



TOWN OF GROTON

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

Board of Selectmen

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Anna Eliot, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Board of Selectmen*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Report*

Date: *December 19, 2016*

1. Scheduled on Monday's Agenda are three items. First, the Board will continue the Public Hearing in joint session with the Board of Assessors to conduct the annual Tax Classification hearing to set the Fiscal Year 2017 Tax Rate. Contained in the packet is the pertinent information to help the Board determine if the Town will have a single rate or a split rate. Second, the Economic Development Committee will be in to provide the Board with their Annual Report. Finally, the Sustainable Budget Committee has completed their work and will be in to provide the Board with their findings and recommendations.
2. Police Chief Donald Palma has requested that I appoint Michael Wilson as a Reserve Officer for the Groton Police Department. I have in fact made that appointment. Pursuant to Section 4-2(c) of the Groton Charter, I would respectfully request that the Board consider ratifying this appointment at Monday's meeting.
3. For the past year, the Great Ponds Advisory Committee has been working with the Groton Water Commission to identify a method to combat the invasive weeds and habitat deterioration in Baddacook Pond. The scope defined by the Water Commission was a non-herbicide solution. Both the Water Commission and the Great Ponds Advisory Committee have voted to support a mechanical harvesting method which was defined by a joint sub-committee. They are requesting an opportunity to present a draft path forward to the Board and seek your support. They will be in attendance at Monday's meeting.
4. The Friends of Prescott have submitted a Community Preservation Application to the Community Preservation Committee for the continued renovation to the Prescott School. The CPC has requested their application be co-sponsored by the Board of Selectmen. This is similar to what happened last year. Given this requirement from the CPC, the Friends have requested time on tonight's Agenda to go over their current CPA proposed grant and seek a vote of support and co-sponsorship. We can discuss this further at Monday's meeting.
5. Enclosed with this report is a memorandum from Fire Chief Steele McCurdy outlining challenges related to on-call recruitment and two new programs he has developed aimed at curbing these issues. I have invited Chief McCurdy to tonight's meeting to discuss this in more detail with the Board.

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6. It is that time of year for the Board to renew the annual licenses issued by the Board. Enclosed with this report is a list of licenses that I will be asking the Board to approve at Monday's meeting. You will notice on this list that we have not included the two Country Club Licenses for renewal. I will be asking the Board to take a separate vote on these licenses. There was a problem with the ABCC in granting the approval of the transfer from the Town of Groton to Blackbird Café, Inc. When we conducted the hearings last summer, we followed the procedure outlined on the ABCC Website. Specifically, we notified all abutters within 300 feet of the property as outlined in the procedure. Unfortunately, the procedure was wrong on their website. According to the ABCC, abutters did not have to be notified, but a public hearing notice needed to be advertised in a local paper. We did not do that and the ABCC will not approve the transfer. What we need to do is advertise the transfer and take a revote. At this time, I would request that the Board renew the licenses in the Town's name and we will advertise a hearing for early January to transfer the licenses to Blackbird Café, Inc. For the Board's information, we sent the transfer request to the ABCC on June 16, 2016, and we are just hearing about this now. I apologize for this confusion.
7. At your meeting last week, the Board requested that they be allowed to have individual interviews with the consultant hired to assist the School Committee in hiring a new Superintendent. I passed this request on to the School Committee Liaison, Marlana Gilbert. Unfortunately, she was unsuccessful in obtaining personal interviews for all Board members without incurring an additional cost to the District. The School Committee has set a budget for the search and wants to stay within the budget when scheduling forums and interviews. Ms. Gilbert requested, and the Consultant agreed to offer a 45 minute Community Leader Forum at no additional cost to the District. The date of this forum will be January 12, 2017, with the time and location to be confirmed by the end of the week. The Board of Selectmen will receive a formal invitation to the forum. That said, the School Committee is offering a personal interview with a designated member of the Board of Selectmen, in addition to the forum. I would ask the Board to designate said member at Monday's meeting.
8. At last week's meeting, the Board requested that I find out what the Planning Board approved in the Site Plan approval for the NESSP Temple on Boston Road, as well as find out the construction schedule. The following are emails I received from our Town Planner Laurie Bonavita and the contractor for the project:

From: Laurie Bonavita
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 8:52 AM
To: Mark Haddad
Subject: FW: Temple Schedule

Hi Mark:

In response to your questions regarding construction of the NESSP Temple on Boston Road, the modified site plan review decision, issued by the Planning Board in September 2016, states that the hours of operation related to construction shall be limited to 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Exterior work that does not generate noise, such as but not limited to painting and light landscaping, is permitted on Saturdays within the hours of 8 AM – 4:00 PM. Below is a response from the site super, Scott Nelson, regarding the construction schedule.

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8. **Continued:**

Note that I did receive some complaints during the spring/summer, which were investigated and were the inspiration for the new condition regarding a construction schedule. I have not received any recent complaints pertaining to noise or violations of the construction schedule. If you receive any such complaints, please send them my way.

Thanks,

Laurie Bonavita, Director
Land Use Department

From: Scott Nelson [<mailto:scott@mistry.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 4:33 PM
To: Laurie Bonavita <lbonavita@townofgroton.org>
Cc: Nalin Mistry <nalin@mistry.com>
Subject: Temple Schedule

Laurie

The recent noise, during the day, that the abutters have heard is rock hammering in the last sections of the water line installation. The installation of the waterline will be completed within the next 2 weeks. We expect that all other ongoing site work will not involve rock excavation. We will continue with the site work, mostly utility installation into the building, weather permitting. We expect to have the exterior of the building closed in, within the next few weeks, so the only exterior work will be the installation of the blockwork, which involves only saw cutting of the block, roofing installation and stucco installation. All other work will be done in the interior until spring. We anticipate that the first phase of the temple work, the main floor, will be ready for occupancy by May 2017. Work will continue in the interior first floor for the remainder of the year (2017). We trust that this answers your questions and concerns.

Scott K. Nelson, Sr
Construction Manager
NM Construction

9. At last week's meeting, I presented the Board with an Investigation Policy and Procedure. The Board made a minor change to the Policy and requested that I bring back to you this week for formal adoption. Attached for your review is the final policy. I would respectfully request that you approve the policy at this week's meeting.
10. As you are aware, I have been setting aside time during the Town Manager's Report at each meeting to update the Board on the FY 2018 Proposed Operating Budget. I will have an update for the Board at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb
enclosures