



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
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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, OCTOBER 21, 2024
AGENDA
SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM
2nd FLOOR
GROTON TOWN HALL**

- 6:00 P.M. Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public
- 6:01 P.M. Public Comment Period #1
- I. 6:05 P.M. Town Manager's Report
1. Fall Town Meeting Follow-Up – Action Taken
 2. Consider Accepting the Nomination of the Town Manager and Appoint Amanda Chang to the Historical Commission
 3. Authorize the Town Manager to Sign Host Community Agreement Waiver for Tree House Cannabis Express
 4. Update on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
 5. Update on Meeting Schedule Through the End of the Year
- II. 6:10 P.M. Items for Select Board Consideration and Action
1. Pursuant to M.G.L. c.268A, §17, Designate the Charter Review Committee as Special Municipal Employees
- III. 6:15 P.M. Introduction and Presentation by the West Groton Trails Committee
- OTHER BUSINESS**
- ON-GOING ISSUES – Review and Informational Purposes – Brief Comments - Items May or May Not Be Discussed**
- A. PFAS Issue
 - B. Nashoba Valley Medical Center Working Group
 - C. Green Communities Application and Implementation
 - D. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project
 - E. PILOTs

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

- IV. Public Comment Period #2
- V. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of September 30, 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: *October 21, 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. The West Groton Trails Committee (a sub-committee of the Trails Committee created in August) will be in to introduce themselves to the Select Board. Specifically, they would like to provide you with their Committee history; their Committee Charter; introduce their Committee members; provide you with a map of the proposed rail trail project they are working on; update you on the walk that took place on September 12th with DEP and Fisheries and Wildlife Representatives; update you on some of the legal and technical challenges they are facing; and provide you with a copy of their CPA grant application to cover anticipated Town Counsel legal expenses. Enclosed with this report is a PowerPoint Presentation they will be presenting to the Board at Monday's meeting.

1. Now that Town Meeting has concluded, I would like to take a few minutes at Monday's meeting updating the Select Board on action taken by my office with regard to the various Warrant Articles. Please note the following:

Article 2 – Budget Transfers

Town Manager Expenses - \$8,100 – I have hired an electrician to bring power to the Storage Shed at Town Field.

Fire Wages - \$154,411 – Fire Chief Art Cheeks has begun the process of recruiting two additional Firefighter/EMTs for the Fire Department.

Weed Management - \$88,500 – I will be working with the Groton Lakes Association to put together a Bid/RFP to hire a company to conduct the herbicide treatment of Lost Lake/Knops Pond.

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1. **Continued:**

Article 11 – Water Supply System – Heritage Landing

While this Article was turned down by the Town Meeting, we do expect to hear from the State in the next couple of weeks if our MassWorks Grant application was successful. Should we receive the Grant, it would be our recommendation to bring this matter back to the Spring Town Meeting for reconsideration.

Article 12 – Security Improvements at Sargisson Beach

I have asked Brian Callahan and Charlotte Steeves to manage this project. We are in the process of ordering the facility to house the equipment and the various cameras. Installation will most likely take place early next Spring in time for the season.

Article 13 – Purchase Budget Software

We have scheduled the kick off meeting with ClearGov for October 30th. At this meeting, we will formulate a plan to start implementation/conversion. There will be training for all users. The conversion will most likely take 3 to 6 months, so we will, in all probability, run two budgets this year. While that does create a little extra work for me, in the long run, it will be more than worth it.

Article 15 – Amend the Purpose of the CPA Project – Baseball Diamond

We have scheduled the kick-off of this project for Monday, October 21st. My Working Group on the Project, along with the Park Commission will be meeting with our Architect and Engineer to review proposed design plans/project ideas. We will determine next steps at this kick-off, including scheduling a public hearing to review plans. I will report to the Board at Monday's meeting on how the kick off meeting went.

Article 16 – Squannacook River Dam

I have signed the contracts with both Engineering Firms (Horsley Witten for the removal study and Haley Aldrich for the repair study). Tom Delaney and I will be meeting with both firms over the next couple of weeks to discuss both issues in more detail. I will keep the Board apprised of our work and progress on these concurrent studies.

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1. **Continued:**

Article 17 – Authorize the Lease of Town Owned Land

Tom Delaney and I are in the process of drafting a Request for Proposals to lease the land on Cow Pond Brook Road as approved by Town Meeting. We will bring back a formal proposal for Board consideration when proposals are received and reviewed.

Article 24 – Citizens’ Petition – Reduce Statutory Speed Limit

Peter Cunningham would like the Board to consider creating a working group to look at the speed limit/safe street issue. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday’s meeting.

2. The Historical Commission has requested that I nominate Amanda Chang for appointment to the Committee. I would respectfully request that the Board accept this nomination and appointment Ms. Chang to the Committee.
3. As the Board will recall, at your August 26th Meeting, the Board voted to authorize me to sign a Host Community Agreement (HCA) Waiver for Untied Cultivation. This was based on the fact that the Cannabis Control Commission changed the regulations with regards to HCA’s that were retroactive to the beginning of the legalization of Recreational Marijuana in Massachusetts. What this means is that any HCA previously entered into would be subject to the new regulation requiring the Town of Groton to justify the Impact Fee contained in the HCA. At your August 26th Meeting, I told you that I would be requesting the same Waiver with the other Marijuana Establishment. Tree House Cannabis Express is scheduled to open on November 1st and have requested the same Waiver. I would respectfully request that the Board vote to authorize me to execute the Waiver on behalf of the Town. We can discuss this further at Monday’s meeting.
4. With regard to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, please note that the we will be meeting in Joint Session with the Groton Finance Committee, Dunstable Select Board, Dunstable Advisory Committee and Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee on Wednesday, October 23rd beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Marrion Stoddart Building Performing Arts Center. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss issues and start planning for the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget. I will go over preliminary issues with the Select Board at Monday’s meeting. Please note the Select Board will also be meeting in Joint Session with the Finance Committee on Tuesday, October 29th to provide Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Guidance to the Town Manager.

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Select Board
Weekly Agenda Update/Report
October 21, 2024
page four

4. **Continued:**

Finally, the Legislature has finally approved Groton's Charter Change that will provide the Town Manger with an additional thirty (30) days (from December 31st to January 31st) to submit the Proposed Operating Budget. It is currently on the Governor's desk for her signature. This should help with the FY 2026 Budget Development. We can discuss all of this in more detail at Monday's meeting.

5. Please see an update to the Select Board's Meeting Schedule through the end of the Year:

Tuesday, October 29, 2024	-In Joint Session with Finance Committee – Provide FY 2026 Budget Guidance (To be held at the Center)
Monday, November 4, 2024	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting (Remote Meeting)
Monday, November 11, 2024	-No Meeting (Veteran's Day)
Monday, November 18, 2024	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 25, 2024	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2024	-No Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2024	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 16, 2024	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 23, 2024	-No Meeting
Monday, December 30, 2024	-No Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2025	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Bob Collins had reached out to the Board and Town Manager about designating the Charter Review Committee as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 268A. I reached out to Town Counsel about the need to do this. According to Town Counsel, for volunteers like Mr. Collins, who sometimes represent clients before the Town, it would be helpful to have the position of Charter Review Committee member classified as "special municipal" by the Select Board. Such classification would allow Mr. Collins and others to act as agent or attorney for third parties before other Town agencies in compliance with M.G.L. c. 268A, Sec. 17. Based on this, I would respectfully request that the Select Board vote to designate the Charter Review Committee as Special Municipal Employees. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb
enclosure

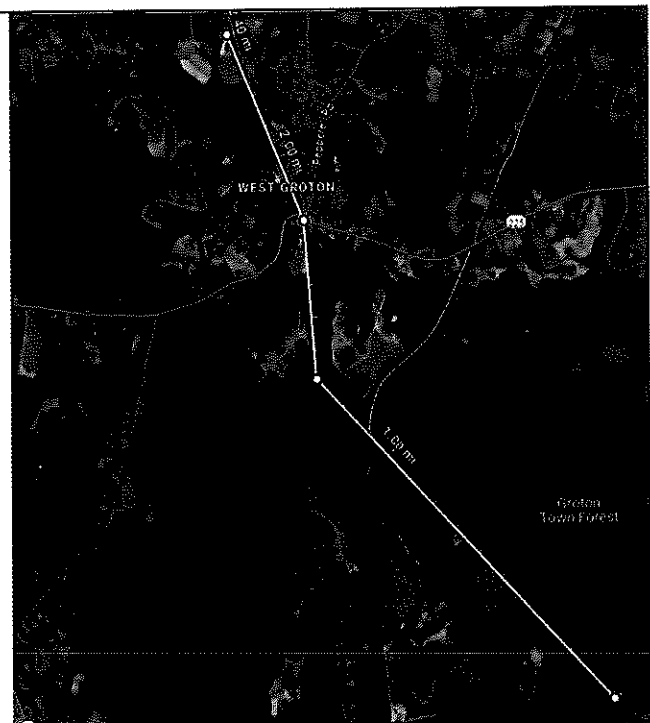
West Groton Rail Trail Committee

BACKGROUND

- The West Groton Rail Trail Committee (WGRTC) will be dedicated to constructing a multi-use recreational path on the former Peterborough and Shirley Railroad right of way in West Groton. The portion of the right of way that will be the responsibility of the WGRTC starts on the Groton side of the bridge over the Nashua River on the Ayer/Groton town border and continues northwesterly to Cutler Field in West Groton, a distance of 2.4 miles. At Cutler Field, the path will meet the section extending to the Bertozzi Conservation Area that is being planned by Squannacook Greenways, a Massachusetts 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Squannacook Greenways has already completed the Squannacook River Rail Trail from Bertozzi to downtown Townsend. The long-range development goal for the WGRTC is to extend this Rail Trail south over the river and into Ayer.

SCOPE

- Roughly 1.8 miles from the bridge to West Groton center.
- Roughly 0.6 miles from West Groton Center to Cutler Field.



SCOPE

- This is a photo of a completed section running into Bertozzi.
- The surface would be the crushed stone shown here.
- The cost of the recently completed 3-mile section was roughly \$900K, 80% of which was covered by grants.





5



6

PERMITTING

- Work with the Select Board and Town Counsel to investigate the freight rights issues associated with the right of way from the Groton/Ayer town line to Cutler Field in West Groton.
- Work with the Select Board to negotiate a lease agreement between the MBTA (the lessor) and the Town of Groton (the lessee) allowing the construction of a crushed stone-surfaced multi-use path.

Environmental and Engineering Assessment

- Assist the Town Manager in preparing a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for an environmental and engineering assessment to be conducted on the section of the right of way for the portion of the right of way for which the WGRTC is assuming development responsibility to assess the environmental risks to the town of entering into a lease agreement and understanding the engineering challenges ahead.

FUNDING

- Money to cover the legal costs of investigating the freight rights issues and MBTA lease will be the responsibility of the WGRTC and may come from a Community Preservation Act (CPA) recreational grant application.
- Money to cover the cost of preparing the Environmental and Engineering Assessment RFQ will be the responsibility of the WGRTC and may come from a CPA recreational grant application.
- Money to pay for construction costs will be the responsibility of the WGRTC and is expected to come mainly from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR's) Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The 20% match required by RTP is expected to come from a CPA recreational grant application.
- The WGRTC will seek to identify other sources of funding for the project that may become available as the project moves forward.

STAGES

- Phase 1 would be to construct the finished path from the bridge in Ayer to the center of West Groton.
- Phase 2 would be to connect from West Groton center to Cutler Field.
- Phase 3 would be to extend the path into Ayer.

BENEFITS

- Connecting valuable assets in conjunction with the Master Plan.
- Expanding recreation assets for the residents of Groton.



Host Community Agreement Waiver Form

Instructions

Pursuant to G. L. c. 94G, §3(d)(4), 935 Code Mass. Regs. (“CMR”) § 500.180(3) and/or 935 CMR 501.180(3), all initial license and license renewal applications submitted or resubmitted to the Commission on or after March 1, 2024, require a compliant Host Community Agreement (“HCA”) or compliant HCA Waiver to be included as part of the submission. A Host Community may waive the regulatory requirement to have a compliant HCA by submitting an HCA Waiver to the Commission that complies with 935 CMR 500.180(5) and/or 935 CMR 501.180(5). If an HCA Waiver is executed, the Host Community shall satisfy the submission requirement of the statute by providing the license applicant or licensee with the fully executed HCA Waiver Form for the license applicant and/or licensee to include as part of the initial license and/or license renewal application.¹

Please note that an executed HCA Waiver constitutes a total relinquishment of the HCA requirement between the Host Community and license applicant or licensee. An HCA Waiver that is executed and recorded with the Commission remains in full force and effect until such time as it is rescinded. An HCA Waiver may only be rescinded upon Commission approval of an executed HCA.

Required Information

I. License Applicant / Licensee Section

- License Applicant / Licensee’s Business Name** *(The business name shall be registered with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, which must also be the same business name on the initial license application or license record.):*

New England Craft Cultivators, LLC

¹ Under 935 CMR 500.002 definition, “Host Community Agreement (HCA) Waiver means a written statement executed by a Host Community and a License Applicant, or by a Host Community and a Marijuana Establishment or MTC, which expresses the parties’ mutual intent to waive the regulatory requirement to have a Host Community Agreement”.



2. **Application / License Number Covered by the HCA Waiver** *(If the HCA Waiver is being executed by a license applicant only, please include the initial license application number(s) as provided in the Massachusetts Cannabis Industry Portal (“MassCIP”). If the HCA Waiver is being executed by a licensee, please include the license number(s) as provided in MassCIP—do not provide the license renewal application(s). If the HCA Waiver is being executed for a business that is applying for a new license but already has other license(s), the business may enter both the initial license application number(s) and license number(s).):*

MRN284689

3. **Name of the License Applicant / Licensee’s Authorized Representative:**

Wesley Ritchie

4. **Signature of the License Applicant / Licensee’s Authorized Representative** *(By signing this document, the named person above attests that they are an Authorized Representative by the License Applicant or Licensee’s Business and that the HCA Waiver was mutually agreed upon by both parties and executed in good faith.):*



5. **Signature Date of the License Applicant / Licensee’s Authorized Representative:**

10/14/24

II. Host Community Section

1. **Name of Host Community:**

Town of Groton, Massachusetts

2. **Name of the Host Community’s Authorized Representative:**

Mark W. Haddad - Town Manager



3. **Signature of the Host Community's Authorized Representative** *(By signing this document, the named person above attests that they are an Authorized Representative of the Host Community and that the HCA Waiver was mutually agreed upon by both parties and executed in good faith.):*

4. **Signature Date of the Host Community's Authorized Representative:**



**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HYBRID MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024
UN-APPROVED**

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

SB Members Virtually Present: Peter Cunningham, Clerk;

Finance Committee Members Present: Bud Robertson, Chair; Mary Linskey, Vice Chair; David Manugian; Gary Green; Kristina Lengyel; Michael Sulprizio; Scott Whitefield;

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patricia DuFresne, Assistant Director of Finance/Town Accountant; Tom Delaney, DPW Director; Brian Callahan, DPW Director in Training; Takashi Tada, Land Use Director; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Melisa Doig, Human Resource Director; Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks; Greg Baker; Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent; Attorney Kyle Croteau; Charter Review Candidates: Jim Barisano, Kristin Frank, Bob Collins, Anna Eliot, and Richard Kingsborough.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Pine announced that there will be a celebration in honor of Marion Stoddart on Friday, October 25, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Marion Stoddart Building, Groton Dunstable Middle School. The celebration will feature a 30-minute film and other celebratory activities. She said the Nashoba Paddler will offer free canoe rentals and \$15 kayak rentals from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Dunbar announced that the state election is on Tuesday, November 5th. Early ballots are expected to arrive by October 7th. She said everyone should have received the ballot information booklet in the mail from the Commonwealth, and the last day to submit an Absentee Ballot or Vote by Mail ballot is Tuesday, October 29th. Please visit www.grotonma.gov for the In-Person Early Voting Schedule, or contact the Town Clerk's Office with any questions.

Mr. Cunningham announced the establishment of the Nashoba Valley Health Planning Working Group under Secretary Walsh's Office. Town Manager Haddad will be part of this Working Group, which consists of 36 members. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1. Consider Accepting the Nomination of the Town Manager and Appoint Bob Elam and Jesse Cotter to the Great Ponds Advisory Committee.**

Mr. Pisani made a motion to accept the Town Manager's nomination and appoint Bob Elam and Jesse Cotter to the Great Ponds Advisory Committee, with a term to expire on June 30, 2025. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call: Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye; Cunningham-aye; Manugian-aye; Pine-aye.

2. Review Motions and Article Assignments for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting.

The Motions and Article Assignments for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting were provided to the Board. Mr. Haddad noted a few changes and reviewed them with the Board:

Mr. Haddad explained that Article 6 would be voted on separately from the consent agenda, requiring a 2/3 majority vote at the Town Meeting.

Article 16, The Squannacook River Dam: The requested amount is reduced by \$52,000 (from \$212,250 to \$160,250) due to items listed in the proposal from Haley Aldrich for repairs that are related to construction and are not currently needed. Department of Public Works Director Tom Delaney and DPW Director Training Brian Callahan were in attendance. Mr. Delaney will give a PowerPoint Presentation at the Town Meeting to explain that a “yes” vote indicates support for a study of both the repair and removal of the Squannacook River Dam. This information will help the Select Board make an informed decision. Mr. Haddad asked the Board what their interpretation of a “no” vote would mean, which would go back to the Select Board to decide. Mr. Haddad stated that he and Mr. Delaney believe that if the Town Meeting votes against using town funds for this project, they will assume that the Town does not want to allocate any Town Funds for the Dam, and the Town should pursue State funding for the removal of the dam. Ms. Pine thinks it’s important for the Town to make an informed decision. She explained that a “no” vote at the Town Meeting would bring them back to where they were now without a decision. Ms. Pine said if there is a “no” vote, it should be interpreted as not knowing what action will be taken. Mr. Haddad said he is uncertain about how the Select Board would assess the situation without funding. Mr. Delaney stated that if they commit to receiving funding from the DER, they also agree to remove the dam. Mr. Haddad hopes the Town Meeting will support the Article so they can secure the funding to gather more information about the dam and make a well-informed decision. Mr. Delaney said the Board will still need to decide after the Town Meeting.

The Squannacook River Dam Discussion was to be continued later during the meeting.

6:15 p.m. Introduction and Update from the Opioid Settlement

Opioid Remediation Working Group Members Ms. DuFresne, Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks, and Mr. Greg Baker were in attendance for the discussion. Ms. DuFresne gave a brief overview of the Working Group. She provided an update to the Board on the work they have been doing to address the implementation of programs to spend the funds the Town has received from the opioid settlement. She explained that the group has been meeting once a month since February and that the Town of Groton has received approximately \$13,000 and expects a total allocation of just over \$43,000 through 2039. She said pooling resources may make sense in a community like Groton. The goal is to formulate a plan and use the money for its intended purposes. Ms. DuFresne said the Working Group drafted a Groton Opioid Strategy Survey to see how the community wants the funds to be spent. A copy of the survey was provided in the packet to the Board and will be posted electronically on the Town of Groton website along with the Groton Electric Light Department (GELD) bill. Ms. DuFresne said finding voices that have lived with personal experience of addiction themselves or through family, friends, or other loved ones are encouraged to volunteer their experience. Article 6 on the 2024 Fall Town Meeting Warrant will propose discontinuing the Opioid Settlement Special Purpose Stabilization Fund. Instead, the town will use a Special Revenue Fund to utilize the settlement awards. Ms. DuFresne will seek the Board's permission to access the funds if the article is approved. Mr. Haddad thanked Ms. DuFresne for the excellent presentation.

6:25 p.m. Jim Barisano- Review/Discuss Citizens Petition- Article 24 -Town Wide Speed Regulation

Mr. Jim Barisano, the proponent of Article 24 Citizen's Petition for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting, and Mr. Tom Delaney, the Director of the Department of Public Works, were present for the discussion. Mr. Haddad said this article would authorize the Select Board to set a town-wide speed limit of 25 MPH on non-posted roads. Mr. Haddad asked Mr. Barisano to explain his article, which suggested conducting a town-wide speed study. Mr. Barisano said many streets have not been studied in 50 years. Mr. Reilly said the speed limits could potentially increase on some roads if a study were conducted, as they take the average speed. Mr. Haddad said he doesn't know where that appropriation would come from for the expense of a study, because the town doesn't have a budget for it. Mr. Barisano explained he would like the study to be conducted by volunteers. Ms. Manugian expressed concerns, stating that she thought a speed study was problematic. Mr. Delaney said that the Police Department would have to conduct the study, and the results are then sent to the state. The state then sets the speed limit at the 85th percentile. He further explained that the Select Board must vote on each road separately. Ms. Pine clarified that Mr. Barisano's article does not mention anything about a study, only in the summary; the Town Meeting will vote based on the article content, which does not include a study. Ms. Pine told Mr. Barisano that he needed to clarify to the voters that the content in the summary would not happen and a study would not take place. Mr. Haddad explained to Mr. Barisano that the Board was trying to clarify that the town does not have the funding to conduct a speed survey, and it may backfire and be unsafe. Mr. Barisano said he would explain to the voters at the Town Meeting that the Select Board would decide the next steps.

6:30 p.m. Interview and Consider Appointing Individuals to the Charter Review Committee

Interested residents serving on the Charter Review Committee were invited to the meeting to be interviewed and appointed to fill the vacancies on the Committee appointed by the Board. Candidates Jim Barisano, Kristin Frank, Robert Collins, Anna Elliott, and Richard Kingsborough were all present for the Committee's interviews. Mr. Haddad explained that the Select Board has three appointees on the Committee, one of whom can be a member of the Select Board. Select Board Member Cunningham expressed interest in joining the Charter Review Committee.

Ms. Pine suggested Mr. Cunningham would be an excellent representative.

Ms. Pine moved to appoint Mr. Cunningham to the Charter Review Committee. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll call: Pisani-aye, Pine-aye, Manugian-aye, Reilly-aye; Cunningham-abstained.

Mr. Haddad explained that the Select Board would now have two appointees out of the five candidates interested in joining the Charter Review Committee.

Ms. Pine and Ms. Manugian asked the candidates to briefly overview their interest in joining the Committee.

Candidate Anna Eliot is a former Select Board member and Life resident of the Town of Groton. She wants to ensure the process is fair and transparent.

Candidate Robert Collins said he was on the last Charter Committee. He drafted the provisions, thoroughly enjoyed it, and would like to be part of it again.

Candidate Jim Barisano said he is a newer resident of Groton, semi-retired, and interested in joining the Committee.

Candidate Kristin Frank said she is a new resident. She has not served in an elected position but has participated in other committees. She would like to be part of the process.

Candidate Richard Kingsborough is a Groton resident. He is an Eagle Scout and strongly believes in giving back to the community.

Mr. Cunningham questioned the candidates about which areas of the Charter the Boards should focus on. Mr. Kingsborough and Ms. Frank were unsure and said they would like to review the Charter again. Mr. Barisano said they could focus on giving the Town Manager some help. Mr. Collins stated that it would be premature to specify a particular area and mentioned that the Town Government functions well. He suggested that a good committee could focus on a few specifics. Ms. Eliot said there were two-lifetime candidates and three newcomers. She believed it was important to have newcomers on the Committee and wanted to withdraw her candidacy. Mr. Haddad said the first thing he would like to do is schedule a public hearing. Mr. Collins said it was great to see newcomers interested.

Mr. Haddad explained that the Select Board's tradition is to vote by ballot, then tally up, and finally do a roll call.

The Select Board voted five in favor of Ms. Frank and five in favor of Mr. Collins (see the attached ballots for official public records).

Ms. Pine made a motion to appoint Mr. Robert Collins and Ms. Kristin Frank to the Charter Review Committee. Mr. Pisani seconded. Roll call: Cunningham aye; Pisani-aye; Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Reilly-aye.

3. Update on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

There was no update at this time.

4. Proposed Select Board Meeting Schedule through the End of the Year.

Saturday, October 5, 2024	2024 Fall Town Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, October 14, 2024	No Meeting (Indigenous People's Day)
Monday, October 21, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Tuesday, October 29, 2024	In Joint Session with the Finance Committee-Provide FY 2026 Budget Guidance
Monday, November 4, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 11, 2024	No Meeting (Veteran's Day)
Monday, November 18, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 25, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2024	No Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 16, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 23, 2024	No Meeting

Monday, December 30, 2024

No Meeting

Monday, January 6, 2024

Regularly Scheduled Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

1. Consider the Right of First Refusal for Lot 1 Sand Hill Road.

Attorney Kyle Croteau, representing the property owner of Lot 1 Sandy Hill Road, was present for the discussion. The Board had received a Notice of Intent to sell a parcel currently classified under Chapter 61 and convert it to residential use pursuant to M.G.L. c 61. The lot is a portion of land situated on 260 Common Street and Sand Hill Road, known as Lot 1 Sand Hill Road, Groton. The Board was provided with a letter from the seller's Attorney. Under Chapter 61, the Town has 120 days (by December 14, 2024) to consider exercising or releasing an option to purchase the property. The Town would need to match the proposed selling price of \$260,000. The Town has asked for recommendations from the Assessors, Conservation Commission, and the Planning Board if there was any interest in the property. No Board has expressed an interest. Therefore, Mr. Haddad respectfully requested the Select Board not to exercise its right to purchase and release the property.

Mr. Reilly moved to release the town's right of first refusal for Lot 1 Sand Hill Road. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion.

Discussion

Ms. Pine inquired whether the builder was constructing a home for a particular individual. Attorney Croteau clarified that the builder would buy the property, build a single-family house, and sell it to a third party. Ms. Pine mentioned that the Affordable Housing Trust had discussed the possibility of the town or the Affordable Housing Trust purchasing the land but determined it wasn't a good choice for them.

Roll call: *Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye; Cunningham- aye; Manugian-aye; Pine-aye.*

2. Consider Approving a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night on Friday, October 1, 2024, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night on Friday, October 1, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll call: Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye; Cunningham- aye; Manugian-aye; Pine-aye.

Continue of the Squannacook River Dam Discussion

Mr. Haddad explained that Town Counsel did a title search, and the results did not help them. This brings this back to the Select Board's hands to decide whether to pursue the removal of the dam or repair it. Ms. Pine added that should the Board decide to repair the dam, they can request Mr. Helmar Nielson (former President of Groton Land Holdings) to grant a deed to the Town at no cost so that Groton owns the dam. Then, the ownership issue would be cleared up.

After the Select Board deliberated, it was decided that a "no" vote would return the decision to the Board for further consideration. Ms. Manugian stated that the Board could potentially seek funding or donations to

proceed with the removal or move forward with grant funding. The Select Board is scheduled to meet on Monday, October 7th, and they will need to decide.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pursuant to the Charter, Authorize the Town Manager and One Member of the Select Board to Sign Warrants for the Next 30 days.

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

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

None

Public Comment Period #2

None

Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2024

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of September 16, 2024. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye; Manugian-aye; Cunningham-aye.

Executive Session

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to make a motion to enter Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a), Clause 3 – “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation If an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares”- Purposes- Collective Bargaining.

And not to return to open session.

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

Mr. Robertson made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Roll Call: Linskey-aye; Manugian-aye; Green-aye; Lengyel-aye; Sulprizio-aye; Whitefield-aye; Robertson-aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. Respectively submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.