

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES JUNE 9, 2014
APPROVED**

Present: Josh A. Degen, Chair; Anna Eliot, Vice Chair; Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; John G. Petropoulos, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Mr. Degen called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Mr. Degen said that on behalf of the Board he would like to send sincere condolences to Chief Palma for the loss of his father.

A. STEELE MCCURDY INTERVIEW

Q: Mr. Degen asked how he prepared for the interview and what he knew about Groton and the Groton Fire Department.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that he went through the information provided by the Town Manager and researched Groton's demographics. He said that he knew Groton had been growing over the past 25 years and that the department faced challenges. He said that there were 3 distinct locations in Groton and it was a large community with a combination department where he had come from.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what he considered to be the key skills for this position.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that the ability to listen was the biggest key. He said that stakeholders wanted a say in which you could build a consensus. He thought that department wide meeting was a good way to share thoughts.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what his greatest strengths and weaknesses were.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that his greatest strength was that he had come from a smaller career staff in Littleton adding that he thought budget, and policies were also strengths. He said that he had great mentors along the way adding his father was the biggest mentor. His weaknesses were taking on too many projects at once and missing details.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what his management style was.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that his management style was inclusive. He said that including people and allowing them the opportunity to have input was important.

Q: Mr. Petropoulos asked what his understanding of a Strong Chief was; what risks and benefits he would see if in the Board's positions and if directed by an appointed or elected official to take action that you believed put the public at risk, what you would do.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that he was very familiar with the Strong Chief. He knew that under the Strong Chief he had the hiring and firing rights whereas under the Weak Chief the Board did. The benefit of a Strong Chief was no delay in hiring and disciplinary action. Mr. McCurdy said that if directed to do something that risked public safety, he said that policy making was the time to understand the issue and discuss it.

Q: Ms. Eliot asked how he would ensure that officers had met the professional standards necessary to do their job and how he would maintain those standards.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that policies needed to be in place first adding that the NFPA was available to look at. He said that mentorship was important. He said that maintaining standards comes down to training. He said that training demands was an issue in call departments nationwide. He said that if you made sure training was available and made sure that had the best training in the beginning it was one step in the right direction.

Q: Mr. Petropoulos asked him to describe the two most difficult personnel matters that he had ever encountered and how would you/did you handle them.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that he had an employee who got involved in areas he/she should not of. He/she was on the computer more than they should have been. He said that he failed in this instance as he should have been more attentive. He said it was a definite learning experience for him. He said that second one dealt with 2 separate harassment cases while he was interim chief.

Q: Mr. Cunningham asked what his experience was in implementing training for manmade disasters and interacting with the various companies that are responsible for the transit of hazardous materials through a community.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that in Littleton they had Route 2 and Interstate 495 and a rail line. He said that 128K transfers of hazardous material are done on a given day. He said that they have department members in house who are trained. He said that they have also brought out trainers from the Mass Fire Academy, Massport, National Grid and others. Mr. McCurdy said that he did not have training as it requires 280 hours but because they already had people in house trained.

Q: Mr. Cunningham asked in approaching a forest fire, was there a point where he would temper the allocation of resources.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that they had participated in several forest fire training opportunities. He said that it may take a while to contain a fire adding that it was good for a forest to have an occasional fire. He said that the costs incurred vs. the benefit to putting it out always had to be weighed.

Q: Mr. Cunningham asked what the process would be in revising or implementing new fire department regulations adding what some strategies would be for blending on call and full time personnel.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that a strategic planning process needed to be done making sure that everyone was on board with the mission. He said a committee should be formed to with members of both departments and that once a policy was drafted, it should be distributed for comments and input.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what ideas he had for helping to gain interest in others becoming a call member.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that word of mouth was the biggest way. He said that they needed to be the cheerleaders for recruiting. He said that he had tried flyers, TV, and newspaper in Littleton but found more success with recruitment through word of mouth.

Q: Mr. Degen asked how he integrated call members with full time members and what the challenges were and how he handled the. He asked what the outcome was and what 3 issues facing the fire service and a combination department were.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that his relationships between call and full time had always been good. He said that they were bound to have a tiff every once in a while. He said that in Littleton they had gone from 2 to 11 career fire fighters since he started. He said that it takes a lot of effort to maintain the relationship adding that call members needed to be given more attention once in a while. Ms. Eliot asked what he would do if someone backed him into a corner. Mr. McCurdy said that he would need to understand the issue adding that 2 way communication needed to be there.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what his experience was with unions and how did he manage that relationship.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that he had been on both sides. He said that with a union you needed to understand what their goals were and what they were trying to accomplish.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what his process for developing and maintaining his budget during the course of the year. He asked whether or not Mr. McCurdy had prepared a strategic plan for the department.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that he had been involved in budgeting for several years. He said that he monitors the department's budget through Excel spreadsheets. He said that he had not exceeded the budget with these measures in place. He said that he had culled down a strategic plan several years ago that he had been involved with a team of people. Ms. Eliot asked who wrote the plan. Mr. McCurdy said that they compiled the data but an expert from UMass wrote most of it.

Mr. McCurdy said that he had been involved in the 20 year department plan adding that 10 years was the goal. He said that he had been involved with raising and appropriating funds and writing the specs for purchase for a period of time. Mr. Degen asked if something was needed prior to capital plan year. Mr. McCurdy said that they would need to reevaluate things and maybe see if something could be pushed back.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what the one question he didn't want the Board to ask was.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that he didn't want to be asked about failures in his career and in particular about that personnel issue. He said that he didn't want to sit in front of them and say that he had failed at something.

Q: Mr. Degen asked why they should select him over the other candidate.

A: Mr. McCurdy said that he had well rounded skills and tremendous experience in a call department. He said that it was extremely important for the Town of Groton to make sure they could move forward progressively.

Mr. Degen asked if he had any question for the Board. Mr. McCurdy asked what the Boards biggest concern about the profile done by Chief McCarraher was. Mr. Degen said that the dynamic of the fire service and how it had changed. He said that they would be a combo department well into the future. He added that hiring the right individual to manage the welfare of everyone was also important. Mr. Cunningham said that he agreed with both adding that they were looking for a chief that could manage the issues so it didn't end up in their laps. Mr. Petropoulos said a strong chief that knows the mission.

ROBERT HART INTERVIEW

Q: Mr. Degen asked how he prepared for the interview and what he knew about Groton and the Groton Fire Department.

A: Mr. Hart said that his many years in the fire service had helped adding that he conducted online research about the town. He said that it was a large town with 3 stations.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what he considered to be the key skills for this position.

A: Mr. Hart said that people skills were important and managing people and their personalities. He said that he had been an officer for over 14 years and a deputy for the past 18 months.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what his greatest strengths and weaknesses were.

A: Mr. Hart said that his strengths was his people skills adding that he was able to listen, emphasize and come to common ground. His weakness was that he had a hard time understanding the new generation.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what his management style was.

A: Mr. Hart said that he was a team player. He said that he had played a lot of sports and liked to coach. He said that he tried to get the most out of people and involve parties in the planning. He added that he could make decision when they needed to be made.

Q: Mr. Petropoulos asked what his understanding of a Strong Chief was; what risks and benefits he would see if in the Board's positions and if directed by an appointed or elected official to take action that you believed put the public at risk, what you would do.

A: Mr. Hart said that Acton did not have a Strong Chief adding that it was a team effort. He said that fire chief could not stand alone on an island and was always open to help and knowledge. He said he didn't feel a strong chief was advantageous.

Q: Ms. Eliot asked how he would ensure that officers had met the professional standards necessary to do their job and how he would maintain those standards.

A: Mr. Hart said that trainings through the academy were available. He said that he didn't believe in grandfathering officers. He said that goals needed to be set even for officers to receive training and certifications. Ms. Eliot asked about the number of officers Groton had. Mr. Hart said that he didn't fully understand why there were so many. There didn't seem to be a rhyme or reason to it.

Q: Mr. Petropoulos asked him to describe the two most difficult personnel matters that he had ever encountered and how would you/did you handle them.

A: Mr. Hart said that the first was that he was second in command and because the chief was his boss it was difficult to give a recommendation adding he may not always agree but had to support him. He said that the second was a crossover from a friend/co-worker/officer. He said that they had to find a balance adding that more time as an officer made it easier.

Q: Mr. Cunningham asked what his experience was in implementing training for manmade disasters and interacting with the various companies that are responsible for the transit of hazardous materials through a community.

A: Mr. Hart said that in Acton they have the train that runs through so they are always working with the MBTA on disaster training. He said that also have mutual aid and a lot of tabletop exercises. He said that he doesn't have a lot of experience but is working on it. Mr. Hart added that they had someone on their department that is trained and the Fire academy was also available to them.

Q: Mr. Cunningham asked in approaching a forest fire, was there a point where he would temper the allocation of resources.

A: Mr. Hart said that forest fires were a fluid evolution. He said that it was common practice not to drain town and other community resources.

Q: Mr. Cunningham asked what the process would be in revising or implementing new fire department regulations adding what some strategies would be for blending on call and full time personnel.

A: Mr. Hart said that he would look at what was working for Groton and look at other departments to determine what was necessary to move the department and team.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what ideas he had for helping to gain interest in others becoming a call member.

A: Mr. Hart said that you had to start with regaining trust and pride in the department. He said that you had to get the team back together adding that word of mouth was the best way to spread the word.

Q: Mr. Degen asked how he integrated call members with full time members and what the challenges were and how he handled the. He asked what the outcome was and what 3 issues facing the fire service and a combination department were.

A: Mr. Hart said that the career vs. call department was a nationwide issue and not unique to Groton. He said that communication was key and finding happy ground where everyone is needed and valued. He said that bonds and practices needed to be done at the table. He added that training helps strengthen those bonds.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what his experience was with unions and how did he manage that relationship.

A: Mr. Hart said that he was on management's side right now but he had been on the union's side also. He said that he has a lot of respect for the union adding that contracts can make resolution easier.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what his process for developing and maintaining his budget during the course of the year. He asked whether or not Mr. Hart had prepared a strategic plan for the department.

A: Mr. Hart said that the current chief develops the budget with his help. He said in Acton it was done on historical data. He said that capital planning needed to be based on their needs. He added that he had never done a strategic plan himself but had been involved in the process.

Q: Mr. Degen asked what the one question he didn't want the Board to ask.

A: Mr. Hart said his age. He said he didn't have any question he would be afraid to answer.

Q: Mr. Degen asked why they should select him over the other candidate.

A: Mr. Hart said that Groton was faced with quite a challenge. He said that he had a lot of years of experience which had given him the personnel skills, ability to work with his hands and the ability to understand work ethic and people. He said that he understood fire fighters and thought his age and experience was what they were looking for in a chief.

ANNUAL TOWN MANAGER APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify the following appointments:

Page 1

Communications Officer, 1 year term

Warren Gibson

Sarah Power

Darlene Touchette

Samuel Welch

Justin Zink, relief dispatcher

Jonathan Shattuck

Edward Bushnoe (Part Time)

Catherine Myers, relief dispatcher

Groton Police Auxiliary, 1 year term

Mark Miller

Local Licensing Agent, 1 year term

Donald Palma

James Cullen

NIMS Coordinator, 1 year term

Donald Palma

Police Matron, 1 year term

April Moulton

Kathy Newell

Sarah Power

Darlene Touchette

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments as read. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify the following appointments:

Page 2

Police Officer, 1 year term

Lt. James Cullen

Sgt. Derrick Gemos

Sgt. Edward Sheridan, Sr.

Sgt. Jason Goodwin

Sgt. Paul R. Connell

Det. Corey Waite

Nicholas Beltz

Robert Breault

Peter Breslin

Gordon Candow

Timothy Cooper

Kevin Henehan
Rachel Mead
Dale Rose
Michael Lynn
Omar Connor

Public Safety Database Coordinator, 1 year term

April Moulton

Reserve Patrolman, 1 year term

George Aggott
Bethany Evans-Bonczar
Stephen McAndrew
Gregory Steward
Patrick Timmons
Victor Sawyer
Edward Bushnoe
Michael Ratte
Kathleen Newell

Special Police Officers, 1 year term

Groton-
Jack Balonis
George Rider

Special Police Officers, 1 year term

Pepperell – PO Box 292, Pepperell, MA 01463
Townsend –PO Box 137, Townsend, MA 01469
Dunstable – PO Box 154, Dunstable, MA 01827
Tyngsboro – 20 Westford Road, Tyngsboro, MA 01879
Westford – 53 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886
Ayer – 54 Park Street, Ayer, MA 01432
Shirley – 11 Keady Way, Shirley, MA 01464
Littleton – 500 Great Road, Littleton, MA 01460
Chelmsford – 2 Olde North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824
Lunenburg – 655 Mass Ave, Lunenburg, MA 01462

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments as read. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify the following appointments:

Page 3

ADA Coordinator, 1 year term

Michelle Collette

Agricultural Committee, 3 year term

John Smigelski
Susan Colt Wilcox

Animal Control Officer, 1 year term

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.
George Moore

Animal Inspector, 1 year term

George Moore

Archives Committee, 1 year term

Michael Bouchard
George Wheatley
5 Vacancies

Board of Survey, 1 year term

Evan C. Owen
Edward Cataldo
Fire Chief

Building Committee, 1 year term

Halsey Platt
Michael Bouchard
Jeremy Januskiewicz
Susan Daly
Lynwood "Val" Prest
Steve Webber
Don Black

Cable Advisory Committee, 1 year term

David Melpignano
Janet Vartanian Sheffield
Jane Bouvier
Neil Colicchio
1 Vacancy

Commission on Accessibility, 1 year term

Robert Fleischer
Emil Reschsteiner
Mark Shack
Alan Taylor
Scott Harker
Anna Vega

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments as read. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify the following appointments:

Page 4

Community Emergency Response Coordinators, 1 year term

Donald Palma
William Shute
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.
Fire Chief

Conductorlab Oversight Committee, 1 year term

Michelle Collette
Robert Hanninen
Susan Horowitz
Mark Deugar
1 Vacancy

Conservation Administrator, 1 year term

Takashi Tada

Constables, 3 year appointment

Frederick Correia

William Grennell

Council on Aging Director, 1 year term

Kathy Shelp

Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee, 1 year term

Robert Hanninen

Rena Swezey

Ray Capes

Edward A. Perkins

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.

Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector, 1 year term

Michelle Collette

Election Workers, 1 year term

Florine Bakke

Maureen Beal

Marcia Birmingham

Nadine Bishop

Laurie Bonnett

Audrey Bryce

Marvin Caldwell

Carol Chalmers

Gail Chalmers

Carole Clark

Margaret Connolly

Anthony Corsetti

Irene Corsetti

Joan Croteau

Jean Cunnings

Carol Daigle

Charlene Dapollito

Dawn Dunbar

Dorothy Davis

Alberta Erickson

Carl Flowers

Norma Garvin

George Faircloth

Louise Gaskins

Joan Guimond

Margot Hammer

Ellen Hargraves

Richard Hewitt

April Iannacone

Stephen Legge

Lorraine Leonard

Suzanne Saunders

Cindy Martell

Paula Martin

Mary McGrath

Kelly Merrill

Violetta O'Donnell

Lisa O'Neil

John Ott

Geraldine Perry

Nancy Pierce

Peg Russell

Connie Sartini

Stuart Shuman

Fran Stanley

Arestothea Staub

Alberta Steed

Lori Sullivan

Rena Swezey

Janet Thompson

Ramona Tolles

Bronwen Wallens

Ann Walsh

Margaret Wheatley

Richard Van Doren

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments as read on page 4 and the top of page 5. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify the following appointments:

Page 5

Electrical Inspector, 1 year term

Edward Doucette

John Dee, as alternate

Emergency Management Agency, 1 year term

Alvin Neff

Anthony Hawgood

Benjamin Podsiadlo

Bill VanSchwalkwyk

George Moore

Heather Emslie

Holly Jarek

Karen Reif

Peter Cunningham

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.

Robert Johnson

Sarah Hewitt

Carl Flowers
Cathy Lincoln
Christine Packard
Connie Sartini
Dan Daigneault
Mark Miller
Edward Doucette
Elaine Johnson
Fire Chief
Francis Cusak

Kathy Puff
Kathy Shelp
Kevin Kelly
Larry Swezey
Leroy Johnson
Susan Horowitz
Mark W. Haddad
Norma Garvin
Pat Arel
Penny Hommeyer

Stephen Byrne
Stephen Legge
Stephen Moulton
Steve Mickle
Donald Palma, Jr.
Tom Orcutt
Troy Conley
William Shute

Fence Viewer, 1 year term

George Moore

Field Driver, 1 year term

George Moore

Graves Registration Officer, 1 year term

Deborah Beal Normandin

Great Pond Advisory Committee, 1 year term

Francoise Forbes
Susan Horowitz
Art Prest
Alexander Woodle
Cheney Harper
Savos Danos
James Luening
Thomas Sangiolo
2 vacancies

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments as read on page 5. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify the following appointments:

Page 6

Greenway Committee, 1 year term

Marion Stoddard
David Pitkin
Fran Stanley
Carol Coutrier
Adam Burnett

Harbor Master, 1 year term

Donald Palma

Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act Privacy, 1 year term

Melisa Doig

Historic Districts Commission, 3 year term

Maureen C. Giattino
Daniel Barton
Sanford Johnson

Historical Commission, 3 year term

Allen King
Richard C. Dabrowski
Tracy Heighton

Human Resources Director, 1 year term

Melisa Doig

Information Technology Director, 1 year term

Jason Bulger

Insurance Advisory Committee, 1 year term

Jack Balonis
Melisa Doig
Michelle Collette
Paula Martin
Warren Gibson
Ann Walsh
Gordon Candow
DPW Representative
Paul McBrearty
Derrick Gemos
Barbara Cronin

Keeper of Lockup Constable, 1 year term

Donald Palma

Keeper of Town Clock, 1 year term

Paul Matisse

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments as read on page 6. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify the following appointments:

Page 7

Land Use Director, 1 year term

Michelle Collette

Local Emergency Planning Committee, 1 year term

Donald Palma, Jr.	William Shute	Fire Chief
Tom Delaney	Tom Orcutt	Elaine Johnson
Kevin Kelly	Susan Horowitz	George Moore
Leroy Johnson	William Shute	Carl Flowers
Bob Coleman	Kathleen Mercereau	Kathy Puff
Holly Jarek		

Measurer of Wood and Bark, 1 year term

Evan Owen

Moth Superintendent, 1 year term

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.

NIMS Coordinator, 1 year term

Donald L. Palma, Jr.

Old Burying Ground Committee, 1 year term

Deborah Beal Normandin
Ellen Hargraves
Amanda Gavazzi
Kenneth Lefebvre
Marcia Brazer

Parking Clerk, 1 year term

Dawn Dunbar

Prescott Reuse Committee, 1 year term

Halsey Platt
Ellen Hargraves
Stanley Jackson
Richard Lewis
Alberta Erickson
Russell Burke (PB)
Anna Eliot (BOS)

Principal Assessor, 1 year term

Rena Swezey

Plumbing & Gas Inspector

John Murphy
John Templeton

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments as read on page 7 minus the Prescott Reuse Committee. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify the following appointments:

Page 8 & 9

Public Safety Chaplain, 1 year term

1 Vacancy

Public Works Director, 1 year term

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.

Recycling Committee, 1 year term

Michael Brady
Teresa David
Jamie King
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.
Lee Davy

Regional Emergency Planning Committee

Fire Chief
Donald Palma
William Shute

Road Kill Officer, 1 year term

Steven Mickle

Sealer of Weights and Measures, 1 year term

Eric Aaltonen

Sign Committee, 1 year term

Tracy Heighton
Mark W. Haddad
Carolyn Perkins

Surveyor of Wood/Lumber, 1 year term

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.

Tax Collector/Treasurer, 1 year term

Michael Hartnett

Town Diarist, 1 year term

Connie Sartini
Robert Collins

Town Forest Committee, 3 year term

Steve Babin

Trails Committee, 1 year term

Edward Bretschneider
Paul Funch
David Minott
Stephen Legge
John Lynch
John Weiesner
1 Vacancy

Tree Warden, 1 year term

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.

Veteran's Service Officer, 1 year term

Robert Johnson

Water Superintendent, 1 year term

Thomas Orcutt

Williams Barn Committee

Dianne Bunis
Bradbury Smith
Karen Stone
Sandra Tobies
Joseph Twomey
Alfred Wyatt
Leo Wyatt
Bob Kniffin
1 Vacancy

Weed Harvester Committee, 1 year term

Bradley D. Harper	William Strickland
Garrett Durling	John Crowell
Erich Garger	1 Vacancy

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments as read on page 8 & 9. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked if the Board wanted to reappoint the Wetland Bylaw Review Committee and the Town Meeting Review Committee.

Mr. Schulman moved to abolish the Wetland Bylaw Review Committee effective June 30, 2014. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

It was decided that they should ask the Town Meeting Review Committee if they had filled their charge.

Mr. Haddad said that they had just gone out to bid again on the Prescott School for Marketing Services and asked if the Board wanted to reappoint the Prescott Reuse Committee for another term.

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the appointments of the Prescott Reuse Committee as read earlier. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schulman moved to recess for 20 minutes at 6:40pm and reconvene at 7:00pm. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened at 7:00pm.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that on Monday, June 16th at 7pm, there would be a forum at the PAC to discuss Tennessee Gas Pipeline. He said that residents have been asked to submit questions by June 12th.
2. Mr. Petropoulos said that the purpose of the working group was to have a group focused entirely on research and getting the correct information out there. Mr. Cunningham said that he thought it was a good idea adding that there was a lot of info out there. Mr. Schulman said that with 40 plus other towns out there affected it might be better to do something with other towns. He thought they should formulate a strategy to being groups together. Ms. Eliot said that they needed to be united in how they questions Kinder Morgan. Mr. Haddad said that he would work with Mr. Petropoulos to write a charge and reach out to a group of potential representatives. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Schulman volunteered.
3. Mr. Haddad said that he had received a letter from Pepperell Town Administrator looking if Groton would consider joining a coalition of towns. Mr. Schulman said that he would rather participate in this group. Mr. Degen said that he would prefer to wait to join anything until they met with Kinder Morgan.
4. Mr. Haddad said that they had been approached by a resident about a non-binding resolution. If the Board chooses they could call for a Special Town Meeting and allow the voters to vote on this. Mr. Haddad said that he had taken Pepperell's resolution and provided Mr. Nick Miller with a revised draft for the Board to consider. Mr. Haddad said that they were doing this as a courtesy to the residents by helping to speed up the process. He said that could also wait to get a citizens petition. Mr. Petropoulos said that there were elements that would make people say they didn't know what they were talking about. He asked if they could go to the Special Town Meeting with a placeholder. Mr. Haddad said that the article needed to be specific. Mr. Petropoulos questions alternatives to spending \$5K to hold a town meeting. Mr. Degen said that the allowed the public to speak and voice their concerns. Mr. Haddad said the BOS taking a position carried weight but a town meeting vote carried more weight. Mr. Nick Miller said that there would be a town meeting whether the Board called it or they did. Mr. Degen said that they could petition but the Board had 45 days to decide. Mr. Petropoulos said there was value in collecting signatures. Mr. Schulman said he was in favor of having a town meeting adding that this may not be perfect but it was good for its purposes.
Mr. Cunningham suggested deleting the 2nd whereas and deleting #2 under therefore. The Board was in favor of the changes.

Mr. Cunningham moved to call for the Special Town Meeting in June 30, 2014 at the Groton Dunstable Middle School Auditorium at 7pm. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved that the article be a non-binding resolution as previously discussed. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 in favor with Mr. Petropoulos voting in opposition.

Ms. Eliot moved to close the warrant. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LOST LAKE SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Petropoulos said that they were here after quite a bit of time. He said that the Committee was formed after the Fall 2012 Town Meeting had voted not to approve the sewer initiative. He said that the Committee was made up of himself, Tom Orcutt, Susan Horowitz, Mike Rosa and Jay Prager. Mr. Petropoulos said that the Committee was not unanimous in its decision. (presentation attached) He said that they were not able to tell how much of an issue they had and would require more studies. He said that they wanted to know what the weed problem was, to solve the threat to public drinking water, the quality the problem and to look at the private well problem. He said that they learned a lot of things like the weed problem didn't prove a sewage problem, that the public drinking water has not been affected, that the levels have not changed substantially since 1989 and that the private wells had mixed results. He said that they also learned about ECs (emergent contaminants) things like pharmaceuticals being disposed of down the private waste disposals. Mr. Petropoulos said that they needed to know today how to compare the 1989 tests, nail down the Martins Pond Brook problem, find out if there is a threat to public drinking water, and how big the problem is and what it will take to understand it. Mr. Petropoulos said that they knew how non-septic issues affected the lake, that the investment had to be the right payoff (prioritize, justify, get approval), that they needed to solicit input from other engineering firms & individual consultants to help develop an approach and develop a plan. He said that their recommendation was to modify the role of the Committee and take a step back to look at how to spend money, do a cost benefit analysis and more thorough engineering study and explore financial options.

Mr. Orcutt said that he had a minority report to present. He said that the cost benefits questions still remain, the summer or seasonal camp conversions equates to discharge into Lost Lake and the Watershed. He said that Stormwater runoff was not a contributing factor. He said that municipal sewers would reduce the overall public health that failing SDS or poorly sited systems present. He said that ECs were a new issue and was not something that was looked at in the 1989 study adding that CEI added it to their study.

Ms. Horowitz said that she had had a sub minority report to present based on new information received. She said that she came to the committee thinking sewer was not the answer but had changed her mind. She said that sewer was a need with support adding that it wouldn't solve the problem alone. She said that ECs were found and the BOH felt it was a wakeup call. Mr. Petropoulos said that they came to the conclusion that Martins Pond brought in a lot of contaminants. He said they weren't certain that the district covered all sources of the problem.

Mr. Degen said that he didn't see a recommendation on whether the Board should move forward or not. Mr. Petropoulos said the majority of the Committee didn't feel like they should move forward. Mr. Cunningham said that the potential to spend a lot of money on studies was there. He said the cost impact was the #1 concern in 2012 at Town Meeting. He said he was not sure what they accomplished if they put it off. He wasn't sure what more studies would show. Mr. Petropoulos said it was clear money was the large issue for people adding that they hadn't proven the need or solution would solve the problem. Mr. Schulman said he was concerned about the lack of consensus. He said ECs were not just markers adding something needed to be done. He said she was not comfortable with the conclusion of the report. Mr. Degen said there were ways of controlling things like not using chemicals on lawns.

Mr. Art Prest said he was in agreement with all 3 positions. He thought 50% was coming from the SDS's and 50% from the watershed. He said that the lake never supported sewer and that's why the GLA didn't take a position. He suggested a tip of the week in the local newspaper to educate people on this topic. Ms. Horowitz thought it was a

good idea adding that it relied on people to volunteer to do it. Ms. Eliot said that she had spoken to the Agricultural Commission as well about the management of animals. Mr. Degen said they had a problem and some solutions. Mr. Degen asked the Committee if they would like to continue adding that he would like them to think about it and it would be put on a future agenda in July.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Cunningham said that the housing production plan had been submitted but they failed to take a vote to adopt the plan. Mr. Haddad said that they failed to take action on something that already had a presentation on. He said the DHCD needed to a vote from the Board.

Mr. Cunningham moved to adopt the housing production plan submitted to DHCD. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 in favor with Mr. Petropoulos abstaining.

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____

Stuart Schulman, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 7/28/14