



TOWN OF GROTON

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Board of Selectmen

John G. Petropoulos, *Chairman*
Joshua A. Degen, *Vice-Chairman*
Barry A. Pease, *Clerk*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Member*
Anna Eliot, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Board of Selectmen*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Report*

Date: *September 6, 2016*

1. Please note that Monday's meeting will begin with an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Manager's Office. The regularly scheduled meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Scheduled on Monday's Agenda is just one item. As discussed at last week's meeting, I have invited the Council on Aging and the Architect that was retained to work with the Feasibility Oversight Committee to the meeting to discuss the proposed new Senior Center.
2. We have invited Ellen Baxendale, John Llorda and Kristen Von Campe to Monday's meeting to be interviewed for the two (2) resident vacancies on the Complete Streets Committee. At the conclusion of the interviews, I would respectfully request that the Board consider appointing two (2) of the applicants to the Committee. This will complete the appointments to that Committee with a full complement of seven (7) members.
3. There are currently three vacancies on the Historic Districts Commission. The Commission has recommended that I appoint George Wheatley, Elaine Chamberlain and Greg Premru to the Commission. The terms would expire in 2017 (Wheatley), 2018 (Chamberlain) and 2019 (Premru). Pursuant to Section 4-2(c) of the Groton Charter, I would respectfully request that the Board ratify these appointments at Monday's meeting.
4. The Agricultural Commission has requested that I appoint Jessica MacGregor and Sally Smith to the Commission. Pursuant to Section 4-2(c) of the Groton Charter, I would respectfully request that the Board ratify these appointments at Monday's meeting.
5. The Board has received the following three requests for One Day Liquor Licenses:

A request from First Parish Church for a One Day Beer and Wine License for "Liverpool Night Concert" on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.; A request from First Parish Church for a One Day Beer and Wine License for "Russell Watts and Joe Foster Concert" on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.; and a request from Salt & Light for a One Day Beer and Wine License for A Live Music Event on Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 6:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.

I would ask the Board to consider approving these requests at Monday's meeting.

**Board of Selectmen
Weekly Report
September 19, 2016
page two**

6. One of the Board's goals this past year was to continue to improve communications with our residents. One of the best ways to do that was to make sure that the minutes of the various Boards and Committees are up to date and easily accessed on our Website. Back in April, I provided the Board with an update of the status of the minutes. At that time, I felt we were in relatively good shape, but would continue to monitor the status. At the request of Selectman Petropoulos we inventoried the status on our website and reached out to each and every Board and Committee and requested a further update. Again, we are in good shape with minutes with only a few Boards in arrears. Enclosed with this report is a spreadsheet showing the status of the minutes of each Board and Committee. I would like to take a few minutes and Monday's meeting reviewing this with the Board.

7. Enclosed with this report is the latest draft of the 2016 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. As voted by the Board at last week's public hearing, I removed the article seeking adoption of the Local Room Occupancy Tax and the Discontinuance of Powder House Road. I also included the recommendations made by the Finance Committee on the various articles for your information. I would respectfully request that the Board consider taking positions on the Articles at Monday's meeting. I would call to the Board's attention the following additional information on some of the articles:

Article 3 – Capital Stabilization Fund: The Finance Committee has recommended unanimously to support my proposal to transfer \$425,000 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 4 – Stabilization Fund: The Finance Committee has recommended not to add any additional funding to the Stabilization Fund. The Board can decide to either remove this Article from the Warrant, or leave it on and withdraw it at the Town Meeting.

Article 5 – Offset the Tax Rate: Depending on what you do with other articles requesting transfers from Free Cash, the Board can determine whether or not to use Free Cash to offset the FY 2017 Tax Rate.

Article 6 – Transfer Money to Water Enterprise Fund: I have asked Town Counsel whether or not this article needs to be split into two. I am waiting for his opinion. At this time, I have left it as one Article and would ask the Board to take a position on it at Monday's meeting.

Article 7 – Design Funding for a New Senior Center: The Board will be meeting with the Council on Aging to discuss this Article in more detail. That said, I would like to call to your attention that if we do not move forward with the proposal to construct a new Senior Center, the Board will need to consider making a substantial investment into addressing mechanical and access issues into the current Senior Center. The Board should take this into consideration in making the decision as to whether or not to move forward at this time. The Architect hired by the Town has completed a preliminary review of the Building and offered the following:

Continued on Next Page – Over >

**Board of Selectmen
Weekly Report
September 19, 2016
page three**

7. Continued:

Article 7 – Comments from the Architect: *"We reviewed the previous Senior Center evaluation to identify the obvious code related issues that should be addressed for life safety or function. That budget value is approximately \$80-100k. This does not address every code issue due to newer code standards and grandfathered conditions or every handicap accessibility improvement possible. Please note that if you were to spend more than 30% of the building assessed value (\$457,300 x 30%) or \$137,900 on permitted construction within any 3 year period you are likely to trigger full compliance with current Architectural Access Board regulations including an elevator and associated electrical service change. The estimated budget value for full handicap compliance is approximately \$420-470k. Another cost classification to consider is the building improvements appropriate for an emergency shelter. Right now we are not aware that these improvements are mandated for existing structures but obviously they bear some consideration as this is a building you have chosen to rely upon in an emergency condition. The improvements appropriate for current emergency shelters include improved emergency power supply and fuel system, and seismic building improvements. The estimated budget value for emergency shelter improvements is approximately \$200-240k.*

Article 9 – Purchase Vehicle for the Police Chief: The Finance Committee has voted to recommend this Article with the proviso that funding for this purchase come from the Stabilization Fund:

Article 10 – Install Automatic Door Openers at Town Hall: I had received a preliminary estimate that the cost would be \$5,000 per door. Tom Delaney tells me that there is a newer technology out there that may reduce the total cost to \$5,000. We will firm this up prior to Town Meeting.

We can discuss all of the Articles in more detail at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb

enclosures