

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025
APPROVED**

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

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Takashi Tada, Town Planner/Land Use Director; Tom Delaney, DPW Director; Brian Callahan, DPW Director in Training; Ebi Masalehdan, Monarch Path Developer.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham announced that there will be a Fire Informational Session to discuss the need for an additional six (6) Firefighter/EMTs. This session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15th, at 2:00 p.m. and will take place at the Groton Center. Additionally, the Groton Dunstable Community Budget Forum will be held on April 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School. Ms. Pine announced that she, along with Member Cunningham, Ms. Mary Jennings from the Seniors for Our Schools advocacy group, and Mr. Rohit Basin, a member of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee, will be at the Groton Center on April 25th at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the School Override. She encouraged everyone to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1. Ratify the Town Manager's Appointments of Bill Walsh as a Senior Water Technician for the Groton Water Department and Luke Reilly as an Intern with the Groton Department of Public Works.**

Mr. Pisani made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Bill Walsh as a Senior Water Technician for the Groton Water Department, effective immediately. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Luke Reilly as an Intern with the Groton Department of Public Works. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Review Motions for Town Meeting- Review Proposed Article Assignments.**

Mr. Haddad enclosed a copy of the Motions and Article Assignments for the April 26, 2025, Spring Town Meeting with the Town Manager's Report. He reviewed them with the Board (see included in these minutes).

Mr. Haddad explained that he would inquire with Town Counsel about combining Motions 15 and 16, the Contingent Motions for the Fire Department, with one addressing public safety and the other addressing employee benefits.

3. Update on the FY 2026 Budget.

Mr. Haddad reminded the Board that there will be a Community Budget Forum at the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District High School on Wednesday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. During the Forum, the Dunstable Town Administrator Jason Silva, School Superintendent Geoff Bruno, and Mr. Haddad will present their respective budgets and answer questions. Mr. Haddad shared his PowerPoint Presentation with the Board and stated they would limit their presentations to ten minutes. He is hoping a lot of people will attend the Forum and ask questions.

Mr. Haddad stated that he will post a Select Board meeting for Saturday, April 26th, at 8:30 a.m., prior to Town Meeting, in case anything arises.

Mr. Cunningham provided a brief update on the state’s supplemental budget. Mr. Haddad stated that Groton-Dunstable is projected to receive a one-time revenue payment of between \$300,000 and \$350,000 in FY 2025. He explained that several bills are currently before the legislature, and if passed, they could provide \$1.1 million in funding for the school district in future years. This funding will not impact the FY 2026 budget. He stated that FY 2026 is anticipated to be a challenging year, which is why the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District is seeking funding for that year.

4. Update on the Select Board Meeting Schedule through the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Tuesday, April 15, 2025	Forum on Fire Department Increase in Personnel (to be held at the Center Fire Station beginning at 2:00 p.m)
Wednesday, April 16, 2025	Community Budget Forum to be held at the GDRSD High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 21, 2025	No Meeting- Patriot’s Day Holiday
Friday, April 25, 2025	Information Session about the School Override (to be held at the Senior Center beginning at 11:00 a.m)
Saturday, April 26, 2025	Spring Town Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

1. Consider Approving Annual Fuel Storage Permits.

Mr. Haddad provided the Board with a list of Fuel Storage Licenses for review and consideration of renewal for 2025. Mr. Haddad read aloud the memo (see included in these minutes).

Ms. Pine asked about an above ground fuel storage tank located on Longley Road. Ms. Cruikshank, the Executive Assistant, will contact Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks to ask if this tank requires a permit.

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the 2025 Fuel Storage Licenses, read aloud by Mr. Haddad, effective May 1, 2025. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6:15 P.M. Public Hearing- Road Layout Hearing- Consider Accepting the Layout of Monarch Path.

Takashi Tada, Land Use Director and Town Planner, Ebi Masalehdan, Monarch Path Developer, Tom Delaney, DPW Director, and Brian Callahan, DPW Director in Training, attended the public hearing.

Mr. Haddad read aloud the public hearing notice.

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

Mr. Haddad stated that the Planning Board met on April 10, 2025, and voted unanimously to recommend the acceptance of Monarch Path as a Public Way to the Select Board. Mr. Haddad presented a copy of the plan to the Board and stated that Mr. Delaney and the Planning Board approved the road.

Board Comments

None

Public comments

None

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the layout of Monarch Path as laid out by the Planning Board. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

None

Ongoing issues

- A. PFAS- Mr. Haddad explained that he and Dunstable Town Administrator Jason Silva contacted Mary Jude Pigsley, the Regional Director of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to inquire about what the DEP will be looking for during an upcoming meeting regarding the properties affected by the PFAS plume. She encouraged them to meet with the school district's Licensed Site Professional (LSP) to develop a plan before approaching the DEP.

Mr. Haddad presented a map, provided by the LSP, Tighe & Bond, that displayed properties tested for PFAS contamination. The properties marked in green on the map show no detectable levels of PFAS, while the properties in red indicate significant contamination. Properties marked in yellow have PFAS levels ranging between 4 and 20 parts per trillion (PPT). Mr. Haddad explained that the properties marked in red have POET systems installed by the school district and will be connected to the waterline at the town's expense. Any properties with PFAS levels between 0 and 20 parts per

trillion (ppt) that choose not to connect to the water line will be responsible for their own water. The school district will maintain the POET system for properties with PFAS levels of 20 ppt or higher. Mr. Haddad said that the contamination plume appears to be spreading. If the plume expands and the town becomes responsible for areas such as Reedy Meadow and Raddin Road, he will return to the Board to request an extension of the water line.

Mr. Haddad expressed his main concerns to the LSP: when the testing for the PFAS contamination will conclude, and whether the PFAS found in the southern area is the same as the PFAS detected in the northern area. He said the LSP will develop a concrete plan. The Board wants to know if there is a specific test available to determine if the PFAS contamination is due to firefighting foam or another source. Mr. Haddad and Mr. Silva are collaborating closely with Apex, the town's engineers, and the School District's LSP. He said that they plan to meet again in the first week of May and then will set up a meeting with DEP.

B. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility— Mr. Haddad said there will be a public outreach event for the Nashoba Region on Tuesday, May 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Also, the Land Use Committee will meet with the engineers and construction team from the UMass Satellite Emergency Facility on April 16th. They have been asking to obtain a lot of information.

C. PILOTs- None

Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2025.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to approve the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of April 7, 2025. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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