

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026
APPROVED

Select Board Members Present: Peter Cunningham, Chair, Nick Degaitas Jr., Clerk; John Reilly; Matt Pisani;

Select Board Members Virtually Present: Becky Pine, Vice Chair

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patrica DuFresne, Assistant Director of Finance/Town Accountant; Melisa Doig, Human Resources Director; Daniel Stoneking, Groton Water Superintendent; CPC Candidates: Anna Eliot and Paul Funch; Bruce Easom;

Groton Water Commission Members Present: James Gmeiner; Greg Fishbone;

Groton Sewer Commission Members Present: James Gmeiner; Eric Berg;

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham announced that Groton's Annual Fireworks will be held on Monday, July 6th. Lawrence Academy has graciously offered its baseball fields next to Town Field to host the event. Deputy Rachael Chief Mead was present and explained the parking arrangements for the fireworks.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

David Smith, a resident of 13 Broadmeadow Road, read a Citizen's Petition into the record on behalf of Broadmeadow Road residents regarding a traffic concern at the intersection of Broadmeadow and Main Street (see included in these minutes). Mr. Cunningham stated that a Study is underway. Mr. Haddad then explained that the Town has received the existing conditions report from MDM Transportation Consultants, the firm conducting the study. He acknowledged that the intersection is dangerous and said that the next steps will be discussed with the consultants.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Dan Stoneking as Water Superintendent.

Mr. Haddad was pleased to report that after an extensive search for a new Water Superintendent, he was pleased to appoint Mr. Dan Stoneking of Billerica, MA to the position. He respectfully requested that the Select Board consider ratifying the appointment. The Board welcomed Mr. Stoneking.

Mr. Reilly made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Dan Stoneking as Water Superintendent, effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

Mr. Haddad and the Select Board congratulated Mr. Stoneking and look forward to working with him.

2. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Sonya Batalha as Assistant Assessor.

Mr. Haddad was pleased to announce that the search for an Assistant Assessor has concluded. The position was advertised, and 55 applicants applied. He formed an interview committee that included himself, Principal Assessor Tammi Mickel, Human Resources Director Melisa Doig, and Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank. After interviewing five candidates, Mr. Haddad has decided to appoint Ms. Sonya Batalha of West Groton as the new Assistant Assessor.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Sonya Batalha as Assistant Assessor, effective June 29, 2026. Mr. Degaitas seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

3. Deputy Chief Mead-Update from Police Camera Working Group.

Deputy Chief Mead attended the meeting to provide the Board with an update on the Police Camera Working Group's work. She reported that one meeting has been held and that she thought it went very well. A demo of the Flock Program was presented. She said that at the next meeting they will be looking at the differences between Flock and Axon (Flock's competitor). Deputy Mead also said the Town of Littleton had the Flock Program, and their Town Meeting voted it down, so it is on hold. Mr. Haddad explained that there is a move to bring the Flock cameras back for the Town of Littleton due to break-ins occurring in Town. There have been questions about whether it should be a full-fledged committee or a Working Group. Mr. Haddad thinks the Working Group allows for a better process to review the issue. Working Groups have been successful in budget development, the PILOT study and Fire Staffing reviews. He stated that a public hearing will be held regarding the issue to gain public input. He said Deputy Mead has established a great team. Mr. Degaitas believes that the Working Group would be beneficial, but he thinks they should allow time for public comments. Deputy Mead took the time to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Haddad and the Board thanked Deputy Mead for the update.

4. Update/Proposal from Town Manager on Veterans Service Officer.

Mr. Haddad said he brought forward a proposal to fill the vacancy left by the newly retired Veterans Service Officer. The Board was not interested in that approach, so he reached out to the Towns of Pepperell and Littleton. They share a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) named Meg Murphy, who would be interested in stepping in on an interim basis for the Town of Groton. The towns expressed interest in creating a VSO district and explained that they are working on the details of the proposal. Mr. Haddad explained her credentials. He asked the Board to consider ratifying Meg Murphy's appointment as interim VSO.

Mr. Degaitas inquired about funding for Ms. Murphy's role and what the role's future vision would look like. He liked the idea of district development. Ms. Pine was concerned that this could become a benefited position. She said there may be local veterans interested in the same number of hours and pay that Maureen Heard was receiving. She wondered whether it would be worth considering a local option, someone doing the same role and at the same rate as Ms. Heard. Mr. Haddad explained that once the other towns have worked out the details, it will be brought back to the Select Board for approval.

Mr. Degaitas made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Meg Murphy as interim Veterans Service Officer, effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

5. Update on Select Board Schedule through Labor Day.

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 an Individual to Serve on the Board of Registrars.

The Town Clerk informed the two major Town Committees of the need to appoint a new member to the Board of Registrars, as the term of the Democratic member, Jane Fry, is set to expire. Grace Bannasch submitted a memo to the Board regarding this appointment and the current composition of the Board of Registrars, which Mr. Haddad reviewed. The Town Clerk contacted the chairs of both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees to request nominees. The Democratic Town Committee nominated Susan Greenough, who resides at 74 Willowdale Road. Mr. Haddad explained that the Republican Town Committee did not submit a recommendation. He respectfully requested that the Select Board appoint Susan Greenough to the Board of Registrars.

Mr. Degaitas made a motion to appoint Susan Greenough to the Board of Registrars, with a term expiring June 30, 2029. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

2. Review/Update Select Board Liaison Assignments.

Mr. Haddad presented last year's assignments to the Board for their review. He asked if anyone wanted to change their assignment and whether anyone would be willing to take over Alison Manugian's assignments. Mr. Degaitas volunteered to replace Ms. Manugian. The other members approved this replacement as well as their current assignments. (see attached)

3. Start Process to Create Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Goals.

It has been the Board's practice for each member to prepare two or three goals they would like to see achieved and submit them to Mr. Haddad. He has asked each member to compile their proposed goals and send them to him by Wednesday, July 8th. Mr. Haddad will then organize these

goals into a document for the Board's review and approval. He will present the proposed goals for discussion and approval at the Board meeting scheduled for July 13, 2026.

6:15 p.m.- In Joint Session with the Sewer Commission- Interview and Consider Appointing an Individual to the Sewer Commission Until the 2027 Annual Town Election.

Commissioners Jim Gmeiner and Eric Berg were present at the meeting. Mr. Haddad explained that the position had been advertised for two weeks, but no interest forms had been received for the committee. Noticing that Mr. Bruce Easom was also in attendance, Mr. Haddad asked whether he would be willing to serve as a Sewer Commissioner. Mr. Easom expressed his willingness to join the Commission, and the Board unanimously agreed that he would be an excellent candidate.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to appoint Bruce Easom to the Sewer Commission until the 2027 Annual Town Election. Mr. Degaitas seconded the motion. Roll Call: Cunningham-aye; Degaitas-aye; Gmeiner-aye; Berg-aye; Reilly-aye; Pine-aye.

Review and Interview Applicants for Appointment to the Community Preservation Committee.

Mr. Paul Funch and Ms. Anna Eliot attended interviews for the At-Large position on the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Mr. Haddad explained that this is a three-year appointment intended to replace Ms. Carolyn Perkins, who chose not to seek reappointment to the committee. The members of the Select Board asked both candidates to share their reasons for wanting to take on this role. Mr. Funch and Ms. Eliot each provided a brief overview of their backgrounds and interests related to this position.

After the Board interviewed both candidates, Ms. Eliot expressed her desire to withdraw her application, believing that Mr. Funch would serve the CPC well. The Select Board thanked Ms. Eliot for her gracious decision.

Ms. Pine moved to appoint Paul Funch to the At-Large Position on the CPC for a three-year term, effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

On-Going Issues

- A. PFAS Issue –Six bids were received for the third phase of the project, with Defelice submitting the lowest bid. Mr. Haddad expressed gratitude to Congresswoman Lori Trahan for securing a \$1 million earmark to offset this project but noted that obtaining it will be challenging. He also thanked Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank for completing the required certifications as part of the grant process.

Mr. Haddad explained that the Town advertised the project and received six bids prior to being awarded the federal earmark, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law procurement requirements. He noted that state procurement laws differ from federal procurement regulations,

creating the possibility that the project could be required to be re-bid to comply with federal grant requirements.

- B. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that the Town received six bids for the project, and that the five bids other than the apparent low bid were each more than \$1.5 million higher than the lowest bid submitted by DeFelice Corporation. He explained that if the project were required to be re-bid, it is highly unlikely that the Town would receive the same low bid, resulting in an increase in project costs that would far exceed the value of the approximately \$1 million federal earmark. Based on these circumstances, Mr. Haddad stated that, if acceptance of the federal earmark requires the Town to reject the current bid and re-bid the project, he recommends that the Select Board decline the federal grant in order to avoid significantly greater costs to the Town. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility – Mr. Haddad and Mr. Degaitas held a productive meeting today with Groton School. He explained that Groton School made a significant cash contribution to the UMass Satellite Emergency Facility and assisted a student who had lost their home. Mr. Haddad emphasized that Groton School does a great deal of valuable work behind the scenes.
- C. Fire Department Staffing – Chief Cheeks will return to the Board on July 13th to provide an update on the Fire Department Staffing study.
- D. Main Street Study – None
- E. Flock Cameras-None

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

None

Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of June 15, 2026

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the regularly scheduled minutes of June 15, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

The Select Board adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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

PETITION REGARDING TRAFFIC SAFETY AT BROADMEADOW AND MAIN

The recent collision at the intersection of Broadmeadow Road and Main Street is the latest and potentially most serious evidence for the need to restructure this poorly designed crossroads at the very center of town. Traffic flow at the intersection has been a problem for as long as anyone can remember. Local residents have witnessed numerous accidents and close calls, property hit and, in multiple cases, have almost been hit themselves.

The heart of the problem is that impatient drivers heading east on Rt. 119 too often pass on the right at Broadmeadow Road, apparently unaware of west-bound traffic making a left turn or of Rt. 40 traffic trying to cross Main Street. They do not notice or choose not to obey the Do Not Pass sign posted in a cluster of signs several yards back. Besides the property damage caused by accidents, the far more pressing concern is pedestrian safety. The recent collision which sent a car flying down the sidewalk at 113 Main Street would likely have caused the death of a pedestrian on the sidewalk at that moment. Schoolchildren regularly use these roads on their way to and from the playground and the library. On early-release days especially, the intersection sees large groups of children walking and biking without a thought to the potential danger only feet away. Students from Lawrence Academy walk to and from local businesses at all hours of the day and early evening. Local residents have learned to stay vigilant.

To mitigate these dangers, we the undersigned request that the town install a bump-out in front of 117 Main street so east-bound drivers can no longer pass freely on the right. We urge the creation of a second bump-out in front of 113 Main Street, to keep the same drivers from cutting too closely to that vulnerable corner. This second bump-out will also force west-bound drivers to make a wider left turn into Broadmeadow, affording them a clearer view of children on bikes, pedestrians or a car coming uphill against the one-way traffic. Lastly, we request that a dedicated, highly visible 'Do Not Pass' sign be placed at the corner. Additionally, adding solid painted parking lines would visually 'narrow' Main Street to a two-way road with no passing lanes.
Thank you.

NAME

ADDRESS

Joan E. Parker-Roach	(JOAN E. PARKER-ROACH) - 113 MAIN STREET - GROTON
Patrick Parker-Roach	(PATRICK PARKER-ROACH) 113 MAIN
Deborah Busser	(Deborah Busser) 17 Broadmeadow Rd.
Robert Busser	(Robert Busser) 17 Broadmeadow Rd.
Dylan DeLent	113 Main Street, Groton, MA
David F. Smith	(DAVID F. SMITH) 13 Broadmeadow Rd. MA
Betsy Tyson-Smith	13 Broad Meadow Rd, MA
Kieran Scodio	16 Broad Meadow Rd, Groton MA
Barbara Leary	16 Broadmeadow Rd, Groton, MA
ERICA WILLIS	26 BroadMeadow Rd., Groton, MA.
ROBIN WILLIS	26 BROADMEADOW RD., GROTON, MA.
Marguerite Tyler-McWilliams	103 Main Street, Groton, MA

(2)

NAME

ADDRESS

Scott M. Williams Scott M. Williams 103 Main Street Groton MA

ON BEHALF OF LAWRENCE ACADEMY - 26 POWDERHOUSE RD. 36 MAIN ST. 44 MAIN ST.

John Amara 62 FLAVELL RD.

Jane Amara 62 FLAVELL RD.