

**TOWN OF GROTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 23, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm by Town Clerk, Bonnie Biocchi. The quorum requirement was 118 voters. At 7:45 there were 147 registered voters present and the Clerk declared a quorum present.

The Clerk asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence on behalf of William Ryder, who recently passed away. Mr. Ryder was a long-time resident of Groton and a Constable for many years. Due to the absence of Moderator Robert Gosselin a Temporary Moderator needed to be elected. The Clerk asked the Selectman if they had a nominee. Selectman Peter Cunningham nominated Andrew Searle. The nomination was seconded. The Clerk then sought any other nominations from the floor. No other recommendations were put forth and the nominations were closed. The Clerk called for a vote. Mr. Searle was elected Temporary Moderator by unanimous vote. The Clerk then administered an oath of affirmation to Mr. Searle.

Selectwoman Virginia Wood made a presentation to Bennett Black, Sr. and James Connolly for their dedicated service to the town of Groton. Most recently they were appointed as co-chiefs and have faithfully served as volunteers until the appointment of the new fire chief. They were both commended and March 24, 2000 was proclaimed as Ben Black and Jim Connolly day in Groton.

After the presentation, Mr. Searle began the meeting.

ARTICLE 1: Moved and seconded that the Town of Groton approve the \$25,491,326 indebtedness authorized by the District School Committee of the Nashoba Valley Technical High School District on March 21, 2000, for the purpose of reconstructing and adding to the district high school, including original equipment and furnishings in connection therewith.

A presentation as made by Nashoba Tech, after which discussion ensued. The Selectmen voted to support, 2 in favor, (Chamberlin, Cunningham), 1 opposed (Wood).

The Finance Committee voted unanimously not to support because they felt they had not had enough time (5 weeks) to evaluate the impact of incurring the debt. The Capital Planning Committee voted to recommend this project.

Resident speakers included: Paul Funch(opposed), Janet Shea(in favor), and Ed McNierney.

Mr. McNierney made a motion to postpone indefinitely. The motion to postpone will be treated as an amendment to the original motion.

Arthur Blackman did not want to see the article indefinitely postponed. Mr. Miller spoke in favor of voting on the article tonight. A motion to move the question was made and seconded.

The motion to move the question carried unanimously.

The question was moved.

The motion to postpone required a majority vote. The motion to postpone indefinitely was defeated.

Article 1 carried by a majority.

ARTICLE 2: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal 2000 budget as printed in the handout distributed to this meeting. (See attached).

The Selectmen and Fincom were in favor of this article.

Article 2 carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to grant a preservation restriction, on the Williams Barn shown on Assessors Map 225 Parcel 61, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Massachusetts Historic Commission pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 Section 3.

The Selectmen voted to support this article.

The Fincom voted unanimously to not support this article.

Bruce Clemens gave a brief presentation and spoke in favor of this article.

The Planning Board supported this article.

Ed Kopec questioned what the Town would be giving up by imposing this preservation restriction. Mr. Clemens said that the MHC would need to be involved in major renovations.

The Trails Committee voted unanimously to support.

Ed McNierney supported this article as a member of the Trails Committee.

Peter Carson questioned what the maintenance cost would be. Mr. Clemens stated that it is a barn and its use is intended to remain as such. He did not have figures to answer that particular question.

Claudia Saball spoke in favor of restoring the Williams Barn

Virginia Wood moved the question.

The Question was moved unanimously.

The main motion required a 2/3 vote because the Moderator did not have the authority to declare a vote.

Tellers were called and sworn as follows:

Claudia Saball Stephen Boczenowski

Gail Lyons Christopher Mills

Robert Johnson Richard Muelke

Article 3 carried by a 2/3 majority: 107 in favor, 6 opposed.

ARTICLE 4 : Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from free cash \$26,638 to Police Wages and \$4,315 to Police Expenses to pay the costs arising out of the first year of the three year Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers IBPO Local 327, for the period beginning July 1, 1999.

The motion carried by majority.

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Special Town Meeting.

The meeting was dissolved at 9:53pm