



## 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:** *October 24, 2016*

1. Please note that Monday's meeting will be held in the Second Floor Meeting Room and will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a workshop for the Board to set its annual goals and objectives. I have enclosed in the packet the various submissions by the members of the Board, along with a copy of last year's goals and objectives. The regular meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. There is nothing specifically scheduled on the Agenda other than the Town Manager's Report.
2. The Trails Committee has requested that I appoint James Peregoy to the Committee. I have in fact made this appointment. Pursuant to Section 4-2(c) of the Groton Charter, I would respectfully request that the Board ratify this appointment at Monday's meeting.
3. As the Board is aware, Town Meeting voted on Monday to have the Town Manager appoint a seven (7) member Committee to work with the Architect to determine the feasibility of moving the Senior Center to the Prescott School. According to the vote of Town Meeting, the Committee should be made up of four (4) members of the current COA Feasibility Oversight Committee and three (3) members of the former Municipal Building for the Prescott School. Based on this, I have appointed the following individuals:

Peter Cunningham – Feasibility Oversight Committee; Mihran Keoseian – Feasibility Oversight Committee; Gary Green – Feasibility Oversight Committee; John Amaral – Feasibility Oversight Committee; Greg Sheldon – Former Municipal Building Committee for the Prescott School; Halsey Platt – Former Municipal Building Committee for the Prescott School; Annika Nilsson-Ripps – Former Municipal Building Committee for the Prescott School

I would respectfully request that the Board consider ratifying these appointments at Monday's meeting.

4. The Invasive Species Committee is recommending that the Board appoint Greta Marks-Strouble to the Committee. I would respectfully request that the Board consider making this appointment at Monday's meeting.
5. As you will recall, a couple of weeks ago, the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen interviewed Jon Sjoberg, Sasha Bonakdar and Jessica Madoc-Jones for the vacancy on the Finance Committee caused by the resignation of Mark Bacon. I have scheduled time on the Agenda for the Board to deliberate and make a decision. The term expires on June 30, 2018. We have invited the three candidates to the meeting in the event the Board wants to ask more questions. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information on the candidates.

**Board of Selectmen  
Weekly Report  
October 24, 2016  
page two**

6. As the Board is aware, one of my goals for this year is to come up with an OPEB Funding Strategy. I was planning on presenting this strategy during the presentation of the Fiscal Year 2018 Proposed Operating Budget. However, given the fact that Town Meeting rejected the proposal to utilize Free Cash to offset the Tax Rate, I would like to discuss the idea to utilize a portion of our Certified Free Cash each year to go into the OPEB Trust Fund. This would be in addition to the appropriation each year to pay the current year's retiree obligation. We need to start paying down our unfunded liability and this would be an excellent use of Free Cash. I look forward to discussing this in more detail with the Board at Monday's meeting.
7. With regard to the issue of using Free Cash to offset the tax rate each year, Selectman Pease had proposed that the Board develop a policy that would formalize the amount each year the Board would propose to Town Meeting to offset the tax rate. I would like to discuss this in more detail with the Board and ask that you allow Barry and me to come up with a final draft for consideration. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.
8. Now that Town Meeting has appropriated funding to pay for the Operational Audit, the Board of Selectmen needs to go through a selection process. The Board should determine which firms, if any, to interview. Once the interviews are completed, we can check references and the Board can decide which proposal they want to accept. I would recommend that we schedule the interviews at a special meeting of the Board. We can discuss this further at Monday's meeting.
9. As the Board is aware, Halloween is next Monday night, October 31<sup>st</sup>. I would propose that we adjust the hours of the Town Hall for this one week. Specifically, I would like to close Town Hall at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and close Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. I would also like to propose that the Board schedule next week's meeting for Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. I look forward to discussing this with the Board in more detail at Monday's meeting.
10. The Board of Selectmen has received three requests for Certificates of Exemption from the Earth Removal By-law. Specifically, you have received the following requests:
  - 128 Main Street, LLC – 7,600 Cubic Yards of Material
  - GDRSD – 4,000 Cubic Yards of Material
  - Indian Hill Music, Inc. – 77,000 Cubic Yards of Material

Enclosed in the packet is all the relevant materials, including the recommendation from the Earth Removal Committee. Their recommendations also include proposed conditions. I would respectfully request that the Board consider approving these requests at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb  
enclosures