



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

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

SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023
AGENDA
SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM
2nd FLOOR
GROTON TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M. Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public

7:05 P.M. Public Comment Period

I. 7:06 P.M. Town Manager's Report

1. Consider Request from Middlesex County Retirement Board to Provide COLA
2. Consider Request from Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to Purchase Conservation Restriction on Brownloaf Property
3. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Barbara Keast as an Election Worker
4. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Development Update
5. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through 2023 Spring Town Meeting

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. Water Department – Manganese Issue
- B. PFAS Issue
- C. Green Communities Application and Implementation
- D. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project
- E. ARPA Funding

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

III. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of February 27, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

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



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Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Select Board*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Agenda Update/Report*

Date: *March 6, 2023*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Other than the Town Manager's Report, Items for Select Board Consideration and Action and a review of the On-going Issues List, there are no specific scheduled items on Monday's Agenda.

1. Enclosed with this report is a memorandum from the Middlesex County Retirement Board. They are requesting that the Select Board vote to accept Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022, a local option which allows a one-time increase to the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) granted to retirees in FY 2023, from 3% to 5%. Acceptance of the Act is conditioned upon approval by the Middlesex County Retirement Board and by two-thirds of the System's Select Boards prior to June 30, 2023. The Middlesex County Retirement Board voted to accept the Act on December 14, 2022. Town Treasurer/Tax Collector Hannah Moller will be in attendance at Monday's meeting to discuss this in more detail with the Board and ask the Select Board to consider adopting this Act.
2. Also enclosed with this report are letters from Conservation Administrator Nik Gualco and the Department of Fish and Game requesting that the Select Board consider selling a Conservation Restriction to the Department of Fish Game for the Brownloaf Property. This property, which was a former gravel operation, was purchased by the Town in 1999 for municipal purposes. After several attempts to develop this land for a municipal use (including relocating the Electric Light Buildings, a new High School and affordable housing), the 2011 Spring Town Meeting voted to authorize the Select Board to transfer the care and custody to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes. No action has been taken since 2011, but it appears there is interest from Fish and Game to purchase the Restriction. Nik Gualco and a Representative from Fish and Game will be in attendance at Monday's meeting to discuss this in more detail with the Board.

Select Board
Weekly Agenda Update/Report
March 6, 2023
page two

3. Town Clerk Dawn Dunbar has requested that I appoint Barbara Keast as an Election Worker. I have made this appointment and would respectfully request that the Select Board consider ratifying this appointment at Monday's meeting.
4. With regard to this week's update on the development of the FY 2024 Budget, I set aside time on the Agenda for the Board to discuss any follow-up action required after Saturday's joint budget meeting with the Finance Committee.
5. Please see the update to the meeting schedule that will take the Board through the 2023 Spring Town Meeting:

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

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. I am pleased to report that Fire Chief Steele McCurdy has accepted the Select Board's offer for a new three (3) year Agreement. The terms of the Agreement are as follows:

A. Three Year Contract from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026

B. Compensation:

Fiscal Year 2024 – Annual Salary of \$145,000

Fiscal Year 2025 – 2% COLA and up to 2% performance incentive added to base

Fiscal Year 2026 – 2% COLA and up to 2% performance incentive added to base

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would respectfully request that the Select Board vote to ratify this Agreement at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb
enclosures



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM
25 LINNELL CIRCLE • P.O. BOX 160 • BILLERICA, MA 01865
WWW.MIDDLESEXRETIREMENT.ORG

Over 100 Years of Public Service

CHAIRMAN
THOMAS F. GIBSON, ESQ.

BRIAN P. CURTIN

JOSEPH W. KEARNS

JOHN BROWN

ROBERT W. HEALY

Chief Administrative Officer
LISA MALONEY, ESQ.

DATE: February 13, 2023
TO: Select Boards
FROM: Thomas Gibson, Chair
Middlesex County Retirement Board
RE: Approval of One-Time COLA Adjustment for Retirees

The Middlesex County Retirement Board is respectfully requesting the Select Boards of municipalities within the Middlesex County Retirement System to accept Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 ("the Act"), a local option which allows a one-time increase to the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) granted to retirees in FY 2023, from 3% to 5% of the System's \$16,000 COLA base.

Acceptance of the Act is conditioned upon approval by the Middlesex County Retirement Board and by two-thirds of the System's Select Boards prior to June 30, 2023. The Middlesex County Retirement Board voted to accept the Act on December 14, 2022.

As of January 1, 2022, the date of the System's last valuation, there were 6,284 retired members and beneficiaries of the System, receiving an average gross monthly retirement allowance of \$2,445.00, or \$29,340 annually. If approved, the one-time increase of 2% to the COLA percentage for FY 2023 would result in an additional annual COLA payment of \$320 for retirees and beneficiaries whose pensions exceed \$16,000 (from the previously granted \$480/year to \$800/year). The approximately 2,500 retirees and beneficiaries receiving less than \$16,000 annually

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EMAIL: MRS@MIDDLESEXRETIREMENT.ORG

would receive proportionately less. Weighing heavily in the Board's acceptance of the Act was the CPI-W based COLA granted to Social Security recipients in 2022 (5.9%) and 2023 (8.7%).

The System's Actuary, The Segal Group, estimates that acceptance of the COLA adjustment will increase the System's July 1, 2022, unfunded liability by 1.0%. Various options to fund the COLA adjustment were discussed with Town Administrators/Managers at a special meeting of the Board held on January 23, 2023. On February 8, 2023, the Board voted to begin funding the COLA adjustment in FY 2026, should it be approved by two-thirds of the Select Boards.

To assist in the Select Boards' review, enclosed please find the Act, a memorandum from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, the actuary's report setting forth the revised funding schedule, and a listing of the number of impacted retirees and beneficiaries by municipality.

The Board respectfully requests that Select Boards vote to accept Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 on or before June 30, 2023, and to timely notify the Middlesex County Retirement System of any action taken on this request by email to mrs@middlesexretirement.org.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Thomas F. Gibson

Thomas F. Gibson, Chair
Middlesex County Retirement Board

Enc.

Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022

PERAC Memorandum #29/2022

February 1, 2023 Segal Report of Cost of One-Time FY23 COLA Increase

Number of Retired Participants by Municipality

Chapter 269

AN ACT RELATIVE TO COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR RETIREES

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide for increased cost-of-living adjustments for retirees, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) (1) Notwithstanding section 103 of chapter 32 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the retirement board of any system that has accepted said section 103 may elect to establish a cost-of-living adjustment increase of not less than 3 per cent and not greater than 5 per cent on the base amount provided for in said section 103 for fiscal year 2023.

(2) The sum of the dollar amount of the cost-of-living increase on the base amount, together with the amount of retirement allowance, pension or annuity to which the cost-of-living increase is applied, shall become the fixed retirement allowance, pension or annuity for all future purposes, including the application of subsequent cost-of-living adjustments in future years.

(b) A retirement board may grant a cost-of-living increase of not less than 3 per cent and not greater than 5 per cent on the base amount for fiscal year 2023 at any time during the fiscal year.

(c) This section shall take effect for the members of a retirement system by a majority vote of the board of such system and upon local acceptance: (i) of the city council upon recommendation of the mayor in a city, (ii) of the city council upon recommendation of the city manager in a city having a Plan D or Plan E charter, (iii) of the chief executive officer, as defined in section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, in a town, (iv) of the county commissioners in a county and (v) by vote of the governing board, commission or committee in a district or other political subdivision of the commonwealth. For any retirement system comprising more than 1 political subdivision of the commonwealth, this section shall be effective by a majority vote of the board of such system and upon the acceptance of two-thirds of cities and towns within the system by approval of: (i) the city council upon recommendation of the mayor in a city, (ii) the city council upon recommendation of the city manager in a city having a Plan D or Plan E charter, and (iii) the chief executive officer, as defined in section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, in a town.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

Approved, November 16, 2022.

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Retirement Boards

FROM: John W. Parsons, Esq., Executive Director 

RE: 5% Local COLA option

DATE: November 18, 2022

On November 16, 2022, the Governor signed Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 into law. This act provides the local retirement systems with a local option to increase the Cost of Living Adjustment ("COLA") for Fiscal Year 2023 to up to 5 percent on the base amount specified pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 103. The approval of the increase can occur at any time during the fiscal year and will take effect as of July 1, 2022.

The local approval mechanism is different than traditional COLA increases and COLA base increases. In order for a system to adopt a COLA increase pursuant to this act, **the retirement board must vote for the increased amount and then it must also receive local approval.**

For purposes of this act, local approval means:

- In a city, the mayor must recommend the increase to the city council and the council must vote in favor.
- In a city having a Plan D or Plan E charter, the city manager must recommend the increase to the city council and the council must vote in favor.
- In a town, the chief executive officer¹ - the select board in nearly all cases - must vote in favor to accept the increase rather than the town meeting as is the case for COLA base increases.
- In a district, or other political subdivision, the governing board, commission or committee must vote in favor to accept the COLA increase.

¹ As defined in G.L. c. 4, § 7, "chief executive officer", when used in connection with the operation of municipal governments shall include the mayor in a city and the select board in a town unless some other municipal office is designated to be the chief executive officer under the provisions of a local charter.



MEMORANDUM - Page Two

TO: All Retirement Boards
FROM: John W. Parsons, Esq., Executive Director
RE: 5% Local COLA option
DATE: November 18, 2022

- In a regional system, two-thirds of the cities and towns within the system must approve the increase. This is done in the same fashion as stated above for municipalities: in a city, by the city council upon recommendation by the mayor or, in a city with a Plan D or Plan E charter, the city manager; or, in a town, by approval of the chief executive officer (likely the select board) as defined by G.L. c. 4, § 7.
- In a county, the county commissioners, who normally do not have a role in COLAs nor COLA base increases, must vote to accept **and** two-thirds of the cities and towns within the system must approve the increase in the same manner as stated above for regional systems.

Though many local systems are comprised of multiple units such as housing authorities and districts, the two-thirds language only applies to regional and county systems as the approval specified in the statute only refers to cities and towns as voting political subdivisions.

Section 2 of the act provides that a COLA increase pursuant to this act is retroactive to July 1, 2022. Any COLA increase, in addition to any COLA previously adopted for FY 23, will become part of the fixed amount of a retirees' retirement allowance in the same manner as all COLAs granted pursuant to section 103.

PERAC has already received questions about estimating the cost of the enhanced COLA. PERAC Actuary John Boorack has provided the following formula for a conservative full-cost estimate, not a one-year estimate, to assist boards in their planning:

$$(0.2) \times (\text{COLA base}) \times (\# \text{ of retirees/beneficiaries})$$

If you have any questions about this memo, please contact PERAC's General Counsel, Judith Corrigan, at (617) 591-8904 or at judith.a.corrigan@mass.gov.



116 Huntington Avenue
Suite 901
Boston, MA 02116-5744
segalco.com

February 1, 2023

Middlesex County Retirement Board
Middlesex County Retirement System
25 Linnell Circle
Billerica, MA 01865

Re: Cost of Increasing the July 1, 2022 COLA from 3% to 5% - Updated

Dear Board Members:

As requested, we have updated our December 12, 2022 estimate of the cost of increasing the July 1, 2022 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) from 3% to 5% with the current base of \$16,000 for the Middlesex County Retirement System to show an additional payment schedule. Note that this cost estimate is a one-time increase in the annual COLA percentage, which is projected to be 3% for 2023 and thereafter. In our December 12, 2022 letter we assumed the additional cost would first be reflected in the fiscal 2029 appropriation. In this letter, we are also showing the impact of paying the additional cost beginning with either the fiscal 2024 appropriation, the fiscal 2025 appropriation, or the fiscal 2026 appropriation. The estimates in this report are based on the January 1, 2022 Actuarial Valuation and Review of the Middlesex County Retirement System and do not reflect any experience gains or losses after that date.

Increasing the July 1, 2022 COLA from 3% to 5% increases the July 1, 2022 unfunded liability (UAL) by \$16,886,571, or 1.0%, from \$1,623,820,534 to \$1,640,707,105.

The funding schedule included in the January 1, 2022 actuarial valuation report fully funds the actuarial accrued liability of the Middlesex County Retirement System by fiscal 2036 with total payments increasing 6.5% per year from fiscal 2024 through fiscal 2028, with the amortization payment on the unfunded liability increasing 4% thereafter.

We have incorporated the additional cost of increasing the July 1, 2022 COLA to 5% into the funding schedule in four different ways:

- by keeping the current appropriations through fiscal 2028 and then extending the 6.5% annual increases an additional year to fiscal 2029, resulting in the additional cost being added to the fiscal 2029 through fiscal 2036 appropriations;
- by amortizing the additional liability in payments that increase 4% per year, which are added to the current appropriations for fiscal 2024 through fiscal 2036;
- by amortizing the additional liability in payments that increase 4% per year, which are added to the current appropriations for fiscal 2025 through fiscal 2036; and
- by amortizing the additional liability in payments that increase 4% per year, which are added to the current appropriations for fiscal 2026 through fiscal 2036.

The additional appropriations for each are shown in the following table.

Actuarially Determined Contribution – 5% COLA on July 1, 2022					
Fiscal Year Ended June 30,	Actuarially Determined Contribution – 3% COLA on July 1, 2022 (Current)	Increase in Actuarially Determined Contribution - Additional UAL Payments beginning in Fiscal 2029	Increase in Actuarially Determined Contribution - Additional UAL Payments beginning in Fiscal 2024	Increase in Actuarially Determined Contribution - Additional UAL Payments beginning in Fiscal 2025	Increase in Actuarially Determined Contribution - Additional UAL Payments beginning in Fiscal 2026
2023	\$156,350,175	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2024	166,512,936	0	1,683,209	0	0
2025	177,336,277	0	1,750,537	1,926,703	0
2026	188,863,135	0	1,820,559	2,003,771	2,220,679
2027	201,139,239	0	1,893,381	2,083,922	2,309,507
2028	214,213,290	0	1,969,116	2,167,279	2,401,887
2029	224,656,628	3,480,526	2,047,881	2,253,970	2,497,962
2030	233,517,648	3,763,380	2,129,796	2,344,129	2,597,881
2031	242,728,122	3,913,914	2,214,988	2,437,894	2,701,796
2032	252,301,828	4,070,472	2,303,588	2,535,409	2,809,868
2033	262,253,102	4,233,290	2,395,731	2,636,826	2,922,263
2034	272,596,834	4,402,621	2,491,560	2,742,299	3,039,153
2035	283,348,504	4,578,727	2,591,223	2,851,991	3,160,719
2036	294,524,210	4,761,876	2,694,872	2,966,070	3,287,148

These cost estimates are based on the assumptions used in the most recent actuarial valuation of the Middlesex County Retirement System. To the extent there is adverse experience, employer contributions will increase and the cost related the increased COLA may be different than expected. For example, if members live longer than assumed under the current mortality table assumption, the cost of increasing the COLA will be higher than shown.

Please refer to our January 1, 2022 Actuarial Valuation and Review dated August 8, 2022 for the data, assumptions and plan of benefits underlying these calculations and for a discussion of the risks that may affect the System.

This report was prepared in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices at the request of the Board to assist in administering the Retirement System.

The measurements shown in this actuarial valuation may not be applicable for other purposes. Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements presented in this report due to such factors as the following: plan experience differing from that


anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions; changes in economic or demographic assumptions; increases or decreases expected as part of the natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements (such as the end of an amortization period); and changes in plan provisions or applicable law.

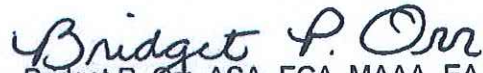
Segal valuation results are based on proprietary actuarial modeling software. The actuarial valuation models generate a comprehensive set of liability and cost calculations that are presented to meet regulatory, legislative and client requirements. Deterministic cost projections are based on a proprietary forecasting model. Our Actuarial Technology and Systems unit, comprised of both actuaries and programmers, is responsible for the initial development and maintenance of these models. The models have a modular structure that allows for a high degree of accuracy, flexibility and user control. The client team programs the assumptions and the plan provisions, validates the models, and reviews test lives and results, under the supervision of the responsible actuary.

The actuarial calculations were directed under the supervision of Bridget P. Orr, ASA, MAAA, EA. She is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meets the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion herein. To the best of her knowledge, the information supplied in this actuarial valuation is complete and accurate. The assumptions used in this actuarial valuation were selected by the Board based upon her analysis and recommendations. In her opinion, the assumptions are reasonable and take into account the experience of the Middlesex County Retirement System and reasonable expectations.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,


Kathleen A. Riley, FSA, MAAA, EA
Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary


Bridget P. Orr, ASA, FCA, MAAA, EA
Consulting Actuary

**Retired Participants as of Valuation Date January
1, 2022**

Unit	Retirees
Town of Acton	192
Town of Ashby	10
Town of Ashland	149
Town of Ayer	82
Town of Bedford	217
Town of Billerica	477
Town of Boxborough	47
Town of Burlington	396
Town of Carlisle	55
Town of Chelmsford	449
Town of Dracut	269
Town of Dunstable	10
Town of Groton	68
Town of Holliston	131
Town of Hopkinton	140
Town of Hudson	245
Town of Lincoln	119
Town of Littleton	128
Town of North Reading	195
Town of Pepperell	68
Town of Sherborn	53
Town of Shirley	45
Town of Stow	46
Town of Sudbury	231
Town of Tewksbury	335
Town of Townsend	33
Town of Tyngsborough	101
Town of Wayland	249
Town of Westford	284
Town of Weston	271
Town of Wilmington	299
Total Town Retirees:	5,394
Total MCRS Retirees:	6,284



TOWN OF GROTON
Conservation Commission
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-1106
Fax: 978-448-1113
conservation@grotonma.gov



Handwritten signature in blue ink.

February 7, 2023

Groton Select Board
John Reilly, Chair
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Reilly,

The Groton Conservation was successful in receiving a Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant in 2022 for the acquisition of approximately 119 acres of conservation land. The negotiated purchase price for this property is \$601,500 and the grant would reimburse approximately \$360,900 (approx. 60% of total project cost) to the Conservation Fund. One of the LAND grant requirements is to have all properties purchased with CPA funds protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR). In total, there are five properties that require a CR. One of these parcels is the "Fuccillo Land" (Parcel 233-98.2), which is located behind the GELD substation off Lowell Road.

The Commission is working with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) to hold the CR for the "Fuccillo Land." DFW has requested that in order to broaden the scale of the area being protected by this CR, that two neighboring parcels be added to the CR: 1) the "Heron Ridge Conservation Area" (Parcel 234-3), which is controlled by the Conservation Commission and 2.) the "Brown Loaf Property" (Parcel 234-4), which is currently under the control of the Select Board. DFW has offered to pay appraised value of up to \$103,000 for a CR on the "Brown Loaf Property." If agreed, DFW has also offered to pay for the appraisal.

The "Brown Loaf Property" is the site of a former gravel operation. This land had been investigated for a number of municipal uses since its original purchase in 1999. Because of access limitations, significant natural resource constraints, and a major power line easement, the site was rejected for the re-location of the Groton Electric buildings, new high school, and for affordable housing. Wetlands and floodplain associated with Martins Pond Brook, as well as beaver ponds and 6 vernal pools, provide significant ecosystem services in the form of the protection of Zone 3 of the Baddacook and Whitney public water wells and important wildlife corridors. The land has also been identified as having rare species core habitat of state-wide importance.

It is for these reasons that at the 2011 Spring Town Meeting, the Town voted to authorize the Select Board to transfer the care and custody of all or a portion of the "Brown Loaf Property" (as well as the abutting 11-acre parcel 234-18.1) to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes. The vote stated that said transfer was only to take effect upon the Select Board filing a written determination with the Town Clerk stating that said property is no longer needed by the Select Board for general municipal purposes.

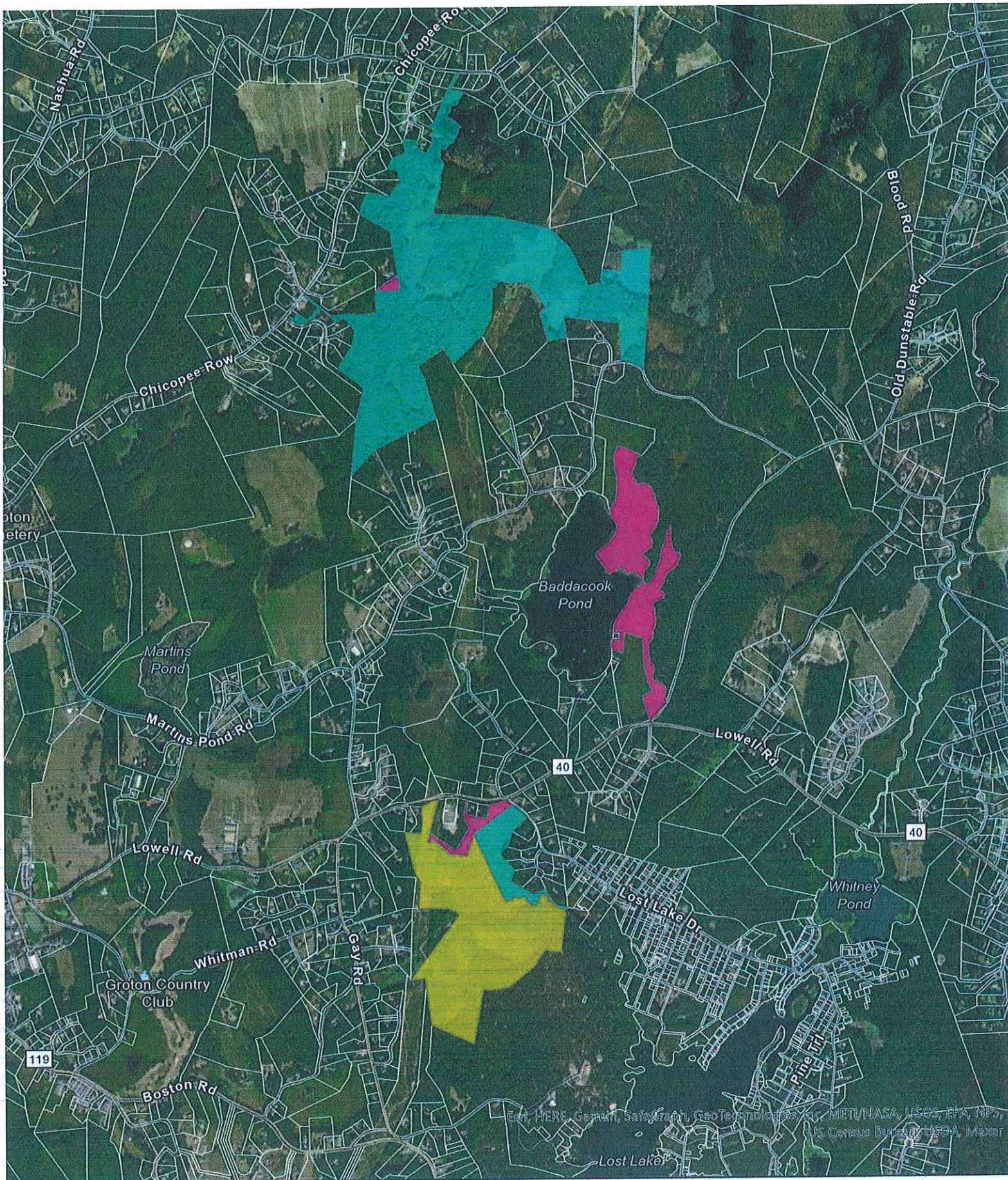
In summary, this letter requests the Select Board consider taking the following actions:

1. Commit to working with the Conservation Commission and DFW to place a CR on the "Brown Loaf Property" (Parcel 234-4). The Select Board would be compensated by DFW who has offered to pay an appraised value of up to \$103,000 for a CR and for the cost of the appraisal itself.
2. Following the completion of Item #1, transfer the control, care, and custody of Parcels 234-4 & 234-18.1 to the Conservation Commission by filing a written determination with the Town Clerk stating that said properties are no longer needed by the Select Board for general municipal purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Nikolis Gualco.

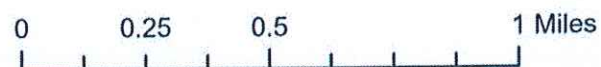
Nikolis Gualco
Conservation Administrator



DFW Bundle Proposal

Bundle Status

- Outstanding CRs
- Bundle Parcels - Conservation
- Bundle Parcels - Select Board



Spring Town Meeting - 1999

ARTICLE 12 Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$133,139.09 to purchase or otherwise acquire a parcel of land containing approximately 103 acres and shown on Assessors Map P Block 22, Lot 0, currently owned by U.S. Trust.

The motion carried by a two-thirds majority: 197 in favor, 31 opposed.

ARTICLE 13 Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer to the Board of Selectmen for sale or lease to the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, Town of Groton property containing approximately 34 acres, shown on Assessors Map L Block 19 Lot 0, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute a deed, lease or any other instrument necessary therefor and to petition the General Court for any special legislation necessary for such sale or lease.

After a lengthy discussion, Selectman Richard Powell moved and was seconded to postpone further discussion of this article until the May 3rd adjourned session of the Annual Town Meeting.

The motion to postpone carried by majority.

ARTICLE 14 Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer to the Board of Selectmen for sale or lease to the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, Town of Groton property shown on Assessors Map P Block 22 Lot 0 and a portion of land shown on Assessors Map P Block 31 Lot 0, which land is to be acquired by the Town pursuant to the votes taken under Articles 11 and 12 of this warrant, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute a deed, lease or any other instrument necessary therefor and to petition the General Court for any special legislation necessary for such sale or lease.

A motion was made and seconded to postpone to the May 3rd adjourned session of the Annual Town Meeting.

The motion to postpone carried by majority.

ARTICLE 15 Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$46,000 for the purchase of computers and related equipment for the Police Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 16 Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$125,000 for the design and engineering of a safety improvement/signalization and reconstruction plan for the Boston Road (Route 119) / Forge Village Road (Route 225)/ Sandy Pond Road intersection.

After a lengthy debate, it was moved and seconded to move the question.

The motion to move the question carried unanimously.

The main motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 17 Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for landfill capping.

Moved and seconded to indefinitely postpone this article.

The motion to postpone carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 18 Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for a highway side mower.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 21 Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Planning Board for consultation and other expenses arising out of the preparation of a revised comprehensive master plan which may include amendments to the Town's zoning by-law, other land-use regulations, and other Town by-laws and regulations, such programs to be presented to a Town Meeting or other Town boards, commissions, and committees not more than twenty-four (24) months from the date of approval of this motion under this article.

Spring Town Meeting - 2011

222-11	Hurd Katherine	116 Skyfields Drive
222-13	Hurd, Katherine	116 Skyfields Drive
235-44	Moulton, David	129 Skyfields Drive
222-10	Temple Realty Trust	130 Skyfields Drive

provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner's proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *This article seeks approval to extend the Groton Center Sewer System on Skyfields Drive to include ten (10) specific parcels for the purpose of allowing those properties to connect to the Town Sewer System.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that this Article be Indefinitely Postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Moved and Seconded

Discussion:

- Proponents of the Article have withdrawn the request

Vote on Article 18 Main Motion: Unanimous

ARTICLE 19: TRANSFER OF LAND – SO-CALLED BROWN LOAF PROPERTY

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care and custody of all or a portion of the so-called Brown Loaf property, shown on Assessors' Map 234 as parcels 4 and 18.1, from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes, said transfer to take effect only upon the filing with the Town Clerk of the Board of Selectmen's written determination that such property is no longer needed by the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The site of a former gravel operation, this land has been investigated for a number of municipal uses since its original purchase in 1999. Because of access limitations, significant natural resource constraints, and a major power line easement, the site was rejected for the re-location of the Groton Electric buildings, new high school, and for affordable housing.*

Spring Town Meeting - 2011

Wetlands and floodplain associated with Martins Pond Brook, as well as beaver ponds and 6 vernal pools, provide significant ecosystem services in the form of the protection of Zone 3 of the Baddacook and Whitney public water wells and important wildlife corridors. The land has also been identified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as having rare species core habitat of state-wide importance. Conserving this site affords the Town an opportunity to prevent the fragmentation of critical habitat thereby maintaining viable plant and animal populations.

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the care and custody of all or a portion of the so-called Brown Loaf property, shown on Assessors' Map 234 as parcels 4 and 18.1, from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes, said transfer to take effect only upon the filing with the Town Clerk of the Board of Selectmen's written determination that such property is no longer needed by the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority

Moved and Seconded

Vote on Article 19 Main Motion: Chair declares 2/3 Majority.

ARTICLE 20: CITIZENS' PETITION – CONNECTION TO TOWN SEWER

To see if the Town will vote to extend the "Groton Center Sewer System" as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, to include the property shown on Assessors' Lot 114-13 (14 Old Ayer Road), but only for the exclusive use of Lawrence Academy, provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner's proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments, or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Beverly Rodrigues	5 Balsam Walk
Cynthia Bostick	30 Temple Drive
Megan Simon	12 Powderhouse Road
Valerie Templeton	222 Chicopee Row
Katie Quist	12 Powderhouse Road
Edward Mitchell	61 Powderhouse Road
Susan Hughes	62 Watson Road
D. Scott Wiggins	36 Main Street
Jerry Wooding	23 Common Street
Jennifer O'Connor	42 Powderhouse Road

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Finance Committee: No Position



Charlie Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Fish and Game
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 626-1500
Fax (617) 626-1505



Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Ronald S. Amidon
Commissioner

February 21, 2023

Groton Select Board Chair
Town Hall Offices
173 Main St, Groton MA 01450

Dear Select Board Chair:

The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is considering the purchase of a conservation restriction over land located in the Town of Groton. This letter is intended to serve as written notice of the DFG's interest in acquiring this restriction.

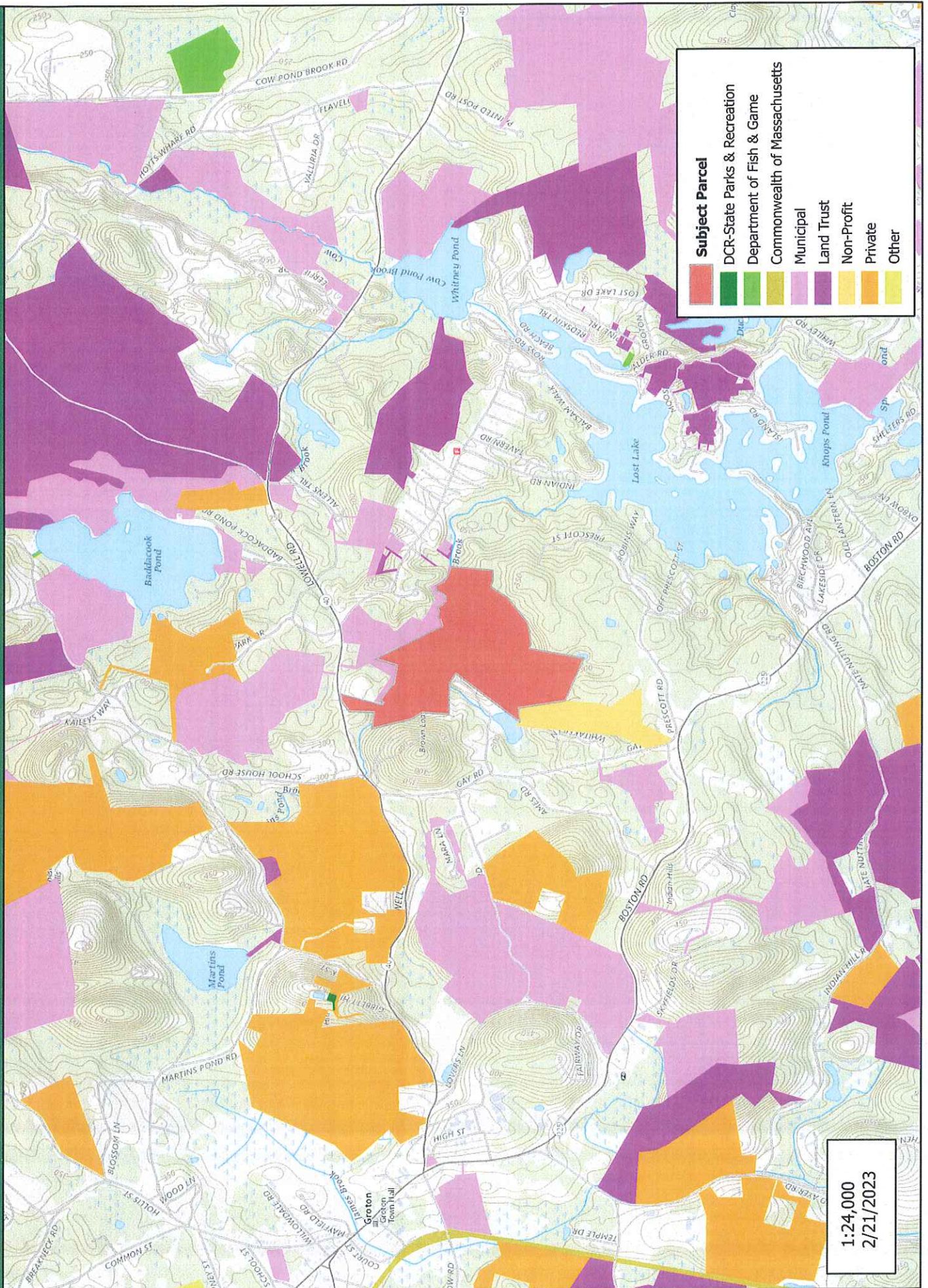
The property under consideration contains 103 (+/-) acres of wildlife habitat. Enclosed is a locus Map Track No. 2023-2-11 that depicts the property in which the DFG is interested. The current use of the property is predominantly open space in its natural condition. If acquired, DFG, working through its Divisions of Fisheries and Wildlife and with the landowner, will maintain the property as open space, protect and manage the wildlife resources, and provide public access for passive outdoor recreational opportunities including wildlife observation, hunting, fishing and trapping, in accordance with the final conservation restriction document.

I hope that the Select Board will consider providing a letter of support for DFG's purchase of the property, a copy of which can be emailed to me at anne.gagnon@mass.gov with the original mailed to:

Christy Edwards

Director of Capital Planning and Land Protection

Department of Fish and Game



**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023
TOWN HALL SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

Un-Approved – February 27, 2023

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

SB Absent: none

Also Present: Mark Haddad – Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank – Executive Assistant – Members of the Groton Finance Committee; Library Trustees; Finance Team; Laura Chiasson, GDRSD School Superintendent; Sherry Kersey, Director of Business and Finance; Tom Delaney, DPW Director; Paul Funch, Trails Committee

Mr. Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Haddad said due to tomorrow's impending storm (Tuesday, February 28, 2023), he made the decision to make tomorrow a remote day for Town Hall. Town Hall employees may be reached by email and/or voicemail.

Mr. Reilly wanted to say he had the honor of attending the Police Accreditation Ceremony. He said this legitimizes police departments. He wanted to congratulate the Police Department on this accomplishment.

IN JOINT SESSION WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Bud Robertson called the Finance Committee meeting to order.

Mr. Mark Gerath called the Library Trustees to order.

Mr. Haddad said the Governor released her Preliminary Chapter 70 and Unrestricted Local Aid numbers. Mr. Haddad said the GDRSD continues to not get treated well when it comes to Chapter 70 or Chapter 71. He said something needs to happen and they are working hard with our state delegation. He wanted to thank Mr. Sulprizio, whom worked with the Lieutenant Governor, and setup a meeting for Tuesday, February 28th to speak with her and address the very low increase in Aid for the School District.

The Select Board met in Joint Session with the Finance Committee to review proposed reductions in the Town Manager's proposed FY 2024 Operating Budget to support the anticipated FY 2024 Operating Assessment from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. The Finance Committee and Select Board need to evaluate various options to balance the FY 2024 Budget. Mr. Haddad provided the boards with a memorandum that proposed four different options to eliminate the deficit. Mr. Haddad reviewed the four options.

Mr. Haddad said he wanted to put this on the agenda so they have time to review before Saturday's (March 4th) budget meeting. The deadline to balance the budget or consider requesting an override of Proposition 2½ is April 3rd.

Mr. Robertson said there are other ways these cuts can happen. On Saturday, March 4, 2023, 8:30am -10:30 a.m. the departments heads will meet here at Town Hall with the Finance Committee and the Select Board to review the FY24 Operating and Capital budget. At 10:30am, there will be budget deliberation with FinCom and

the Select Board. Ms. Pine asked what would happen if it snows on Saturday. Mr. Haddad said a zoom could be set up. In the fall the budget can be adjusted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

1. Review First Draft of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting Warrant-

Mr. Haddad announced the Warrant closed on Friday. The first draft of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting Warrant was included in the Select Board packet. He reviewed the draft and thirty-three Articles briefly with the board. He said the Public Hearing on the Warrant will be in Joint Session with the Finance Committee and is scheduled to take place on Monday, March 13, 2023.

2. Consider Approving the DPW Director-In-Training.

Mr. Haddad said Mr. Delaney gave us notification he will be retiring in two years. Mr. Haddad is requesting that the Board approve a DPW Director-In-Training Program to replace Mr. Delaney with an internal candidate. Previously the Board asked for Mr. Haddad to collect additional information before they would consider accepting the program. Mr. Haddad worked with the Human Resource Director, Melisa Doig to develop this information. The took some time to survey surrounding towns and provided the results to the Board. The purpose of the survey was to review education requirements, department responsibilities, and pay/licenses required. The DPW Director-In-Training Program provides for an annual stipend of \$7,000. The chosen candidate will shadow Mr. Delaney. Groton's DPW Director is a working Director. He is out there plowing and-in-the-fields performing the work. Ms. Manugian said she still has a lot of concerns with the idea of training a director for two years and losing them if they do not succeed in the program. Mr. Pisani suggested being clear upfront. Make sure there are standards being set, have a progress reports etc. Ms. Pine respectfully disagrees with the proposal. She thinks it is the time to require a college degree. With Mr. Delaney's retirement, now is the time to up our qualifications. Mr. Cunningham asked what do we think we'll gain with a college degree. Mr. Delaney respectfully disagreed with some of the things Ms. Pine said. He said promoting from within raises moral. Mr. Reilly stated from his experience, the engineering degree is an overkill, which may cost us more money. He said from looking at the conducted survey, others have not stayed in the position for a long time. Maybe they are overqualified.

Mr. Haddad wanted to address the non-college degrees. Groton has three department heads that do not have college degrees and they are three of the best departments heads. He thinks it will be beneficial to the tax payers. Mr. Cunningham asked if is there are any community college courses that may be available and make it a stipulation. Mr. Haddad said we have many available management training programs and budget training programs.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the DPW Director-In-Training Program and to have a Select Board Member attend the interview. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Motion approved by a majority vote, 4 In favor, 1 Against - Pine.

3. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Development Update

No additional update.

Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through 2023 Spring Town Meeting

Saturday, March 4, 2023	- Joint Budget Meeting with Finance Committee
Monday, March 6, 2023	- Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2023	- Public Hearing of 2023 Spring Warrant Regularly Scheduled meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2023	- School Committee Approves Budget
Monday, March 20, 2023	- No Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2023	- Continuation of Public Hearing on Mail in Voting at Annual Town Election
Monday, April 3, 2023	- Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 10, 2023	- Approve Warrant for Posting
Monday, April 17, 2023	- No Meeting (Patriot's Day)
Monday April 24, 2023	- Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Saturday, April 29, 2023	-2023 Spring Town Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board to consider appointing Jennifer Moore to the Commemorations and Celebrations Committee.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to appoint Jennifer Moore to the Commemorations and Celebrations Committee, term to expire June 2023. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. Consider approving a One Day All Alcoholic Beverages License for the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce's Taste of Nashoba to be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at Lawrence Academy from 5:30 am- 8:30pm.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the request for a one day all alcohol license to be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at Lawrence Academy. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Consider approving a One Day All Alcoholic Beverages License for the Grotonfest to be held on at Legion Hall on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 10:30 am- 3:00pm (rain date 10-1- 2023).

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the request for a one day all alcohol license to be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 (rain date 10-1-23). Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

4. Consider approving a letter to the Department of Conservation and Recreation in Support of the Nashua Riverwalk Project.

Mr. Reilly told Mr. Paul Funch, of the Trails Committee, he read the letter. Mr. Reilly wanted him to know he did a remarkable job. Mr. Funch had submitted an application to the Massachusetts Departments of Conservation and Recreation for MassTrails Grant to support the proposed Nashua Riverwalk Project. DCR did not approve the Grant Application and significantly reduced the scope of the project which will not allow the project to meet its original objective. With the Select Board's approval, Mr. Funch will submit a letter to DCR requesting that they reconsider their decision.

Ms. Pine moved to authorize sending a letter to the Department of Conservation and Recreation in support of the Nashua Riverwalk Project. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

5. Consider Approving a Letter Seeking Support of SD2395 (MSBA Additional funding).

Mr. Cunningham requested the board to send a letter to various Cities and Towns that have school construction projects that have seen cost increases due to COVID and supply chain issues asking them to support Senator Kennedy's bill seeking additional funding from the State to offset these costs. Mr. Haddad provided the board with a draft letter for their approval.

Ms. Manugian moved to approve a letter seeking support of SD2395. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Haddad said the Florence Roche project continues to go well. They are going out on the last two final bids.

ON-GOING ISSUES

None

MINUTES

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on February 13, 2023 as corrected. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

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