

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026**  
**APPROVED**

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

**Destination Groton Committee:** Joni Parker-Roach; Greg Sheldon; Brian Bolton;

**Also Present:** Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair; Arthur Cheeks, Fire Chief; Terence Gardner, Deputy Fire Chief.

Chair Pisani called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Pine complimented the Commemorations and Celebrations Committee on the colonial reenactment ceremony that took place on April 25th as part of Groton's 250th Celebration.

Mr. Cunningham wanted to recognize the tragedy of the fire at a Town employee's home on Martins Pond Road. There has been a lot of support, and it is much appreciated.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**1. Ratify the Town Manager's Nomination and Appoint Linda Franceschi to the Williams Barn Committee.**

*Ms. Pine made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's nomination and appoint Linda Franceschi to the Williams Barn Committee. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**2. Review Motions and Article Assignments for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.**

Mr. Haddad enclosed a copy of the Motions and Article Assignments for the May 2, 2026, Spring Town Meeting with the Town Manager's Report. He reviewed them with the Board (see included in these minutes).

Mr. Haddad brought Article 8, Motion #1: Cow Pond Brook Fields Project to the Board's attention. He shared a memo entitled "Consideration of Additional Funding - Cow Pond Brook Fields Project," which updated the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) on the bids received for the project and a request for additional funding. The Town received seven bids, ranging from \$3,699,360 to \$6,100,000. Mr. Haddad explained that the lowest bidder withdrew their bid due to a math error in the calculation of their bid. The second-lowest bid was \$4,853,400. With a \$100,000 contingency and \$110,000 in construction administration costs, the total project cost is \$5,053,400, \$769,400 over the originally anticipated cost of \$4,284,400.

The memo outlined three options to address the funding shortfall (see the included memo). Mr. Haddad planned to attend the CPC meeting later this evening and asked the Board whether they had a preferred option. The Board leaned toward option three, which would appropriate the second low bid, which would require a reduction of approximately \$350,000 in the project.

Article 11: Squannacook River Dam Repair - Mr. Haddad shared that the Canner Family will donate \$30,000 to the Town of Groton to offset the cost of repairing the Dam, bringing the new overall request to \$782,500. The donation would go into the Select Board gift fund. If a contingency is needed during the project, the funds will be available. If the contingency is not needed, the funds can be used for future maintenance or testing. This donation will allow the Town to reduce the amount needed to be borrowed to complete the project.

### **3. Update on the Fire Department Study.**

Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks and Deputy Chief Terence Gardner provided the Select Board with an update on Fire Department staffing. The Chief presented slides detailing two recent structure fires and the staffing levels for each occurrence.

A structure fire on Lowell Road was described by the Chief as a “perfect storm,” of occurrences with the fire which did not allow the Department to save the structure. . Another structure fire occurred on Martins Pond Road. The Chief noted that the home was a complete loss; however, the structure remained standing, and the adjacent structure received minimal damage. At the time of the incident, two firefighters/EMTs were en route to Emerson Hospital, and two remained in town. The Chief explained that, despite the damage, there were some positives regarding the structure on Martins Pond Road, as they were able to save the attached structure. The reason they were able to save the adjacent structure is because two additional firefighters were on shift, which allowed for a faster response time.

The Fire Department’s goal is to have four firefighters available per shift. Mr. Pisani stressed the importance of having a strategy for fighting fires and emphasized that Groton is understaffed. Ms. Manugian expressed her difficulty in imagining being the sole firefighter at a fire scene. The Board thanked the Chief and Deputy Chief for their time. There were no questions about the Staffing Study.

### **4. FY 2027 Budget Update.**

Mr. Haddad expressed ongoing disappointment with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding its support for the state's cities and towns. He said the House Ways and Means Committee has released its proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget, but continues to disregard the need for adequate aid to Groton. He also said the committee overlooked the Massachusetts Municipal Association's lobbying efforts to increase Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) and even reduced the proposed UGGA amount compared with Governor Healey's budget. Governor Healey proposed a \$47,157 increase for Groton in FY 2027; however, the House reduced it by \$14,117, bringing the new increase to \$33,040. Mr. Haddad explained that this leaves the proposed budget

out of balance by that amount, but he isn't recommending any reductions, as he hoped the Senate would return UGGA to at least the Governor's proposal. The Ways and Means Committee set the increase for Chapter 70 Aid for hold-harmless districts at \$160 per student.

**5. Update on Select Board Schedule through Labor Day.**

Saturday, May 2, 2026 -	2026 Spring Town Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, May 25, 2026-	No Meeting (Memorial Day)
Monday, June 1, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting (Annual Board Reorg)
Monday, June 8, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting (Annual Appointment)
Monday, June 22, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, June 29, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting (Line-Item Trans.) (Call for 2026 Fall Town Meeting)
Monday, July 20, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2026-	No Meeting (Kara Vacation)
Monday, August 10, 2026-	No Meeting (Mark's Vacation)
Monday, August 17, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, August 31, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, September 7, 2026-	No Meeting (Labor Day)
Monday, September 14, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting

**ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL**

- 1. Consider Approving a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night to be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**
- 2. Consider Approving a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for the Friends of Prescott for Paint & Sip: Ocean Beach Path to be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
- 3. Consider Approving a One-Day All Alcoholic Beverages License for the Friends of Prescott for Spritz Time: A Spring Cocktail Experience to be held on Friday, May 22, 2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the three special one-day liquor licenses for the Friends of Prescott, as presented in the Town Manager's Report. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Mr. Haddad left the meeting at 6:50 P.M.**

**6:50 P.M. Destination Groton Committee- Provide Feedback on Groton 2036 Report**

Destination Groton Committee Members Greg Sheldon, Joni Parker Roach, and Brian Bolton returned to receive feedback from the Select Board on their 2036 Vision Report. Mr. Pisani said that now that the Report has been released, feedback is beginning to come in, and people are sharing their opinions. Mr. Sheldon indicated that the process is just beginning and suggested that the Board, as policymakers, will need to address potential challenges. He said that this visioning process has sparked valuable conversations, including public forums and conferences. Mr. Sheldon said they need a strategy and that there are options. Ms. Pine explained that the Town has hired a consultant to conduct a traffic study for Main Street. Mr. Sheldon said the Report's recommendations are based on feedback from community members. He suggested forming a committee to focus on traffic mitigation and economic growth. Ms. Parker-Roach commented that this would enhance existing buildings and protect open spaces.

Ms. Manugian noted that there have been many opportunities for public input. She expressed concern that the next step would be the most challenging, primarily due to funding constraints and necessary trade-offs. Mr. Cunningham emphasized the need to address off-street parking. Mr. Sheldon proposed creating a Commission to implement the Groton Ten-Year Vision Plan. In response, Ms. Pine stated that a Commission is not necessary to pursue the proposed ideas and gave the Destination Groton Committee full permission to proceed. She also mentioned that the Town does not have an economic development department and suggested that the Destination Groton Committee could serve in that role. Mr. Sheldon said, "They see their vision as a roadmap of ideas, not a final plan."

The Board thanked the Destination Groton Committee for their efforts on the Report. Mr. Sheldon expressed his appreciation for the Board's support and thanked them for their time.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Authorize the Town Manager and One Member of the Select Board to Sign Warrants for the Next Thirty Days.**

*Ms. Manugian made a motion to authorize the town manager and one member of the select board to sign warrants for the next thirty days. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**On-Going Issues**

- A. PFAS Issue – None
- B. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility – None
- C. Fire Department Staffing – Discussed previously
- D. West Groton Dam – None
- E. Main Street Study – None

**SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS**

None

**Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of April 13, 2026**

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2026. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 in Favor, 1 abstained-Manugian.*

The Select Board adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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

**SPRING TOWN MEETING  
MOTIONS  
MAY 2, 2026**

**CONSENT MOTION #1 – Articles 1 through 4**

**Mover: Matt Pisani**

**MOTION:** I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 1: Hear Reports**

**MOTION:** I move that the Town's 2025 Annual Report be received and placed in the permanent records of the Town.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 2: Elected Officials' Compensation**

**MOTION:** I move that the following compensation be set for the following elected officials for the ensuing year: Town Moderator - \$1,000.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule**

**MOTION:** I move that the Town of Groton Wage and Classification Schedule be amended and adopted for Fiscal Year 2027 as printed in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 4: Appropriate Funding for OPEB Trust**

**MOTION:** I move that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 5: Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operating Budget**

**MOTION 1: General Government**

**Mover: Bud Robertson**

**MOTION:** I move that Two Million Seven Hundred One Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars (\$2,701,294) be hereby appropriated for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$22,250 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and the sum of \$2,679,044 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**CONSENT MOTION #2 – Motions 2-13**

**Mover: Bud Robertson**

I move that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 2 through Motion 13, under Article 5, as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific budget motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 2: Land Use Departments**

**MOTION:** I move that Five Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars (\$596,422) be hereby appropriated for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$8,125 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and the sum of \$588,297 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 3: Protection of Persons & Property**

**MOTION:** I move that Five Million Sixty Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$5,060,927) be appropriated for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$758 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), the sum of \$350,000 be transferred from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved, and the sum of \$4,710,169 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 4: SCHOOLS**

**a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of Nine Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Nine Dollars (\$939,609) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District**

**MOTION:** I move that Thirty Million One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$30,001,459) be hereby appropriated for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by lines 1410 through 1414 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$250,000 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District; the sum of \$174,500 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); the sum of and the sum of \$29,576,959 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 5: Department of Public Works**

**MOTION:** I move that Two Million Two Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Twenty Dollars (\$2,247,020) be hereby appropriated for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, \$3,880 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and \$2,243,140 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 6: Library and Citizens Services**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$2,489,751) be hereby appropriated for Library and Citizens' Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1713 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$65,463 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), the sum of \$130,000 be transferred from Local Access Cable Receipts Reserved, and \$2,294,288 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 7: Debt Service**

**MOTION:** I move that Six Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Thirty-Three Dollars (\$6,775,033) be hereby appropriated for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2005B as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$198,725 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), the sum of \$98,680 be transferred from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved, and the sum of \$6,477,628 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 8: Employee Benefits**

**MOTION:** I move that Four Million Eight Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-One Dollars (\$4,848,431) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for Employee Benefits as represented by Line Items 3000, 3002, 3010, 3011 and 3012 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 9: Water Enterprise**

**MOTION:** I move that Two Million One Hundred Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Ten Dollars (\$2,112,610) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Water Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town of the Groton Water Enterprise Fund as represented in the Water Enterprise Budget as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$1,814,242 be appropriated from Water Rates and Fees, the sum of \$74,380 be hereby transferred from Water Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, the sum of \$33,000 be transferred from the 3M Settlement Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, and the sum of \$190,988 in the Town's General Fund Operating Budget be raised and appropriated to be allocated to the Water Enterprise for FY 2027.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 10: Sewer Enterprise**

**MOTION:** I move that One Million Thirty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$1,035,771) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town for the Groton Sewer Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$924,643 be appropriated from Sewer Rates and Fees, the sum of \$74,759 be hereby transferred from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, and the sum of \$36,369 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2027.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 11: Four Corners Sewer Enterprise**

**MOTION:** I move that One Hundred Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$103,539) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$62,163 be appropriated from Four Corners Sewer Rates and Fees, the sum of \$35,150 be hereby transferred from Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, and the sum of \$6,226 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2027.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 12: Stormwater Utility Enterprise**

**MOTION:** I move that Two Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$282,565) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Town Manager to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursements to the Town of the Stormwater Utility Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$246,869 be hereby transferred from Stormwater Utility Rates and Fees, and the sum of \$35,696 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2027.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 13: Electric Light**

**MOTION:** I move that the income from sales of electricity to private customers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings, together with receipts from jobbing accounts, be appropriated for the Groton Electric Light Department, the whole to be expended by the Manager of the Groton Electric Light Department under the direction and control of the Groton Board of Electric Light Commissioners, for expenses of the Department for Fiscal Year 2027, as defined in the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 154, Section 57, and that, if said sum and said income shall exceed said expense for said year, such excess shall be transferred to the construction fund of said plant and appropriated and used for such additions thereto as may thereafter be authorized by the Board of Electric Light Commissioners.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 6: Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget**

**Mover: John Reilly**

**MOTION A:** I move that Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase and equip a new Ambulance 2 for the Fire Department, and for the payment of all costs associated and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$500,000 under and pursuant to the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purchase.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority**

**MOTION B:** I move that Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$775,681) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, for the capital items identified as Item 2 through Item 19 as set forth in Article 6 of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$50,000 be transferred from the Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved, and the sum of \$725,681 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
PFAS Free Structural FF Gear	\$ 50,000	Fire and EMS
Pick-Up Truck	\$ 75,000	Highway
Brush Mower/Field Mower	\$ 30,000	Highway
Truck Painting	\$ 25,000	Highway
IT Infrastructure	\$ 40,000	Town Facilities
Municipal Building Minor Capital	\$120,000	Town Facilities
Property Improvements	\$ 25,000	Park Department
Police Cruisers	\$147,010	Police Department
Police Minor Capital	\$ 34,750	Police Department
Electronic Control Devices - Tasers	\$ 10,500	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$ 27,000	Country Club
Ventrac Attachments	\$ 10,918	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Truckster XD	\$ 14,736	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Greens Mower	\$ 12,067	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Fairway Mower	\$ 20,000	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Rough Mower	\$ 20,000	Country Club
Roof for the Pavilion	\$ 14,200	Country Club
Communication Improvements	\$ <u>99,500</u>	Police/Fire/DPW
Total	\$775,681	

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 7: Community Preservation Funding Accounts**

**Mover: Bruce Easom**

**MOTION:** I move that the following sums be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund and allocated to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 34,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Unallocated Reserve:	\$ <u>760,500</u>
Total	\$1,135,000

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 8: CPC Funding Recommendations**

**Mover: Anna Eliot**

**MOTION 1:** I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Four Million Two Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,284,000), be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-02 “Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements”, identified on Assessors Maps as Parcels 249-40 and 249-57, that said parcels be managed, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 45, Section 3, and as it may hereafter be amended and other Massachusetts statutes relating to public parks and playgrounds, to be managed and controlled by the Park Commission of Groton, and for the payment of all costs associated and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$4,284,000, under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purpose; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to file on behalf of the Town of Groton any and all applications deemed necessary under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, pursuant to P.L.88-578, or any other applications for funds in any way connected with the scope of this project, as described in Article 8.B of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority**

**CONSENT MOTION #3 - CPA Funding Recommendations**

**Mover: Aubrey Theall**

I move that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 2 through Motion 7, under Article 8, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided however that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 2: Lighting Improvements – Prescott - \$9,850**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$9,850) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-01 “Lighting Improvements – Prescott” as described in Article 8.A of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 3: Housing Coordinator – FY 2027 - \$72,929**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Seventy-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$72,929) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-04 “Housing Coordinator – FY 2027”, as described in Article 8.C of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 4: Pollinator Pathway Garden - \$2,500**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space and Recreation Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-05 “Pollinator Pathway Garden” as described in Article 8.D of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 5: FY 2027 Housing Request - \$100,000**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-07 "FY 2027 Housing Funds Request", as described in Article 8.E of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 6: Cutler Softball Field Establishment - \$99,000**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Ninety-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$99,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space and Recreation Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-08 "Cutler Softball Field Establishment" as described in Article 8.F of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**MOTION 7: Boutwell Playground Renovation - \$233,923**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Forty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars (\$42,329) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and One Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars (\$191,594) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$233,923, to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-09 "Boutwell Playground Renovation", as described in Article 8.G of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 9: Exempt Uncontrollable Costs from the Tax Levy**

**Mover: Peter Cunningham**

**MOTION:** I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act to Adjust the Municipal Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Groton to Exempt Certain Uncontrollable Costs as set forth under Article 9 of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 10: Amend Chapter 168 - Stretch Energy Code**

**Mover: Rebecca Pine**

**MOTION:** I move to adopt the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code and amend the Code of the Town of Groton effective as of January 1, 2027, as set forth in Article 10 of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 11: Squannacook River Dam Repair**

**Mover: Rebecca Pine**

**MOTION:** I move that Eight Hundred Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$812,500) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the repair of the Squannacook River Dam, including all incidental and related costs, that to meet this appropriation, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of \$133,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve, and, further, that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the further sum of \$679,500, under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such repair; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain such land and easements that may be necessary to complete said project and maintain said dam on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town; and further, to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act as contained in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, as may be necessary for the acquisition of said land or easements outside of the boundaries of the Town of Groton, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority**

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**Article 12: Amend Zoning Bylaw**

**Mover:**

**MOTION:** I move to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, Section 218-2.5.D(2) as set forth in Article 12 of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority**

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**CONSENT MOTION #4 – Articles 13 through 22**

**Mover: Alison Manugian**

**MOTION:** I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 13: Funding for the Destination Groton Committee**

**MOTION:** I move that Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2027, for the purpose of providing funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out the Charge of the Committee, and all costs associated and related thereto.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 14: Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund**

**MOTION:** I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 15: Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund**

**MOTION:** I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 16: Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund**

**MOTION:** I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 17: Prior Year Bills**

**MOTION:** I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 18: Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit**

**MOTION:** I move that One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000) be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund and One Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$165,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), for a total amount of \$345,000, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the April 26, 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 19: Debt Service for Middle School Track**

**MOTION:** I move that the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of Six Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$648,945) from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund the debt service for Fiscal Year 2027 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting and Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 20: Funding for Main Street Traffic Study**

**MOTION:** I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 21: Appropriation to Fund Town Forest Expenses**

**MOTION:** I move to transfer the sum of \$12,000 from the Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest to Town Forest Expenses.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 22: Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds**

**MOTION:** I move to amend Section 71-1 of the Code of the Town of Groton (entitled “Funds Established”, by inserting the following amendment establishing a new revolving fund, to follow after the “Conservation Commission” revolving fund:

<b>Program or Purpose</b>	<b>Representative or Board Authorized to Spend</b>	<b>Departmental Receipts</b>
Park Commission	Park Commission	User fees received for use of Town Fields

and, further, to amend Section 71-2 (entitled “Limitation on or increase in expenditures) by adding the following text to the end of the existing text: “The second paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 3, is accepted to allow any balance in the Park Commission Revolving Account at the close of each fiscal year to remain available for expenditure, without appropriation for such purposes in future years”, and, further, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to set the FY 2027 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

<b>Program or Purpose</b>	<b>FY 2027 Spending Limit</b>
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Park Commission	\$100,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$20,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$40,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$20,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$20,000

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**  
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