



**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

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

### SELECT BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

#### AGENDA

#### SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM

2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR

GROTON TOWN HALL

6:00 P.M. Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public

6:05 P.M. Public Comment Period

**I. 6:06 P.M. Town Manager's Report**

1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointments of Sophie Fry, Uma Samsi and Benjamin Glanville as Lifeguards and Susan Adams as Camp Staff at the Groton Country Club.
2. Consider Accepting the Town Manager's Nomination of Rod Hersch and Appointing Mr. Hersch to the Great Ponds Advisory Committee
3. PFAS Update at GDRSD High School
4. Recommendation from Town Manager to Remove Prescott Playground Equipment
5. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through Labor Day

**II. 6:10 P.M. Items for Select Board Consideration and Action**

1. Call for and Open the Warrant for the 2023 Fall Town Meeting

**III. 6:15 P.M. In Joint Session with the Finance Committee – Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2023 Line-Item Transfers**

#### 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. Town Manager's Tri-Comm Working Group

#### SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

**IV. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of June 26, 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:** *July 10, 2023*

### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Please note that Monday's meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. In addition to the Town Manager's Report and a review of the On-going Issues List, there is one item scheduled on Monday's Agenda. The Board will be meeting in Joint Session with the Finance Committee to consider FY 2023 Line-Item Transfers. Enclosed with this report is the list of proposed Transfers for your review and consideration.

1. I have appointed Sophie Fry, Una Samsi and Benjamin Glanville as Lifeguards and Susan Adams as Camp Staff at the Groton Country Club. I would respectfully request that the Board consider ratifying these appointments.
2. The Great Ponds Advisory Committee has requested that I nominate Rod Hersch for appointment to the Great Ponds Advisory Committee. I would respectfully request that the Board accept this nomination and appoint Mr. Hersch.
3. I want to provide the Board with a brief update on the PFAS Issue at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School. I have a scheduled meeting with the Board of Water Commissioners on Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and another meeting with the Town Administrators from Pepperell and Dunstable on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, as we continue to study and determine the best option to address bringing potable drinking water to the High School. I plan on bringing a final recommendation to the Select Board at your meeting of July 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, Select Board Member Manugian has drafted the attached document that outlines the PFAS issue in both Groton and Massachusetts and summarizes various recommendations to address PFAS. I found this document extremely insightful and useful as we address PFAS. I would like to request that Ms. Manugian spend a few minutes at Monday's meeting reviewing this document with the Board.

**Select Board**  
**Weekly Agenda Update/Report**  
**July 10, 2023**  
**page two**

4. At your last meeting, I had included in my Town Manager's Report a recommendation to remove the playground equipment behind the Prescott School. I withdrew it at the request of the Friends of Prescott (FOP), who wanted more time to pursue private fundraising to pay for the needed materials at the base of the equipment. Unfortunately, after examining the issue, the FOP has determined the work/cost to renovate is prohibitive. A local landscaper advised that there are a number of invasive species throughout the playground which will be very difficult to contain in the future. The FOP has agreed with my assessment that the equipment should be removed and the area filled in to reduce liability. That said, the FOP has advised me that its goal is to start an after-school program for children 4/5 years-old this Fall. Based on this, they would like to install a much smaller version of the current playground for this age group at the bottom of the hill at the end of the parking lot next Spring. This will bring the playground closer to the building which is more appropriate for the 4/5-year-old age group. FOP has requested that the Town allow them to keep several pieces of equipment at the current playground in order to repurpose them at the new playground site. I have no issue with this and would ask the Select Board to approve this request. We can discuss in this in more detail at Monday's meeting.
5. Please see the update to the meeting schedule that will take the Board through Labor Day:

Monday, July 17, 2023	-Update on Town Manager's TriCom Working Group
Monday, July 24, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, July 31, 2023	-Review and Consider Approval for Preferred Option to Address PFAS at the GDRSD High School
Monday, August 7, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2023	-Review First Draft of Fall Town Meeting Warrant
Monday, August 21, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, September 4, 2023	No Meeting (Labor Day Holiday)
Monday, September 11, 2023	-Public Hearing on Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles

*Select Board  
Weekly Agenda Update/Report  
July 10, 2023  
page three*

**ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION**

1. It is that time of year for the Select Board to call for and open the Warrant for the 2023 Fall Town Meeting. At your June 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Board discussed this issue and the consensus was to call for the Meeting on Saturday, October 28, 2023. I would respectfully request that the Board officially call for the meeting on that date. Enclosed with this report is the proposed schedule for the Fall Town Meeting based on this date. I look forward to discussing this in more detail at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb  
enclosure

# PROPOSED LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR YEAR END 2023

Ledger Number	Account	FUNDING NEEDED (Line Items in Deficit)		Original Amount Presented 6/26/23	Adj. & New 7/10/2023	Current Amount 7/10/2023	Notes
5115	124 Town Manager Salaries			2,925.00		2,925.00	Vacation Buy Back /ADA Stipend
5120	135 Accounting Wages			14.00		14.00	Formula Calc Var
5115	145 Treasurer/Collector Salaries			2,280.00		2,280.00	Treasurer Salary Adjustment Jan
5400	145 Treasurer/Collector Gen Expenses			2,300.00	600.00	2,900.00	Lockbox increased usage fees/PW Fees
5400	152 Human Resources			2,300.00		2,300.00	Recruitment Advertising
5120	161 Town Clerk Wages			5,700.00		5,700.00	Early Voting/Vote by Mail
5120	162 Election Wages			5,622.00		5,622.00	Early Voting
5400	162 Election Expenses			3,200.00		3,200.00	Election Signage/Location Mailing
5115	210 Police Salaries			4,318.00		4,318.00	VBB/Fitness Test/Holiday Pay
5400	220 Fire General Expenses			30,000.00		30,000.00	Vehicle Maintenance
5115	242 Mechanical Inspectors Salaries			10,600.00	5,200.00	15,800.00	Permitting Activity
5400	242 Mechanical Inspectors Gen Expenses			540.00	337.00	877.00	Permitting Activity
5115	420 Highway Salaries			150.00		150.00	Longevity Variance
5120	420 Highway Wages				110.00	110.00	Formula Calc Var
5115	541 COA Salaries			2,131.00		2,131.00	Bonus unbudgeted
5400	541 COA General Expenses			2,000.00		2,000.00	Interim Departmental Assistance
5120	542 VAN Wages			8,000.00	15.00	8,015.00	Increased Programming
5400	542 VAN Expenses			4,500.00		4,500.00	Increased Programming
5115	640 Country Club Salaries			453.00		453.00	HI Opt Out Variance
5400	640 Country Club General Expenses			15,000.00	5,720.00	20,720.00	Increased Programming
5840	650 Parks Capital Improvements #129				5,420.00	5,420.00	Well Repair at Cutler
5173	916 Medicare			15,000.00	310.00	15,310.00	Payroll Activity
	TOTAL			117,033.00	17,712.00	134,745.00	
FUNDING FROM (Line Items with Surplus)							
5400	135 Accounting General Expense			14.00		14.00	
5120	210 Police Wages			4,318.00		4,318.00	
5120	220 Fire Wages			30,000.00		30,000.00	
5120	235 Dispatch Wages( Avail \$50k)			50,000.00	5,000.00	55,000.00	Vacant Position
5120	124 Town Manager Wages			2,925.00		2,925.00	Personnel Turnover
5120	145 Treasurer Wages			4,580.00	(38.00)	4,542.00	Personnel Turnover
5420	145 Bond Costs				650.00	650.00	
5115	161 Town Clerk Salaries			8,888.00		8,888.00	Unspent Contractor Funds
5120	241 Building Insp Wages			2,500.00	1,200.00	3,700.00	Personnel Turnover
5500	420 Hwy Minor Capital				260.00	260.00	
5120	541 COA Wages			5,150.00		5,150.00	Personnel Turnover
5400	914 Employee Health Insurance			8,658.00	10,640.00	19,298.00	Enrollment activity
	TOTAL			117,033.00	17,712.00	134,745.00	
	Net Transfer					0.00	

One of the most pressing issues facing our community today is PFAS. Groton is just one of many communities in Massachusetts that is being impacted. PFAS does not break down over time and continues to accumulate in our environment. PFAS creates a health risks at very low levels and is tied to developmental defects, cancers and immune system issues. The chemicals have been used since the 1950s and are currently in used in residential products from dental floss, packaging, cookwear, clothing and electronics.

### **PFAS in Groton**

In December of 2019 MassDEP proposed PFAS6 testing requirements for all public water supplies. While Groton was not required to begin testing until 2021, the Groton Water Department began testing for 18 different PFAS compounds in October of 2019. PFAS6 concentrations in Groton have generally been between one and three nanograms per liter (ng/L). No actions are required at concentrations below 20 ng/l (which is equivalent to 20 parts per trillion or ppt) and monitoring is ongoing. Recent updates to our water system to remove manganese are being completed currently and potential future needs regarding PFAS have been considered.

The Groton Dunstable High School is served by a public water supply (PWS ID# 2115010-01G) which is operated by the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD). March 2022 testing of this public water supply found PFAS6 concentrations of 490 (ng/L) at the High School and concentrations up to 123 ng/L at fifteen nearby private wells. MassDEP has determined that the PFAS concentrations are attributable to use of aqueous film forming firefighting foam at the High School on June 17, 2003 to extinguish a fire, which included materials for the track construction. MassDEP has identified two potentially responsible parties: CR Klewin Northeast – the responsible party that bears legal responsibility for the site under MGL Ch 21E Section 5(a) (5) and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as site owner. Attempts to find and hold CR Klewin Northeast responsible have been unsuccessful and the GDRSD must find solutions.

MassDEP has required several immediate actions by the GDRSD: additional PFAS testing of private wells in 500' increments until no PFAS6 is detected; provision of bottled water at the High School and residences with detectable PFAS6 levels; and installation and upkeep of a POET system at any residence with PFAS6 exceeding 20 ng/L. Ultimately an alternative water source needs to be provided for the High School and impacted private wells.

Because of the MassDEP requirements and the alarming long-term impacts of PFAS we are exploring different solutions. There are currently two alternatives that are being explored for final decision. Per the GDRSD Regional Agreement capital expenditures are divided between Groton and Dunstable based on enrollment. As Groton students make up approximately 77% of the student body that is the estimated percentage of the solution costs that Groton property owners will bear. Our hope is to access grant funds and no interest loans in conjunction with this project The estimated project costs will be in addition to the costs for testing and interim compliance with MassDEP requirements.

One alternative is to extend the Town of Groton municipal water system from the center of Groton up Chicopee Row to the High School area. This alternative requires additional piping over the 3.5 distance at an anticipated cost of approximately \$13M. This approach requires State permits to transfer water between drainage basins, which is anticipated to take up to two years. Currently the State has indicated no ability to accelerate this permitting timeframe and construction is likely to take an additional year. A temporary solution for the next three years will add complexity and cost to the alternative. At Spring Town Meeting voters approved spending up to \$16.8M on this solution, allowing for design and permitting efforts to begin prior to the next Town Meeting in Fall of 2023.

The second alternative under consideration is to utilize the Town of Pepperell water system as a source to supply this area. While this requires only 1.1 miles of piping and has a lower cost, approximately \$4M, the Town of Pepperell system has PFAS levels around 13ppt. This option requires no inter-basin transfer so permitting and construction are anticipated to take a year.

The Groton Water Commissioners have indicated that on-site PFAS treatment will be required – this will prevent PFAS exposure for users and will prevent the addition of more PFAS, via septic system or irrigation, into the High School area groundwater. Ultimately, we anticipate incurring additional costs when the Pepperell water system requires overall PFAS treatment.

### **PFAS in Massachusetts**

A PFAS Task Force was established by the Massachusetts Legislature and issued their final report in April of 2022. This report included multiple recommendations (see the attached excerpt and the entire report at <file:///U:/HD5054.pdf>) and recognizes that this is a Statewide Issue which we are only beginning to understand. There are many PFAS compounds beyond the six that are currently regulated in Massachusetts and State and Federal testing and tolerances continue to be reviewed and updates are anticipated. There are currently no testing or remediation requirements for private wells in the Commonwealth. Education of the public is needed and funding for testing and solutions should be made available immediately, particularly in communities that have already been disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards.

Our collective understanding of PFAS and the impacts is expanding rapidly. Testing and remediation of PFAS issues can only be a small part of the solution while these products continue to be used, sold and produced in Massachusetts. Currently there are a handful of PFAS uses for which there are no effective alternatives, such as firefighter turnout gear. In many other products there is the ability to reduce and eliminate PFAS compounds.

There are currently four PFAS related bills before the Legislature – two in the Senate and two in the House. All four bills work to establish public funds to assist with testing and remediation. All four of these important bills have been referred to committees (Agriculture and Public Health) and hearings have been held in recent weeks.

H101 and S39 are directed at protecting the soil and farms from PFAS contamination. These propose to set concentration limits for PFAS in retail fertilizers, mulch and soil amendment products and require labelling on any that contain PFAS below the banned limit. Groton Representative Margaret Scarsdale has signed onto H101 as a petitioner. Neither Representative Danillo Sena nor Senator John Cronin have signed onto these bills.

H2197 and S1356 are targeted at reducing PFAS in other products and requiring labelling on products containing added PFAS. These bills would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2026, PFAS in food packaging, child carseats, cookware, fabric, personal care products, rugs, upholstered furniture and children's products. Adding PFAS to any products would be banned effective January 1, 2030 unless a manufacturer is issued an exemption by the Department of Public Health. Both Groton Representatives Margaret Scarsdale and Danillo Sena have signed onto H2197; Senator John Cronin has not signed onto S1356.

It is imperative that our elected officials, locally and at the State and Federal levels understand the tremendous risk that PFAS creates for our environment and communities. While there are no easy answers, support for these important bills and commitment to the Task Force Recommendations are two steps that must be taken immediately.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout 2021, the PFAS Interagency Task Force held nine public hearings and heard testimony from researchers, advocacy groups, community members, municipal officials, state agencies, public water systems, legislators, and other stakeholders on the issues surrounding PFAS. After careful consideration of the extent of PFAS contamination in the state, evidence of the health and environmental impacts associated with PFAS exposure, and the distinct challenges of addressing PFAS, the PFAS Interagency Task Force proposes the following set of recommendations for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to protect residents and the environment from PFAS contamination.

## FUND PFAS DETECTION AND REMEDIATION

1. Fund MassDEP and DPH to conduct PFAS testing in drinking water, groundwater, surface water, wastewater, residuals, soil, air, fish tissue, and additional environmental media that may be exposure pathways for PFAS.
2. Fund MassDEP to conduct PFAS testing and investigations in locations with known or suspected PFAS releases to identify sources of contamination.
3. Fund MassDEP and DPH to provide PFAS-related technical assistance to municipalities and public water systems.
4. Appropriate additional funding to the Clean Water Trust for PFAS remediation projects.
5. Establish a PFAS Remediation Fund that provides grants to municipalities, public water systems, and homeowners for capital and ongoing costs for PFAS remediation.

## SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

6. Appropriate funding to the Clean Water Trust to increase the loan forgiveness percentage for PFAS remediation projects that are eligible for the Disadvantaged Communities program.
7. Direct DPH to conduct outreach with community stakeholders to ensure affected residents have information in accessible language regarding their exposure to PFAS through drinking water, fish, and other sources.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### PHASE OUT PFAS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

8. Prohibit the sale of consumer products with intentionally added PFAS by 2030. Identify priority consumer products with intentionally added PFAS for an earlier phase-out, including textiles, food packaging, and children's products. Allow DPH to grant temporary exemptions to consumer products for which PFAS alternatives do not currently exist and that DPH and MassDEP have determined to be environmentally preferable products or essential to the health and safety of the Commonwealth.
9. Require manufacturers of consumer products containing intentionally added PFAS for sale in Massachusetts to notify the state using the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse beginning in 2025.
10. Require manufacturers of consumer products containing intentionally added PFAS for sale in Massachusetts to add labels indicating these products contain PFAS.
11. Fund TURI to provide research grants to identify and develop safer alternatives to PFAS in consumer products that receive exemptions from DPH and in firefighter turnout gear.

### EXPAND PFAS REGULATION

12. Define PFAS as "fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom" for the regulation of PFAS in consumer products.
13. Encourage MassDEP to establish standards for PFAS in drinking water and groundwater beyond PFAS6 as part of its upcoming review cycle.
14. Direct MassDEP to evaluate the appropriateness of incorporating PFAS conditions in groundwater discharge permits for industrial wastewater.
15. Direct MassDEP to evaluate the appropriateness of establishing pre-treatment requirements and limits for PFAS in effluent for industrial surface water discharge permits.

### ENCOURAGE PRIVATE WELL PFAS TESTING AND REMEDIATION

16. Create a funding program for communities to receive and distribute loans for private well PFAS remediation.
17. Identify strategies to lower the cost of PFAS testing for private well owners.
18. Encourage municipalities to require PFAS testing during transfer of property with private wells and with new well permits.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### SUPPORT FIREFIGHTERS AND LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

19. Fund a second round of the AFFF Take-Back Program to collect and dispose of AFFF, clean up and decontaminate storage facilities and equipment exposed to AFFF, and purchase fluorine free foam for fire departments.
20. Prohibit the use of AFFF for firefighting training and maintenance.
21. Support efforts to reduce the use of AFFF in emergency responses and require fire departments to notify MassDEP of releases of AFFF. Explore alternative practices to minimize potential environmental impacts where such use is federally required.
22. Require manufacturers of firefighter turnout gear to provide written notice of the inclusion of PFAS in turnout gear to the purchaser at time of sale.
23. Review standards for turnout gear, support efforts to identify and develop turnout gear that is completely free from PFAS, and ban the sale of turnout gear with PFAS once there are viable alternatives in the marketplace.
24. Increase funding for DFS and MFA to conduct cancer awareness trainings and refer firefighters to screenings for cancers associated with PFAS exposure.
25. Direct the Massachusetts Cancer Registry to retroactively standardize “firefighter” as an occupation and to collect information on occupational exposure to PFAS.

### ADDRESS PFAS CONTAMINATION ACCOUNTABILITY

26. Identify a path for adopting reasonable limitations for liability claims against homeowners and municipalities for PFAS contamination.
27. Continue evaluating potential claims against PFAS manufacturers to seek remediation costs and other damages for PFAS contamination.
28. Direct MassDEP to work with DOD to implement their 2021 guidance to sample public and private drinking water wells and to initiate removal actions to address exceedances of the state MCL.

### ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PFAS

29. Direct MassDEP and DPH to build upon existing efforts to jointly conduct public education and awareness campaigns around PFAS contamination, health impacts, and state efforts to address PFAS.
30. Direct DPH to build upon existing efforts to provide guidance to health care providers and local governments on how to communicate the health impacts of PFAS, exposure pathways, and safe drinking water levels to patients and the public.



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**Town Manager**  
Mark W. Haddad

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

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

**Subject:** *Fall Town Meeting- October 28, 2023*

**Date:** *July 10, 2023*

Please be advised that at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board held on Monday, July 10, 2023, the Board voted to open the Warrant for the 2023 Fall Town Meeting to be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023. The Warrant will close at the close of business on Thursday, August 17, 2023.

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

Monday, July 10, 2023 -	Warrant for 2023 Fall Town Meeting Opens
Thursday, August 11, 2023 -	Warrant for 2023 Fall Town Meeting Closes
Monday, August 14, 2023 -	Select Board conducts first review of Articles
Monday, September 11, 2023 -	SB - FINCOM Public Hearing on Articles
Monday, October 2, 2023 -	Select Board finalizes Warrant
Friday, October 13, 2023 -	Post Warrant
Saturday, October 28, 2023 -	2023 Fall Town Meeting

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

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

MWH/rjb

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



**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023  
UN-APPROVED**

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

**Also Present:** Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Hannah Moller, Treasurer/Collector; Nik Gualco, Conservation Administrator; Moderator Jason Kauppi; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Tom Orcutt, Water Superintendent; Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant; Michelle Collette, Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector; Tyler Schmidt and Robert Rafferty, Environmental Partners; Jim Gmeiner, Board of Water Commissioners

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and reviewed the agenda.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. Cunningham said that last Thursday, June 22nd, the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee held a meeting to discuss renaming one of Groton's Conservation properties to honor the Nipmuc People. Mr. Cunningham thought it was a great meeting. Ms. Pine said the meeting was recorded for anyone interested in watching it.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

- 1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointments of John Babcock, Medha Sri, and Alix Chace as Lifeguards at the Groton Country Club and Deborah Dennis as a Per Diem Van Driver**

*Ms. Pine made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of John Babcock, Medha Sri, and Alix Chace as Lifeguards at the Groton Country Club. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Deborah Dennis as a Per Diem Van Driver. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Ms. Pine wanted to let all residents know that if they are over 60 years old, they could request a ride on the Senior Van for a small fee.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

- 2. Consider Accepting the Town Manager's Nomination of Bob Fournier and Ken Adams and Appoint Mr. Fournier and Mr. Adams to the Trails Committee**

Ms. Pine made a motion to accept the Town Manager's nomination and appoint Bob Fournier and Ken Adams to the Trails Committee with a term to expire on June 30, 2024. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Update from the Town Manager on PFAS Issue at GDRSD High School**

Mr. Orcutt, the Water Superintendent, Mr. Rafferty and Tyler Schmidt from Environmental Partners were present for the discussion.

Mr. Haddad said they continue investigating the best solution to bring clean potable drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School. He said the two options they are investigating were bringing water from Pepperell, known as the Regional Solution, or bringing water from Groton's Whitney Well, known as the Groton Solution. Recently they met with DEP and DCR to understand the permitting necessary for all solutions. Mr. Haddad gave the Board a report summarizing the permits needed for the various options (see attached report). He said it would be safe to say that most options would take at least two years to permit, except for taking water directly from Pepperell. Mr. Haddad and the Town Administrators from Pepperell and Dunstable met to discuss how they could all work together regionally to develop the most cost-effective solution. Based on their discussion, they believe the best option for all three towns would be for water to come directly from Pepperell, which could be implemented immediately. Mr. Haddad explained that they initially rejected this Option due to the levels of PFAS in the Pepperell Jersey Street Well (it tested at 13 parts per trillion (ppt)). He said it would make the most sense to revisit that Option financially. The original estimate for the Pepperell Option was between \$4 million and \$5 million. He said they believe they could add a temporary facility at the High School before distributing the water to the High School and the surrounding properties in Dunstable. Mr. Haddad said he would like the Board to consider proceeding with the Regional Solution (Option 1) and have Environmental Partners begin the preliminary design and permitting. Mr. Haddad said he is trying to save as much money as possible for the Groton taxpayers.

Water Superintendent, Mr. Orcutt, said they must look at the town's financial situation to see what is best. Mr. Reilly asked Mr. Haddad if they knew the cost of the temporary treatment. Mr. Haddad said that they did not know right now. Ms. Pine inquired about possibly using the water for irrigation after the treatment process. Mr. Haddad said that the school could potentially access the temporary treatment and cover the expenses for the irrigation. Ms. Manugian said the EPA wants to lower the levels to 4ppt of PFAS. Mr. Orcutt said it was going to happen, but nobody knows when. Ms. Manugian also stated that the testing information for Dunstable shows different levels, and they appear to change over time. She asked Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Orcutt if they knew any more information about that data. Mr. Orcutt said they did not have any additional information. She also asked if the town would pay a rate for usage. Mr. Haddad said determining any possible fees would require negotiation and ultimately be decided by the Board. Ms. Pine said that she believed part of Pepperell is a part of the Environmental Justice Program, but it would be helpful to them for the permitting process. Mr. Orcutt said they must decide on a Solution for the SRF applications by early August. Board of Health Member Michelle Collette said the BOH was still receiving phone calls from residents on Chicopee Row saying that their results have been under 20ppt but they were concerned they were over the 4ppt. She explained that the BOH had revised its well regulations recently; they added that a water quality test for PFAS must be done before occupancy permits are issued and before the sale of a home. Water Commissioner Jim Gmeiner said he hoped a level of 16 ppt wouldn't be considered acceptable and should be lower. He was also concerned about the treatment to get the levels down to 4 ppt. He thought there should be a fund in town to pay for people's well testing.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to pursue Option 1. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion.*

*Ms. Manugian suggested amending the motion to pursue Option 1 and to continue exploring Option 4 (the Groton Option). Ms. Pine accepted that amendment and the new main motion was to authorize the Town Manager to pursue Option 1, while continuing to explore Option 4.*

*The Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **4. Review Anticipated Line-Item Transfers**

Town Accountant Ms. Patricia Dufresne was in attendance for this discussion. Mr. Haddad said the Board would meet in Joint Session with the Finance Committee on July 10<sup>th</sup> to approve FY2023 Line-Item Transfers. Ms. Dufresne had prepared a preliminary list and provided it to the Board for review. Mr. Haddad explained that the list may change once the final FY 2023 invoices are submitted. Ms. Dufresne presented the Board with a proposed \$117,033.02 in line-item transfers. She said the proposed Net Transfer was similar to previous years.

#### **5. Recommendation from Town Manger to Remove Prescott Playground**

Mr. Haddad said the Board had been working with the Park Commission and Friends of Prescott to restore the playground at the Prescott School. Mr. Haddad said he would like to withdraw this item. The Friends of Prescott are trying to fundraise for the playground privately. Ms. Pine reported that she looked at the equipment and said some are old, but some are still in good condition and could be used.

#### **6. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through Labor Day**

Monday, July 3, 2023	No Meeting (July 4th Holiday)
Monday, July 10, 2023	-Meet in Joint Session with the Finance Committee to Approved FY 2023 Line-Item Transfers -Set the Date and Open the Warrant for the 2023 Fall Town Meeting
Monday, July 17, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, July 24, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, July 31, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, August 7, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, August 21, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, September 4, 2023	No Meeting (Labor Day Holiday)
Monday, September 11, 2023,	Regularly Scheduled Meeting

### **ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION**

#### **1. Initiate the Annual Performance Review of the Town Manager**

Mr. Haddad said it was that time of year for the Select Board to begin the Annual Performance Review of the Town Manager. He said that the Chair needed to certify which members could participate in the Annual Review and direct the Town Manager to begin his self-evaluation. The Board was provided with a copy of the Town Manager Evaluation Policy. Mr. Cunningham commenced the review of the Town

Manager and certified Members Cunningham, Pine, Pisani, Reilly, and Manugian were eligible to participate in the review of the Town Manager. Mr. Haddad is to provide his portion of the review within the next 15 days to the HR Director.

**2. Consider Approving a Change of Manager of both 128 Main Street LLC dba the Groton Inn and 128 Main Street LLC dba Forge and Vine from Tricia Thompkins to Michael Noseworthy on both the All Alcoholic On-Premises Licenses and Common Victualler licenses**

The owner of 128 Main Street, LLC, Mr. John Amaral, was in attendance. Mr. Noseworthy was in attendance as well. Mr. Haddad stated that Mr. Noseworthy is TIPS Certified and ready to start. Mr. Amaral said Mr. Noseworthy had 37 years of experience in the food and beverage industry but had been with the Groton Inn and Forge & Vine since 2018. Mr. Amaral said they were fortunate to have Mr. Noseworthy in-house and promote him to Manager.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the Change of Manager for 128 Main Street LLC dba the Groton Inn from Tricia Thompkins to Michael Noseworthy on the All Alcoholic On-Premises Licenses and Common Victualler Licenses. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the Change of Manager of 128 Main Street LLC dba Forge and Vine from Tricia Thompkins to Michael Noseworthy on the All Alcoholic On-Premises Licenses and Common Victualler Licenses. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**3. Consider Approving an Earth Removal Exemption for 111 Farmers Row**

Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette was in attendance for the discussion. The Select Board had received a Request for a Certificate of Exemption submitted by Prescott Development to remove 500 cubic yards of excess earth material generated by the construction of a single-family home, sewage disposal system, and driveway at 111 Farmers Row. The removal of material qualifies as an exemption under Chapter 134, Section 10, of the Code of the Town of Groton because the excess material results from the construction of the new house lot. The Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee granted this project a Stormwater Management Permit #2020-07 on November 17, 2020. Ms. Collette said the exemption was in addition to the exemption granted on June 15, 2023 for the first 500 cubic yards of material.

*Ms. Pine moved to approve the Earth Removal Exemption to move up to 500 cubic yards of excess earth material for 111 Farmers Row with the conditions as stated in the recommendation from the Stormwater Inspector (attached to these minutes). Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**4. Revote Conservation Restrictions Approved at the 2023 Spring Town Meeting**

Conservation Administrator Nik Gualco was in attendance for the discussion. The State had made it clear that they would need the Town (Select Board and Conservation Commission) to re-vote its approval of the Conservation Restriction held by the Trust. Mr. Gualco said that since the May 22<sup>nd</sup> vote to grant the Conservation Restrictions, there had been a bunch of exchanges and changes to the CR. He explained that this was specifically for the Casella Property, the Priest Family/Martins Pond Conservation Area, and



Patricia Hallet Conservation Area. Due to the number of changes, the State believed these minor revisions to Conservation Restrictions would constitute a substantive change and need to be re-voted by both the Select Board and Conservation Commission.

*Mr. Pisani moved that the Select Board approve the grant of Conservation Restrictions to the Groton Conservation Trust over the Casella Preserve, the Priest Family Conservation Area, Martins Pond Conservation Area, and the Patricia Hallet Conservation Area properties, as described in the April 20, 2023 Town Meeting Warrant Articles 20 and 21. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.*

#### **Discussion-Town Meeting**

Mr. Haddad said the Board received an email from Resident Ginger Vollmar expressing her concerns about holding Town Meeting on a Saturday and the length of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting (it lasted 5 hours). The Board had requested to schedule this for a discussion with the Moderator and Town Clerk. Both Moderator Jason Kauppi and Town Clerk Dawn Dunbar were in attendance, as well as Ms. Vollmar. Mr. Haddad expressed that he wanted to share his thoughts on Town Meeting, specifically the length of the meeting and holding it on a Saturday. He believed that Saturday Town Meetings have been extremely successful, and issues on the Warrant is what brings people to Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad shared the attendance data at Town Meetings over the last several years. Mr. Haddad stated that attendance at Town Meeting is similar, whether on a Monday or a Saturday. He said another consideration is the second night at Town Meeting; attendance dropped significantly. He asked the Board to consider the following:

2019 Spring Town Meeting-First Night- 380  
2018 Spring Town Meeting- First Night-379

Second Night-190-Drop off of 50%  
Second Night-203-Drop off of 46%

Ms. Vollmar expressed concern that the five hours Town Meeting was too long and suggested there should be some guidelines. She would like Town Meeting to go back to Monday evening. Ms. Pine shared that there was a year when Town Meeting ended up being six consecutive evenings. Mr. Kauppi said the lengthy meeting was due to the number of people speaking. Ms. Vollmar stated she would like to see a consent agenda for the CPA Articles. Ms. Manugian said she thought Saturdays work well. Mr. Haddad said they could work with the scouts to sell food during the meeting. Mr. Haddad agreed with Ms. Vollmar's proposal to have a consent agenda for the CPC Articles. Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Bud Robertson, said twice as many people attend Spring Town Meetings. He stated there is also an additional cost for a second meeting. Mr. Cunningham suggested continuing with Saturday Town Meetings. On July 10th, Mr. Haddad will request that the Select Board call for Fall Town Meeting. The default date is Monday, October 16th. The proposed alternative dates are October 14th, October 21st, or October 28th. Mr. Haddad said the only issue with October was the need to address the PFAS problem. The Board preferred to hold Town Meeting on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Haddad will bring this date for approval at the July 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Consider Appointing Patrick Parker-Roach to the Sustainability Commission**

*Ms. Pine made a motion to appoint Patrick Parker-Roach to the Sustainability Commission. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **ON-GOING ISSUES**

- A. Water Department- Manganese Issue -December is the contractual date for completion. Mr. Haddad said they were on target. The building is beautiful, Mr. Haddad said.
- C. Green Communities Application and Implementation- Mr. Haddad said Quintin Shea has one more class to complete before he finishes. Mr. Haddad said they signed a grant agreement with the MRPC for \$3,000 to have them help the Town complete its reporting and application for the next round of Grant Funding. Mr. Haddad said Karen Chapman from the MRCP is an excellent asset to the town.
- D. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project- Ms. Pine asked for the expected completion date. Mr. Haddad said the students should move in during April of 2024. The project's gross maximum price will be certified by the Building Committee on Thursday, June 29th.
- E. Town Manager's Tri-Comm Working Group- Mr. Haddad said the second meeting was held that day, Monday, June 26th. Mr. Haddad classified the meeting as spirited. The next meeting will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>. He said the Tri-Comm Members received a timeline outlining their plan to present a preliminary report to the Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee in October before the Fall Town Meeting. The Select Board and Finance Committee will give guidance to the Town Manager on October 30<sup>th</sup>. He said it is an aggressive schedule, but he is confident the Committee will meet the deadline.

### ***Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2023***

*Mr. Reilly made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting from June 12, 2023. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

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