

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026
APPROVED

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

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Fran Stanley; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair; Tom Delaney, Squannacook River Dam Consultant; Christopher Rogers, Building Commissioner Applicant; Anna Eliot, Park Commissioner.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham commented that the Groton Herald reported that he and his wife set up the GoFundMe for the town employee whose home was lost in a fire on Martins Pond Road. He wanted to clarify that it was not them but appreciates the effort to raise funds for the family. Ms. Pine announced a dinner for individuals 55 and older at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School, put together by the School District in conjunction with the Groton and Dunstable Council on Aging and sponsored this year by local realtor Jenepher Spencer. The dinner will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. She also announced that Candidates Night will be held at the Center on Wednesday, May 6th, starting at 7:00 PM. Mr. Reilly thanked everyone who attended the Spring Town Meeting on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Mr. Haddad added that 510 people attended. Mr. Takashi Tada, Land Use Director/Town Planner, was in charge of timing the speakers and did an excellent job.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Anna Eliot, Park Commissioner, requested that the Board commend Megan Buczynski of Activitas for her efforts on the Cow Pond Brook Project on behalf of the Town. The Board agreed that she had done an outstanding job and delivered an excellent presentation at the Town Meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Ratify the Town Manager's Nomination and Appoint Christopher Rogers as the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer for the Town of Groton.

Mr. Haddad explained that the search for a new Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer is complete. He added that he had a great interview with Mr. Christopher Rogers, the current Building Commissioner in Bolton. Mr. Rogers has a strong background in building, zoning, and health matters. Mr. Haddad added that Mr. Rogers would be a fine addition to the staff and was pleased to bring him on board.

Ms. Pine made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's nomination and appoint Christopher Rogers as the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement officer for the Town of Groton, effective May 18, 2026. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. 2026 Spring Town Meeting Follow-Up.

Mr. Haddad said he was pleased the operating budget passed without amendments. He said it was well-vetted and that he worked cooperatively with the School District and the Town of Dunstable. Mr. Haddad reviewed the capital budget with the Board. He said the Fire Chief could now order the new ambulance. During the discussion of the Police Department's minor capital budget, Mr. Haddad clarified that the Town Meeting does not dictate how funds can be spent within a budget; it only appropriates the funding. He explained that there is a two-year contract for the installed flock cameras, which the Police Chief intends to fulfill. Mr. Haddad described how the Flock cameras operate and noted that a policy is in place for their use. He said there was a lot of misinformation debated at the Town Meeting, but emphasized that the cameras are a valuable tool for the Police Department. The camera data is not being provided to any federal agency, and the Police Department is not receiving automatic reports of felons. The Police Departments have to check license plates every day manually. Mr. Haddad explained to the Board that the Chief will honor the contract unless otherwise instructed. Ms. Pine said she was okay with the Police Department continuing the contract, was grateful to the people who brought this to the forefront at Town Meeting, and would like to put it on a future agenda to discuss potentially establishing a committee. Ms. Manugian expressed concern about data retention and storage. She asked if someone from the IT Department could attend a meeting to answer questions. Mr. Haddad responded that Deputy Chief Mead could meet with the Board to discuss this matter. Mr. Reilly understood the data aspect and doesn't have a problem with how the Chief is using it. Mr. Cunningham supports forming a working group for this. Mr. Haddad said that if the Board has specific questions, please email him, and he will get them answered.

Article 8: CPC Funding Recommendations, Motion 1 - Mr. Haddad echoed Ms. Eliot's earlier comments about Consultant Ms. Buczynski of Activitas, stating that she did a phenomenal job at Town Meeting. He said she also did a great job working with the Park Commission and the Town Manager's Working Group. The awarded million-dollar federal grant will most likely be lost due to time constraints. Mr. Haddad emphasized that the Town Meeting appropriated \$145,000 in CPA funds to develop the plans by Activitas, which he considers a waste of taxpayer money since the article was defeated. He is going to discuss with the Park Commission how they would like to proceed.

Mr. Haddad explained that Article 11: Squannacook River Dam Repair failed. He said that over his 41 years as a Town Manager, it was the first time a town meeting didn't allow a non-resident to speak. He would like to begin the next steps in the process to remove the Dam. Squannacook River Dam Consultant Tom Delaney was in attendance. Mr. Delaney explained that he will still obtain the final permit from the Shirley Conservation Commission for the Dam repair, as that was almost complete and it was a good idea to have it in place, regardless of not moving forward with the Repair. He stated that the next step is to write a letter to the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) indicating that the Town is committed to proceeding with the removal of the Dam. Mr. Delaney guided the Board through the permitting process for the removal, outlining the necessary steps, including obtaining permits and grants. Mr. Haddad requested the Board's approval for moving forward with the removal plan. Mr. Delaney has applied for a grant for a safety inspection, which could save the town approximately \$3,000 this year. Mr. Haddad explained that the repair was brought before the Town Meeting, but removal is not required unless there is an

appropriation; that decision would be the Board's. Mr. Delaney said the letter to DER indicates they are moving forward and that the repair bid is being released. Ms. Pine said they need to commit to bringing the removal of the Dam to Town Meeting at some point. Mr. Pisani believed that the Spring Town Meeting had already made that decision. Ms. Pine said that if the Dam is removed without a Town Meeting vote, residents may be angry. Mr. Delaney said they couldn't apply for grants if they were not committed to moving forward with removal. Mr. Pisani said there wasn't any gray area. After an extensive discussion, Mr. Haddad respectfully asked the Board to vote to proceed with the application process to remove the Squannacook River Dam.

Ms. Manugian moved to explore grants and investigate the removal of the Squannacook River Dam. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion.

Discussion

Mr. Cunningham said every grant he has explored included some local share contribution. Mr. Haddad said that if there is an appropriation, they will return to Town Meeting.

The motion carried 4 in Favor, 1 Against- Pine.

Mr. Haddad thanked the Moderator for doing a great job running the Town Meeting, and the Town Clerk and his Executive Assistant, Kara Cruikshank, for their efforts. Mr. Reilly thanked the IT and Cable Departments for their work on the Town Meeting. Ms. Pine thanked Lois Young, Michelle Collette, and the Cable Department for the closed-captioning setup. She noted that approximately 300 people stayed for most of the Town Meeting. She was disappointed by the failed votes on the West Groton Dam Repair and the articles on Cow Pond Brook Road and the Specialized Stretch Energy Code. Mr. Haddad emphasized that Charlotte Weigel, the Sustainability Commission Chair, put in many hours on the Specialized Stretch Energy Code Article and did a great job presenting the issue to Town Meeting and answering questions.

3. Update on Select Board Schedule through Labor Day.

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 Adopting/Approving the 2025-2039 Housing Production Plan.

Housing Coordinator Fran Stanley was in attendance. Mr. Haddad thanked Ms. Stanley for a job well done on the 2025-2030 Housing Production Plan. The Board received a copy of the Plan in advance of the meeting for review. Mr. Haddad explained that the Planning Board adopted the Plan at its last meeting. If the Select Board adopts it as well, the Plan will comply with state requirements. Ms. Stanley took a few moments to answer any questions the Board had.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to adopt and approve the 2025-2030 Housing Production Plan. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approving a Common Victualler's License for Tully Farms Scoop Shop, LLC, Located at 30 Hollis Street, Unit B.

Ms. Pine moved to approve a common victualler's license for Tully Farms Scoop Shop, LLC, located at 30 Hollis Street, Unit B, subject to final Board of Health approval. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

On-Going Issues

- A. PFAS Issue – None
- B. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility – None
- C. Fire Department Staffing – A meeting will be held on May 21st with the Working Group. Mr. Haddad will schedule an update with the Board in June.
- D. West Groton Dam – None
- E. Main Street Study – None

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

None

Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of April 27, 2026

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 27, 2026. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Select Board adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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