



TOWN OF GROTON

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

Select Board

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

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024
AGENDA
SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM
2nd FLOOR
GROTON TOWN HALL

- 6:00 P.M.** **Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public**
- 6:05 P.M.** **Public Comment Period #1**
- I. 6:06 P.M.** **Town Manager's Report**
- 1. Consider Ratifying the following appointments of the Town Manager: Isabel Albright, Country Club Lifeguard; Lucia Gallo and Riley Ashworth – Country Club Camp Staff; Dean Cappella, Jared Cappella, Benjamin Huans, Fynn Frazier, Callum Sullivan, Roan DeMeis-Dullea, James Conley, Colin Fitzgerald – Country Club Golf Staff**
 - 2. Consider Approving Installation of a "Welcome to Groton" Sign as proposed by the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce**
 - 3. Follow-Up Discussion/Action - May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting**
 - 4. Update on Select Board Schedule End of Fiscal Year**
- II. 6:10 P.M.** **Items for Select Board Consideration and Action**
- 1. Consider Recommending to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee to Rename the Groton Dunstable Regional Middle School South to the Marion Stoddard Middle School and Establish a Gift Fund to Raise Money to Cover the Cost**
 - 2. Consider Approving a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Prescott Community Center-Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night to be held on Friday, June 14, 2024 from 6:30 PM- 10:00 PM**
 - 3. Consider Approving a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Prescott Community Center-Friends of Prescott for a Garden Party to be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024, 4:30 PM- 7:30 PM**
- III. 6:15 P.M.** **Jim Barisano – Discussion/Request for Action - PILOTS**

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. PFAS Issue**
- B. Green Communities Application and Implementation**
- C. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project**
- D. PILOTS**

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

- IV. Public Comment Period #2**
- V. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of May 6, 2024**

ADJOURNMENT

Notes 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: *May 20, 2024*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

In addition to the Town Manager's Report, Items for Select Board Consideration and Action and a review of the On-going Issues List, there is one item scheduled on Monday's Agenda. Resident Jim Barisano has requested time on the Agenda to discuss PILOTs with the Board and request that the Select Board create a PILOT Task Force. Enclosed with this Report is Mr. Barisano's written proposal/recommendation.

1. I have made the following appointments and would respectfully request that the Select Board consider ratifying them at Monday's meeting: Isabel Albright, Country Club Lifeguard; Lucia Gallo and Riley Ashworth – Country Club Camp Staff; Dean Cappella, Jared Cappella, Benjamin Huans, Fynn Frazier, Callum Sullivan, Roan DeMeis-Dullea, James Conley, Colin Fitzgerald – Country Club Golf Staff
2. The North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce has offered to install a "Welcome Sign" for the Town of Groton. Enclosed with this report is a summary of the proposal, along with samples of signs installed in Westminster and Pepperell. Essentially, the Chamber would sponsor the Sign and take care of construction and installation. The Town would need to choose a location and color of the Sign. I would recommend the Sign be installed on the Common located at the intersection of Route 119 and Nod Road. Further, I would recommend that the color of the Sign be maroon. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.
3. I have set aside time on Monday's Agenda to review/take any required action based on the outcome of the May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting. I will be prepared to discuss any issue that may arise at the Town Meeting.
4. Please see the update to the Select Board's Meeting schedule through the end of the Fiscal Year.

Monday, May 27, 2024	-No Meeting – Memorial Day Holiday
Monday, June 3, 2024	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2024	-Regularly scheduled Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2024	-No Meeting
Monday, June 24, 2024	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Select Board Member Pine would like the Select Board to consider recommending to the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee that they rename the Groton Dunstable Middle School South as the “Marion Stoddard Middle School”. In addition, it is requested that the Select Board create a Gift Fund for accepting donations to pay for the installation of the Sign, should the School Committee agree with this proposal. Ms. Pine will be prepared to present/answer any questions at Monday’s meeting.
2. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night to be held on Friday, June 14, 2024 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
3. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott for a Garden Party to be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

MWH/rjb
enclosures

A CALL TO ACTION FOR GROTON

Honorable Selectboard,

Groton's budgetary issues have brought to light significant inequities in Groton's tax structure. Older residents are now voicing serious concerns about property taxes that are making it extremely difficult for them to make ends meet and stay in their Groton homes, while younger parents with school-aged children are justifiably concerned that the loss of teachers and reduction of school programs will lower our educational standards.

Unlike most communities in the region, Groton has a significant portion of its property held by large, educational nonprofit organizations. The fact that our three largest nonprofits pay very little to the Town while receiving the same, high level of services as our residents and businesses is now a deep concern of all involved.

My recent Commentary in the Groton Herald examined the relationship between the three nonprofits and the town in which they are located. My research included interviews with our assessors, a careful examination of Groton's tax rolls, outreach to the three principal nonprofits in Groton: Groton Hill Music, Lawrence Academy and The Groton School and a combing of the Internet for details on how each of our resident nonprofits is doing. Financial data was drawn from <https://www.propublica.org/>. "Investigative Journalism in the Public Interest."

The information provided by ProPublica casts a spotlight upon a longstanding inequality that many Groton residents feel must be immediately corrected so that all who live, work, teach and learn in Groton are taxed fairly and equitably, regardless of income or social status. Letters to the Editor at the Groton Herald reveal that residents feel that the Town of Groton now needs to work with its nonprofits to correct the current fiscal inequity and keep our public-school academic standards high.

The three major nonprofits are in fact, quite profitable, netting millions of dollars annually serving students and families from outside of Groton's borders while the solution to Groton's ongoing fiscal crisis is right here within our borders. PILOT programs, (payments in lieu of taxes), were established over 30 years ago and are used throughout the U.S.A.

From WCVB-TV's 2023 feature story on PILOT programs in Massachusetts:

"PILOT programs are typically implemented to offset any shortcomings in property tax revenue a district may suffer due to the presence of large amounts of tax-exempt land, such as that owned by nonprofits. They also help to raise funds to cover any expenses accrued from the public maintenance of these properties. Since garnering popularity in the early 1990s, PILOT programs have been instituted in a variety of areas across the United States and Canada."

Research also revealed that Groton's PILOT Program has no written documentation within the Town Hall. This clean slate presents a terrific opportunity for the Town of Groton to

create a system from scratch that will provide the financial support needed to elevate our school system while unburdening its hard-pressed residents.

Here is a link to a report covering nonprofits and taxes by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, which is based in Cambridge, MA:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160311095028/https://www.lincolninst.edu/subcenters/significant-features-property-tax/upload/sources/ContentPages/documents/PILOTs%20PFR%20final.pdf>

The following sentence encapsulates the essence of this report and how our nonprofits uniquely impact the Town of Groton:

“The reduction in the property tax base caused by the charitable tax exemption has two related effects on municipalities—decreased property tax revenues, and higher property tax rates for businesses and homeowners.”

Please also note these three excerpts from the Lincoln Institute’s Executive Summary:

- “PILOTs are most suitable for nonprofits that own large amounts of tax-exempt property and provide modest benefits to local residents relative to their tax savings.
- “The best PILOT initiatives arise out of a partnership between the municipality and local nonprofit organizations, because PILOTs are voluntary payments and because both sectors serve the general public and have an interest in an economically and fiscally healthy community.”
- “Municipalities can also consider alternative ways to raise revenue from tax-exempt nonprofits, such as increasing user fees.”

Another valuable insight from this report is of particular relevance to Groton’s situation in which wealthy students come from across America and from around the world to attend Groton School and Lawrence Academy:

“There is also a geographic mismatch between the benefits provided by a tax-exempt nonprofit and the cost of the exemption in forgone property tax revenues. While the benefits are often broadly dispersed throughout a metropolitan area, a state, or the nation, the cost of the property tax exemption is concentrated in the host municipality.”

An important caveat when determining the ability of nonprofits to avoid paying property taxes also appears in this report:

“In no state is nonprofit ownership alone sufficient for an exemption; the property must actually be used for an exempt purpose. As a result, many charitable nonprofits do in fact pay substantial property tax bills. For example, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is by far the largest property taxpayer in the city because of its ownership of properties used by biotechnology firms, for rental housing, and

other noneducational activities (City of Cambridge 2009, 85). The “use” requirement also means that taxes are owed when a nonprofit holds property for future development, although some period of time for construction is allowed.”

With large tracts of land and many houses held by our three major nonprofits, two questions need to be asked: Are 100% of these property holdings being used for tax-exempt purposes? Is now the time for the Town of Groton to closely examine its right to tax properties not held for each nonprofit’s stated tax-exempt purposes?

Here in Groton, we have a mostly positive relationship with the three biggest nonprofits. For instance, Lawrence Academy hosted the free monthly dinner in April and students from Groton School, Lawrence Academy and GDRHS all helped out. Groton Hill Music collects \$2.00 from every ticket sold and forwards it to the Town of Groton. All three nonprofits also make modest, voluntary contributions to the Town.

However, the principal concern is the disparity between the contributions by very wealthy nonprofits, and the taxes paid by the residents of Groton. Many Groton citizens are either retired or approaching retirement. Pitting them against the parents of public-school students and denying certain needed resources to the schools, while non-resident wealthy families from around the world enjoy the largess of the tax-free nonprofit private schools in our beautiful community is just plain wrong.

Fixing the PILOT program is one possible solution, but I feel that the last paragraph of my recent Groton Herald commentary needs to be repeated here:

“An Alternative: If a satisfactory PILOT Program cannot be achieved, Municipal Service Fees can be fair and equitable solutions. Nonprofits are not exempt from paying municipal service fees for road maintenance, snow removal and related costs based upon frontage of each nonprofit’s property on public roads or the square footage of the nonprofit’s property. Unlike PILOT fees, these fees are not voluntary, but must be paid if assessed by the town.”

Since Groton’s public schools consume most of the town’s budget and Groton is in the unique position of having three highly respected, very profitable private schools utilizing its municipal services, it seems only fair that these three entities help balance the scales so that all Groton students have the best possible opportunity for a good education. The commitment to Groton’s public-school students by Groton’s private schools needs to be as steady, strong and reliable as Groton’s commitment to maintaining the streets that abut the private schools’ properties and the fire, EMT and police departments that protect them 24/7/365.

While money will not solve all of Groton’s public-school students’ needs, it goes much further than monthly dinners and volunteer help from private school students. It’s cash that will pay for more public-school teachers and better programs; cash that all three nonprofits have in abundance, and cash that they should be happy to share with the town that is their home.

With Groton Schools trailing Littleton, Acton and Concord in STEM High School rankings (science, technology, engineering and math), we cannot be cutting full-time staff, particularly in mathematics, digital literacy, math interventionist and science. Groton now has a unique opportunity to help our public-school students and lift the unfair burden on Groton property owners for the foreseeable future through the creation and proper administration of an effective PILOT program.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Selectboard vote to authorize and endorse the creation of a PILOT Task Force that will bring together all interested parties to develop and agree upon a written document, which all will voluntarily honor. The Groton PILOT Task Force should include interested Groton taxpayers, representatives of the three largest nonprofits in Groton, and members of the Town of Groton's Finance Committee, Select Board, Board of Assessors and School Committee.

What needs to be made clear is that for the good of all Groton residents, what is fair and equitable must be implemented. This can be either through a voluntary PILOT program or an alternative such as a hybrid that combines a PILOT program with municipal service fees, a total of which will equal an agreed-upon annual voluntary contribution to Groton's budget by Groton's private schools.

I ask that the Selectboard act quickly, and I stand ready to assist as needed.

Thank you for your service to the Town of Groton!

Jim Barisano
15 Longley Road

Mark Haddad

From: Roy Nascimento <rNascimento@northcentralmass.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 1:03 PM
To: Town Manager
Cc: Travis Condon
Subject: Welcome Sign for Groton
Attachments: Welcome to Westminster PROOF.pdf; Pepperell Welcome Sign.jpg

Hi Mark,

Good talking to you! Attached are a couple of examples of the welcome sign. The first is a proof for the sign the Chamber sponsored for Westminster and the second one is a picture of the sign we sponsored for Pepperell (at the intersection of Lowell Road and East Street). Per our discussion, the sign we would like to sponsor for Groton would be similar to these two. The sign would be made of composite material for durability and longevity. It would be carved with the town's seal. The color of the sign would match Groton's official color or whatever color town officials prefer. In these examples, Westminster selected the maroon color because it matched their other welcome sign and Pepperell selected blue.

Per our offer, the Chamber would sponsor the sign and take care of the construction. We would just need the Town to identify where they would like it placed and to maintain the sign long-term. In terms of the location, it needs to be town owned land, preferably a grassy area. It cannot be located too close to state highway controlled property, as that would complicate the project and require a DOT permit and really increase construction costs beyond our budget. Also, I should mention that we may partner with our friends at the GBA on this sign. We have reached to see if they have any interest in co-sponsoring the sign with us.

Please let me know if the town wants to take advantage of our offer.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Roy M. Nascimento, CCE, IOM
President & CEO

[North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Visit North Central Massachusetts](#)
[North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation](#)

Phone: 978.353.7600 ext. 225

Direct: 339.600.1825

Email: rNascimento@northcentralmass.com



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96 in

84 in

48 in

16 in



Welcome to

WESTMINSTER

North Central
MASSACHUSETTS
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



VISIT NORTH CENTRAL
MASSACHUSETTS
JOHNNY APPLESEED COUNTRY

North Central
MASSACHUSETTS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.VisitNorthCentral.com



Welcome to
PEPPERELL

North Central
MASSACHUSETTS
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



North Central
MASSACHUSETTS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024
UN-APPROVED**

SB Members Present: Alison Manugian, Chair; Becky Pine, Vice Chair; Peter Cunningham, Clerk; Matt Pisani; John Reilly;

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patricia DuFresne, Assistant Director of Finance/Town Accountant; Steele McCurdy, Fire Chief; Art Cheeks, Deputy Fire Chief; Brian Mayer, Representative of DCR; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Patricia DuFresne; Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent

Ms. Manugian called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Pine announced that the Garden Club's Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall Common.

Mr. Cunningham said the Squannacook River Road Race in Groton took place on Sunday, May 5th and was well-attended.

Mr. Haddad announced the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Whitney Pond Wells Water Treatment Facility at 864 Lowell Road, Groton, MA, will be held on May 9, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. He invited the Board and members of the public to attend.

Mr. Haddad reported that the town received a check from the Groton Hill Music Center in the amount of \$21,660 from their Quarter 1, 2024 (January through March) proceeds from the Groton Community Fund. He noted that the town received \$48,000 in PILOT payments for the first three quarters of fiscal year 2024 (July through March). Since the beginning of the concert presentations in October 2022, that number is now over \$85,000. Mr. Haddad stated that the Community Fund is very successful.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1

Resident Scott Snow mentioned that there is only one public trash can in downtown Groton, located in front of Moison's Hardware. He enjoys walking his dog downtown and believes more trash cans are needed to dispose of litter. Mr. Haddad responded that people were using the public trash cans for their household trash, and the town relied on the public works department for cleanup. Based on this, the public trash cans were removed.

Ashley Doucette, the Director of Groton Cable Department, has announced that there will be a public hearing on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Groton Center to discuss the Town's Cable Television License Renewal with Verizon New England Inc. Ms. Doucette mentioned that Verizon's renewal is due by the end of June, and Charter's is in November. Mr. Haddad stated that holding a public hearing is a legal requirement, and in the first week of June, Ms. Doucette will bring the final license for the Select Board to approve.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Update from the Fire Chief on the Lease to DCR for the Lost Lake Fire Station.

Fire Chief McCurdy and Deputy Chief Arthur Cheeks attended the meeting to discuss the Town's lease of the Lost Lake Fire Station with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Mr. Haddad explained that the Town will retain a couple of the bays for exclusive use and some storage. DCR will cover all operational costs of the building, saving the Town's operational expenses in Fiscal Year 2025 and beyond. Mr. Brian Mayer, a West Groton resident who works for DCR and the Townsend Fire Department, also attended the meeting. Chief McCurdy explained that DCR was previously housed by Townsend Harbor. Chief McCurdy said that after looking at the town's apparatus and storage options for equipment, it made sense to move to the Lost Lake Station. This move offers a great opportunity for the community and the state, as DCR will be able to utilize the training room, introduce programs, and engage with the public. Chief McCurdy stated that the West Groton Fire Station has been closed since approximately 2016 but would still be used for storage. Mr. Haddad expressed excitement about the relationship and partnership with DCR and the town regarding the budget and protection. He mentioned that the community room would still be available for public use. Deputy Chief Cheeks mentioned that residents had called him and expressed that it was nice to see the space being used. Mr. Pine asked if there would be a rental payment. Mr. Haddad explained that taking over the utilities was the rental payment and was comfortable with the arrangement.

2. Review Motions and Assignments for the May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Haddad stated that he had enclosed a copy of the Motions for the May 18, 2024, Special Town Meeting and the Article Assignments with the Town Manager's Report. Mr. Haddad reviewed the Motions with the Board (see included in these minutes).

Mr. Haddad mentioned that Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank and Town Clerk Dawn Dunbar met with Groton Cable Director Ashley Doucette and Greg Hazard from Encore Entertainment to discuss logistics at the High School Gymnasium for the Special Town Meeting. He mentioned that everything is well organized and ready, and they will borrow clickers from Lancaster. He said they are planning for 1100 people to attend. Mr. Haddad took a moment to thank his Executive Assistant, Ms. Cruikshank, and Town Clerk, Ms. Dunbar, for their hard work preparing for the Town Meeting.

Mr. Haddad wanted to discuss the quorum at Town Meetings. He explained that according to the Town's Charter, there is no quorum requirement for the Annual Town Meetings in the Spring and the Fall. However, for a Special Town Meeting, the Charter and Section 81-2 of the Groton Bylaws state a quorum requirement of 2 percent of the Town's registered voters as of the preceding January. As of January 1, 2024, Groton has 8,789 registered voters; this means that a quorum of 176 is needed to conduct any business during the Special Town Meeting. He said there was little controversy on the warrant and was unsure if 176 voters would attend the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad said that it is essential that the Town's business is conducted. He explained that under Section 15 of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, the Town may reduce the quorum for any town meeting to not less than 10 percent of the required quorum, which would be 18 in this case. Mr. Haddad did not recommend 18. The Select Board can choose a meeting date to consider adjusting the quorum. This meeting may take place on the same day as the Special Town Meeting, allowing the Board to monitor voter sign-ins. The Select Board needs to publish notice of its intention to consider adjusting the quorum at least seven calendar days

before the chosen Board meeting date. Mr. Haddad explained that this public notice would be published in the Groton Herald on Friday, May 10, 2024, if the Board decided to hold a meeting. The Select Board, in consultation and with the approval of the Town Moderator, would vote at the scheduled meeting to reduce the quorum to a fixed number, not less than 18. The Moderator would announce the adjustment quorum at the start of the Special Town Meeting. Within ten days of the Special Town Meeting, the Town Clerk would notify the Attorney General's office of the Select Board's vote. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town Counsel had already called the Attorney General's office to confirm this law/process is still in affect. Ms. Manugian asked what would happen if there wasn't a quorum on the day of the meeting. Mr. Haddad explained that a vote would need to be taken to continue the Town Meeting to a date within 14 days of May 18th. If a date is not chosen within 14 days, the Town Meeting will dissolve, and a budget will not be in place. The Select Board would have to call for another Town Meeting by June 30th to have a budget in place for Fiscal Year 2025 that begins on July 1, 2024. He explained that once the quorum is established, it will remain until someone questions and asks for a quorum count. Mr. Cunningham asked if the quorum requirement could be changed during a meeting. Mr. Haddad said it could not. Mr. Reilly doesn't think there would be a problem getting a quorum at the Special Town Meeting because of the controversial proposed one-time grant of \$619,000 to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. Mr. Pisani said this was a way to ensure they conduct the Special Town Meeting on May 18th. Mr. Haddad's recommendation was to reduce the quorum to 50 registered voters. Finally, Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board if they wanted to meet on May 18th before the Special Town Meeting to consider reducing the quorum.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to advertise and call for a meeting on May 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School Gymnasium to discuss reducing the quorum requirement. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion.

Discussion

Ms. Manugian explained that she thought this made sense and was concerned that only 50 people would be voting because nobody attended the Special Town Meeting. She thought that would be sad. Ms. Pine stated that it costs the taxpayers to hold a Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. FY 2025 Budget Update.

No update

4. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule End of Fiscal Year.

Saturday, May 18, 2024	Special Town Meeting
Monday, May 20, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, May 27, 2024	No Meeting- Memorial Day
Monday, June 3, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2024	No Meeting
Monday, June 24, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

- 1. Consider Approving a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night on Friday, May 10, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Mr. Pisani made a motion to approve a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night to be held on Friday, May 10, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

ON-GOING ISSUES

- A. Mr. Haddad explained that he and Mr. Orcutt have been working with the federal delegation to apply for a federal earmark to offset the cost of Groton Dunstable High School PFAS project. They have applied for \$5 million and received many letters of support from the state delegation, Mr. Haddad, the Board of Health, and the Water Commissioners. They submitted the application that day. They are waiting to find out if the application will be considered. Mr. Orcutt mentioned that they have applied for two grants, one with the Senate and one with the House side. He said that Phase II is paid off by a \$5M grant awarded by the State.
- C. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project- Mr. Haddad said they are meeting with the Owner's Project Manager on May 17th to discuss the final budget and when they would permanently finance the Project. This is an important meeting relative to the final borrowing for the project and how it will impact the taxpayers.

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

Public Comment Period #2

None

Approval of Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes from April 29, 2024

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of April 29, 2024. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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