



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: *March 13, 2017*

1. Scheduled on Monday's Agenda are two items. First, the Board of Selectmen will be meeting in joint session with the Groton members of the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee to appoint Alison Manugian to the vacant term on the Committee until the next election. Second, Nashoba Valley Technical School District Superintendent Denise Pigeon will be in to provide the Selectmen with an annual report from the School District.
2. I set aside time in the Town Manager's Report for any updates to the 2017 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. As of the writing of this report, I have no specific update. I will advise the Board of any changes at Monday's meeting.
3. The Agriculture Committee has requested that I appoint Shelly Sullivan to the Commission. 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.
4. Selectman Petropoulos and I have been discussing the possibility of requesting special legislation that will establish a Senior Tax Exemption to assist our Seniors in paying their property taxes. Enclosed with this report is a copy of similar legislation adopted by the Town of Sudbury. Under the Sudbury law, qualifying Seniors would receive an abatement on their tax bill based on income and value. The amount abated would then be spread among the rest of the taxpayers by raising the tax rate to offset the exemptions. Selectman Petropoulos would like to put this on a future agenda to determine if we should appoint a Committee to determine if the Town of Groton should pursue similar legislation. We can discuss this further at Monday's meeting.
5. Selectman Petropoulos would also like the Board of Selectmen to consider requiring any vote on a potential new Senior Center be placed on the ballot for a town-wide vote. The only way to do this is by making all expenditures exempt from Proposition 2½. For example, should the Town Meeting Senior Center Review Committee request \$300,000 to design a new Senior Center, Town Meeting would have to vote to make this appropriation contingent on a debt exclusion override of Proposition 2½. The Board has until April 11th to consider adding this to the 2017 Annual Election Ballot. We can also discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.
6. As has been my practice, I have set aside time on Monday's Agenda to provide the Board with an update on the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. I will have a report for the Board at the meeting. Please note that the Finance Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, March 15th to continue their deliberations on the proposed Budget.

MWH/rjb
enclosures