



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: *April 8, 2019*

1. In addition to the Town Manager's Report and an update on the on-going issues list, there is one item scheduled on Monday's Agenda. The Friends of Prescott will be present to discuss their request for the Board to create the Prescott Development Committee.
2. Enclosed with this report is the latest draft of the 2019 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. This Warrant includes the budget message from the Town Manager and Finance Committee, along with the Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Operating Budget. I would request that the Board review this draft and provide me with any comments/edits. The Warrant will be going to the Printer first thing Tuesday morning and needs to be approved by the Select Board at Monday's meeting. That said, there are several articles that the Board still needs to take positions and have requested additional information. The following articles require action by the Select Board:

Article 4 – Town Operating Budget – The Finance Committee has voted unanimously to approve the budget contained in the Warrant. The total budget is \$39,721,234 and is \$197,995 under the levy limit.

Article 26 – Citizen's Petition – Use Conservation Land for Drainage – The Select Board had requested an update as to the status of the proposed improvements. The following summary was provided to me by Land Use Director Takashi Tada: "The Earth Removal-Stormwater Advisory Committee (ERSWAC) met last Tuesday night in joint session with the Conservation Commission. The ERSWAC opened the public hearing for the proposed modifications to the stormwater management permit for Reedy Meadow Estates subdivision (Peter Cricones, developer/applicant). Peter Cricones and his engineer, Doug Lees, submitted revised drainage modification plans and stormwater report on March 18th. Attending the meeting on the Town's behalf were Jared Gentilucci from Nitsch Engineering, and Matthew Doyon from Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI). The Town's peer review engineers seem to be in general agreement that the modifications proposed by Doug Lees are likely to provide substantial relief from the flooding concerns in the street, as well as some degree of mitigation for the flooding in the basement of #10 Olivia Way. There are some suggested revisions and technical details to work out, and the ERSWAC continued the public hearing to April 16th.

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Overall, there was good progress made on the potential drainage solution. The changes to the plan requested by the ERSWAC, Nitsch & CEI will be done by Doug Lees. He will submit the revised plan to the ERSWAC for review by Nitsch & CEI in time for the Committee's public hearing on Tuesday, April 16th. All three engineers and the Committee believe this plan will be a workable solution to the flooding problems at Olivia Way. If everything is in order, the Committee may vote on the modification to the Stormwater Permit at the same meeting. One thing missing from the proposed modification is a solution to the ponding behind #3 and #5, on the eastern end of Olivia Way. This would likely involve some re-grading of the land behind these condo units. Note, the Planning Board feels strongly that the proposed solution must include mitigation for #3 and #5, as well. Regarding the matter of a potential land swap to compensate for the drainage easement on conservation land (per Article 97) there was little progress on this front. Peter Cricones did not present any meaningful scenarios for discussion. This is a big concern. The Conservation Commission is generally supportive of the efforts being undertaken, however the Commission is understandably cautious about the Article 97 disposition process and wants to make sure every step is taken correctly. The Conservation Commission will discuss this matter in earnest at their meeting next week, April 9th. Representative Sheila Harrington attended last night's meeting and said her office is prepared to shepherd this through the State Legislature whenever that time comes. She indicated a willingness to attend the April 16th ERSWAC meeting, as well.

Article 28 – Snow and Ice Deficit – Currently, the deficit stands at approximately \$65,000. I have asked the Board of Assessors to release \$65,000 from Overlay Surplus to cover this deficit. They were due to meet on Friday, April 5th to consider this request. I will update the Board as to their action at Monday's meeting.

Article 31 – Cable Enterprise Transfer – The Cable Committee is requesting that \$10,000 be transferred from their E&D to offset the FY 2019 Cable Budget.

I would respectfully request that the Board consider taking positions on these Articles at Monday's meeting.

3. Select Board Chair Pease has requested that the Board's position on Article 10 (Ticket Tax) be further discussed at Monday's meeting. I would expect him to present his reasoning at Monday's meeting.
4. Select Board Chair Pease has requested that the Board's position on Article 14 (Prescott Building Maintenance Funding) be further discussed at Monday's meeting. I would expect him to present his reasoning at Monday's meeting.