



TOWN OF GROTON

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Board of Selectmen

Joshua A. Degen, *Chairman*
Barry A. Pease, *Vice-Chairman*
Alison S. Manugian, *Clerk*
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: *February 12, 2018*

1. Please note that Monday's meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. Scheduled on Monday's Agenda are three items. First, the Conservation Commission will be in to provide the Board with their annual report. Second, the Board will be meeting in joint session with the Sewer Commission to consider appointing Evan Boucher to the Commission to fill the vacancy on the Commission until the 2018 Spring Election. The vacancy was advertised and Mr. Boucher was the only applicant. Third, the Board will be conducting a public hearing to consider issuing two (2) On-Premise, All Alcohol Restaurant Licenses at the Groton Country Club, submitted by GPH Pub, LLC dba The Groton Publik House Pub & Eatery.
2. The Police Chief will be present to review the various recommendations made by Matrix Consultant Group regarding the recommendations/best practices for the Police Department. Enclosed with this report are two documents for your review and consideration to assist in the discussion. The first is the original document I prepared outlining the Department Head Recommendations relative to the Police Department. The second is the Matrix Summary prepared at Selectman Petropoulos's request. We look forward to reviewing this with the Board in more detail at Monday's meeting.
3. At the request of Selectman Petropoulos, I have invited Police Chief Donald Palma and Fire Chief Steele McCurdy to Monday's meeting so that the Board can discuss with our Public Safety Officials the potential impact recreational marijuana may have on the Town of Groton.
4. Similar to Item #2, the DPW Director will be present to review the various recommendations made by Matrix Consultant Group regarding the recommendations/best practices for the Department of Public Works. Enclosed with this report are similar documents that were included for the same discussion as outlined in Item #2. We look forward to reviewing this with the Board in more detail at Monday's meeting.
5. As requested at your last meeting, DPW Director Tom Delaney will be present to discuss the requested funding to conduct a Feasibility Study of the Highway Garage. As you know, we have included \$50,000 in the Capital Budget for this work.
6. We have been searching for a new Van Driver for the Council on Aging. COA Director Kathy Shelp and Human Resources Director Melisa Doig conducted a search and have recommended that I appoint John Barnard of Shirley to this position. I have in fact made this 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.

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7. After advertising for a vacancy on the Historic Districts Commission, the HDC has requested that I appoint Elena Beleno Carney to the Commission. I have in fact made this appointment, with a term to expire on June 30, 2020. 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.
8. Enclosed with this report, please find the Fiscal Year 2018 Second Quarter Financial Update. I would like to take a few minutes at Monday's meeting reviewing this with the Board. At this time, we would also update the Board on the status of the Board's and Town Manager's annual goals and objectives. However, since the were just recently adopted, no update is required at this time.
9. At your last meeting, the Board discussed whether to petition Town Meeting to change the name of the Groton Board of Selectmen to Groton Select Board (Selectboard). The question arose as to whether or not we should ask the Legislature to hold off on approving the Charter until after Town Meeting, in the event the Town decided to make this change (Bylaws would be amended in the Fall). Michael Bouchard reached out to the Legislature and they will hold the approval of the Charter until after Town Meeting if the Board wanted to pursue this course of action. The Board needs to decide how to proceed. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.
10. As you are aware, when the Board commenced negotiations with the Friends of Prescott last fall, the intention was to have the Friends cover the cost of maintaining and operating the Building. The Friends understood this intent and began actively marketing the building to ensure that they would have a sufficient number of tenants to cover this obligation. However, since that time, the Building Commissioner has ruled that the Building can only be leased for educational purposes unless the Building undertook a major renovation to make it code compliant. This has severely hampered the Friends ability to lease the building with tenants that would allow them to meet the obligation. As we have yet to finalize the lease to address the decision of the Building Commissioner, it does not appear that the Friends will have the time, nor ability at the onset, to meet the obligation in Fiscal Year 2019. In addition, we have been informed that the GDRSD will move their offices out of the building over the summer and will therefore not be covering the maintenance and operation costs they have been paying in recent years. Therefore, I would request that the Board consider adding funding to the FY 2019 Operating Budget that would cover the costs necessary to maintain the Prescott School in FY 2019. It is my hope that we will resolve the use issue in the near future to allow the Friends to fully market the Building to meet the funding obligation. Please note that this issue is separate from the Friends Request for CPA Funding for building renovations. I look forward to discussing this in more detail with the Board at Monday's meeting.
11. There is an application before the Community Preservation Committee by abutters of Duck Pond seeking funding to install an aerator in Duck Pond to help address the eutrophication of the Pond. In order to help supplement the requested CPA Funding, a funding raising effort is underway to help pay for the permitting of the proposed solution. I would respectfully request that the Board vote to establish a gift fund for this purpose.

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12. On tonight's Agenda is a public hearing for the Board to consider issuing two all alcohol liquor licenses to Groton Publik House, LLC to operate the former Tavern and provide liquor services to the Function Hall. I want to take a few minutes at Monday's meeting to update the Board of the process followed to award a new lease to owners Jeffrey Garibotto and Chris Frothingham. They have successful restaurant experience (Great Road Kitchen in Littleton) and we are excited to bring that experience to the Country Club. I have enclosed a copy of the lease to this report and would like to review the it in more detail with the Board.

13. I have set aside time on the Agenda for the Board to continue its review of the Proposed FY 2019 Operating Budget. I would like to take some time at Monday's meeting addressing any issues members of the Board have with the proposed Budget and as a follow up to the meeting with the Finance Committee last week, and determine the best way to proceed with the proposed Public Safety Override. I look forward to discussing this in more detail with the Board at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb
enclosures