



Groton Sustainable Community Study Committee

May 16, 2008

To: Town of Groton Board of Selectmen
From: Michael E. Roberts, Chair, Groton Sustainable Community Study Committee
Subject: Groton Sustainable Community Study Committee

Gentlemen:

As you know, Article 20 presented at the Annual Town Meeting this spring established the Groton Sustainability Commission when it passed by majority vote. With this vote the work of the Groton Sustainable Community Study Committee is completed, with the following exceptions: 1) establishing a community baseline of sustainability, 2) determining community interest and concerns and establishing a community consensus and 3) preparing a draft Community Sustainability Plan. Early in the life of the Study Committee it was clear that we had a much too ambitious agenda to make it to an article and presentation at spring town meeting and still accomplish all the tasks listed above. It was determined that these three tasks would be appropriate first-year tasks for a commission if one was established. One of the principal tasks of the committee was self-education on the nature of a measurably sustainable community and how to explain it to the community and its government. We believe we have accomplished this task and the remaining tasks of our charge.

An officially posted meeting of a quorum of committee members voted to recommend dissolution of the Groton Sustainable Community Study Committee. In addition, the committee prepared a recommended "Commission Charge" for the Groton Sustainability Commission as it becomes established. The Charge is attached to this letter. The Committee also recommends the following work plan be delivered to the Commission for accomplishment in the first year of the Commission:

1. Obtain a measured baseline understanding of Groton's current sustainability for each of the three legs of the sustainability stool;
2. Conduct workshops, hold public hearings, sponsor presentations and otherwise accumulate data and ideas leading to the drafting of a sustainability plan to be completed within one year;
3. Seek out and prepare grant applications for support of the Commission and Commission projects;

4. Establish a web presence on the Groton town web site;
5. Develop a liaison program with official town boards and commissions, private organizations and any other entity desiring to be affiliated with the Commission;
6. Sponsor and support one sustainability project, the results of which will be formally presented to the Town at the end of the Commission's first year.

The Committee wishes to thank you for the opportunity to serve the Town. A number of the Committee's members have expressed a desire to be considered for a position on the Commission, their Committee Interest forms are attached.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or other members of the Committee.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Roberts
Chair, Groton Sustainable Community Study Committee