

Select Board Meeting Packet

February 14, 2022

This is the Select Board preliminary preparation information packet. The content of this package is subject to change between when it is released and the start of the Select Board meeting. Such changes will not be posted to the web site before the meeting. If you see an item or items in the preliminary preparation package that are important to you, please attend the meeting in person.



Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

TOWN OF GROTON

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

Select Board

Rebecca H. Pine, *Chair*
Alison S. Manugian, *Vice Chair*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Clerk*
Joshua A. Degen, *Member*
John F. Reilly, *Member*

SELECT BOARD MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022 AGENDA

VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM AND THE GROTON CHANNEL
PURSUANT TO THE OPEN MEETING LAW
ZOOM ID: 824 0470 3414

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 7:00 P.M. | Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public |
| 7:05 P.M. | Public Comment Period |
| I. 7:06 P.M. | Town Manager's Report |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Town Manager's Explanation of Agenda Items2. Update from Town Manager on COVID Protocols3. Update from Town Manager on MassWorks Grant Proposal4. Update on Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Operating Budget5. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through Spring Town Meeting |
| II. 7:10 P.M. | Items for Select Board Consideration and Action |
| | None |
| III. 7:15 P.M. | Discuss/Develop Comments- Proposed Ch. 40B Proposal – Heritage Landing – Cow Pond Brook Road |
| IV. 8:00 P.M. | Executive Session – Pursuant to M.G.L., c. 30A, §21(a), Clause 2 – “To conduct strategy sessions with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contact negotiations with non-union personnel” – Purpose – Preparation for Contract Negotiations with the Town Manager |

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. Water Department – Manganese Issue – PFAS Issue
- B. Green Communities Application and Implementation
- C. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project
- D. Bystander Training (Feb. 8th, Feb. 24th & March 16th)
- E. Mask Mandate
- F. Electric Car Charging Stations

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

- V. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of January 31, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Votes may be taken at any time during the meeting. The listing of topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting is not intended as a guarantee of the topics that will be discussed. Not all topics listed may in fact be discussed, and other topics not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



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Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Select Board*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Agenda Update/Report*

Date: *February 14, 2022*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. In addition to the Town Manager's Report, Items for Select Board Consideration and Action and a review of the On-going Issues, there is one item scheduled on Monday's Agenda. We have set aside time on the Agenda for the Board to discuss/develop comments on the proposed Chapter 40B Development on Cow Pond Brook Road. Enclosed with this report are some preliminary comments from various Department Heads. I have invited several of the Department Heads to the meeting to assist the Board with your review.
2. At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Groton Board of Health held on Monday, February 7, 2022, the Board of Health lifted the mandatory mask mandate while in public buildings. They have revised the requirement to a recommendation. While they still recommend wearing a mask while indoors, it is no longer a mandatory requirement. To that end, we have revised the mask mandate while in public buildings. While Town Hall is still closed to the public, employees will no longer be required to wear a mask while working with or meeting with fellow employees. Employees can still choose to wear a mask. It is up to their individual comfort level. For the time being, we are still requiring that masks be worn when meeting with members of the public. In addition, we are scheduled to end "Appointment Only" at Town Hall at the end of the month, along with requiring all meetings be held virtually. I would like to discuss this in more detail with the Board at Monday's meeting to determine if we want to keep that in place, or make a change.
3. As you know, I have been working with the Sewer Commission and the Developer of the Deluxe Property on a potential MassWorks Grant Application to make improvements to the Nod Road Pump Station. The Select Board had authorized use of ARPA Funds to design and bid such a project. One of the requirements to make such an application successful would be to have the project permitted. Unfortunately, due to the scope of the project, it does not appear that it will be permitted by the time the applications are due in June. Therefore, we will need to wait a year before we submit a grant. We will continue to work with the Sewer Commission, Developer and Planning Board on an application that is worthy of approval. In the meantime, we will not be expending any ARPA Funds until we have a better idea of the proposed project.

Select Board
Weekly Agenda Update/Report
February 14, 2022
page two

4. With regard to the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget, please note that the Finance Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, February 15th at 6:00 p.m. to continue their review of the Proposed FY 2023 Operating Budget. We have posted this is a Select Board Meeting as well. One item of importance that will be addressed at the meeting is to discuss/review the next level of borrowing for the Florence Roche Construction Project. Treasurer Hannah Moller will be present to review various scenarios for the Select Board and Finance Committee to consider. We can discuss all of this in more detail at Monday's meeting.

5. Please see the update to the Select Board's Meeting Schedule through the Spring Town Meeting:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Monday, February 21, 2022 | No Meeting (Holiday) |
| Monday, February 28, 2022 | -Review First Draft of the Warrant -Executive Session/Collective Bargaining |
| Monday, March 7, 2022 | Regularly Scheduled Meeting |
| Monday, March 14, 2022 | -Public Hearing on Spring Town Meeting Warrant |
| Monday, March 21, 2022 | No Meeting |
| Monday, March 28, 2022 | Regularly Scheduled Meeting |
| Monday, April 4, 2022 | Regularly Scheduled Meeting |
| Monday, April 11, 2022 | -Finalize Warrant for 2022 Spring Town Meeting |
| Monday, April 18, 2022 | No Meeting (Holiday) |
| Saturday, April 30, 2022 | 2022 Spring Town Meeting |

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

NONE

MWH/rjb
enclosures



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1162
Fax: (978) 448-1123

Department of Public Works

Robert T. Delaney Jr.

DPW Director

tdelaney@townofgroton.org

Jean Hommel

DPW Administrative Assistant

jhommel@townofgroton.org

Selectboard Members
173 Main Street
Groton

RE Heritage 40B

Dear Members

Comments were requested by our department regarding the proposed construction. I am not sure how much of the original agreement is in effect, but the conditions contained in there were negotiated, and I believe, they would benefit the Town and our department. This project has the potential to create great hardship for our complex, as it will be an attraction for so many children in the area. There is potential for injury of non-authorized people as well as vandalism of Town assets. We have had minor problems with vandalism over the years but with a concentration of homes right next to us, it has given me cause for concern.

Comments/Requests

Water line installed and connected to the DPW facility. The connection would only need to go to the area of the Dog Pound, as there is a connection for all buildings there. This was in the original agreement. Also, along with this, is the repaving of the road along the excavation route. This is in our road opening permit. Upon completion of the project, the limits of the paving can be determined, but at a minimum, the length of the excavation within the right of way.

Access control and monitoring needs to be a component here. There needs to be a fence and gates around our entire complex to limit activity on the property. Fortunately, the solar field has created a partial barrier between the project and the DPW facility, but would need to be continued and possibly improved to eliminate potential from intrusion, especially into the solar field. Remote gates as well as enhanced security systems would also protect the town and its assets. The gates would assist the police and fire when they make their fuel runs in the middle of the night, as this is the Town's fuel depot.

A visual barrier or screening was in the original agreement, this also would be key to eliminate complaints about our winter operations. We are noisy and loud in the winter and it is going to be a problem if not addressed in the beginning.

We have issues with speed and traffic on weekends with sports, as well as the transfer station. Ideas and solutions implemented on traffic calming and mitigation should also be incorporated into this plan with the addition of so many children.

End of comments at this time

I understand the need for affordable housing and support it. I am also responsible for the operations of the DPW complex and its functionality and the protection of this Town asset and that will be my focus during this process.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you

Robert "Tom" Delaney
DPW Director



TOWN OF GROTON
Water Department
173 Main Street. Town Hall
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Office: 978-448-1122
Fax: 978-448-1123

Superintendent:
Thomas D. Orcutt

Business Manager:
Lauren E. Crory

Commissioners:
John J. McCaffrey
Greg R. Fishbone
James L. Gmeiner

February 10, 2022

Ms. Rebecca Pine, Chair
Select Board
Town of Groton
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Re: Heritage Landing at Cow Pond Brook
MH ID No. 1137

Dear Ms. Pine,

Please accept the following comments on behalf of the Groton Water Department with respect to the proposed 40B Project – Heritage Landing at Cow Pond Brook. The Board of Water Commissioners shall approve the proposed water main extension on Cow Pond Brook Road to the project site. A Hydraulic Analysis prepared by the Water Department's engineering consultant is required for the project in order to review the water supply demands for fire protection and domestic needs and shall be paid for by the proponent. All System Development fees shall be paid for by the Developer as Building Permits are obtained from the Town (there are no waivers for these fees). The Groton Water Department shall provide full time inspection of all water main installation work conducted by the developer's contractor at the developer's expense. The Developer shall abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Groton Water Department contained within Chapter 407 of the Town Code.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience

Respectfully,

Thomas D. Orcutt
Water Superintendent



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1109
Fax: (978) 448-1113

Office of:
Building Commissioner
Zoning Enforcement Officer

February 9, 2022

SELECTBOARD
TOWN MANAGER

RE: HERITAGE LANDING/COW POND BROOK 40B APPLICATION

After review of the application provided by Defcon 1, LLC to Mass Housing, there appears to be some question regarding the costs of the Building Permits for the development.

As there is no specific line item for Building Permits contained in their estimate, the Building Dept wants to ensure the Developer has indeed carried the Building Permit costs for these units and at the correct rates.

Therefore, I have attached a copy of the Town of Groton Fee Schedule that was adopted 1/1/2021. The developer (and their subcontractors) will be responsible for all Building, Electrical, Gas, Plumbing, Sheet Metal and Trench permit fees for each unit in the development and separate permits will need to be obtained for each unit as construction progresses.

Please note the above permit costs are exclusive to the Building Dept and do not reflect any other Departments which may assess fees (Water, Fire, Board of Health etc)

We respectfully request this letter and attachments be forwarded to Mass Housing as per their request for comments.

Please contact this office at 978-448-1109 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert Garside, C.B.O.
Building Official/Zoning Enforcement Officer



TOWN OF GROTON
BUILDING DEPARTMENT
 TOWN HALL- 2ND FLOOR
 173 Main Street
 Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237

Tel: 978-448-1109
 Fax: 978-448-1113
 e-mail:
building@townofgroton.org

Effective 1/1/2021

BUILDING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

Residential:

| | | Min amounts |
|--|---------------------|-------------|
| New Buildings/Additions | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$150.00 |
| Interior finishes | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$80.00 |
| Garages | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$100.00 |
| Sunrooms/decks/porches/ cabanas etc. | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$100.00 |
| Barns | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$100.00 |
| Renovations | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$100.00 |
| Handicap Ramp | \$30.00 | |
| Mobile Home- temp use | \$150.00 | |
| Permit Card | \$30.00 | |
| Pellet and wood stoves | \$60.00 | |
| Temp structures | \$80.00 | |
| Demo Dwelling | \$200.00 | |
| Demo Accessory Structure | \$60.00 | |
| Pools- above ground | \$100.00 | |
| Pools Inground | \$200.00 | |
| Sheds above 200 SF | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$80.00 |
| Chimney Roof/sheet metal/siding/windows etc. | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$80.00 |

COMMERCIAL/NON PROFIT:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| New Buildings/Additions | \$12.00 per \$1000 | \$600.00 |
| Occupancy permit | \$100.00 | |
| Change of Use | \$200.00 | |
| Demolition | \$5.00 per \$1,000 | \$150.00 |
| Renovations | \$10.00 per \$1,000 | \$300.00 |
| Roof/siding/ windows | \$12.00 per \$1000 | \$150.00 |
| Sprinklers | \$12.00 per \$1000 | \$100.00 |
| Tenant Fit ups | \$12.00 per \$1000 | \$200.00 |
| Antennae/Tower | 4\$ Per FT | |
| Equipment Co Location | \$200.00 | |
| Associated Ground Structure | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$250.00 |
| Construction Trailer | \$100.00 | |
| Farm Labor | \$60.00 | |
| Annual Public Safety | \$40.00 | |
| Sheet Metal | \$12.00 per \$1,000 | \$150.00 |
| Temporary Structures (tents) | \$80.00 | |

PLEASE NOTE: any work started without a permit will result in a TRIPLE permit fee.

1. Fees will not be waived for any non-governmental agency.
2. Fees are non-refundable.
3. Fees are not subject to negotiation.
4. Re-Inspection fee, if/when specified by the Building Commissioner: \$50.00.
5. Code violations will require a re-inspection.
6. Any fees not specified will be determined by the Building Commissioner.
7. The permit fee will be based on the proposed valuation of work versus the ICC Building Valuation Table, amended bi- annually, whichever is greater.
 - The valuation of work shall include all material and labor (foundation work, structural and non-structural, building components, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and interior/exterior finishes) and cost to implement (equipment overhead).
 - The Building Department reserves the right to request from the applicant a detailed substantiation of the valuation of work.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL PERMITS issued within the Land Use Departments, will be charged a 6% administrative fee.



TOWN OF GROTON
BUILDING DEPARTMENT
 TOWN HALL- 2ND FLOOR
 173 Main Street
 Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237

Tel: 978-448-1109
 Fax: 978-448-1113
 e-mail:
building@townofgroton.org

Effective 1/1/2021

Electrical Permit Fee Schedule

Residential:

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Minimum Permit charge | | \$80.00 |
| Sub Panel | | \$80.00 |
| Temporary Service | | \$80.00 |
| Service Change: | 100 amp | \$80.00 |
| | 200 amp and higher (each service) | \$100.00 |
| New Single-Family Dwelling: | 100 amp | \$200.00 |
| | 200 amp | \$300.00 |
| | 400 amp | \$400.00 |
| *Generator Excluded* | | |
| New 2 Family and Higher Dwelling Unit: | 100-amp service | \$200/unit |
| | 200-amp service | \$300/unit |
| Additions and Remodel: | 1-20 Outlets, Switches, Receptacles | \$100 Based on 2 Inspections |
| " " | 20-50 Outlets, Switches and Receptacles | \$100 Based on 2 Inspections |
| " " | Over 50 Outlets, Switches and Receptacles | \$100 Based on 2 Inspections |
| Residential Barn, Garage, Pool Cabana, Storage Building (Detached, Single Story) | | \$125.00 |
| Ejector/Septic/Sewer Pump, Generator, Hot tub/ Jacuzzi, Hot Water heater, Oil Burner, Sauna, Welding Equipment, etc.. | | \$80.00 |
| BA/FA- Combo | | \$100.00 |
| Burglar Alarm | | \$80.00 |
| Cable-Data-Telephone (low Voltage) | | \$80.00 |
| Carbon Monoxide Detectors | | \$80.00 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Fire Alarm | \$80.00 |
| Central Air Conditioning/Mini Split | \$80.00 |
| Above Ground Pools (1 Inspection) | \$80.00 |
| In-Ground Pools/Outdoor Hot Tub/Saunas (2 Inspections) | \$150.00 |
| Additional Inspection Fee | \$60.00 |
| Re-Inspection Fee | \$75.00 |
| Car Chargers | \$150.00 |
| Solar Panels/ Power Packs | |
| 1 Inspection | \$150.00 |
| 2 or 3 inspections | At Inspectors Discretion |
| <u>Commercial:/Non-Profit</u> | |
| New Construction/Additions (of Electrical cost value) | 1% |
| Minor Renovations/tenant fit-up: | |
| 1-10 Outlets, Fixtures, Receptacles | \$75 per Inspection |
| 11-25 Outlets, Fixtures, Receptacles | \$75 per Inspection |
| 25-50 Outlets, Fixtures, Receptacles | \$75 per Inspection |
| Over 50 Outlets, Fixtures, Receptacles | \$75 per Inspection |
| Service: | |
| 100 Amp | \$200.00 |
| 200 Amp | \$300.00 |
| 400 Amp | \$400.00 |
| 600 Amp +Higher | \$500.00 |
| BA/PA Combos | \$80 Per Inspection |
| Burglar Alarm | \$80 Per Inspection |
| Cable-Data-Telephone (low-Voltage) | \$80 Per Inspection |
| Fire Alarm | \$80 Per Inspection |
| Free Standing Lighting | Minimum Fee |
| Security Call Box/Station | Minimum Fee |
| Motor/Generator/Transformer | Minimum Fee |
| Solar Panels | 1% of Electrical Cost |
| Additional Inspection Fee | \$80.00 |
| Minimum Permit Charge | \$100.00 |
| Re-Inspection Fee | \$100.00 |
| Yearly Maintenance Permit | \$200.00 |

Please note:

1. A separate permit must be filed for each dwelling unit or tenant space. In the case of a condominium development or multi-family dwelling, each unit shall be considered a dwelling unit.
2. Individuals that perform electrical work in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must be licensed. The permit application must be completed by the electrician or a representative of the company.
3. New services, changes to existing service equipment, car chargers, powerpacks, and solar systems require a utility authorization number issued by the Groton Electric Light Department (978-448-1150) prior to application of this permit.
4. Any work performed more than 5 days prior to the application of the permit will result in a double permit fee.
5. All underground work must be inspected prior to back-fill.
6. The building must be tight to the weather prior to the installation of any electric wiring.
7. The rough inspection required all wires to be run, all device boxes and lighting outlets (except old work) to be installed and all grounds and splices to be made-up prior to concealment by insulation, wallboard, sheathing, etc.
8. Electrical permits are NOT transferable.
9. The permit fee will be based on the proposed valuation of work and shall include all material and labor
10. Fees will not be waived for any non-governmental agency.
11. Fees are non-refundable.
12. Fees are not subject to negotiation

PLEASE NOTE: ALL PERMITS issued within the Land Use Departments, will be charged a 6% administrative fee.



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e-mail:
building@townofgroton.org

Effective 1/1/2021

GAS/ PLUMBING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

Residential

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| First Fixture: | \$65.00 |
| Add Fixtures- each | \$15.00 |
| Dishwasher Only | \$40.00 |
| Additional Inspection Fee: | \$50.00 |

Re-inspection Fee: \$60.00

*Gas Conversion" and/or *Gas/Plumbing Combination items:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Boiler- | \$60.00 |
| Dryer- | \$60.00 |
| Hi-Lo Regulator- | \$60.00 |
| Hot Water Heater- | \$60.00 |
| Range- | \$60.00 |

Work performed without a permit shall be charged double

All code violations shall require a reinspection

Gas / Plumbing permits are not transferable.

Commercial/ Non-Profit

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| First Fixture- | \$100.00 |
| Additional Fixtures-Each- | \$20.00 |
| Additional Inspection Fee- | \$75.00 |
| Re-Inspection Fee- | \$80.00 |

Technologies / Gray Water toilets: Board of Health approval / permit needed.

1. The permit fee will be based on the proposed valuation of work and shall include all material and labor
2. Fees will not be waived for any non-governmental agency.
3. Fees are non-refundable.
4. Fees are not subject to negotiation

ALL PERMITS issued within the LAND USE DEPARTMENTS, will be charged a 6% administrative fee.

Mark Haddad

From: Jeff Wallens <kb1atg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Select Board
Subject: Cow Pond Brook development

TO: Housing Partnership

Peter;

Without getting into the particulars of the proposal on Cow Pond Brook Road, I believe that this development is a poor use of a Comprehensive Permit.

If you look at the 40-unit development being proposed with 10 affordable units, the net gain of affordable units against the 10 % is 6 – not 10. This is the problem that we had in the 1980s with the original Homeowners Opportunity Program, the one that bought down mortgages and was used to develop the condos on Labbe Road.

I went on-line and looked at the statistics that I could find, which were from 2010. These are not current but will illustrate my point.

Total Housing Units: 3930

10% goal: 393

Affordable Units: 224

Unit Deficit: 169 (393-224)

Percent Affordable: 5.7

To get to 10% we would need to build the next 169 units as affordable.

However, if we use this proposal as a model

Unit Deficit + 25% of New Units = 10% of Existing Units plus 10% of New Units

$169 + .25 \text{ New Units} = 393 + .1 \text{ New Units}$

$.15 \text{ New Units} = 169$

1,127 New Units need to reach quota

I would much prefer us to use comprehensive permits to build a few hundred low-income rental units. I do think we also need to provide homeownership opportunities for middle income folks. That would be better accomplished by allowing zoning with far greater density (maybe ½ acre lots), by right - provided that the houses built are small- maybe 1000 square feet. This was the size of the post WW2 housing that many of us grew up with and was the foundation of generational wealth.

To help with your negotiations, I would like to suggest a tool that we had back in the 1980s. We had a Housing Needs Assessment. I think we may have gotten a state grant for it. We were able to use the assessment to get the development behind the Baptist Church designated for families, rather than elderly (we had 2 spots for elderly already). I strongly suspect that this study will show an unmet need for rental housing.

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022
UN-APPROVED**

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

Members Absent: Joshua A. Degen, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Melisa Doig, HR Director; Megan Foster, Principal Assistant Assessor; Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant; Hannah Moller, Tax Collector/Treasurer

Ms. Pine called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Reilly asked if or when the parking areas to the rail trails or conservation areas were plowed out. Mr. Cunningham said that DCR does not plow or maintain trails in the winter time. He said that the lots do get plowed them from time to time but wasn't sure when that occurred.

Ms. Pine said that the first Bystander Training would be held next Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30pm. She said that it was free and hoped that many people would take part in it.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that the Town employees returned to work on January 31st and Town Hall returned to appointment only. He said that all employees were tested when they returned to Town Hall adding there were no positive cases. Mr. Haddad said that Groton's case count dropped by 100, which was good news. He said that in addition, the Center in West Groton had also opened and was offering limited services while complying with Social Distancing Guidelines. Mr. Haddad said that he would like to keep the Town Hall by appointment only until the end of February. He said that they could revisit this issue when the Board considered the issue of continuing remote meetings.

Mr. Cunningham said he wanted to see them monitor the statistics closely and see about ramping up the programing at the Center soon.

2. Mr. Haddad said that Environmental Partners had estimated that the cost to design and put out to bid the improvements to the Center Sewer District to support our MassWorks Grant Application was \$385,000. He respectfully requested that the Board authorize and approve the use of ARPA funds for this purpose. He said that the Board had previously authorized up to \$520,000 of ARPA Funds for Center Sewer District improvements adding that this expense was within that authorization.

Ms. Pine asked if the ARPA money was the funding they had 3 or so years to spend. Ms. Dufresne said that they had to obligate the money by 2024 and had until 2026 to spend it fully.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to authorize him to enter into the contract with Environmental Partners to move forward with this design. Mr. Cunningham made the motion. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Reilly-aye; Cunningham-aye; Pine-aye

3. Mr. Haddad said that the Trails Committee had requested that he nominate for appointment Heidi Charlebois, Darlene Deschambeault and Sheila Devereaux to the Committee. He asked the Board to consider this as his nomination of these individuals for appointment and respectfully requested that the Board accept these nominations and appoint them to the Trails Committee.

Mr. Cunningham made the motion. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Reilly-aye; Cunningham-aye; Pine-aye

NASHUA RIVER WILD AND SCENIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Ms. Stacey Chilcoat introduced herself and Diane Carson as both being present.

Ms. Chilcoat touched upon a couple of small grants they were exploring. She said that the Forest Legacy Program application was submitted and explained what the program was. She said that they were waiting to hear whether they received the grant. She said that they were also holding monthly conservation talks which had also been going well. She said that this year was going to mean a lot of projects for them adding she thought they had a pretty productive last year.

There was a brief discussion about a project along the Squannacook River in Ayer that abuts the river and Groton.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – CONT.

4. Mr. Haddad said that he had a lot of good budget things to talk about until earlier today. He said that he reached out to the School Department to discuss the placeholder he placed in the budget for the District and unfortunately the number he had meant that their minimum contribution was going up 5.29%, mostly due to a reduction in state aid. He added that the set aside in the budget was still \$300k short based on the needs of the District. He said that the Finance Team was going to go through the budget on Wednesday morning and come back with a recommendation on cuts. Mr. Robertson said that they were looking at the 15th or 22nd for the next Finance Committee meeting but would let everyone know. Ms. Pine agreed with Mr. Haddad in that the department heads did a great job presenting their budgets on Saturday.
5. Mr. Haddad said that there was a pretty light agenda on February 7th. He said that the Financial Policies were ready for the Board to review adding there were minor changes made. He said he was also going to bring forward the 2nd quarter financial report. He said that he also wanted to schedule an executive session for next Monday also, to discuss the union agreements he had reached tentative agreements on. He reviewed the meeting agendas going forward. There was a brief discussion about the proposed 40B project off Cow Pond Brook Road as well as the MBTA zoning.

ON-GOING ISSUES

- A: Mr. Haddad said the Water Department had gone out to bid in their projects. He said that the drilling bid came in \$200k less and the sub bids for the treatment plant had come in at or right under the estimates developed last year. He said that estimators for the Flo Ro project would be looking at value estimating on February 10th with the Building Committee. Ms. Manugian said that value estimating would dictate what options they had.
- B. Mr. Haddad said that the Town was awarded \$99k for Green Communities funding. He said it was not everything they asked for but was grateful they received something.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Pine said that the non-profit council had a great meeting last Friday.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of January 24, 2022 as written. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Reilly-aye; Cunningham-aye; Pine-aye

Ms. Manugian said that United Cultivation had scheduled their community outreach meeting scheduled for February 9th at the Groton Inn. Mr. Haddad said that New England Cultivation had not scheduled their outreach meeting.

Ms. Dunbar said that the Town Clerk Special Act had moved favorably through the Municipal Committee and was headed to the House for action. She said that this was good news as it meant things were moving along quickly as they had hoped.

Ms. Pine adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm.

Approved: _____
Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted:
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: