



TOWN OF GROTON

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Select Board

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John R. Giger, *Clerk*
Joshua A. Degen, *Member*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Select Board*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Report*

Date: *December 17, 2018*

1. In addition to the Town Manager's Report and a review of the On-going Issues List, there is one item scheduled on Monday's Agenda. IT Director Michael Chiasson will be in to present the revised web site to the Board. You should have all received a link to the new web site. I hope you have had a chance to use it over the past week. I am looking forward to Michael's presentation.
2. The Greenway Committee has requested that I appoint Marina Khabituyeva to the Greenway Committee. I have in fact made this appointment. I would respectfully request that the Board consider ratifying this appointment at Monday's meeting.
3. As of the writing of this report, I am still working with Town Counsel on finalizing the Memorandum of Agreement with Indian Hill Music. I hope to it resolved by Monday's meeting. As soon as I have a final draft of the Agreement, I will forward it to the Board for your review and approval at Monday's meeting. In addition, Select Board Member Manugian asked for the process to adopt a local "ticket tax". In order to institute such a tax, special legislation is required. In order to obtain that special legislation, Town Meeting would need to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court. A special act would need to be drafted by the Town and submitted to Town Meeting and then, upon approval by Town Meeting, submitted to the General Court for action. Should the General Court and Governor approve the special legislation, it would become effective. To help the Board understand what the special legislation would look like, I have drafted the attached Warrant Article for your review. We can discuss this further at Monday's meeting.
4. At last week's meeting, the Board asked me to further investigate the issue of whether or not to increase the Health Insurance Cost Share for our Retirees. Specifically, the Board wanted to know the current number of retirees, how much the Town would save by shifting the percentage and whether or not current retirees could be grandfathered at one rate and if future retirees can pay a different rate. The Town currently has 59 retirees on our health plans. Every five (5%) percent shift would save the Town approximately \$21,000 annually and you can propose to Town Meeting, for its approval, a different rate for future retirees. We can discuss this further at Monday's meeting.

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5. Enclosed with this report is Town Counsel's opinion concerning the Town's liability relative to plowing sidewalks. My reading of this opinion is that it is unclear what liability the Town may have and there is no definitive answer. It seems to me that we have never maintained sidewalks in subdivisions and that policy should not change. Our current Highway Snow Policy reads as follows: *Sidewalk Policy - The Town maintains the sidewalks in the town center area and the West Groton area. These are cleared as soon as time permits after the roads are plowed.* I would suggest that this policy be amended by adding the following sentence to the end of the current policy: *Clearing snow and ice from other sidewalks is the responsibility of the abutting property owner. Please assist us with clearing sidewalks in a timely manner.* We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.

6. I was hoping that the Board would be able to finalize your goals for Calendar Year 2019. However, as of the writing of this report, I have not received anything from the individual members. If I receive something prior to Monday's meeting, I will put together a document summarizing the Board's votes on the various goals and forward it to the Board in time for discussion at the meeting.

MWH/rjb
enclosures