



## 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, JULY 15, 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 Town Manager's Appointments of Megan Kelly and Savanna Monteiro as Groton Country Club Lifeguards; Colby LaPointe to the Groton Country Club Camp Staff; and Kaitlin Haggerty to the Groton Country Club Golf Staff**
  2.    **Consider Accepting the Nomination of the Town Manager and Appoint Molly Foster to the Commission on Accessibility with a term expiring on June 30, 2025**
  3.    **Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule through Labor Day**
- II.            6:10 P.M.            **Items for Select Board Consideration and Action**
1.    **Consider Approving a All Alcoholic One Day Liquor License for the Friends of Prescott for Tequila.....Y Mas! to be held on Friday, July 26, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**
  2.    **Call for and Open the Warrant for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting**
- III.            6:15 P.M.            **In Joint Session with the Finance Committee – Approve FY 2024 Line Item Transfers**
- IV.            6:30 P.M.            **Discussion/Decision – Island Road Bridge**

### 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

- V.            **Public Comment Period #2**
- VI.            **Minutes:            Regularly Scheduled Meeting of July 1, 2024**

### 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:** *July 15, 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 are two items scheduled on Monday’s Agenda. First, the Select Board will be meeting in joint session with the Finance Committee to consider approving Fiscal Year 2024 Line Item Transfers. As we are finalizing the last Expense Warrant for FY 2024 this week, I will send out the final proposed Transfer List under separate cover. Second, I have scheduled time on the Agenda for the Board to discuss the proposed repairs to the Island Road Bridge. DPW Director Tom Delaney, along with representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) and residents of the Lake will be in attendance for this discussion. Enclosed with this Report are current condition plans, along with the plans of the proposed solution offered by Mass DOT. I am looking for the Select Board and Finance Committee to provide direction to me and Tom Delaney on how to proceed with the repair of the Island Road Bridge.

1. I have made the following appointments for the Groton Country Club and would respectfully request that the Board consider ratifying them at Monday’s meeting: Megan Kelly and Savanna Monteiro as Lifeguards; Colby LaPointe to the Camp Staff; Kaitlin Haggerty to the Golf Staff
2. The Commission on Accessibility has requested that I nominate Molly Foster for appointment to the Commission. I would respectfully request that the Select Board accept this nomination and appoint Ms. Foster to the Commission.
3. Please see an update to the meeting schedule that will take the Select Board through Labor Day:  

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday, July 22, 2024 | -No Meeting   |
| Monday, July 29, 2024 | -Update from Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee         |
|                       | -Consider Ratifying Fire Chief’s Contract/Swearing-In         |
|                       | -Public Meeting on Proposed Solution to Squannacook River Dam |

**Continued on Next Page – Over >**

**Select Board**  
**Weekly Agenda Update/Report**  
**July 15, 2024**  
**page two**

3. **Continued:**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Monday, August 5, 2024           | -No Meeting                                    |
| Monday, August 12, 2024          | -Regularly Scheduled Meeting                   |
| Monday, August 19, 2024          | -No Meeting                                    |
| Monday, August 26, 2024 (Remote) | -First Review of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant |
| Monday, September 2, 2024        | -No Meeting                                    |

**ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION**

1. I would respectfully request that the Select Board approve a One Day All Alcoholic Beverages License for the for the Friends of Prescott for Tequila.....Y Mas! to be held on Friday, July 26, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
2. It is that time of year for the Select Board to call for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting. As you know, the default date for the meeting is the Third Monday in October (this year that date is October 21<sup>st</sup>). Based on early voting for the State Election on November 5<sup>th</sup>, we are recommending that the meeting not be held on that date. The Bylaw does allow the Board to choose another date in September, October or November with at least six weeks' notice to our residents. To that end, I am recommending that the Board call for the meeting on either October 5, 2024, or October 19, 2024. Enclosed with this report is the proposed timeline for both meetings. Regardless of what date the Board chooses, the Warrant will close on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at the close of business. In addition, I would like to discuss with the Board the issue of not printing and delivering a copy of the Warrant to every household (over 4500 copies). Printing costs have more than doubled for the Warrant and our budgetary constraints make this very difficult to afford. There is no requirement that we print and deliver a copy to every household. That has been our tradition. That said and to that end, I would like to propose to the Board that we issue postcards like we did for the May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting and post the Warrant on-line. I would further propose that we print 500 copies the Warrant to have available for residents who prefer a printed copy (they can pick it up at Town Hall or the Library) and have the remaining copies available at Town Meeting. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.

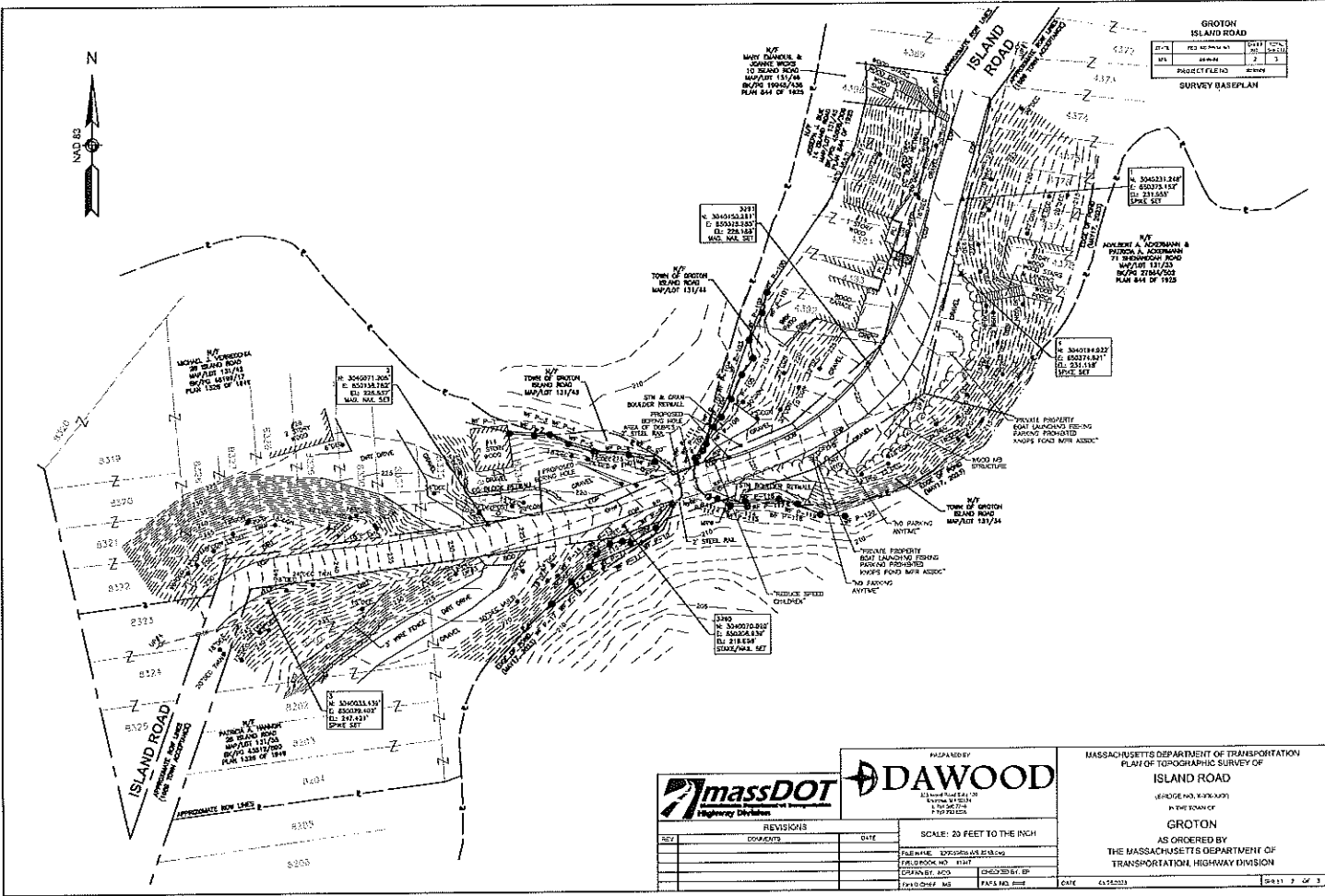
MWH/rjb  
enclosures





| GROTON ISLAND ROAD |                    |             |             |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| DATE               | DESCRIPTION        | BY          | CHECKED     |
| 11/11/23           | ISSUED FOR PERMITS | J. J. JONES | W. J. JONES |
| 08/23/23           | REVISED            | J. J. JONES | W. J. JONES |
| 07/15/23           | REVISED            | J. J. JONES | W. J. JONES |
| 06/15/23           | REVISED            | J. J. JONES | W. J. JONES |
| 05/15/23           | REVISED            | J. J. JONES | W. J. JONES |

PROJECT FILE NO. 87001  
SURVEY BASE PLAN

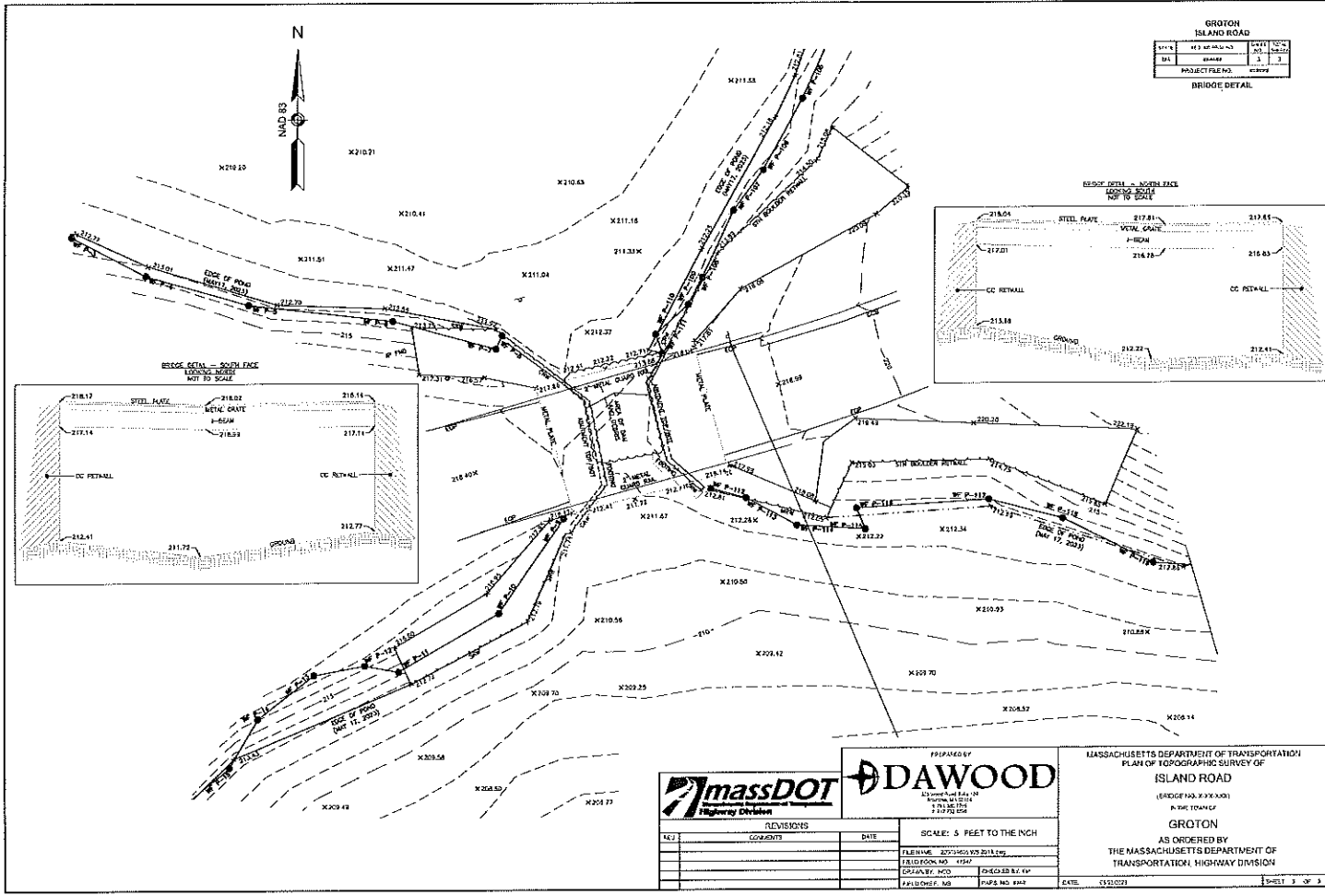


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|--|--|---|--|
|  |  | PREPARED BY<br>DAWOOD<br>1300 WEST 241 <sup>ST</sup><br>GROTON, CT 06340<br>PHONE: 860.339.8121                                       | MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION<br>PLAN OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF<br><b>ISLAND ROAD</b><br>(GEORGE NO. KIRKPATRICK)<br>IN THE TOWN OF<br><b>GROTON</b><br>AS ORDERED BY<br>THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF<br>TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAY DIVISION |
|  |  | SCALE: 20 FEET TO THE INCH<br>FILE NAME: 87001-04-23.DWG<br>TOLERANCE: ± 0.01 FT<br>CANNON: JCS<br>CHECKED BY: EP<br>DATE: 04/15/2023 |  |

| REV | DESCRIPTIONS | DATE |
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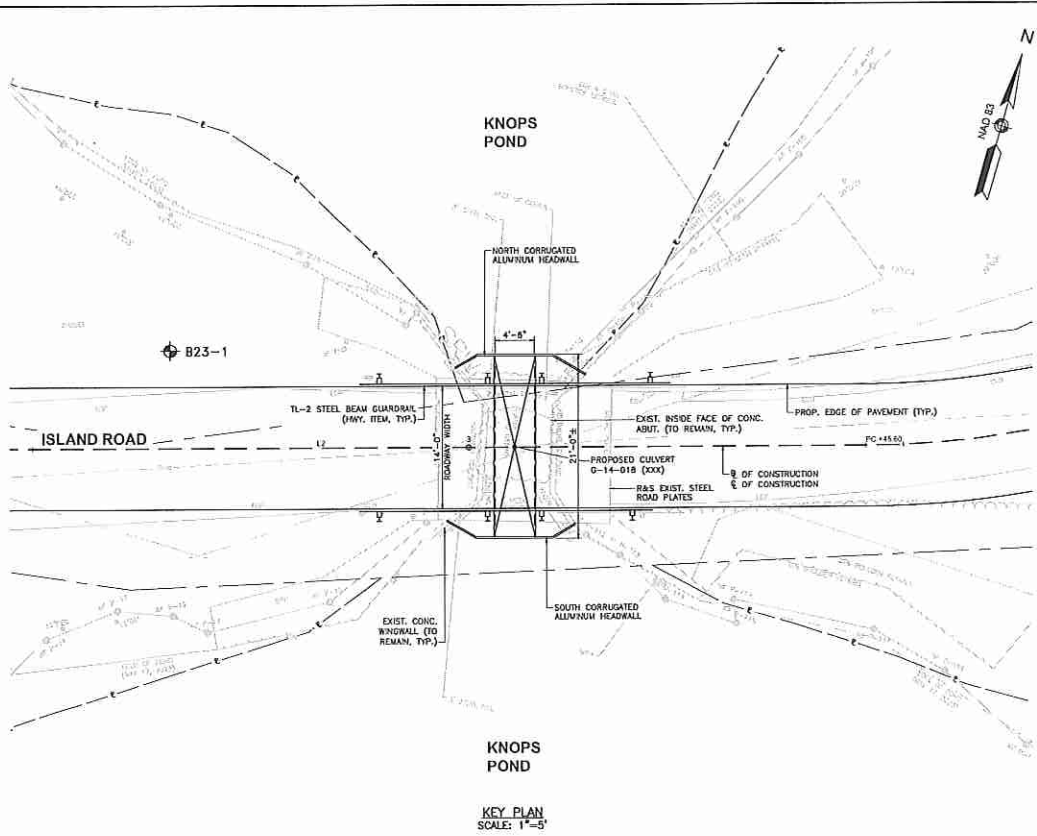
DRAWN BY: J. JONES

|                        |       |             |         |
|------------------------|-------|-------------|---------|
| GROTON<br>ISLAND ROAD  |       |             |         |
| DATE                   | BY    | CHECKED     | SCALE   |
| 04/10/03               | MM/MS | MM/MS       | 1" = 5' |
| PROJECT FILE NO. 44307 |       | SHEET NO. 3 |         |
| BRIDGE DETAIL          |       |             |         |



|  | PREPARED BY<br><b>DAWOOD</b><br><small>130 West 4th Street, 2nd Floor<br/>         Groton, CT 06340<br/>         860.339.2200<br/>         1200 Old Road</small> |           |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|-----------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>NO.</th> <th>REVISIONS</th> <th>DATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | NO.  | REVISIONS | DATE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | SCALE: 5 FEET TO THE INCH<br>FILE NAME: 2073463.VXD1A1.CWS<br>TELEPHONE NO.: 44307<br>DESIGNED BY: MM/MS<br>DRAWN BY: MM/MS<br>CHECKED BY: MM/MS<br>DATE: 03/20/03 |  |
| NO.  | REVISIONS  | DATE      |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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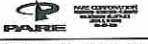
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 PLAN OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF  
**ISLAND ROAD**  
 (BRIDGE NO. 2-113-001)  
 IN THE TOWN OF  
**GROTON**  
 AS ORDERED BY  
 THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
 TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAY DIVISION  
 SHEET 3 OF 3



B23-1

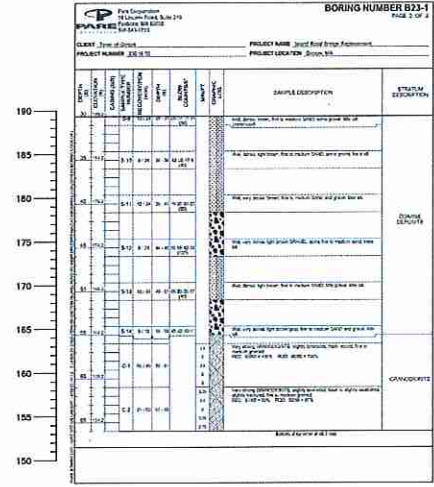
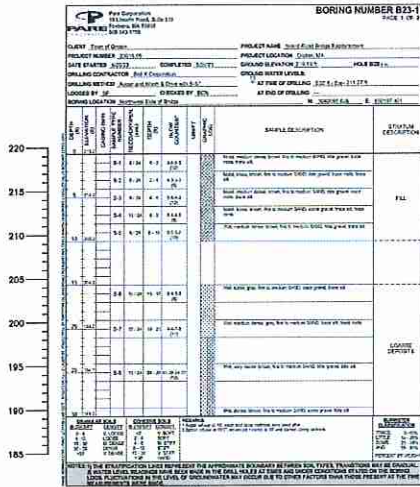
KNOPS POND  
 KEY PLAN  
 SCALE: 1"=5'

**NOTE: GUARDRAIL LAYOUT AND CONFIGURATION AT BRIDGE APPROACHES, INCLUDING GUARDRAIL LENGTHS OF NEED, TRAILING ANCHORAGES, AND TANGENT ENDS, ARE IN DEVELOPMENT.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <br>CONCEPTUAL PLANS OF<br>BRIDGE REPLACEMENT<br><b>GROTON</b><br>ISLAND ROAD<br>OVER KNOPS POND<br>TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS<br>GROTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS<br>APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____<br>FILE: _____ |  |
|--|--|

DRAWN BY: [Name] CHECKED BY: [Name] DATE: [Date]

**BORING LOG B23-1**  
STATION 2+65.80, OFFSET 19.20 LT, SURFACE EL. 219.19, N3040091.626 E650197.401

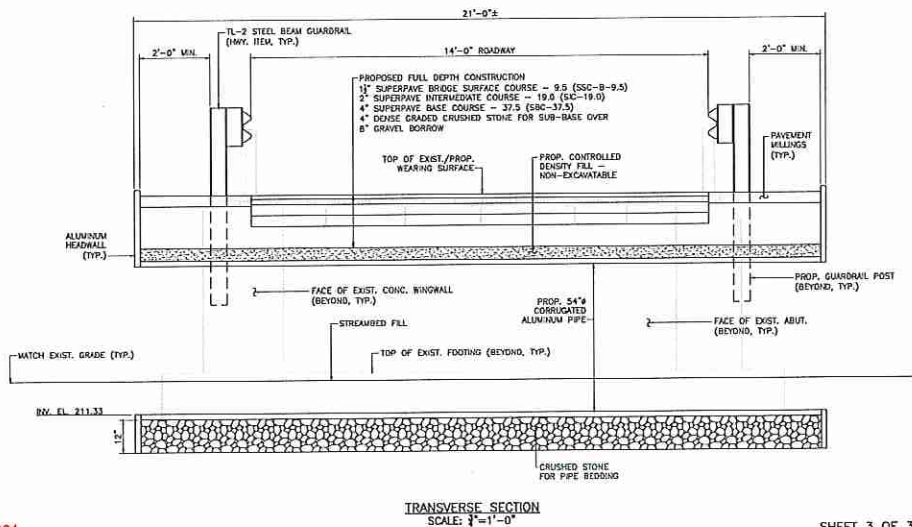
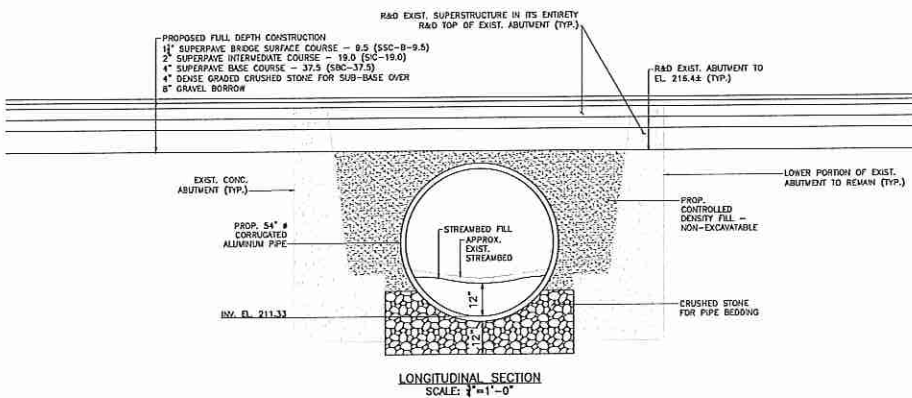


- BORING NOTES:**
1. LOCATION OF BORINGS SHOWN ON THE PLAN THIS: B23-1
  2. BORINGS ARE TAKEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGN AND SHOW CONDITIONS AT THE BORING POINTS ONLY, BUT DO NOT NECESSARILY SHOW THE NATURE OF THE MATERIALS TO BE ENCOUNTERED DURING CONSTRUCTION.
  3. WATER LEVELS SHOWN ON THE BORING LOGS WERE OBSERVED AT THE TIME OF TAKING BORINGS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY SHOW THE TRUE GROUND WATER LEVEL.
  4. FIGURES IN COLUMNS INDICATE NUMBER OF BLOWS REQUIRED TO DRIVE A 1" I.D. SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER 6" WITH A 140 POUND WEIGHT FALLING 30".
  5. ALL BORINGS WERE MADE MAY 2023.
  6. BORINGS WERE MADE BY SOLX CORPORATION, 148 PIONEER DR., LEGONSTER, MA 01453.
  7. THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM (NAVD) OF 1988 IS USED THROUGHOUT.

**GROUND WATER:**  
THE WATER LEVELS RECORDED IN THIS TABLE ARE THOSE MEASURED ON THE DATES GIVEN AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT GROUND WATER LEVEL AT TIME OF CONSTRUCTION.

D:\Projects\2023\G-14-018\Drawings\BoringLogs\B23-1.dwg 13-May-2024 8:25 AM







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### Town Manager

Mark W. Haddad

**To:** *All Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions*

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

**Subject:** *Fall Town Meeting- October 5, 2024*

**Date:** *July 16, 2024*

Please be advised that at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board held on Monday, July 15, 2024, the Board voted to open the Warrant for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting to be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024. The Warrant will close at the close of business on Thursday, August 15, 2024.

All articles should be submitted in writing to the Select Board as soon as possible to allow for as much time for legal and financial review. All articles should be submitted with a written summary. These summaries will be included in the Fall Town Meeting Warrant so they must be submitted with the proposed Article. The following is the timeline:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monday, July 15, 2024 -      | Warrant for 2024 Fall Town Meeting Opens       |
| Thursday, August 15, 2024 -  | Warrant for 2024 Fall Town Meeting Closes      |
| Monday, August 26, 2024 -    | Select Board conducts first review of Articles |
| Monday, September 9, 2024 -  | SB - FINCOM Public Hearing on Articles         |
| Monday, September 16, 2024 - | Select Board finalizes Warrant                 |
| Friday, September 20, 2024 - | Post Warrant                                   |
| Saturday, October 5, 2024 -  | 2024 Fall Town Meeting                         |

As has been the case in the past, please plan on attending any meeting of the Select Board in which they review an article you have submitted. I will provide all Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions with a schedule once it is developed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

MWH/rjb

cc: Select Board  
Dawn Dunbar - Town Clerk  
Jason Kauppi - Town Moderator  
Brian Falk - Town Counsel



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### Town Manager

Mark W. Haddad

**To:** *All Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions*

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

**Subject:** *Fall Town Meeting- October 19, 2024*

**Date:** *July 16, 2024*

Please be advised that at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board held on Monday, July 15, 2024, the Board voted to open the Warrant for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting to be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024. The Warrant will close at the close of business on Thursday, August 15, 2024.

All articles should be submitted in writing to the Select Board as soon as possible to allow for as much time for legal and financial review. All articles should be submitted with a written summary. These summaries will be included in the Fall Town Meeting Warrant so they must be submitted with the proposed Article. The following is the timeline:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monday, July 15, 2024 -      | Warrant for 2024 Fall Town Meeting Opens       |
| Thursday, August 15, 2024 -  | Warrant for 2024 Fall Town Meeting Closes      |
| Monday, August 26, 2024 -    | Select Board conducts first review of Articles |
| Monday, September 9, 2024 -  | SB - FINCOM Public Hearing on Articles         |
| Monday, September 30, 2024 - | Select Board finalizes Warrant                 |
| Friday, October 4, 2024 -    | Post Warrant                                   |
| Saturday, October 19, 2024 - | 2024 Fall Town Meeting                         |

As has been the case in the past, please plan on attending any meeting of the Select Board in which they review an article you have submitted. I will provide all Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions with a schedule once it is developed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

MWH/rjb

cc: Select Board  
Dawn Dunbar - Town Clerk  
Jason Kauppi - Town Moderator  
Brian Falk - Town Counsel

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 1, 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; Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent; Jim Gmeiner and Greg Fishbone, Groton Water Commissioners; Melisa Doig, Human Resource Director; Jeremy Januskiewicz, Ayer Deputy Fire Chief; Hannah Moller, Treasurer/Tax Collector; Patricia DuFresne, Assistant Director of Finance/Town Accountant; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Haddad announced that the Groton Town Hall would be closed to the public on Thursday, July 4th, and Friday, July 5th, due to the July Fourth holiday. On Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, employees will work remotely, take personal time, or take a vacation day. He also announced that Groton's Annual Fireworks show would take place on Monday, July 8th, 2024, starting at 6:00 P.M., at Town Field. Also, the Transfer Station hours will be open on Wednesday, July 3rd, Friday, July 5th, and Saturday, July 6th this week.

Mr. Haddad announced that the gas line at the construction site of the new Florence Roche was struck earlier that day because the gas main was not buried deep enough. He clarified that Dig Safe had clearly marked it beforehand. The Groton Fire Department and National Grid got to the scene quickly and stopped the leak.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1**

None

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 1. Consider Accepting the Town Manager's nomination and Appoint Josh LoPresti and Dan Pierpont to the Trails Committee, with terms expiring on June 30, 2025.**

*Ms. Pine made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Mr. Josh LoPresti and Dan Pierpont to the Trails Committee with terms to expire on June 30, 2025. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

- 2. Proposed Select Board Meeting Schedule through Labor Day.**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday, July 8, 2024  | No Meeting  |
| Monday, July 15, 2024 | In Joint Session with Finance Committee- Approve FY 2024<br>Line-Item Transfers<br>Call for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting<br>Island Road Bridge Discussion |
| Monday, July 22, 2024 | No Meeting  |
| Monday, July 29, 2024 | Regularly Scheduled Meeting   |

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday, August 5, 2024    | No Meeting                  |
| Monday, August 12, 2024   | Regularly Scheduled Meeting |
| Monday, August 19, 2024   | No Meeting                  |
| Monday, August 26, 2024   | Regularly Scheduled Meeting |
| Monday, September 2, 2024 | No Meeting                  |

**6:15 P.M. Public Hearing- Consider Setting a Special Rate Development Fee for the Chicopee Row/North Street Development Water Main Extension Project.**

Mr. Haddad read aloud the public hearing notice into the record.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to open the public hearing. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent, and Water Commissioners Mr. Jim Geminer and Mr. Greg Fishbone attended the public hearing held by the Select Board to discuss and consider adopting a Special Rate Development Fee for the Chicopee Row/North Street Development Water Main Extension Project. Mr. Haddad updated the Board and the public on the project's current status. He said that they were in the planning process, and the drawings were around 80 percent complete. They have secured permit approval from the Groton and Dunstable Conservation Commissions and have obtained state approval for SRF funding at 0 percent. Mr. Haddad had hoped to receive permit approval for the interbasin transfer from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) at their July meeting. However, he just received notification that the hearing would be in August. This means that the project bidding would be delayed by thirty days. He said he had exchanged numerous emails with the state since receiving the notification. Mr. Haddad inquired about the possibility of having the permit discussed and voted on during the upcoming August meeting. This is currently being considered. If they cannot get on the DCR's August agenda, the project will not be able to obtain SRF funding. The project is expected to be put out to bid on September 1, 2024.

Mr. Haddad said a Public Information Session would be held on July 11th at the Performing Arts Center at 7:00 p.m. Abutters have been notified of the Session, a PowerPoint Presentation will be given, and public information will be presented. He explained there would be a Special Regulation for individuals who are not affected by the PFAS6 but are interested in connecting to the water line. He also said that the Groton Select Board would waive all System Development Fees for all properties in Groton and Dunstable that have had their well water contaminated by Aqueous Film-Forming Foam related to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School contamination plume.

Mr. Haddad mentioned that he had a call with Town Counsel earlier that day, and he's scheduled to have a call with the Town's insurance company on Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, to discuss liability insurance related to the project and the process of going on private property during the connection phase. Mr. Haddad explained that because the taxpayers of Groton would fund the project, he didn't think it was appropriate to charge people at the regular rate. Mr. Orcutt drafted a Select Board Regulation, which the Board reviewed and discussed. Ms. Pine proposed some changes to the Regulation. These suggestions were discussed, and the Board members, Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Haddad, agreed to the changes. Mr. Haddad stated that he would update the Regulation to reflect these changes.

A copy of the updated Select Board Regulation, reflecting the changes voted by the Board, is enclosed in these minutes.

#### Public Comments

None

*Ms. Pine moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Reilly made a motion to adopt and approve the Special Regulation as amended that evening, effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Haddad thanked Mr. Orcutt for his hard work creating this Special Regulation and thanked Members Pine and Manugian for their feedback and thorough review.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### ON-GOING ISSUES

- A. PILOTSs- Mr. Haddad mentioned that he had contacted Town Counsel to obtain a draft of the Home Rule Petition before the close of the Warrant for the Board's review.

##### SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

Mr. Cunningham announced that the Squannacook Rail Trail is not scheduled for reconstruction until approximately 2030. The earmark set aside by Senator Kennedy for the trail's engineering and design has been allocated to the repair fund instead. Ms. Pine stated that the trail's conditions were unsafe. Mr. Cunningham was very upset by this news.

#### Public Comment Period #2

None

#### Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2024, and Special Meeting of June 25, 2024

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of June 24, 2024. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 25, 2024. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Manugian).*

*Mr. Pisani recused himself from the meeting prior to the Fire Chief discussion.*

#### ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

##### **1. Consider Appointing a Fire Chief for the Town of Groton Pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 42, Section 48.**

Mr. Haddad explained that a Search Committee was formed, consisting of seven individuals, to select a new Fire Chief. Thirty applicants applied for the position, and the Committee interviewed four Candidates. They narrowed it down to two finalists: Mr. Arthur Cheeks, the current Full-Time Deputy Fire Chief for the Town of Groton, MA, and Mr. Jon Belanger, the current Deputy Fire Chief for the Town

of Oxford, MA. Both finalists came to the Select Board for an interview during their June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, and then both Candidates participated in an Assessment Center. Mr. Haddad said that he was very impressed with both Candidates and that either would be an excellent Fire Chief. He said that based on the results from the Search Committee, the Chiefs Panel, Select Board interviews, and the Assessment Center, Deputy Chief Arthur Cheeks came out on top of each Assessment. Mr. Haddad recommended to the Board that Deputy Chief Arthur Cheeks be appointed as the new Groton Fire Chief. He believes Chief Cheeks is the right person to take over the Groton Fire Department.

Ms. Pine explained the Assessment Center process to those who were not present. She stated that both Candidates had equal experience. Ms. Pine expressed concern about Mr. Belanger's commute from Oxford, MA. She mentioned that she supported Mr. Haddad's recommendation to appoint Deputy Chief Arthur Cheeks.

Mr. Reilly said the process was excellent, and both candidates were exceptional. He also expressed concern about the distance of Mr. Belanger's commute. Mr. Reilly pointed out that some of the things the Chiefs would have to learn and that Mr. Belanger would have a different learning curve than Mr. Cheeks. Deputy Chief Cheeks already knows the locations in Groton and would not have to go through this learning curve. Mr. Reilly also stated that he supported Deputy Chief Arthur Cheeks.

Mr. Cunningham said he was comfortable knowing that Chief McCurdy was a great mentor to Deputy Chief Cheeks and only a phone call away, and he expressed his support for Deputy Chief Arthur Cheeks.

Ms. Manugian added that hiring within was important and thought that was an important message for current and future employees.

*Mr. Cunningham enthusiastically made a motion to appoint Deputy Chief Arthur Cheeks as the Fire Chief for the Town of Groton Pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 42, Section 48, pending contract negotiations. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to make a motion to enter Executive Session Pursuant at 6:49 pm to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a), Clause 2 – “To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel” – Purpose – Prepare for Negotiations with Selected Fire Chief Candidate.

And not return to open session.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Cunningham-aye; Manugian-aye; Reilly-aye.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Respectively submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.