large number of detailed expense and payroll items. Individual Select Board Member practices vary with respect to their detailed review of the warrants. It is recommended that the Charter be revised to authorize the Select Board to delegate the authority, at their discretion, to sign expense and payroll warrants to the Town Manager. The Select Board can also revoke this delegation and impose limits on signing authority.*

**Article 17: Amend Town Charter – Article 4, Sections 4.2(iii) and 4.2(iv)**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would amend the Groton Town Charter as follows:

**An Act Relative to the Charter in the Town of Groton**

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. The charter of the town of Groton, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out section 4.2(iii) and 4.2(iv) and inserting in place thereof the following:

4.2(iii) appointing and removing department heads, officers and subordinates and employees and other appointed members of town government for whom no other method of appointment or removal is provided in this charter or by-law. Appointments made by the town manager shall be confirmed by the select board within 15 days of the date the town manager files notice of the action with the select board. Failure by the board of selectmen to confirm an appointment within 15 days shall constitute rejection of the appointment.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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; or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The Charter Committee in 2017 amended the original Town Charter's appointing authority of the Town Manager by creating a cumbersome, unnecessary procedure of nominating appointments to the Select Board, instead of having the Town Manager appoint members of Town Government, subject to the ratification of the Select Board. It was a change that was not necessary, as the Select Board still has the ultimate authority on who serves Town Government. They also changed the authority of the Town Manager to remove members of Town Government without the approval of the Select Board at a duly posted public meeting. This has the potential to embarrass volunteers and cause unnecessary drama. This proposal would return the appointing authority of the Town Manager back to the original wording in the Charter that was approved in 2008 and worked without issue or complaint for many years.*

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**Article 18: Amend Zoning Bylaw – Accessory Apartment Clarifications**

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

1. In Section 218-3 Definitions, amend the existing definition of Accessory Apartment by deleting the words "one bedroom" and inserting in their place the words "eight hundred (800) square feet of habitable floor area".
2. Amend Section 218-9.4 Accessory Apartment as follows:
  - a. In Section 218-9.4.2 Attached Accessory Apartment, by inserting the words "of habitable floor area" in the first sentence after the words "eight hundred (800) square feet".
  - b. In Section 218-9.4.2.k, by inserting the word "attached" in the first sentence before the words "accessory apartment".
  - c. In Section 218-9.4.3 Detached Accessory Apartment, by deleting the words "detached-accessory apartment" in the first sentence and inserting in their place the words "detached accessory apartment not to exceed eight hundred (800) square feet of habitable floor area".
  - d. In Section 219-9.4.3.a, by deleting the words "and j-l" and inserting in their place the words "j, and l".

or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Planning Board***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Planning Board:**

**Summary:** *This article clarifies certain inconsistencies in the provisions regulating Attached and Detached Accessory Apartments in Section 218-9.4. Specifically, this article clarifies that all accessory apartments, whether attached or detached, shall have a maximum of 800 square feet of living area (i.e., habitable floor area). This article also modifies the definition of Accessory Apartment to be consistent with Section 218-9.4 by inserting the maximum living area provision.*

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**Article 19:     *Extend Center Sewer District to Include 100 Whitman Road***

To see if the Town will vote to extend the "Groton Center Sewer District" as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, to include the property shown on Assessor's Map 234 Lot 55-1 (100 Whitman Road), and further described in a Deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 80620, Page 135, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner's proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, Connection Fees, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Board of Sewer Commissioners***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Board of Sewer Commissioners:**

**Summary:** *This Article, if approved, will extend the Center Sewer District to 100 Whitman Road (Assessors Map 234 Lot 55-1). Please note that the parcel shown on Assessors Map 234 Lot 55, which is used as an apple orchard, is not included in this article. Under Groton's Charter, placing an article on the Warrant requires a sponsor, either a Department, Board or Committee of Town or by Citizens' Petition. In an effort to allow the Town Meeting to take action on this request, the Board of Sewer Commissioners has agreed to place this Article on the Warrant on behalf of the proponent.*

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**Article 20: Grant Easement for Sewer Connection for 100 Whitman Road**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant an easement for the purpose of placing and maintaining a subsurface sewage disposal line to the owner of the property located at 100 Whitman Road (Assessors Map 234 Lot 55-1), and further described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 80620, Page 135, and only that land, said easement to pertain to the area below existing grade surface and under the surface of Town owned property under the control of the Select Board located at 94 Lovers Lane (Assessors Map 115, Parcel 34), and further described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 20265, Page 302, said easement being shown on the plan labeled "Easement for Sewer Connection for 100 Whitman Road" on file with the Office of the Town Clerk, on terms and conditions deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interest of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Board of Sewer Commissioners**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Board of Sewer Commissioners**

**Summary:** *Should a sewer extension to 100 Whitman Road (Assessors Map 234 Lot 55-1) be authorized by town meeting, the extension will be a private connection and will not extend beyond the confines of what is currently 100 Whitman Road (Assessors Map 234 Lot 55-1). The work will be done using directional drilling from the site of the existing house lot and is not expected to result in surface disturbance except for a small area at the point of connection to the town sewer at the edge of the golf course across from Johnson's Restaurant. The easement would run along the eastern edge of the 6th fairway. The owner of 100 Whitman Road (Ryan J. McGuane) will pay for the cost of construction and connecting to the existing sewer line. It is anticipated there will be no cost to the Town of Groton for the connection and maintenance. In an effort to allow the Town Meeting to take action on this request, the Board of Sewer Commissioners has agreed to place this Article on the Warrant as well.*

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**Article 21: Conservation Land Purchase**

To see if the Town of Groton will vote to appropriate the sum of \$601,500, for the purpose of purchasing for conservation and passive recreation purposes, by eminent domain or negotiated purchase or otherwise, a certain property, known as the "Casella Property", consisting of 119 acres, more or less, owned by the Casella Realty Trust as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in MUNICIPALITY made by SURVEYING FIRM dated XX/XX/XX"; that said land be conveyed to said Town of Groton under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8c, and as it may hereafter be amended and other Massachusetts statutes relating to Conservation, to be managed and controlled by the conservation commission of Groton, and the conservation commission be authorized to file on behalf of the Town of Groton any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and /or

reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deemed necessary under Chapter 132A, Section 11 and/or any others in any way connected with the scope of this Article, and the Town of Groton and the conservation commission be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of Groton to affect said purchase, and, further, to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction on said parcel to a qualified entity in accordance with M.G.L. c. 184, Sections 31 through 33, or to take any other action relative thereto.

### ***Conservation Commission***

#### **Select Board:**

#### **Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *Applying for a state grant will enable the Town to leverage funds already set aside in the Conservation Fund for the acquisition of approximately 119 acres of conservation land. The Conservation Commission is able to spend from the Conservation Fund without Town Meeting approval, however, the Commission needs approval to receive reimbursement from the grant. The negotiated purchase price for this property is \$601,500 and the grant would reimburse approximately \$360,900 (approx. 60% of total project cost) to the Conservation Fund. This land has frontage on Nashua Road and is adjacent to the Reedy Meadow Conservation Area to the south, and the GDRSD High School property to the east. In addition to providing an extensive trail connection between Chicopee Row, Reedy Meadow Road, and Nasua Road, the Casella Property features exceptionally diverse habitats for its size. It is the last parcel of land with such habitats within the ring of development from Reedy Meadow Road to the south, Nashua Road to the west, Wyman Road to the north, and the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School to the east. Protecting large tracts of contiguous open space ensures a diversity of wildlife, habitats, and recreational opportunities for generations of Groton residents.*

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#### **Article 22: Grant Conservation Restrictions on Various Parcels**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to grant conservation restrictions encumbering all or a portion of the parcels of land described below to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and through its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, AND to the Groton Conservation Trust, a 501(c)(3) organization with an address of PO Box 395, Groton, MA 01450, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission in accordance with M.G.L. c. 184, Sections 31 through 33. The parcels of land over which the conservation restrictions are to be granted are described as follows:

1. The parcel of land located off Chicopee Row, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-85) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from R. THOMAS DELANEY JR. & JENNIFER L. DELANEY and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on June 27, 2011, in Book 57046 at Page 248;

2. The parcel of land located off Chicopee Row, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-94) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from ADELAIDE M. LUCA and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 18, 1997, in Book 27992 at Page 315;
3. The parcel of land located off Hawtree Way, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-63) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from BREEZY HILL REALTY CORP. and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on October 24, 1997, in Book 27801 at Page 119;
4. The parcel of land located off Chicopee Row, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-95) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from PHILIP H. COLLIER & NANCY W. COLLIER and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 13, 1973, in Book 12477 at Page 130;
5. The parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 243-17) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from BUILDERS COLLABORATIVE, INC. and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 31, 1986, in Book 17744 at Page 99;
6. The parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 244-26) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from BUILDERS COLLABORATIVE, INC. and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 31, 1986, in Book 17744 at Page 99;
7. The parcel of land located off Sawtell Drive, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-9) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from CYRIL G. LUNN and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 2, 2003, in Book 41544 at Page 397;
8. The parcel of land located off Sawtell Drive, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-14) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from CYRIL G. LUNN and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 2, 2003, in Book 41544 at Page 397;
9. The parcel of land located off Kailey's Way, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-38) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from JOSEPH M. CAPPELLETTI and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 24, 1996, in Book 26519 at Page 185;
10. The parcel of land located off Lowell Road, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 243-31.1) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION, INC. and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on March 3, 2011, in Book 56554 at Page 226;
11. The parcel of land located off Lowell Road, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 233-98.2) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from 114 REALTY TRUST and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on November 30, 2009, in Book 53921 at Page 1;



12. The parcel of land located off Otter Lane, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-3) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from 114 REALTY TRUST and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 18, 1987, in Book 18766 at Page 24;
13. The parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 224-15) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from HELLEN H. TRIMPER INVESTMENT TRUST and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on February 13, 2020, in Book 74129 at Page 313;
14. The parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 224-18) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from HELLEN H. TRIMPER INVESTMENT TRUST and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on March 14, 2019, in Book 72329 at Page 472;
15. The parcel of land located off West Main Street, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 106-31) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from MARTHA M. HARVEY and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on September 27, 2018, in Book 71675 at Page 143;
16. The parcel of land located off West Main Street, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 106-32) described in a deed to the Town of Groton from MARTHA M. HARVEY and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on September 27, 2018, in Book 71675 at Page 143;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

### ***Conservation Commission***

#### **Select Board:**

#### **Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *This article will satisfy the requirement of the LAND Grant to have all properties purchased with CPA funds protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR). With this requirement met, the Town will be eligible for the 60% reimbursement the LAND grant will provided to the Town for the purchase of the Casella Property. In total, there are five properties that require a CR, which include parcels: 1.) Priest Family Conservation Area (Assessor's Parcels 224-15 & 18); 2.) Patricia Hallet Conservation Area (Assessor's Parcels 106-31 & 32); 3.) "Fuccillo Land" (Assessor's Parcels 233-98.1 & 98.2); 4.) "Baddacook Pond East Shore" (Assessor's Parcel 243-31.1); and 5.) "Unkety Well Site" (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-85). The Groton Conservation Trust will hold the CR on the Priest & Hallet properties. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will hold the CR for the "Fuccillo Land," "Baddacook Pond East Shore," and "Unkety Well Site" properties. The Division of Fisheries of Wildlife aims to bundle several bordering properties owned by the Town under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission to broaden the reach of the protection of the CRs they will hold.*

**Article 23: Grant Conservation Restriction to Division of Fisheries and Wildlife**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction encumbering all or a portion of the parcel of land described below to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and through its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission set in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, c. 184, §§31 through 33. Said parcel of land described as follows:

1. The parcel of land located off Lowell Road, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-04) described in a deed to the XXXX from XXXX and others recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on XXXX, in Book XXXX at Page XXXX;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board**  
**Conservation Commission**

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *As part of the work to address the outstanding parcels needing conservation restrictions as required by the Community Preservation Act and LAND grant conditions, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) has expressed an interest in protecting the "Brown Loaf" parcel (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-04), which is a 103 +/- acre parcel, located south of Lowell Road behind the GELD substation. This property, purchased by the Town in 1999 at the Spring Town Meeting, was originally purchased by the Town for general municipal purposes. Options were explored for the best development potential but none panned out. This resulted in a 2011 Spring Town Meeting (Article 19) authorizing the Select Board to transfer the parcel to the Conservation Commission. This article would allow the Town to recoup most of the funds it spent to purchase the property while allowing the Conservation Commission and DFW the means to preserve a parcel with significant ecologic value.*

---

**Article 24:     *Citizens' Petition – Rezone 797 Boston Road***

To see if the Town will vote to rezone the property situated at 797 Boston Road, which is shown on the Groton Assessor's Maps as Parcel 133-49 and described in a deed recorded with Middlesex County South District Registry of Deeds in Book 45322 at Page 597, as Neighborhood Business (NB), allowing for the construction of an indoor pickleball facility, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Citizens' Petition***

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
James McLean	4 Little Hollow Lane	Roberta Fusari	331 Riverbend Drive
Alfred Von Campe	29 Worthen Drive	Kristen Von Campe	29 Worthen Drive
Michael J. Hutton	33 Overlook Drive	Karen Hutton	33 Overlook Drive
Catherine Pauly	42 Forest Drive	Kathy Pietras	9 West Street
David Fusari	331 Riverbend Drive	Robert E. Anderson	270 Whiley Road

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**  
**Planning Board:**

**Summary:**     The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *The owner of this parcel wishes to change the zoning of the property from Residential–Agricultural (R-A) to Neighborhood Business (NB) to allow for the development of an indoor pickleball facility. The proposed facility would require the issuance of a Special Permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw.*

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**ARTICLES 25 THROUGH 33 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.**

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**Article 25:     *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 2023 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Board of Water Commissioners***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *This article will request a transfer of funds from Water Surplus to help fund the Fiscal Year 2023 Water Department's Operational Expenses. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$75,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

---

**Article 26:     *Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund***

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Center 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 2023 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$25,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

---

**Article 27:     *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 2023 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 2023 Four Corners Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$75,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

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**Article 28:     *Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund***

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Cable Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Cable Advisory Committee***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**     *This article allows the Cable Advisory Committee to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. As of the Printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_ will be transferred for this purpose.*

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**Article 29:     *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.*

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**ARTICLE 30:    *Current Year Line-Item Transfers***

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Select Board***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

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**Article 31: *Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 23.*

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**Article 32: *Debt Service for Middle School Track***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5 for debt service for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting and Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Community Preservation Committee***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**  
**Community Preservation Committee:**

**Summary:** *This article appropriates the debt payments for the Middle School Track Project. The anticipated debt service for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_. Funding for this article will come from the Unallocated Reserve of the Community Preservation Fund.*

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**Article 33:     *Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds***

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to add or delete any revolving account and/or to set the FY 2023 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

<b>Program or Purpose</b>	<b>FY 2024 Spending Limit</b>
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$50,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$10,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

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

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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 10<sup>th</sup> Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Matthew F. Pisani

Matthew F. Pisani, Clerk

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Member

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, 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



Town of Groton  
Select Board  
173 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Groton, MA 01450  
PERMIT #3

# RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA

March 8, 2023

Mark Haddad  
Town Manager  
Town of Groton  
173 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

RE: Florence Roche Elementary School Project – Earth Removal Certificate of Exemption  
Project Number: J09390.000

Dear Mark:

I am writing in regards to the Florence Roche Elementary School construction project and the associated Certificate of Exemption under Earth Removal By-Law, Chapter 134, Section 10 Exemptions that the project was granted by the Town's Select Board. The project's Certificate of Exemption was issued on April 11, 2022 and is currently scheduled to expire on April 11, 2023.

The project's approach has not changed and still has a soil export effort to support the completion of the project. The quantity of remaining soil export is still within the values identified in the original application for exemption.

On behalf of Gilbane Building Company and the project I am cordially requesting that the Certificate of Exemption be granted a two-year extension resulting in a new expiration date of April 11, 2025.

If there is anything the Town of Groton needs from Gilbane Building Company or the project to support this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Gilbane Building Company  
Henry McElroy  
Project Executive

**CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION  
EARTH REMOVAL BY-LAW, CHAPTER 134, SECTION 10 EXEMPTIONS**

At its meeting of April 11, 2022, the Select Board voted to approve a Certificate of Exemption under Section 134-10 of the Earth Removal By-Law to:

**APPLICANT ADDRESS**

Groton Dunstable Regional School District  
344 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

**LAND OWNER ADDRESS**

Town of Groton  
173 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

**For material to be removed from property located at:**

**Street Address:** 342 Main Street  
**Assessor's Lot:** 111-34, 110-43, 110-42  
**Zoning District:** R-A, P  
**Definitive subdivision plan:** Florence Roche Elementary Site Plans

Quantity of material shall not exceed: 55,000 cubic yards

**CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS**

1. The applicant shall confirm that there are no wells or sewage disposal systems within 100 ft of the area to be excavated.
2. No operating on site before 7:00 AM or after 5:00 PM unless the Select Board determines otherwise.
3. Loaded trucks shall depart from the site only within such hours as the Select Board, after consultation with the Police Chief, may prescribe in the interest of public safety.
4. The public roadways must be cleaned at the end of the workday.
5. Applicant shall notify the Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector prior to commencement of activity.
6. Slope of stockpiles shall not exceed 2:1.
7. Stockpiles shall be stabilized with non-invasive, fast-germinated seed such as annual rye to prevent dust and wind-blown erosion. Erosion control barriers shall be installed around the base of the stockpiles.
8. Town water is available on the site. It is imperative that appropriate dust control measures be undertaken at all times.

**SELECT BOARD:**

Rebecca H. Pine  
Alison D. Hannon  
Peter S. Cunningham

**DATE OF ISSUANCE:**

April 11, 2022

[Signature]  
[Signature]

**EXPIRATION DATE:** (one-year from date of issuance): April 11, 2023

cc: Earth Removal Inspector, Building Inspector, Planning Board, Police Chief, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Highway Surveyor, Fire Chief, Water Department

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 06, 2023  
TOWN HALL SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

UN-APPROVED

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

**SB Absent:** none

**Also Present:** Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant; Dr. Laura Chesson, GDRSD Superintendent; Nik Gualco, Conservation Administrator; Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; Megan Foster, Principal Assessor; Treasurer/Collector, Hannah Moller

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Haddad asked the Town Clerk to give everyone an update on a few matters.

Ms. Dunbar announced to the public, nomination papers are now available in the Town Clerk's Office and need to be returned by April 4, 2023. Fifty (50) registered voter's signatures are required. Ms. Dunbar also announced there are currently several elected boards with vacancies. Census forms were mailed out in January but they have not heard from 1,700 households. Late fees are now effective as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to register your dogs and they would like to encourage everyone to please come in. They are 700 dogs short of being registered from last year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

**1. Consider Request from Middlesex County Retirement Board to Provide COLA**

The Middlesex Country Retirement Board is requesting the Select Board to vote to accept Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022. This is a local option which allows a one-time increase to the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) granted to retirees in FY 2023, from 3% to 5%. Town Treasurer/Collector, Hannah Moller, was in attendance to help answer any questions or concerns the Select Board members may have. Ms. Moller said there are implications and no community has rejected this increase. Ms. Moller said this would be an increase of \$800 this year to our retirees. Ms. Moller asked the Select Board to consider adopting this Act.

Mr. Cunningham asked Ms. Moller if they choose not to endorse this Act, will the increase still go through? Ms. Moller said would if two-thirds of the communities in Middlesex County approve it. She said every 2 years we see a 2% increase and the amount will get added to the base. Ms. Connie Sartini questioned how many towns are in the Middlesex County District? Ms. Moller said there are there are 5394 retirees in Middlesex County and there are thirty-one towns.

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022, to allow a one-time increase to COLA to retirees in FY 2023, from 3 percent to 5 percent. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**2. Consider Request from Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to Purchase Conservation Restriction on Brownloaf Property.**

Mr. Haddad announced the Department of Fish and Game is here tonight. Conservation Administrator, Nik Gualco and the Department of Fish and Game have sent letters to the Select Board requesting the Select Board to consider selling a Conservation Restriction to the Department of Fish and Game for the Brownloaf Property. This property was sold to the town in 1999 for municipal purposes. The 2011 Spring Town Meeting voted to authorize the Select Board to transfer the care and custody to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes. The town has tried several times to utilize this property for municipal purposes but has not been successful. The town has had no interest in this parcel and Fish and Game is willing to purchase a conservation restriction.

Mr. Cunningham wants to make sure public access will be maintained there. He would like to make sure when the restriction is drafted it retains the right for the public to allow any access to pre-existing trails for hiking and non-motorized vehicles.

Mr. Pisani asked if there are any trails documented on this parcel. Mr. Cunningham said there are trails out there, maybe the Trails Committee has a map of them. Mr. Gualco said this is the intention of the Conservation Commission, to not lose any existing uses. By April 29<sup>th</sup>, there should be drafts of the Conservation Restrictions for the Select Board to review with the language in there.

Mr. Haddad asked Mr. Gualco what he is looking for from the Select Board? Mr. Gualco said they are looking for two actions this evening: To commit to working with the Conservation Commission and Fish and Game and to place a Conservation Restriction and a vote of support to move forward with a letter for documentation.

Ms. Manugian asked where will the funding go that comes in from the sale. Mr. Haddad said it will go into the General fund and close out as free cash.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to write a Letter of Support that the Select Board would work with the Department of Fish and Game for a conservation restriction on the Brownloaf Property and to grant permission to agents of Fish and Game to access the property for the purpose of conducting an appraisal. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion approved by a majority vote, 4 in Favor, 1 Abstain - Manugian.*

**3. Consider Ratifying the Town Manger's Appointment of Barbara Keast as an Election Worker.**

Ms. Dunbar, our Town Clerk, has recommended that the Town Manager appoint Ms. Barbara Keast as an Election Worker.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Barbara Keast as an Election Worker, Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

**4. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Development Update**

Mr. Haddad said Saturday's Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee went well. GDRSG Superintendent, Dr. Chesson did a great job. Mr. Haddad provided a revised Town Manager's Proposed Operating Budget update with the outlined changes after the meeting. The minor adjustments that were outlined, allowed for an increase in the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Assessment by \$400,000 from \$1,218,398 to \$1,618,398, with Assessment going from \$24,319,318 to \$25,937,716. The Dispatch Position and Firefighter position would be the most important positions to be added back to the budget if funding became available.

Since Saturday there have been additional changes. The revised Town Manager's Proposed Operating Budgets from March 6, 2023 lists the most up to date changes. The school received great news about their health insurance rate which came in at 5.9%, and not the 15% they were carrying. This is a savings of \$476,000. Dr. Chesson sent a list of crucial positions she would like to be added back into the budget. Dr. Chesson will recommend these to the School Committee. If the Select Board and Finance Committee want to fund Mr. Haddad's request of \$107,000 and Dr. Chesson's request of \$175,014, they would need additional funding of \$282,014. The possibility of an Override in FY 2024 was discussed, to fund the reductions in the School Districts Assessment and the Town's Operating Budget. This would add \$0.12 to the tax rate.

Mr. Haddad wants the information shared and to keep the board up to date.

Mr. Reilly asked if the override can be exclusive to the school and it can go back to our original municipal budget. Mr. Haddad said it is based off of whatever Town Meeting votes on. Ms. Pine said there are some implications when saying it is an override for the schools. People have not followed the level of detail that we have. We need to show it will benefit the municipal side and the schools. We would do better if it is presented this way.

Ms. Manugian asked if they can we get a final list on what has been cut on both sides? Dr. Chesson said she will send a final reduction list that she will recommend to the School Committee.

#### **5. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through 2023 Spring Town Meeting**

Wednesday, March 8, 2023	- School Committee Approves Budget
Monday, March 13, 2023	- Public Hearing of 2023 Spring Warrant Regularly Scheduled meeting
Monday, March 20, 2023	- No Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2023	- Continuation of Public Hearing on Mail in Voting at Annual Town Election
Monday, April 3, 2023	- Finalize the FY 2024 Town Operating Budget
Monday, April 10, 2023	- Approve Warrant for Posting
Monday, April 17, 2023	- No Meeting (Patriot's Day)
Monday April 24, 2023	- Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Saturday, April 29, 2023	-2023 Spring Town Meeting

#### **ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION**

##### **1 Consider Ratifying New-Three Year Agreement with Fire Chief Steele McCurdy**

Mr. Haddad said he is pleased that Fire Chief Steele McCurdy has accepted the Select Board's offer for a new three (3) year Agreement. The terms of the Agreement are as follows:

A Three-year contract from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.

B. Compensation:

FY 2024- Annual Salary of \$145,000

FY 2025- 2 % COLA and up to 2 % performance incentive added to base

FY 2026- 2% COLA and up to 2% performance incentive to base

C. Add the following Health Insurance Opt-out Language:

Employee can choose to "Opt-Out" of the Town's Health Insurance Program subject to the following:

The employee shall receive twenty- five (25%) percent of the Town portion of the health insurance plan the employee is enrolled in at the time of the "Opt-Out". The pro-rated amount shall be provided to the employee divided by the number of remaining pay periods in the Fiscal Year that is being paid; and

For the employee to be eligible, they need to provide proof of Health Insurance Coverage; and

For the employee to be eligible for the "Opt-Out" option, they need to be enrolled in the Town's Health Insurance Program in the preceding entitlement period.

D. Education Incentive- Educational Incentive Payments to the employee shall be made in accordance with the following:

Master's Degree in Fire Science \$2,000

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion that the Board ratify the new three year Agreement between the Town and Chief Steel McCurdy. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. Pisani Abstained.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**ON-GOING ISSUES**

PFAS Issue: The Select Board has asked to look at Groton Option for the PFAS issue. Wednesday there will be a meeting to put together a full plan and the Board will talk about it during the Public Hearing on the Warrant at next Monday's meeting.

Water Department- Manganese Issue- Mr. Haddad said the Water Treatment Plant project to address the manganese is going well.

On March 13, at UMass Amherst, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means will conduct a public hearing to discuss Chapter 70 and Unrestricted Local Aid. This will be a virtual or in person event.

Ms. Dunbar said there are four different bills to extend remote meetings past March 31<sup>st</sup>. This would extend the current rules through 2025, Ms. Dunbar will provide the information as she receives it.

**MINUTES**

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting from February 27, 2023 as presented. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

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