

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**APRIL 14, 2003**  
**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**  
**"APPROVED"**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Present:** Dann Chamberlin, Chairman; Thomas D. Hartnett, Clerk; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen and Maria Casey, Administrative Secretary.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Town Flag Presentation By Groton Woman's Club**

The Groton Woman's Club presented the Board of Selectmen (BOS) with a Town Flag. Groton was the only town in the 1<sup>st</sup> Middlesex District that did not have a Town Flag hanging in the Great Hall at the State House. The flag is white with black lettering and has the town seal insignia on it. "The design is a simple one and is intended to typify the character of its inhabitants," stated Samuel Green on correspondence of March 16, 1898. He added further "the Bible represents the faith of the early settlers of the Town, who went into the wilderness and suffered innumerable privations in their daily life, as well as danger from the savage foes. Throughout Christendom today, it is the corner stone of religion and morality. The Plough is significant of the general occupation of the people. By it, the early settlers broke up the land and earned their livelihood and ever since it has been an invaluable helping the tillage of the soil." The presentation of Groton's Town Flag to the State House will be May 16, 2003.

**PUBLIC HEARING - Special Town Meeting Articles**

The BOS held a public hearing to take a position on the Special Town Meeting Articles and the Public Hearing Checklist and copy of the warrant is enclosed herein.

**PUBLIC HEARING - Risk Assessment & Application of Diquat to Lost Lake/Knopps Pond**

The BOS held a public hearing regarding the risk assessment and application of Diquat to Lost Lake/Knopps Pond (LLKPWMC) and the public hearing checklist is enclosed herein. Mr. John Diezemann, chair, LLKPWMC introduced Dr. Sue Sundstrom who completed the risk assessment to evaluate potential human health risks to Lost Lake. Dr. Sundstrom stated that this assessment is the same procedure following by most federal and state regulatory commissions. She further detailed what a Risk Assessment entails as follows: Step 1 - Evaluate the hazard identification; Step 2 - Evaluate the exposure assessment; Step 3 - Evaluate the dose response assessment and Step 4 - Evaluate the risk characterization. The Assessment is for the chemical Diquat and its potential impacts to drinking water. She stated that the Diquat application was at 5 locations on Lost Lake -- the town beach, Grotonwood Camp, the dam area, the stream between Lost Lake and Whitney Pond and Whitney Pond. The chemical Diquat binds very quickly to any organic matter and becomes immobile. She further stated that using the results from the test site, it was computed that water at that concentration applied was present in a town well and consume over a lifetime, it would produce a level only 25% of state and federal acceptable benchmarks and added "Even if the highest dose was in that well over a life time, it would not result in appreciable risk or health effects."

Dr. Sundstrom indicated that she was informed that a further application may be warranted -- spot treatments. Based on her risk assessment and the fact that a considerable amount less would be applied to the lake, "one would assume concentrations would also be less," and under those conditions, she state there would be no signification risk of an adverse affect.

Mr. Chamberlin stated that he "felt a sense of relief" with the results of this Risk Assessment, which was considered successful in reducing the weeds, and exceeded its expectations.

**WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Spot Treatment of Diquat - Spring, 2003**

Mr. Diezemann stated that the Groton Lakes Association (GLA) was going to be applying spot treatment of Diquat and that the GLA would inform the BOS when they will start this. He noted that the treatment went fantastic. He said there was some regrowth of milfoil at the south end. GLA anticipates the application in late May prior to the Town Beach opening in June. Mr. Diezemann further stated that the Order of Conditions was still valid for the application and that the LLWMAC's new chairman will be Dr. Bill Eger.

Dr. Eger stated that the Committee voted to use Diquat at this point in time to spot treat variable leaf milfoil as described in the existing Order of Conditions as a reasonable and measured action after reviewing the available information, and further voted that no one method of lake week management will suffice and that other methods will need to be carried out in the future.

Dr. Eger stated that the LLWMAC sent out information in order to compile a well survey. A map is to be completed in the next couple of weeks. This compilation will assist the LLWMAC when they perform the draw down. Dr. Eger stated that the draw down does two things -- when the ice is formed, the ice uproots the weeds and when the water draws down further, it kills an additional significant number more by the frost. Thus far Lost Lake has not been successful with a draw down. The LLWMAC will keep the BOS updated on their progress.

**POLICE STATION DIRECTIONAL SIGN**

Mr. Chamberlin stated that he recently became aware that no sign exists on Main Street to indicate where the police station is. Police Chief Mulhern was in attendance for this portion of the meeting, as well as Joe Bassett, member of the Sign Committee. Chief Mulhern was in agreement with this concept and Mr. Bassett stated that the Sign Committee has been discussing a uniform double-faced sign -- perhaps a round disk with the Town Seal as a uniform symbol -- for all town buildings. The BOS requested the Sign Committee work with the Historic District (who was unable to attend the meeting) to create a uniform sign indicating town departments.

**Letter to State regarding state Aid to Cities and Towns**

Mr. Chamberlin drafted a letter to the State that the BOS reviewed. Mr. Cunningham's recommendation for the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph in reference to the fact that we are still required to fulfill the obligations of unfunded state mandates and the money is "not there." Unfunded mandates such as Special Education, Conservation and land use, Advanced Life Services, et. al. The BOS is in full support of this letter being sent.

**OTHER BUSINESS****Senior Credit Work-Off Program**

Mr. Hartnett stated that he would like the BOS and town to consider the making more money available to fund the Senior Credit Work-Off Program. Currently, the Town accepts 40 applications for seniors. This year due to hard financial times, there were 58 applicants. He feels this has been a very successful program. Mr. Hartnett would like to take the necessary steps in order to implement the addition of 20 more applicants for a total of 60 senior positions. He anticipates the cost to be approximately \$10,000 for the additional 20.

**One-Day Liquor License - First Parish Church**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve a One-Day Wine & Malt License for Rev. Elea Kemler on behalf of the First Parish Church for a Passover Seder Dinner at the First Parish Church on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. contingent upon receipt of a Certificate of Insurance. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

**Scholarship Committee Appointment of Jeannie Erickson**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Jeannie J. Erickson to the Scholarship Committee for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

**Regular and Executive Session Minutes**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Regular Sessions Minutes of March 10, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve and not release the Executive Session Minutes of March 10, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve and not release the Executive Session Minutes of March 18, 2003, Session 1. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Ms. Kitchen stated that there is currently a balance of \$13,000 left in Town Counsel Expense for the next 3 months. March's bill is estimated to be \$11,000. She has requested a reserve fund transfer from the Finance Committee and/or it will be a line item transfer on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

She also informed the BOS that the override amount for Tier 1A is \$1,476,323 and Tier 1B is \$1,004,427.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to contract negotiations and will reconvene into Open Session. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Roll call vote: Chamberlin - yes; Cunningham - yes; Hartnett - yes.*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the Employment Agreement between the Town of Groton and Police Chief effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the Employment Agreement between the Town of Groton and Administrative Officer effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the Employment Agreement between the Town of Groton and Fire Chief effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas D. Hartnett, Clerk

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Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Casey  
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved: May 19, 2003

Attachments (3)

Special Town Meeting Articles and Public Hearing Checklist

Risk Assessment & Application of Diquat to Lost Lake/Knopps Pond Checklist