

Special Town Meeting
March 10, 1997
Minutes

The special town meeting was held at Groton Dunstable Regional High School gymnasium was called to order at 7:35 PM by Moderator Robert Gosselin. There were 149 voters in attendance, the quorum being 107. A total of 390 voters were present for the meeting.

The Moderator declared the warrant duly posted and moved to waive the reading of the warrant. Carried unanimously.

Moved and seconded that article 3 be considered at this time.

Motion carried.

Article 3: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate from the Fund Balance Reserved for Extraordinary or Unforeseen Expenditures (formerly known as Overlay Surplus) the sum of \$28,633 to be added to Line 1381, Municipal Building Expense, in the 1997 budget. Finance Committee unanimously supports this article.

Article 3 carried by majority.

The Debt Overview Committee gave a detailed report on the Town's debt.

ARTICLE 1: Moved and seconded that the sum of \$1,440,000 be hereby appropriated to purchase from the Marion Campbell Trust, a parcel of 96+- shown as Lots 23A, 25A and 30 on Assessors Map N, or a portion thereof, located off Town Forest Road, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, 61A, for the preservation of open space, agricultural use and/or recreational use in the Town of Groton; that to raise this appropriation, the Treasurer with approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$1,440,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3), of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to apply for, accept and expend for such purpose any grants or reimbursements that may be available therefor, and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to appoint an AD HOC committee to advise on the project consisting of the Town Treasurer and representatives of relevant Town boards, non-profit groups and other citizens of the Town; provided, however, that no sums shall be borrowed or expended hereunder unless the Town has voted at a regular or special election to exempt the amounts required to pay for the bonds from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, so-called.

The Planning Board supports this article.

The Town Forest Committee unanimously supports this article and will allocate \$10,000 toward the purchase.

The Greenway Committee unanimously supports; Capital Planning unanimously supports; Conservation Committee 5 in favor, 1 abstention; Finance Committee 5 to 3 to recommend; Selectmen 2 in favor, 1 abstention;

Mr. Powell stated that the Board was informed today that 23+ acres from Lot 1 of wetlands were excluded from the purchase.

The Assessors unanimously oppose this article.

Moved and seconded to amend article 1 by inserting following the words Town Forest Road in the third line the words "As described in the NOTICE TO THE TOWN dated Jan 17, 1997 and by affidavit attached thereto" after the word Road.

Motion made to move the question.

Motion carried.

Tellers sworn: Stephen Pointer, Walter HB Platt, Deborah Gilpin, Diana Keaney; Richard Muehlke, Mark Yeager.

Article 1 as amended carried by 2/3. Yes 284 No 58

ARTICLE 2: Moved and seconded that the sum of \$800,000 be hereby appropriated to Purchase the Marion D. Campbell Trust, Lot 207 Assessors Map O, containing approximately 22.0 acres and Lot 96, Assessors Map O, containing approximately 40.76 acres, which land is also shown, respectively as Lot 2 and Lot 1 on a plan recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds as Plan NO. 747 of 1993, located off Broadmeadow Road, pursuant to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 61A, for the purpose of preservation of open space, agricultural use and/or recreational use in the Town of Groton; that to raise this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$800,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 (3) of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to appoint an AD HOV committee to advise on the project, consisting of the Town Treasurer and representatives of relevant Town boards, non-profit groups and other citizens of the Town; provided , however that no sums shall be borrowed or expended hereunder unless the Town has voted at a regular or election to exempt the amounts required to pay for the bonds from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ so called.

Motion made and seconded to amend article 2 by inserting the words “as described in the NOTICE TO THE TOWN dated Jan 17, 1997 and an affidavit attached thereto” after the word “Road” in the fifth line

Motion made to move the question.

Question moved.

Motion to amend carried

Article 2 as amended carried by a 2/3 vote. Yes 275 No 35

Motion made and seconded to dissolve the meeting.

Meeting dissolved at 11:00PM