



TOWN OF GROTON

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Board of Selectmen

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John G. Petropoulos, *Member*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Board of Selectmen*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Report*

Date: *June 19, 2017*

1. There is nothing specifically scheduled on Monday's Agenda.
2. I would like to provide you with an update of the negotiations with the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and the Friends of Prescott. Josh, Jack, Bud and I have met with representatives of both parties and had a very productive meeting. As you are aware, our direction from the Board was to enter into leases with both parties for the use of the Prescott School. To that end, we have negotiated a one year lease with the School District. The lease has two very important provisions. First, it is for one year and one year only with no renewal provision. Secondly, the School Committee will have the ability to sub-lease portions of the building. The reason for the second provision is to allow the School District to remain in the building for the current year and allow the Friends of Prescott to lease directly from the Schools and begin establishing programs within the building. This is the easiest way for the two entities to co-exist in the Building and cover expenses and leave the Town and taxpayers with no additional liability for the maintenance and upkeep of the Building in Fiscal Year 2018. After the first year, it would be our intention to enter into a long-term lease with the Friends of Prescott for them to take over the building in FY 2019. We are in the process of negotiating terms of this lease with the Friends for the Board's review and approval. We are scheduled to meet with them on Monday, June 19th to continue negotiations. Essentially, we would establish benchmarks for the Friends to meet in order for the lease to stay in effect. By establishing these benchmarks, including a business plan (including a capital improvement plan), lease arrangement with other entities (including the Groton Dunstable Regional School District), etc., the Board of Selectmen will be able to determine if the Friends have the wherewithal to maintain the building. We believe that entering into a long-term lease with the Friends will give them the ability to reach out to organizations willing to enter into leases with the Friends at Prescott knowing there is stability. Should the benchmarks not be met, the Selectmen would have the right to cancel the lease. This provides protections for both sides. I will provide the Board with an update at Monday's meeting. The proposed lease with the Groton Dunstable School District is attached to this email for your review and approval. I should have Town Counsel's comments incorporated into the Final Lease in time for Monday's meeting. I look forward to discussing this with the Board in more detail at Monday's meeting.

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3. At your last meeting, a resident asked for an update on the status of the West Groton Fire Station. Enclosed with this report is a memorandum from the Fire Chief updating the Board on its status. As you know, the Fire Department is in the process of drafting a strategic plan for the Department. I will be scheduling this issue for the Fire Chief to update the Board, including the future of the West Groton Fire Station, at your first meeting in July. I will provide the Board with more information at Monday's meeting.
4. Enclosed with this report are the proposed annual appointments of the Board of Selectmen. As has been our history, I will read the names into the record so the public is aware of who is being appointed to what position. The Board can then vote to make the various appointments. I would call your attention to the fact that the Military Community Covenant and the Underground Utility Committee have not met for at least the last two years. I have left them off of your re-appoint list and would suggest that the Board vote to disband these two committees. In addition, we have not yet received notification for an appointment to the Board of Registrars from the Town Clerk, so we are not ready to recommend an appointment to the Board. We will schedule this for discussion and action at a later meeting.
5. At your last meeting, the Board affirmed the vote of Town Meeting to install the "All Are Welcome" Markers immediately. As voted by Town Meeting, I am responsible for the installation and will work with Selectman Petropoulos on the engraving of the stones. We have received \$1,900 in donations thus far, which will allow us to install four of the markers. Anyone wishing to contribute to this project can make a tax-deductible donation to the Town of Groton through our office.
6. This year, July 4th falls on a Tuesday. With the Board's permission, I would like to close Town Hall to the public on Monday, July 3rd. Employees would have the option to either work that day, or take vacation or personal time for Monday. I have received several requests for time off on that day and it would make sense to close Town Hall. We can discuss this further at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb
Enclosures