SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 APPROVED

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

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patricia Dufresne, Assistant Finance Director/Town Accountant; Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Takashi Tada, Town Planner/Land Use Director; Tom Delaney, DPW Director; Hannah Moller, Treasurer/Collector

Finance Committee: Bud Robertson, Chair; Colby Doody, Vice Chair; Michael Sulprizio; Mary Linskey; Gary Green; David Manugian

Sustainability Commission: Phil Fransisco; Charlotte Weigel; Ginger Vollmar

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Pine announced that the Groton Business Association held Grotonfest on Saturday, September 30, 2023. She said it was a huge success and wanted to commend everyone for the wonderful community event.

Mr. Cunningham announced that on Wednesday, October 4th, at the Center, the Sustainability Commission will hold a forum on PFAS starting at 7:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk, Ms. Dunbar, was happy to announce that Governor Healey had approved the Town's Special Legislation approved at the 2023 Spring Town Meeting. This legislation will combine Precincts 1 and 3A. Eighty-three households have been informed via mail that they will now vote at Precinct 1, which is still at the Groton Center. Ms. Dunbar also received the early absentee and official ballots. She said approximately 119 absentee ballots were mailed out earlier that day. Early voting will begin on Saturday, October 28th, and will be held at Town Hall from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Early voting will be available during regular business hours the following week. The last day to register to vote is October 18th by 5:00 p.m., and the last day to request a ballot by mail is Tuesday, October 31st by 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Haddad wanted to thank Representative Scarsdale for shepherding the special legislation that combined the precincts.

Mr. Tada said the Planning Board has a community survey online and flyers posted around Town Hall with a QR code as part of the Master Plan information gathering process.

Mr. Robertson called the Finance Committee to order.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Kim Komperda to the Groton Country Club Golf Staff.

Mr. Reilly made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Kim Komperda to the Groton Country Club Golf Staff. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Page 1

2. Consider Accepting the Town Manager's Nomination and Appoint Bart Yeager to the Recycling Committee.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to accept the Town Manager's nomination and appoint Bart Yeager to the Recycling Committee. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Update from the Town Manager on IMA Negotiations with the Town of Dunstable.

Mr. Haddad said Phase One of the IMA with Dunstable to address PFAS at the GD High School had been negotiated with Town Administrator Jason Silva. Phase Two is more complicated, but they are still working on it. Mr. Haddad explained that he was trying to find state or federal funding to help pay for the \$3.1M for Phase Two. He has reached out to Congresswoman Trahan's Office to potentially get an earmark for federal funding in the coming year. He has been in touch with the state delegation and has scheduled a meeting on October 16th to discuss an earmark for state funding. He has also contacted the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to seek available funding, and Mr. Orcutt applied for a grant from DEP for funding as well. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board meet in joint session with the Dunstable Board of Selectmen on October 16th to finalize the IMA. He wants this in place prior to the two public sessions that have been scheduled prior to Town Meeting. The sessions will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Groton Center.

7:15 Public Hearing- Road Layout Acceptance- Cherry Tree Lane, Fieldstone Drive, and Arbor Way Mr. Haddad read aloud the public hearing notice.

Ms. Pine made a motion to open the public hearing. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bruce Wheeler, Principal of Habitat Communities, who constructed the roadways/Academy Hill Subdivision attended the public hearing.

Mr. Haddad said the Planning Board voted to recommend the Select Board adopt the layout for these three roads. Mr. Tada, Land Use Director/Town Planner, was in attendance to give an overview. The Select Board had received two emails earlier that day from residents of Academy Hill. Mr. Haddad wanted to address those concerns. Mr. Tada explained that the developer had addressed the catch basin, one of two outstanding items listed in the Planning Board memo to the Select Board.

Mr. Delaney, DPW Director, said he has been working with Academy Hill since the spring. He still has a few items to address (a basin and mowing a few sections), but he said the road was in good shape for acceptance. Mr. Wheeler said regarding the emails, he plans to meet the residents who sent the letters on site, take a look at the repairs, and complete the repairs by October 13th. He explained the storm sector would also be cleaned out by the same date. Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board to continue the Road Acceptance hearing until the October 16th Select Board meeting. Mr. Wheeler plans to work with Mr. Delaney to address the concerns.

Board Member's Comments/Suggestions

Ms. Manugian said they need a summary of items to be completed.

Ms. Pine knew of a tight turn at the bottom of Fieldstone Drive. Mr. Delaney stated that Nitch reviewed the plans and the turns to meet the required turning radius.

Ms. Pine asked what happens after the plan is accepted regarding mitigating turtles. Mr. Tada said the requirements for the turtle mitigation would be the jurisdiction of the state Natural Heritage Program. He said you could find the requirements in a Conservation Management Permit. The Conservation Commission is holding funds in escrow that the developer is required to set aside. Mr. Tada will look into the provisions. The builder's attorney will look further into this and provide a letter to the town. Mr. Haddad stated that the turtle mitigation plan has no bearing on the road acceptance.

Public comments/ suggestions

Nadia Madden, of 42 Cherry Tree Lane, said the town owns other parcels of land within Academy Hill. She asked if they would also be turned over to the town with the acceptance of the roads. Mr. Cunningham said they would be part of the stormwater drainage easements, so he believed that would be the case.

Michael Sulprizio, who lives at 315 Cherry Tree Lane, expressed frustration at the lack of communication from the developer regarding overdue repairs. He is looking forward to the town taking over the roads.

Ms. Pine made a motion to continue the public hearing to October 16th at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to move the Fall Town Meeting Warrant up in the agenda to discuss.

Items for Select Board Consideration and Action

Consider Taking Positions on All Articles and Issue the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Haddad said enclosed with the Report was the Final Draft of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Since the last draft, there have been several changes made to the Warrant:

- A. The Legislature has approved, and the Governor has signed into law the legislation passed at the 2023 Spring Town Meeting combining Precincts 1 and 3A into one Precinct. Mr. Haddad said they now have three precincts that would be in effect at the November 7, 2023 Special Election. The Town Clerk will notify voters in the former Precinct 3A of this change. The Warrant has been amended to reflect this change.
- B. Two additional budget amendments have been amended to Article 2. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to consider these changes:

<u>Planning Board Salaries:</u> The Land Use Director/Town Planner has opted out of the Town's Health Insurance Program. The requested \$6,468 would come from Unexpended Tax Capacity because it is a recurring expense.

Emergency Management Expenses: On September 8 and September 11, 2023, the Communication Tower and Radio Systems located at the Fire Station, Police Station, Gibbet Hill, Cow Pond, and Hollingsworth and Vose were struck by lightning, causing significant damage. The estimated cost of repairs is \$30,000. An insurance claim could be filed, but the Town has experienced many claims over the last several years, causing a significant increase in the Town's insurance premium. Mr. Haddad said in an effort to keep the insurance cost down, he was requesting that the Town pay for these repairs from Free Cash in the amount of \$30,000. Mr. Robertson asked for the amount the town pays for Property and Casualty. Ms. Cruikshank said she would find out the amount and give it to the members. Mr. Manugian asked why he wouldn't go for a reserve fund transfer. Mr. Haddad said it was an option,

but since it was very early in the year, he would not be comfortable hitting the Reserve Fund with such a large sum.

- C. The Article to address PFAS at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School (Article 9) has been amended to reflect the vote of the Select Board to approve the Regional Solution. The Article would no longer request a reduction in the appropriation from the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, and it would remain at \$16.7M. Additionally, the wording had been added to include the proposed work under Phase II and tie the appropriation to a Debt Exclusion.
- D. The Water Commission has voted to remove the Article that would consider design engineering for PFAS treatment at the Whitney Well Treatment Plant. If they go forward, they will address it at the Spring Town Meeting. Based on this removal, there are now 15 Articles.
- E. The Town Manager's Report has been added to the end of the Warrant.

Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Board consider taking positions on all the Articles in the Warrant.

Article 1: Prior Year Bills- The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support. The Finance Committee was unanimous in favor to support.

Article 2: Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Town Operating Budget-The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support.

Article 3: Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget-

Item #1: The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support.

Item #2: The Select Board unanimously in favor to support.

Article 4: Transfer Money into Capital Stabilization Fund-The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support. The Finance Committee was unanimously in favor to support.

Article 5: Transfer Money into Stabilization Fund-The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support. The Finance Committee was unanimously in favor to support.

Article 6: Transfer Money into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund-The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support.

Article 7: Transfer Money into the Special Purpose Opioid Fund-The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support. The Finance Committee was unanimously in favor to support.

Article 8: Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund-The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support. The Finance Committee was unanimously in favor to support. Article 9: Amend Article- Article 12 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting (GDRSD-PFAS)-

Ms. Manugian asked Mr. Haddad to send the original language of Article 12. Mr. Haddad agreed to send this to the Board.

The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support.

The Finance Committee had not taken a position on Article 9 at that time.

Article 10: Water Supply System at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street-

The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support.

The Finance Committee was unanimously in favor to support.

Article 11: Adopt M.G.L., c.53, §9A- Nomination Papers for Cities or Towns-

The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support.

Article 12: Amend Town Charter- Article 6. Section 6.4.1-

The Select Board was unanimously in favor to support.

The Finance Committee was unanimously in favor to support.

Article 13: Sale or Lease of Parcel 249-51 Hoyts Wharf Road-

Mr. Haddad said bids for the RFP were due on October 5, 2023.

The Select Board deferred to Town Meeting.

Article 14: Sale of Lease 249-57 Cow Pond Brook Road-

Mr. Haddad said the bids for the RFP were due on October 5, 2023.

The Select Board deferred to Town Meeting.

Article 15: Accept New Public Ways-

Mr. Haddad said they were waiting for the as-built for Monarch Path. There are no records of the engineer report, so they are waiting to hear from the Planning Board.

The Select Board deferred to Town Meeting,

Mr. Haddad reviewed the Town Manager's Report. He said should the Town Meeting agree with these appropriations, \$1,411,545 would come from the Town's Free Cash Account. Ms. Pine said she wanted to comment and clarify there may be questions that come up about why we couldn't use the money from Free Cash for PFAS. Mr. Haddad said the needs far exceed what the town has for available funds.

There were no questions from the Finance Committee.

4. Approve Letter of Support to the Community Preservation Committee for the Proposed Historical Commission's Application to Restore Milestone Markers at 94 Boston Road and 122 Old Ayer Road

Mr. Haddad drafted a letter to the Community Preservation Committee supporting the Historical Commission's proposed CPA Application to restore the granite milestone markers located at 94 Boston Road and 122 Old Ayer Road. This letter was provided to the Board for their review. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Select Board approve the letter.

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the Letter of Support to the Community Preservation Committee in support of the Historical Commission's Application to restore milestone markers at 94 Boston Road and 122 Old Ayer Road. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through the End of the Year

Monday, October 9, 2023	No Meeting (Indigenous People's Day)
Monday, October 16, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting- Cont. of the Road Acceptance
	Hearing
Monday, October 23, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Wednesday, October 25, 2023	Joint Session with Finance Committee and Groton Dunstable
	Regional School District Committee- FY 25 Budget Report from
	Tri-Comm
Monday, October 28, 2023	2023 Fall Town Meeting
Monday, October 30, 2023	Joint Session with Finance Committee to Set FY 2025 Budget
	Guidance
Monday, November 6, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 27, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 18, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 25, 2023	No Meeting (Christmas Day)
Monday, January 1, 2023	No Meeting (New Year's Day)
Monday, January 8, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, January 8, 2023	Regularly Scrieduled Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Sustainability Commission- Update on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Initiative

The Sustainability Commission was in attendance to update the Board on their initiatives this year, including the town-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory. Mr. Phil Fransisco and Charlotte Weigel were in attendance for the meeting with a presentation. The presentation provided information on the benefits of reducing community GHG emissions generated by residential and commercial buildings and vehicles registered in Groton. Please refer to the attached presentation.

Comments

Mr. Haddad said the Town will renew the contract with Black Earth.

Ms. Manugian would love to see what changing from oil to electric would cost.

Ms. Pine would like to learn more and get tips to maximize electricity use in your home and adjust to new electricity rates.

Mr. Fransisco said weatherizing your home helps.

Mr. Cunningham suggested setting a timer on your thermostat during peak hours from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Pisani thanked the Sustainability Commission as he has attended several of their seminars. He said a lot of work has been put into this presentation, and he appreciates their approach.

Ms. Weigel thanked the many Commission Members and others for the many hours of work they put into this.

2. Consider Appointing Leonard Green as an Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to appoint Leonard Green as an Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term to expire on June 30, 2024. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the First Parish Church for Liverpool Night on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage license for the First Parish Church for Liverpool Night on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Vote to Authorize the Town Manager and the Chair to sign the Warrants for the next 30 days.

 Ms. Manugian made a motion to authorize the Town Manager and the Chair to sign the Warrants for the next 30 days. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- **2.** Mr. Haddad would like to schedule a special Select Board meeting on Tuesday, October 2, at 8:00 a.m. to consider ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of the Conservation Administrator.

ON-GOING ISSUES

E. Town Manager's Tri-Comm Working Group- A joint meeting between the Select Board and the School Committee will be held at the Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, October 25th at 7:00 PM to present the final Report of the Tri-Comm Working Group.

Approval of Minutes from September 11th and September 18, 2023

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting from September 11, 2023 as amended. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting from September 18, 2023 as amended. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

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



Groton town-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory 2019

Prepared by the Groton Sustainability Commission Charlotte Weigel, Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee project lead October 2, 2023



Town-wide GHG Inventory Presentation Outline

- 1. Introduction to GHG inventories
- 2. Inventory Methodology and Data Sources
- 3. Groton town-wide inventory results
 - a. Total emissions and comparison with other towns
 - b. Municipal emissions
 - c. Community emissions
- 4. Inventory summary
- 5. Signs of progress
- 6. Next steps



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SINSTANDAME GROOMS

Town-wide GHG Inventory Introduction

A town-wide GHG inventory measures major emissions from activities attributed to a specified geographic area in a specified year

Why measure town-wide GHG emissions?

- Informs assistance with residential and commercial emissions reductions
- Reveals individual actions that collectively have the greatest impact
- · Helps prioritize municipal emission reductions
- Inventories differ town-to-town

What are the benefits of reducing community GHG emissions?

- Aligns town with Massachusetts law requiring net zero emissions by 2050¹
- Reduced operational costs residential, commercial and municipal
- Improved community resiliency
- · Mitigates climate change and its downstream impacts
- · Public health benefits
- · Promotes local green job growth



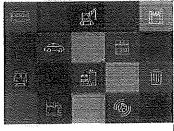


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SUSTAINABLE GROTON

Inventory Methodology and Data Sources

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE
Groenhouse Gas Inventories for
Massachusetts Citles & Towns
Appendigments West, and the Stephen Commission of the Stephen Commi



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- GHG inventory tool developed by Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)²
- Follows 2014 Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories³
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄) and Nitrous oxide (N₂O) are included
- Includes municipal, residential, commercial, industrial and manufacturing activities

GHG source sectors

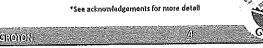
- Stationary Energy: Building electricity use, building fuel combustion, construction and landscaping
- · Transportation: vehicles registered in Groton
- Waste: Incineration, decomposition and wastewater

Data sources

Town, state and federal sources, as well as MAPC*

What's not included

 Refrigerants and other industrial GHGs, indirect emissions, emissions agricultural and forestry



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Town-wide GHG Inventory Results

Total town-wide emissions in 2019: 138,475 metric tons CO₂ equivalents

Municipal: "3K MT $CO_2e^* = 2.3\%$ Community: "135K MT $CO_2e = 97.7\%$

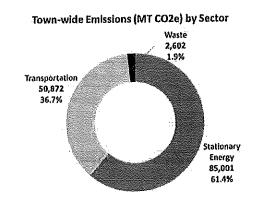
What is the significance of 138K MT CO₂e?

16 million gallons of gasoline consumed OR

169K acres of US forest sequestering carbon⁴

How does Groton compare?

	Groton Pepperell (2019) (2017)	Westford State Avg (2017) ⁵ (2017) ⁵
Per capita emissions*	12,2 8,4	~10 9,5



*MT CO2e = metric tons CO2 equivalents

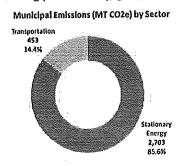


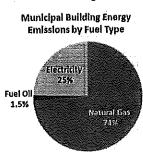
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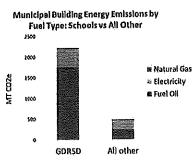
SUSTAINABLE GROTON

Town-wide GHG Inventory – Municipal Emissions

Municipal emissions include all electricity use and on-site combustion of fossil fuels in all town buildings including public safety, governance, and GDRSD among others and fuel used in transportation







Conclusion: The largest proportion of municipal emissions are from natural gas use in school buildings.

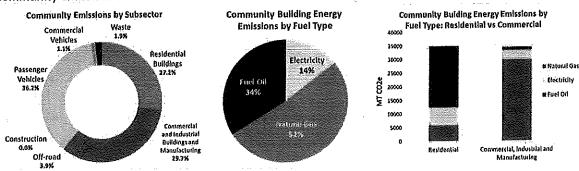
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Town-wide GHG Inventory – Community Emissions

Community emissions are from residential and commercial buildings and vehicles registered in Groton



Conclusions:

- 1. Passenger vehicle use contributes largest proportion of emissions
- 2. Fuel oil use drives residential building emissions
- 3. Natural gas use drives commercial and manufacturing emissions

9/27/2023

SUSTAINABLE GROTON



Groton Town-wide emissions in 2019: ~ 138K MT CO2e = 12.2 MT CO2e/person Municipal emissions are 2.3% of total Top 3 GHG Emission Source Subsectors:

1. Passenger Vehicles (36%) 2. Commercial, Industrial and

Manufacturing (30%)

3. Residential Buildings (27%)

How does Groton compare?

		Per	Capita Emissions	n Top Three Subsectors
To	tal Per Capit	Salar Control of the Salar Sal	Residential	Commercial and Industrial
	Emissions	Vehicles	Buildings	Buildings and Manufacturing
Groton	12.2	4.3 4.6	3,3 2.7	0.9
Pepperell ⁵ Westford ⁶	~10	3,9	2.9	2.9

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Town-wide GHG Emissions - Signs of Progress

1. Number of energy efficiency incentives (primarily air-sourced heat pumps) has increased year-over-year



2. Number of hybrid and electric vehicles in Groton increased at a rate higher than the state from 2020 – 2023⁷

# registered hybrid and electric vehicles (% total)	Groton	Statewide
The second secon	pulsaressatestatica	
January 2020	3.8%	2,6%
January 2023	6.3%	4.4%
3-year change	+2,5%	+1.8%

3. > 1/3 of town land is open space contributing to carbon sequestration* - protected acreage continues to increase

2021 protected open space	Total Protected
Acres	21574 7697

*Plan to measure carbon sequestration when standardized methods available

4. Food waste composting contributed to a decrease in trash waste disposal from 2019-2021

2019 2021
Trash disposal (tons) 715 245
Composted food waste (tons) 0 346

T. David, personal communication, Aug. 28, 2023

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Town-wide GHG Emissions - Next Steps

- 1. Present inventory to stakeholder groups in town: Select Board, Planning, Capital Planning, Community, GELD, GDRHS Environmental Club, GDRSD School Committee
 - Solicit ongoing feedback on concerns and where groups see win-win opportunities for decarbonization and cost savings
- 2. Near term follow up meeting to discuss next steps which may include
 - Steps to town-wide decarbonization planning
 - Overview of municipal climate action plans
 - Grant opportunities



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Acknowledgements

From the evaluation of methodologies to the completion of this presentation, this work represents many dozens of hours of work by our Commission members and others. Thank you to all contributors.

Groton Sustainability Commission Groton Select Board Metropolitan Area Planning Council Data providers:

Tessa David, Groton Recycling Committee Meghan Foster, Principal Assessor, Groton Mark Haddad, Town Manager, Groton Laura Chesson, Superintendent, GDRSD Tammi Lemire, GELD Kelly Brown, Central Region Coordinator, Green Communities Division

Other data sources:

Stationary Energy: MassSave, Mass.gov, MassEnergyInsight, American Community Survey, Census gov, MAPC CoStar Transportation: MA Vehicle Census,

MassEnergyInsight

Waste: MassDEP, Census.gov

Data verifiers: Andrew H. Scott Annika Küchel Jonathan Basch Jim Allen



SUSTAINABLE GROTON

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GPA/2023 SIDSYAINAGHE GROYEN



Additional slides



Groton Town-wide GHG Mitigation - Sources of funding

Municipal:

- MassSave (from National Grid natural gas service)
- · Green Communities grants
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants
- Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grants
- Federal Inflation Reduction Act Direct Pay for Non-profits
- Regional Energy Planning Assistance Grants (municipal and community-wide planning)
- Mass EVIP Public Access Charging Incentives and Educational Campus Charging Incentives

Community:

- MassSave (commercial properties + ~30% of households in Groton have National Grid natural gas service)
- Federal Inflation Reduction Act tax credits and rebates
- Regional Energy Planning Assistance Grants (municipal and community-wide planning)
- Mass MOR-EV
- Property Assessed Energy Assistance (PACE) MA financing mechanism for commercial energy improvements – requires opt-in from Select Board



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SUBMANABUL GROWN