



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Board of Selectmen

John G. Petropoulos, *Chairman*
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Peter S. Cunningham, *Member*
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Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Board of Selectmen*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Report*

Date: *April 11, 2016*

1. Scheduled on Monday's Agenda is just one item. In keeping with the Board's policy to receive annual reports from your various committees and commissions, the Affordable Housing Trust will be in to provide the Board with their annual report.
2. As previously approved by the Board, we advertised the vacancy for a Payroll Coordinator/Assistant to the Treasurer/Collector. We advertised the position and received 115 applicants. I appointed a Search Committee made up of Treasurer-Collector Michael Hartnett, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Hannah Moller, Human Resources Director Melisa Doig and me. We interviewed ten applicants and narrowed it down to three finalists. I had the three finalists interviewed by Town Accountant Patricia DuFresne, Town Clerk Michael Bouchard and Executive Assistant Dawn Dunbar. Based on this thorough process, I have decided to appoint Vyctoria Pantano of Tyngsboro to the position. Vyctoria is a graduate of Fitchburg State University and has good experience performing payroll for the Student Government Association. In addition to that she served as Treasurer for the Association. We are very pleased to bring Vyctoria on board. Pursuant to Section 4-2(c) of the Groton Charter, please consider this as notification of this appointment to the Board of Selectmen. I would respectfully request that the Board consider ratifying this appointment at Monday's meeting.
3. As you are aware, the Great Ponds Advisory Committee had presented a proposal to the Conservation Commission and Water Commission to apply Sonar to Baddacook Pond to eradicate weeds. The Water Commission objected to the use of chemicals near our water supply and denied the project. Based on this, the Great Ponds Advisory Committee went back to the drawing board and investigated other potential remedies with the Water Commission. Enclosed with this report is a proposal from Aquatic Vision of Natick, MA to conduct a feasibility study of a plan that utilize three basic harvesting methods, with variations, to determine the best ways for removal. This would be a test in a small section of the pond to determine its viability. Basically, for depths less than 5 feet, a harvester will be utilized. For depths to the extent of the weed infestation, a combination of DASH and SASH will be used. DASH stands for Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting, while SASH stands for Surface Assisted Suction Harvesting. The only difference is that in SASH a diver may not necessarily be present at the end of the suction hose. If this proves successful, a more formal proposal would be submitted to the Community Preservation Committee during next year's funding round for the entire pond. This feasibility study would cost \$20,000. The Water Commission is willing to contribute \$4,000 for this study, with the Town needing to come up with the remaining \$16,000. If the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee are in agreement, I would propose a line item transfer at Town Meeting to pay for this. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.

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4. The Board of Health has continued to address the issue of Mosquito Control. Since Town Meeting has rejected joining the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project, the Board of Health would like to propose another (monitoring only) mosquito control item at Town Meeting. They would like to install three (3) traps to monitor mosquitos to determine if there is an issue. The cost for the three traps would be \$14,950. I fully support this proposal and would like to include a line item transfer at Town Meeting to pay for this. I would ask the Board to consider supporting this request as well. We can discuss this further at Monday's meeting.
5. As requested by the Board, enclosed with this report is the summary of Executive Session minutes from February 25, 2008 through April 8, 2013. The Board had previously approved the release of most of these minutes. At this time, we are not recommending the release of any more of these minutes, as most of them have to do with Personnel Matters. Town Counsel had previously reviewed these minutes and I did not request that he review them again at this time. Should the Board be in agreement, we are up to date with the release of all minutes that can be released.
6. Enclosed with this report are the proposed article assignments for the 2016 Spring Town Meeting. Please let me know if the Board wants any changes.
7. As you are aware, Article 11 on the 2016 Spring Town Meeting Warrant will request the Town Meeting to make various line item transfers within the FY 2016 Spring Town Meeting. Enclosed with this report is a breakdown of the proposed transfers that we would like the Town Meeting to consider. I would like to take a few minutes at Monday's meeting to review these with the Board.

MWH/rjb

enclosures