

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024  
APPROVED**

**SB Members Present:** Alison Manugian, Chair; Becky Pine, Vice Chair; Matt Pisani;

**SB Members Virtually Present:** John Reilly;

**SB Members Absent:** Peter Cunningham, Clerk;

**Also Present:** Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Charlotte Weigel and Ken Horton, Climate Action Working Group members.

Ms. Manugian called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On Friday, December 13th, Mr. Haddad emailed the Select Board members, informing them they received a letter requesting a Letter of Support for the West Groton Rail Trail CPA project. Mr. Haddad read an email from Select Board Member Cunningham into the record, which expressed his full support of the Letter of Support. Mr. Haddad shared the draft Letter of Support to the Board and requested the Board's approval for the letter and authorization for the Chair to sign it.

*Mr. Pisani moved to approve the Letter of Support and authorized the Select Board Chair to sign it. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1**

None

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**1. Ratify the Town Manager's Appointment of Russ Harris to the Cable Advisory Committee.**

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Russ Harris to the Cable Advisory Committee. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

**2. Update on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.**

Mr. Haddad said he and the Finance Team have completed the FY 2026 Budget Meetings. He said the Department Heads did a great job presenting their requested budgets. Mr. Haddad appreciated the participation of Bud Robertson from the Finance Committee and several members of the Select Board who attended various presentations. He explained that they are developing an initial budget to review with the Select Board and Finance Committee on January 13, 2025. He explained that they should receive an initial level service budget and balanced budget from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District by January 6, 2025. At the January 13th meeting, they will review the status of the budget and recommend any necessary adjustments to the FY 2026 Budget Guidance. Mr. Haddad said that it appears they will be able to fit the two new firefighters within the budget and stay within the budget guidance. This is possible due to adjustments to health insurance payments from the Enterprise Funds.

**3. Proposed Select Board Meeting Schedule through the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.**

Monday, January 6, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, January 20, 2025	No Meeting- Martin Luther King Holiday
Monday, January 27, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, February 17, 2025	No Meeting- President’s Day Holiday
Monday, February 24, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, March 3, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, March 17, 2025	No Meeting
Monday, March 24, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, March 31, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 21, 2025	No Meeting- Patriot’s Day Holiday
Saturday, April 26 <sup>th</sup> or Monday, April 28 <sup>th</sup> - Potential Dates for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting	

**ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL**

**1. Approval of Annual License Renewals**

Mr. Haddad had provided the Board with a Memo from Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank listing the various license renewals for 2025. The Memo contained the names, hours, and managers of all establishments. (The memo is attached to these minutes.) Mr. Haddad stated he would read each page into the record and ask the Board to approve them.

He first read page one of the Memo and asked the Board to approve them as presented.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the licenses as presented on page one. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

Mr. Haddad read page two of the Memo and asked the Board to approve them as presented.

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to approve the licenses as presented on page two. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

Mr. Haddad read page three of the Memo and asked the Board to approve them as presented.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the licenses as presented on page three. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

Mr. Haddad read page four of the Memo and asked the Board to approve them as presented.

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to approve the licenses as presented on page four. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

Mr. Haddad read page five of the Memo and asked the Board to approve them as presented.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the licenses as presented on page five. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

Mr. Haddad explained that on page five, the Groton House of Pizza has a few issues regarding Building and Fire Department compliance. He suggested granting this Common Victualler license renewal with the condition that they obtain approval from the Building Commissioner and Fire Chief by December 31, 2024.

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to approve the renewal of the Groton House of Pizza Common Victualler license, with the condition that they obtain approval from the Building and Fire Departments by December 31, 2024. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

#### **6:15 P.M – Climate Action Working Group- Recommendation**

Ms. Charlotte Weigel and Mr. Ken Horton from the Climate Action Working Group attended the meeting. The Climate Action Working Group is apprised of Ken Horton and Charlotte Weigel of the Sustainability Commission, Conservation Administrator Charlotte Steeves, and Select Board member Alison Manugian. Ms. Wiegel explained that the Climate Action Working Group was formed in June 2024 with two main goals: 1. To assess support for a town resolution to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and to create a climate action plan outlining how this goal will be met. 2. To identify funding for planning assistance. A PowerPoint presentation was presented to the Select Board (see included in these minutes).

The Working Group conducted a survey to gauge public support for the resolution and the creation of the plan, as well as the willingness of community members to participate in the planning process. They also shared the results of their outreach to stakeholder groups.

The Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) finding was that a resolution is likely to be supported by the Town. Therefore, CAWG is recommending moving forward with a Town Meeting vote to adopt a Resolution. It was noted that not all the CAWG members unanimously agreed to bring this resolution forward. Mr. Reilly asked for clarification on why it was not unanimous. Ms. Manugian explained she was the member and was concerned that the group was setting higher expectations than what could be met. Ms. Manugian also acknowledged that moving forward with the resolution was the right decision. Ms. Weigel explained that funding opportunities are available for planning assistance on the municipal side. Mr. Horton outlined the next steps and stated that the CAWG wants to place the Climate Action Resolution on the warrant for the Spring Town Meeting. Ms. Pine stated that the Select Board needs to clearly express their support for placing the Climate Action Resolution on the 2025 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Pisani said this shows they are on board with this and working toward the goal. He fully supports this.

*Ms. Pine made a motion for the Town Manager to add the Climate Action Resolution to the 2025 Spring Town Meeting as recommended by the CAWG. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Pursuant to the Charter, Authorize the Town Manager and One Member of the Select Board to Sign Warrants for the Next 30 days.**

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to authorize the Town Manager and one member of the Select Board to sign the Warrants for the next 30 days. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

**On Going issues**

- A. PFAS Issue—The contractor, DeFelice, has inquired if the town would consider allowing them to begin construction during the day in the winter months due to concerns about potential frost and the difficulty obtaining asphalt on a daily basis, including cold patch materials. The Police Chief and Deputy Police worked with the School Department to develop a plan regarding construction and the bus schedule. They cannot operate while the buses are bringing children to the various schools.. DeFelice has asked to accommodate these hours. Mr. Haddad said they would meet weekly to make sure the schedule is working and the work is being completed.
- B. Valley Medical Working Group- Mr. Haddad and Fire Chief Cheeks will attend a meeting on Thursday, December 19th, in Leominster to work with state representatives to obtain State funding to cover overtime caused by the closure of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center.
- C Charter Review Committee—Mr. Haddad announced that, after receiving feedback from residents, he has decided to withdraw his proposal to transition from an elected to an appointed Park Commission. He explained that this proposal was made for efficiency by placing the Park Commission under the Department of Public Works.
- D. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project—The Building Committee recently held its final meeting, and the project is now conceptually complete. While the playground area still needs to be finalized in the spring, it is currently being used daily. The Building Committee is looking to hold an open house in early January.
- E. PILOTS—A Final Report should be completed in mid-January.

**SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS**

None

**Public Comment Period #2**

None

**Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2024**

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of December 9, 2024. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Pisani-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye.*

**Executive Session**

Ms. Manugian requested that the Board enter Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a), Clause 2 – “To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

And not to return to open session.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m. Respectively submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237  
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## SELECT BOARD

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

**Town Manager**  
Mark W. Haddad

**TO:** Mark Haddad, Town Manager  
**FROM:** Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant  
**DATE:** December 11, 2024  
**RE:** 2025 License Renewals – Alcohol, Common Victualler (CVL) & Class II

The following licenses require Select Board approval for renewal for calendar year 2025:

- **Omahi Realty, LLC, dba Boston Road Market, Piyush Patel, Manager**  
Located at 871 Boston Road  
All Alcohol Package Store  
Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM  
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Groton Market, Inc., John Madigan, Manager**  
Located at 235 Main Street  
All Alcohol Package Store  
Hours of Operation: Mon-Sat 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM, Sun 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Filho's Cucina, Inc., dba Filho's Cucina, Paolo Filho, Manager**  
Located at 235 Main Street  
CVL & Carry-in  
Hours of Operation: Mon-Thurs 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Fri & Sat 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM,  
Sun 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Main House, Inc., Chang Wen Huang, Manager**  
Located at 495 Main Street, Unit 3C  
CVL  
Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM  
License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **FJ Catalano Enterprises, Inc., dba Dunkin-Groton Center, Hannah Drew, Manager**  
Located at 133 Main Street  
CVL  
Hours of Operation: Sun-Sat: 5:00 AM – 7:00 PM  
License to expire on December 31, 2025

- **Courtney's Donuts, LLC, dba Dunkin-Groton Forge, George Badran, Manager**  
 Located at 788 Boston Road  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Sun-Sat: 5:30 AM – 7:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Courtney's Donuts, LLC, dba Dunkin-Groton Haffners, Jennifer Cormier, Manager**  
 Located at 318 Main Street  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Sun-Sat: 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Energy North Incorporated., dba: Haffner's 3120, Anilkumar Mahant, Manager**  
 Located at 318 Main Street  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Sun-Sat 5:00 AM – 11:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Gibbet Hill Grill LLC, dba Gibbet Hill Grill Restaurant and The Barn at Gibbet Hill Function Hall, Thomas Totman, Manager**  
 Located at 61 Lowell Road  
 All Alcohol Restaurant (2) & CVL (2)  
 Hours of Operation (Barn & Grill): Mon-Sun 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Groton Medical Wellness Spa, LLC, dba Evans Energy Wellness Café, Arwyn Lennon, Manager**  
 Located at 493 Main Street  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Seven Hills Pediatric Center, Christopher Roberts, Manager**  
 Located at 22 Hillside Ave  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: 24/7  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Masa, Inc., dba Tequila's Mexican Cantina, Eric Brambila, Manager**  
 Located at 765 Boston Road  
 All Alcohol Restaurant & CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon to Friday 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
 Sat and Sun 10:00 AM- 11:00 PM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc., dba Shaw's Supermarket #627, Dan Bolduc, Manager**  
 Located at 760A Boston Road  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon to Sat 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM, Sun 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025  
*Contingent upon receipt of renewal paperwork*
- **Blackbird Café, Inc., dba Blackbird Café, Jennifer Abraham and Jordan Flowers, Manager**  
 Located at 493 Main Street  
 Unit G  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation Mon-Sun: 7:00 AM – 2:30 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025

- **Country Butcher of Groton, LLC, Patrick Gaudet, Manager**  
 Located at 68 Boston Road  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Tues-Fri 9:00 AM–5:00 PM, Sat 9:00 AM–3:00 PM,  
 Sunday/Monday-Closed  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **RiverCourt Residences, Jessica Fenzel, Manager**  
 Located at 8 West Main Street  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Sunday- Saturday, 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **128 Main Street, LLC; dba: The Groton Inn; Michael Noseworthy, Manager**  
 Located at 128 Main Street  
 All Alcohol Restaurant, CVL, Entertainment, and Sunday Entertainment  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sat 8:00 AM – 1:00 AM, Sun 10:00 AM – 1:00 AM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **128 Main Street, LLC; dba: Forge & Vine; Michael Noseworthy, Manager**  
 Located at 128 Main Street  
 All Alcohol Restaurant, CVL, Entertainment, and Sunday Entertainment  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 10:00 AM – 1:00 AM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Station House Restaurant, LLC, dba: The Station House, Andrew L. McElroy, Manager**  
 Located at 20 Station Ave  
 All Alcohol Restaurant & CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Gilson Family Herb Enterprises, dba The Herb Lyceum, William Gilson, Manager**  
 Located at 368 Main Street  
 All Alcohol Restaurant, CVL, Entertainment & Sunday Entertainment  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Bruno Ferreira, dba Bruno's Pizzeria, Bruno Ferreira, Manager**  
 Located at 195 Main Street  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Santi's Restaurant & Dairy Bar, dba Johnson's Restaurant & Dairy Bar, Richard Santiano, Manager**  
 Located at 164 Boston Road  
 CVL & Carry-In  
 Hours of Operation:  
 Summer Hours: Mon-Sun 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM  
 Winter Hours: Mon-Sun 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025



- **Dolce Amar Sweets to Love, Raffaella Gutterman, Manager**  
 Located at 497 Main Street, Suite A  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Wed-Sat: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Salt & Light, Café, Josiah & Linda Coleman, Manager**  
 Located at 159 Main Street  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sat 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
 Closed Sunday  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **NESSP Sai Canteen, Siva Kandukuri, Manager**  
 Located at 99 Shirdi Way  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Saturday 10:00 AM- 7:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **GPH Pub, LLC, dba: The Groton Publick House Pub and Eatery, Christopher Frothingham, Manager**  
 Located at 94 Lovers Lane  
 All Alcohol Restaurant (2) and CVL (2)  
 Hours of Operation: Daily 10:00 AM – 1:00 AM (Restaurant & Function Hall)  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Hollis Street Nutrition, Julie Flynn, Manager**  
 Located at 30 Hollis Street  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon - Fri 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Sat 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Groton Towing, Inc., Robert Olson, Manager**  
 Located at 455 Main Street  
 Class II  
 Hours of Operation: Mon- Fri 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Las Prime, Jacob Andrew Drooker, Manager**  
 Located at 619 Boston Road  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sat 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM; Sun 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Shree Hari Om, LLC, dba: Groton Wine & Spirits; Utsav Patel, Manager**  
 Located at 768 Boston Road  
 All Alcohol Package Store  
 and CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Wed 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM;  
 Thurs-Sat 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM; Sun 10 AM-7 PM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Indralok, Inc., dba: Country Farms; Romulo Roma, Manager**  
 Located at 127 Main Street  
 All Alcoholic Package Store  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025

- **Groton House of Pizza, Theo Stefanakos, Manager**  
 Located at 129 Main Street  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon-Sat 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
 Closed Sunday  
 License to expire on December 31, 2025
- **The Groton Hill Music Center, Lisa Fiorentino, Manager**  
 Located at 122 Old Ayer Road  
 All Alcoholic Beverages, CVL, Entertainment & Sunday Entertainment  
 Hours of Operation: Sun-Sat 12:00 PM- 10:00 PM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **Esquared Hospitality; Eric Brown, Manager, dba: Third Space Kitchen & Events**  
 Located at 491 Main Street, Unit E  
 CVL, Carry-In  
 Hours of Operation: Sun-Sat 7:00 AM-11:00 PM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025
- **786 Mobil Mart, Inc; Mehar Ashaq, Manager, dba; Mobil Groton**  
 Located at 6 Boston Road  
 CVL  
 Hours of Operation: Mon- Fri 6:00 AM- 10:00 PM and Sat-Sun 7:00 AM-10:00 PM  
 Licenses to expire on December 31, 2025

# Climate Action Working Group

- Background: The Sustainability Commission recommended an interim step of assessing Town support for climate action due to an insufficient understanding of support.
- Climate Action Working Group was created by the Town Manager in June 2024. We have two goals:
  1. Assess support for a town resolution that establishes a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2050 and creation of a climate action plan to describe how we will meet that goal.
  2. Identify funding for planning assistance
- Why are we considering climate action that includes a goal-setting resolution and climate action plan?
  1. Massachusetts has a net zero 2050 law. Passing a resolution aligns the town with that goal. The resolution sets a goal. The resolution is not a law.
  2. Passing the resolution and creating a plan\* fills part of a set of requirements from the state that allows towns to access enhanced state funding for municipal projects beyond what is covered by Green Communities grants (See Climate Leader requirements in the Appendix).
  3. Creating a climate action plan is an action item in the Master Plan and in the Selectboard's goals this year.

\*The plan required in combination with a resolution to meet Climate Leaders requirements is a Municipal Decarbonization Plan



# Outreach survey results

- 314 Groton residents surveyed (2.78% of population)
- Respondents evenly split between Grotonfest attendees, Transfer station patrons and online (social media, posting at meetings). Surveys also posted at the Groton Center and the Library.

	Do you think Groton should take action on climate change?	Would you vote for town resolution that establishes a goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 for the town and the creation of a climate action plan to describe how we will do that?	Would you support implementation of a climate action plan if those actions required a reallocation of municipal resources, including time or tax dollars?
% Yes	85.8%	81.5%	65.2%
% No	11.3%	15.6%	17.4%
% Depends/Maybe/Mixed feelings/Don't know	2.9%	2.9%	17.4%

- Age demographic of respondents: 18 years old and younger (6%), 19-39 years old (13%), 40-64 years old (56%), 66 years and older (24%)
- See appendix for breakdown of responses by age group



## Outreach results - Town Depts and Committees

• Stakeholder group outreach results

	Support resolution and creation of plan	Willing to participate in planning* **	Letter of support
GELD Commission	Yes on Climate Action Planning	Yes	Yes
GFD*	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPD*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building Department	Yes	Yes	Yes
DPW*	Yes	Yes	Not received
Capital Planning Advisory Committee*	Yes (requires direction of SB)	Yes (requires direction of SB)	Requires direction
GDRSD School Committee*	Yes (requires approval of Groton and/or Dunstable SBs)	Yes (requires approval of Groton and/or Dunstable SBs)	Requires direction

\*Requires participation for Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap

\*\*Participation of Town Departments in any activity is understood to be at the direction of the Town Manager and Select Board



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## Outreach results - Town Depts and Committees

• Stakeholder group outreach results

	Support resolution and creation of plan	Willing to participate in planning
Conservation Commission	Would not vote	
GDRSD Environmental Club	Yes	
Council on Aging	Wanted more outreach to Seniors first – earliest available date is in February	
Planning Board	Yes	Yes
Groton Business Association	Yes	
Groton School Sustainability Club	Could not vote	
Recycling Committee	Could not vote (no quorum)	



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## CAWG findings and recommendation

- A resolution is likely to be supported in the town
- CAWG recommendation is to move forward with a Town Meeting vote (not unanimously supported by all CAWG members)
- Update on external funding opportunities for planning assistance:
  - MVP Action EOI not accepted
  - Shared Energy Manager grant application being pursued (Municipal decarbonization only)
  - EEA Planning Assistance Grant FY2026
  - Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap Technical Assistance will be available Spring 2025.



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## Actions required to become a Climate Leader Community and access additional funding

- Provide path for decarbonization:
  - ✓ Green Communities 1.0 Community in good standing
  - ✓ Local committee with advisory role
- Clean energy/climate resolution (today's ask)
- Municipal decarbonization roadmap or climate action plan
  - ZEV-1<sup>st</sup> policy
  - Adopt specialized stretch building code
- \$60 million just earmarked for Climate Leader Communities
  - **Technical Support:** ~\$7M - funds to generate recommendations and/or engineering design documents for decarbonization projects
  - **Decarbonization Accelerator:** ~\$52M - Supports the funding of clean energy projects identified in the Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap that significantly reduce or eliminate the use of onsite fossil fuels, reduce overall energy use and/or costs, and/or advance the use of clean and renewable energy resources.

What Groton needs to do



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## CAWG Proposed Resolution

Groton affirms its support for the goal established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050. Groton commits to evaluate and implement strategies to reduce emissions in municipal activities and support residents and businesses in reducing emissions.



12/13/2024

SUSTAINABLE GROTON

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## Next steps

- Disband CAWG (Town Manager)
- Place Climate Action Resolution on the warrant for the spring town meeting (SB)
- Support/lead the effort to get an Energy Manager grant for Ayer/Groton/Harvard/Shirley - (Town Manager and Sustainability Commission)
  - Up to \$120,000/yr for three years
- Continue to monitor other funding opportunities – (Sust. Comm.)
  - Climate Leaders program
  - Grants for Climate Action Planning
- Return to the Select Board to seek support for warrant article #2 as conditions evolve (Sust. Comm.)
  - We win a shared Energy Manager grant or if a realistic opportunity for funding a CAP arises



12/13/2024

SUSTAINABLE GROTON

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## Appendix

1/29/2024

SUSTAINABLE GROTON

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## State regulation on the horizon

**1. Large Building Energy Reporting:** Starting in 2025, owners of buildings in Massachusetts over 20,000 square feet will be **required to disclose energy usage publicly**. Gas, electric, and steam utilities are responsible for providing the information for their customers and building owners are responsible for providing any additional energy usage or building information. The first reports of energy usage will be due on June 30, 2025, and DOER will publish the first disclosure reports on October 31, 2025

**2. Clean Heat Standard:** The CHS is a regulatory program that applies to and requires heating energy suppliers (suppliers of fuel oil, propane, natural gas, and electricity) to provide increasing amounts of clean heat over time. The Massachusetts CHS draft framework includes two purposes: 1) to demonstrate a certain amount of GHG emission reductions from the use of heat pumps and other clean heat annually; and 2) to install a certain number of electric heat pumps annually, in line with the pace of electrification identified in the Clean Energy and Climate Plans (CECPs) for the state. Heating energy suppliers will use clean heat credits (CHCs or "checks") to track the implementation and use of clean heat and, ultimately, to demonstrate compliance with the regulatory requirements set in the CHS. To achieve the dual purposes of reducing emissions each year and setting the pace of heat pump installations, the draft framework describes a standard that takes the form of a requirement to hold a certain number and type of credits each year based on emissions or electricity sales.

1/29/2024

SUSTAINABLE GROTON

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## Examples of project in MA

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F2iACQkwF9ok4hZS033vifOObNGWvBKF/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=115714346077023208162&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F2iACQkwF9ok4hZS033vifOObNGWvBKF/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=115714346077023208162&rtpof=true&sd=true)



## Example resolutons (TO BE DELETED)

### HARVARD:

- - Harvard affirms its support for the greenhouse gas reduction goals established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and for any subsequently adopted modifications of those goals, and affirms its willingness to change its practices, policies, and procedures in support of achieving the goals established by the Commonwealth in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change;
- 2 - Harvard commits to evaluating and mitigating the potential negative impacts of climate change associated with all purchases, public projects, planning processes, and policies;
- 3 - Harvard commits to developing and requiring an environmental assessment process to review all purchases, public projects, planning processes and policies and to make this information readily available to town residents specifically on warrants requiring citizen approval; and
- 4 - Harvard commits to addressing climate resiliency and adaptation by coordinating the work of Town boards, committees, commissions, and other entities to plan together how to respond to the threats climate change may have on the built environment, natural resources, and the health of its residents.
- To implement the above, the Harvard Select Board will establish the means by which this resolution will be achieved and will provide an update to the town on its progress towards establishing the infrastructure in which to accomplish this resolution within one year of its passage. Thereafter reports will be made annually at Town Meeting on the progress the Town has made in regards to this resolution.

### WESTFORD

- Voted to resolve that in response to the escalating climate crisis, Westford commits to take actions to promote clean energy and reduce fossil fuel use, including promoting energy efficient upgrades in all town facilities and in private homes and businesses and purchasing the highest percentage of clean, renewable energy in town contracts as feasible.
- The Select Board will charge a task force with studying and making recommendations for specific strategies for Westford to achieve the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' limit of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with intermediate goals. The committee will provide a plan to the Select Board within 9 months of receiving its charge and it will report the town's progress towards those goals annually at Town Meeting.





## Outreach survey results

- 314 Groton residents surveyed (2.78% of population)
- Responses by age demographic (% YES answers to questions)

	Total # of Responses	Total % of Responses	Do you think Groton should take action on climate change?	Would you vote for town resolution that establishes a goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 for the town and the creation of a climate action plan to describe how we will do that?	Would you support implementation of a climate action plan if those actions required a reallocation of municipal resources, including time or tax dollars?
18 years old and under	19	6.1%	94.7%	94.7%	89.5%
19-39 years old	41	13.1%	87.8%	87.8%	78.0%
40 - 65 years old	177	56.4%	84.2%	80.8%	62.1%
66 years and older	76	24.2%	82.9%	71.1%	55.3%

