

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AND SUMMARY

APRIL 29, 2002

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Middlesex:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the twenty-ninth day of April next, at seven-thirty in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town officers and on the twentieth day of May next at an adjourned session there to give their ballots for one Assessor for three years; one Board of Health member for three years; one Commissioner of Trust Funds for three years; one Electric Light Commissioner for three years; one Housing Authority member for two years; one Housing Authority member for five years; one Park Commissioner for three years; two Planning Board members for three years; one Selectman for three years; one Sewer Commissioner for three years; one GDRSD School Committee member for three years; one Tree Warden for one year; two Trustees of Public Library for three years; one Trustee of Public Library for one year; one Water Commissioner for three years; and one Water Commissioner for one year; and for the following question: QUESTION 1. Shall the Town vote to have its elected Treasurer and its elected Tax Collector become an appointed Treasurer/Tax Collector of the Town? QUESTION 2. Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued by the Town in order to remodel, expand, make extraordinary repairs to, equip and furnish the Lost Lake Fire Station, including the design thereof? QUESTION 3. Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for its share of the bond issued by the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District for an increase in the debt approved under Article 3 of the Warrant for the June 14, 1998 Special Town Meeting for additional costs of reconstructing, remodeling or making extraordinary repairs to the then existing high school, now known as the Middle School North?

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees or Commissions. The 350th Anniversary Committee will be giving an update on its activities.*

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for Federal and State Grants for which the Town is or may be eligible and to expend the funds received thereunder, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *To allow the Board of Selectmen to apply for grants*

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to allow the following compensation for the following elected officials:

Selectmen	\$ 1,200	Tax Collector	\$24,190
Board of Selectmen, Chrm.	1,350	Town Treasurer	34,865
Assessors	1,100	Highway Surveyor	54,114
Board of Assessors, Chrm.	1,250	Tree Warden	1,311
Town Clerk	47,460	Town Moderator	65

for the ensuing year, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials. The full-time elected officials' salaries include a 3% COLA plus an adjustment to their wage based on a salary survey.*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Personnel By-Law Wage and Classification Schedule as set forth in the Schedule to be distributed at Town Meeting, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored by : **PERSONNEL BOARD**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *Amends the wage schedule for employees under the Personnel By-Law by 3% and adds two more grades for future growth.*

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next fiscal year (2003), and act on the budget of the Finance Committee, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-At Town Meeting**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *Budget - See Finance Committee report*

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote in accordance with Section 8 of Chapter 533 of the Acts of 1991, as amended by Chapter 115 of the Acts of 1995, to approve the budget of the Groton Country Club and Recreation Authority, and to reaccept the provisions of said Chapter 533 of the Acts of 1991, as amended, the Groton Country Club & Recreation Authority Legislation, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for any legislation necessary therefor or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **COUNTRY CLUB & RECREATION AUTHORITY**

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *The legislation creating the Country Club and Recreation Authority requires that the Authority present its annual budget to the Town for approval. It also requires that the Town reaccept the provisions of the Authority legislation every three years. Please refer to handout at Town Meeting for budget figures.*

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the fiscal year 2003 Enterprise Department Budget, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: SEWER COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-To be withdrawn as it will be done within the budget.

Summary: *\$77,913 -This transfer from Sewer Surplus to the budget will reduce the proposed increase in rates for FY 2003.*

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Conservation Fund, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support \$200,000

Summary: *The Conservation Fund is used to purchase land, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions and to maintain property managed by the Commission. The Commission originally was asking for \$300,000 this year, but has agreed with the finance committee to support \$200,000.*

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of implementing Statement 34 as proposed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Summary: \$10,000 - *To complete the implementation of GASB 34 which requires Towns to account for their fixed assets. Implementation must be completed by fiscal year 2003.*

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to demolish the house located at 538 Pepperell Rd.(Norris property), shown on the old Assessors' Map H as Parcel 12 and on the new Assessors' Map 213 as parcel 60, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Postpone Indefinitely

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Not Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-2 Support 2 Not Support

Summary: \$13,500 - *This article would allow the Selectmen to demolish the A frame house, which is located on the Norris property on Throne Hill. The property is located off Pepperell Road. about a half mile on a dirt road. The house is uninhabitable and would require substantial improvement to bring it up to code. A vacant house this far off in the woods is a liability to the Town.*

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to help fund celebrations for the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Town, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: 350TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support \$10,000

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support \$10,000

Summary: \$20,000 - *This is the second year of appropriating seed money towards the 350th Anniversary. It is anticipated that \$30,000 will be requested for FY04 and FY05. The Committee will be conducting fundraising in hope of obtaining \$150,000 additional funding for the celebration.*

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of repairing the existing recycling shed at the Transfer Station, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-2 Support 1 Not Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Not Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Not Support

Summary: \$15,000 - *To make repairs to the existing recycling shed.*

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to purchase a wing plow for the highway department, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: HIGHWAY SURVEYOR

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Support

Summary: \$16,000 -*This piece of equipment, which we have installed on two of our other trucks has been working very well. The time it takes to plow our roads is cut down considerably with use of a wing plow as we only have to make one pass up and down a road instead of two passes. Getting the job done faster means less overtime and faster cleaning of the streets for public safety.*

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to purchase a pickup truck for the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **HIGHWAY SURVEYOR**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Capital Planning: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *\$25,000 - This is a scheduled replacement of a 1989 pickup truck with over 130,000 miles, which is used daily to perform various jobs. Although the 1989 truck is still in working order and will retain some trade in value, there is major work that it will need if we keep it. The operating life of this new vehicle would be a minimum of eight years.*

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to purchase a Front End Loader for the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **HIGHWAY SURVEYOR**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Not Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Not Support**

Capital Planning: **Recommendation-Not Support**

Summary: *\$120,000 - This will replace a 1985 machine. The loader is used almost daily to perform various jobs from culvert installation and repair to plowing snow and loading trucks. Although the 1985 loader is still in working order and will retain some trade in value, there is major work that it will need if we keep it. It is not cost effective to rebuild this machine like we did to our other loader a couple of years ago. The operating life of this new loader would be a minimum of 10 years.*

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money for the engineering of underground utilities on Main Street, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **HIGHWAY SURVEYOR**

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-2 support, 1 support at a reduced amount

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Not Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Not Support

Summary: *\$50,000 - This is for the first part of the effort to get the overhead wires on Main Street underground. Other revenue sources may be available to offset this and some future costs, but without a plan and some engineering we will not be able to go for additional funding.*

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to purchase and equip a new Rescue Truck for Groton EMS, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *\$185,000 - This is submitted in accordance with the Capital Plan and will replace the 1975 rescue truck.*

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to add to the amount appropriated under the vote at the May 1, 2000 Adjourned Session of the April 24, 2000 Annual Town Meeting under Article 12 as amended, to purchase or acquire by eminent domain the property located on Route 225 adjacent to the West Groton Mill and shown on Assessor's Map 101 as Parcel 13, currently owned by Groton Land Holdings, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Postpone Indefinitely

Finance Committee: Recommendation-No Position

Summary: *This article will be indefinitely postponed, as we have received a gift to complete the purchase of the property across from Sherwin's store in West Groton, which we plan to convert to a park.*

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,000,000 (six million dollars) to be expended on behalf of the Water Department, for the purpose of making improvements to the existing water system infrastructure, including provision for iron and manganese treatment, construction of a new water storage tank and replacement of existing water mains; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust or otherwise; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Board of Water Commissioners to apply for loans and grants for said project and to execute all documents and take all actions necessary to carry out the project, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **WATER DEPARTMENT**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Capital Planning: **Recommendation-2 Not Support, 2 Abstain**

Summary: *The proposed borrowing authorization for \$6,000,000 will be for making capital improvements to the existing water infrastructure. These improvements are for an iron and manganese removal facility, the construction of a new concrete water storage tank and for the replacement and looping of water mains in the distribution system. This low interest loan program is provided through the State Revolving Loan Program administered by the Water Pollution Abatement Trust at a 2% interest rate for 20 years. The borrowing authorization shall be repaid exclusively by the customers of the Water Department.*

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds and/or transfer from the retained earnings account of the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of \$500,000 for engineering design and construction management services in connection with the performance of capital improvements to the existing water system infrastructure or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **WATER DEPARTMENT**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Capital Planning: **Recommendation-3 Support, 1 Abstain**

Summary: *\$500,000 - The proposed expenditure from the Water Department's Enterprise Fund is for engineering design services and construction management related to the Capital Improvements Program as identified in the previous article.*

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of remodeling, expanding, making extraordinary repairs to, equipping, and furnishing the Lost Lake Fire Station including the design thereof; and authorize the Board of Selectmen to contract for and in the name of the Town for such purpose and to do all things necessary for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriate funds and any funds received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or other sources for such construction; and that to meet such appropriation the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow a sum of money under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7, of the General Laws as amended and supplemented, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes therefor; provided that the amount authorized to be borrowed hereunder shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received before the sale of such bonds or notes; and provided further, that any appropriation hereunder shall be contingent upon the vote of the Town at a Town Election to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2, so called, the amount required to pay for the bonds issued to meet said appropriation, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: FIRE CHIEF

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-At Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Not Support-Not enough information on cost

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Not Support

Summary: *This is for a 4000 sq. ft. addition to the Lost Lake Fire Station which will add two new truck bays, a bathroom and a training/meeting room.*

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to replace rotted trim and cover with metal coil sheeting and extend roof edging on the Public Safety Building, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Not Support-would support \$20,000

Summary: \$38,500 - *The exterior wooden trim work on the Public Safety Building is rotting from excessive moisture on the wood. It has been found that the wood trim work had never received a primer coat of paint and the roof drip edge is not extended enough to serve its purpose. The location of the*

building has not been conducive for good natural drying of the wood's exterior. The window framing is beginning to show the effects of this moisture in the trim work. To solve the problem and maintain the integrity of the building's exterior, the roof drip edge needs to be extended and all rotted exterior trim work replaced and the entire exterior trim and related soffits and moldings clad in metal coil sheeting that will be maintenance free.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to re-shingle the Squannacook Hall roof, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-3 Not Support 1 Support

Summary: *\$18,000 - The roofing shingles at Squannacook Hall are at the end of their life (20 plus years) and are breaking off with whole tabs missing. There are two layers of shingles on the roof, which need to be removed before new ones are installed. The proposal is to install 25-year grade shingles.*

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to replace the basement interior bulkhead door and caulk and seal the basement wall in the Town Hall, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *\$16,000 - The north side basement wall of the Town Hall needs to be sealed to keep rain water from washing dirt and silt out from between the stones in the foundation wall. Additionally, a new interior sliding bulkhead door needs to be constructed and sealed to the foundation to stop further infiltration of rainwater into the basement.*

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to refurbish the windows and window frames at the Legion Hall, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Not Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Not Support

Summary: \$20,000 - *The Legion Hall windows and window trim work are in need of refurbishing. The windows and frames are starting to deteriorate; some sashes and storm windows need to be replaced; some frames need to be resealed to the brickwork; scraping chipped paint (lead abatement involved); and repainting exterior windows and frames will all be completed to maintain and preserve the historical appearance and value of the building.*

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to the Police Detail Revolving Account, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: POLICE CHIEF

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support/ Finance Committee Recommendation:
Support

Summary: \$6,000 -*This is to allow us to expedite payment of police officer off duty detail. There is a lag between billing time and time of receipt of payment from other municipalities and private contractors.*

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to make the offices of Treasurer and Collector appointed offices, to be filled by appointment of the Board of Selectmen, in accordance with General Laws Chapter 41, Section 1B, and to combine said offices into one office of Treasurer/Collector pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 41, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support/Finance Comm. Recommendation: No
Position

Summary: *The Town currently elects both a Treasurer and Collector. Section 1 of MGL c.41 authorizes a town to vote to have its Treasurer act as its Collector as well. Section 1B of Chapter 41 authorizes a town to change an office elected under Section 1 from an elected position to an appointed position. Conversion to an appointed position requires both a vote of Town Meeting and acceptance of the change by vote at the Annual Town Election. If the position to be changed is not up for election at the same election as which acceptance of the change is approved, as is the case here, and incumbent in an elected office at the time of the voters approved conversion of the office to an appointed position is entitled to hold office until the expiration of the term for which he was elected or until he otherwise vacates the office.*

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to approve the amount of the \$8,300,000 debt authorized by vote of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District on March 27, 2002 to supplement the \$7,700,000 debt approved under Article 3 of the warrant for the June 15, 1998 Special Town Meeting for reconstructing, remodeling or making extraordinary repairs to the then existing high school, now known as the Middle School North, subject to approval at an election of an exemption from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, of the amounts required to pay for the Town's share of the bond issued by the Regional School District therefor, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-2 Support 1 at Town Meeting**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Capital Planning: **Recommendation-3 Support 1 Abstain**

Summary: *\$2,109,030 - In June 1998, Groton voters approved \$7,700,000 for the cost of reconstructing, remodeling or making extraordinary repairs to adapt the current High School for use as a Middle School. Now 4 years later, because of increased costs, additional funds of \$8.3 million are needed to complete the project. Of this \$8.3M, \$2,109,030 would be the cost to the Town of Groton.*

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the Early Retirement Incentive Program, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **TREASURER**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-At Town Meeting**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *We are waiting to see if the Commonwealth approves the early retirement bill for communities. If it is approved by the legislature, up to 10 Town employees and 3 Groton Electric Light employees would be eligible to take advantage of this program. It would require approval by Town Meeting and the Board of Selectmen.*

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money to fund vacation and/or sick leave for those employees taking early retirement, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **TREASURER**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-At Town Meeting**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *Approximately \$90,000 to pay for unused vacation and police sick leave buy-back for the 10 employees who intend to take early retirement.*

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wetlands Bylaw, designated as Chapter 215 in the Code of the Town of Groton, as follows:

- a.) By adding to the fifth paragraph of Section 215.4, Application Fee, the following sentence: "The fee shall be deposited in a special account established pursuant to Chapter 64 of the Acts of 2001, from which the Commission may withdraw funds without further appropriation for use only for wetland protection activities."

- b.) By adding to the sixth paragraph of section 215.4, Consultant Fee, the following sentence: "The Commission may adopt regulations providing for the deposit of such funds in a special account established pursuant to Chapter 64 of the Acts of 2001, which provides for the administration of the consultant fee funds in the same manner as provided in G.L. c. 44 S53G."

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *This adds additional wording to the Wetlands Bylaw that would allow the Conservation Commission to collect fees for wetland protection activities. The Attorney General recommended that the bylaw be reworded in order to legally collect the fees.*

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wetlands Bylaw, designated as Chapter 215 in the Code of the Town of Groton, as follows:

By adding to section 215.7, Presumptions, the following sentence as number 8 under sub-section (B), Order of Conditions: "8. Limited project as defined in the Wetlands Protection Act."

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *This adds "limited projects" to the Wetlands Protection By-Law. This item was mistakenly left out of the article at the 2001 Annual Town Meeting.*

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to relocate and accept as a public way a portion of a way known as Orchard Lane as relocated and laid out by the Board of Selectmen and more fully shown as "Orchard Lane" on a plan entitled "Orchard Lane Layout Plan of Land in Groton Massachusetts", File No. 1508, prepared by Dillis and Mische of Ayer, Massachusetts, dated March 28,2002, prepared for the Town of Groton ("Plan"), a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and to discontinue the portion of Orchard Lane which lies outside of the relocated layout, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain and to accept a deed to the Inhabitants of the Town of a fee Simple interest in Orchard Lane as relocated and associated easements upon such terms and conditions as it shall deem appropriate, for the purpose of a public way, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to release all right, title, and interest of the Town in the parcels of land described in the deeds, recorded with the Middlesex Registry of Deeds at Book 21351, Page 146, and book 31800 Page 316, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall deem appropriate and further to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money for the purposes stated

above and for the construction and/or reconstruction of said relocated way and related work, said funds to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *This article proposes to relocate a portion of Orchard Lane between Mr. Degen and Mr. Miller's property and compensate Mr. Miller \$18,500 for this change to his property.*

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Reserve Fund, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *\$75,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund for unanticipated emergencies.*

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to amend the code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 180, Article II. Opening of Town Ways, to amend §180-6, Violations and Penalties, so that it reads as follows:

Any person or other entity violating the provisions of this article or regulations of the Board of Selectmen adopted hereunder shall be punished by a fine of not more than two times the permit fee for each offense Thereunder, or when enforced by noncriminal disposition pursuant to G.L.C.42, §21D, the fine for digging up or obstructing a way without the permit required by § 180-5 above, shall be as follows:

First and Subsequent Offenses \$300

With each day of violation constituting a separate offense.

Any person who, having obtained such permit, fails to comply with any condition thereof, shall be subject to the following fines:

First Offense:	\$100
Second Offense:	\$200
Third and	
Subsequent Offenses:	\$300

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **Board of Selectmen**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *This will allow the Board of Selectmen to invoke non-criminal disposition fines to fine (\$300 a day) those who do not obtain a permit before opening a road. It will also allow the Selectmen to fine those who do not comply with their road opening permit conditions.*



ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 59 Sec. 5 (54) to allow the Town to exempt from taxation Personal Property accounts with a minimum fair cash value of \$10,000 or less, and to establish a minimum value of personal property subject to taxation, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *This article is a local option, which allows towns that accept its provisions to establish a minimum fair cash value required for personal property accounts to be taxed. Groton's minimum would be set at \$10,000.*

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton, §218-30 Water Resource Protection Overlay District as follows:

By adding a new Item [8] under Subsection D(1) Primary Water Resource District (b) Prohibitions:

"[8] Facilities that generate, treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste (see 310 CMR 22.21(2)(a)(7))."

By adding a new Item [5] under Subsection D(2) Secondary Water Resource District (b) Prohibitions:

"[5]Non-sanitary treatment and disposal works (see 310 CMR 22.21(2)(a)(6))."

And by adding a new Item (5) under Subsection E Design Requirements:

"(5)Storage of animal manure, sludge and septage, commercial fertilizers and petroleum products shall comply with the criteria set forth in 310 CMR 22.21(2)(b)"

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *The proposed zoning amendment, requested by the Groton Water Department, is required for Water Resource Protection Overlay District By-Law to comply with the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection's Wellhead Protection Regulations.*

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to endorse the Groton Comprehensive Plan as summarized in the document entitled, "Groton 2020 Update - Planning Directions" filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on April 12, 2002, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **PLANNING BOARD**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-1 Support 2 at Town Meeting**

Summary: The Planning Board voted unanimously to adopt the revisions to the Comprehensive Plan on April 3, 2002. The Board will present the plan to Town Meeting for its endorsement. Copies of the plan are available in the Planning Board office and can be viewed on the Town's web site at www.ci.groton.ma.us.



ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Chapter 44, §53E1/2 of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received under Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Earth Removal Advisory Committee for administration, oversight and review activities under Chapter 198, with the maximum amount to be expended in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2003, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **EARTH REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: The Earth Removal Advisory Committee uses application fees for technical review of plans submitted under the Erosion and Sediment Control By-Law. The use of the revolving fund must be authorized annually by Town Meeting.



ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to accept as public ways the following private ways as laid out by the Board of Selectmen:

Autumn Leaf Drive shown on an as-built plan and profile, a Street Acceptance Plan and a Monumentation Plan all of which are dated January 8, 2002 entitled "Autumn Leaf Estates Groton, Massachusetts", prepared for Candlelight Realty Trust by Landtech Consultants, Inc., of Westford, Massachusetts, copies of all of which are on file in the office of the Town Clerk

Bryanwood Lane shown on an as-built plan and profile, dated December 21, 1999, revised August 13, 2001, entitled "Profile of Bryanwood Lane in Groton, MA"; prepared for Jim Patierno, by Bill Boston Survey, Inc. of W. Groton, Massachusetts, copies of all of which are on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *To accept Autumn Leaf Drive and Bryanwood Lane as town roads.*

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to approve under Section 218-18E of the Zoning By-Law the Concept Plan for Business Development entitled "Mill Run Place" for the properties situated on Mill Street, Main Street and Arlington Street and which are shown on the Assessors Maps as Parcels 1,2,12, and 14 on Map 216 and Parcel 28 on Map 110 the Concept Plan being on file with the Planning Board and with the Town Clerk, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: PETITION BY ROBERT COLLINS AND OTHERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-2 Support 1 at Town Meeting/ Finance Comm.-Support

Summary: *Passage of this article will allow for the development of the properties situated at the intersection of Mill Street and Route 119 consistent with the concept plan entitled "Mill Run Place" on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Board subsequent to the applicant obtaining site plan review approval and other approvals required by the Groton Zoning By-Law.*

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money in the amount of \$399,900 to purchase or otherwise acquire a parcel of land approximately one and eighty-six hundredths (1.86) acres located in the Town of Groton,

shown on the old Assessors' Map E23 Parcel B and shown on the new Assessors Map 230 Parcel 47, currently owned by Peter A. and Lisa S. Spooner.

Sponsored By: PETITION BY PETER A. SPOONER AND OTHERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Not Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Not Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Not Support

Summary: *This article proposes the Town of Groton approve the acquisition of land currently owned by Peter A. and Lisa S. Spooner with the intent to improve access to the new high school for safety and esthetic purposes.*

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will vote to re-zone from R-A (Residential Agricultural) to B-1 (Business District) the premises situated on Boston Road owned by Nasser S. Buisier being shown on the "old" Assessors' Map U as parcel 48-0 and upon the new Assessors' Maps as Map 121 Lot 17, consisting of 37,780 square feet more or less as described in a deed recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 29337 at Page 196, or take any action thereon. A concept plan showing proposed site improvements is on file with the Groton Planning Board.

Sponsored By: PETITION BY JAMES GMEINER

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-2 Support 1 at Town Meeting

Summary: *This article seeks to effectively extend the existing B-1 zoning of the A.L. Prime Energy gas station located on Boston Road 90 feet onto the abutting vacant parcel.*

ARTICLE 44: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Williams Barn Restoration Fund, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: PETITION BY JOSHUA DEGEN AND OTHERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-1 Support 2 Not Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Not Support

Capital Planning: Recommendation-Not Support

Summary: \$30,000 - *The Williams Barn Restoration Committee, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission, seeks to continue the restoration of this building, which is representative of our agricultural heritage. The building is now registered with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Committee's plan is to create a nature and trail center or to make the building suitable for any other uses that the Town may find appropriate. Additionally, the Williams Barn Committee is applying to the Department of Environmental Management for a grant. This grant by the Massachusetts Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program will be used for non-structurally related work around the site.*

ARTICLE 45: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Town Stabilization Fund, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support \$50,000**

Summary: *Before Town Meeting the fund had a balance of \$963,811. The amount to add to this fund will be determined at Town Meeting. For good financial management it is recommended to have between 5%-10% of the town's operating budget in the Stabilization Fund.*

ARTICLE 46: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (free cash) for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the period beginning July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2003, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation- 3 at Town Meeting**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: *To transfer a sum of money to be determined at Town Meeting from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate.*

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AND SUMMARY

MAY 6, 2002

In the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the sixth day of May next, at 8:00 in the evening, to consider the following:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2002 budget or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *To transfer money between line item accounts*

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to purchase 7.1+/- acres (seven point one) off West Main Street property known as the Squannacook Sportsmans Club shown on the old Assessors Map M Parcel 100-E and on the new Assessors Map 106 Parcels 33 and 34, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Postpone Indefinitely

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Postpone Indefinitely

Summary: *\$11,000 to purchase the Squannacook Sportsman's Club and pay for closing costs. This article will be indefinitely postponed as a private buyer is willing to purchase the Club, meet all the same conditions as the Town had agreed to, and allow town access to the property and building, with the option of the Town's first right of refusal should the property be sold again.*

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to design and upgrade the septic system on the property known as the Squannacook Sportsman's Club shown on the old Assessors Map M Parcel 100-E and on the new Assessors Map 106 Parcels 33 and 34 or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Postpone indefinitely

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Postpone indefinitely

Summary: *If the Town purchased the Sportman's Club, the septic system would need to be replaced. This article will be indefinitely postponed.*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to acquire, on behalf of the Town, a certain parcel of land located on Skyfield Drive, shown as parcels 14 and 19.2 on Assessors Map 222 and containing approximately 32.7 acres; to transfer from available funds or appropriate a sum of money therefor; to authorize the Conservation Commission to apply for a "self-help" grant for such acquisition pursuant to Section 11 of Chapter 132A of the General Laws and to act as the official representative for such application; and to authorize the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen to execute all documents and take all actions necessary in connection with such acquisition; or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *The Conservation Commission is purchasing 32.7 acres of land on Skyfield Drive for \$279,000 to be kept in Open Space. 58% of the purchase price (\$161,820) will be reimbursed by a Self-Help grant from the Commonwealth.*

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to implement a Geographic Information System (GIS) plan as detailed in the "GIS Assessment and Implementation Plan for the Town of Groton, Massachusetts," prepared by Applied Geographics, Inc., dated April 2002, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: GIS COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-At Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Not Support

Summary: *\$25,000. The GIS Committee completed the GIS Needs Assessment funded by the 2001 Annual Town Meeting. The requested \$25,000, in addition to the remaining funds in the account, will be used to go forward with Phase II of the GIS Implementation Plan prepared by AGI. The GIS system will enable the Town to produce maps, create an interactive data base, and provide better service to the public.*

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to pay an unpaid bill of the Highway Department for Fiscal Year 2001, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *To pay Mobile Testing Services, Inc. \$120 for a random drug test on June 27, 2001.*

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal 2002 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: SEWER COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Summary: *To transfer \$46,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to pay for engineering services to conduct an Inflow/Infiltration (I and I) study and develop a Capacity Management System.*

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to pay an unpaid bill of a previous year for a non-static floor in the radio room of the Public Safety Building, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-Support

Summary: \$3,360. This non-static flooring was installed in October of 2000 on the FY 2001 budget, but was not installed to the satisfaction of the town and payment was withheld. Corrections were made in December of 2000 by the contractor and were still not satisfactory. The contractor then failed to return, consequently the 2001 budget had expired and the new budget for FY 2002 was in effect when the contractor (under new management) came back in July 2001, to make the correction, so as to get paid for the installation of the flooring. Money has to be appropriated before the contractor can make his corrections to the satisfaction of the town and receive payment for services rendered.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Section 4, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986 as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988 to allow an additional property tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2003 for those persons who qualify for certain property tax exemptions under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5, or take any action relating thereon.

Sponsored By: **ASSESSORS**

Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation-Support**

Finance Committee: **Recommendation-Support**

Summary: This article will increase the exemption provided under state statute up to as much as 100% of the exemption for elderly or blind persons or veterans with a service connected disability. The deduction will provide a greater benefit to the approximately 111 homeowners who are eligible for this exemption.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following Water Use Restriction By-Law/Ordinance on behalf of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Section I Authority

This by-law is adopted by the Town under its police powers to protect public health and welfare and its powers under M.G.L. c.40, §21 et seq. and implements the Town's authority to regulate water use pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, §69B. This by-law also implements the Town's authority under M.G.L. c. 40, §41A, conditioned upon a declaration of water supply emergency issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 2 Purpose

The purpose of this by-law is to protect, preserve, and maintain the public health, safety, and welfare whenever there is in force a State of Water Supply Conservation or State of Water Supply Emergency by providing for enforcement of any duly imposed restrictions, requirements, provisions, or conditions imposed by the Town or by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 3 Definitions

Person shall mean any individual, corporation trust, partnership or association, or other entity.

State of Water Supply Emergency shall mean a State of Water Supply Emergency declared by the Department of Environmental Protection under M.G.L. c. 21G, §15-17.

State of Water Supply Conservation shall mean a State of Water Supply Conservation declared by the Town pursuant to section 4 of this by-law.

Water Users or Water Consumers shall mean all public and private users of the Town's public water system, irrespective of any person's responsibility for billing purposes for water used at any particular facility.

Section 4 Declaration of a State of Water Supply Conservation

The Town, through its Board of Water Commissioners, may declare a State of Water Supply Conservation upon a determination by a majority vote of the Board that a shortage of water exists and conservation measures are appropriate to ensure an adequate supply of water to all water consumers. Public notice of a State of Water Supply Conservation shall be given under section 6 of this by-law before it may be enforced.

Section 5 Restricted Water Uses

A declaration of a State of Water Supply Conservation shall include one or more of the following restrictions, conditions, or requirements limiting the use of water as necessary to protect the water supply. The applicable restrictions, conditions, or requirements shall be included in the public notice required under section 6.

a) Odd/Even Day Outdoor Watering: Outdoor watering by water users with odd numbered addresses is restricted to odd numbered days. Outdoor watering by water users with even numbered addresses is restricted to even numbered days.

b) Outdoor Watering Ban: Outdoor watering is prohibited.

c) Outdoor Watering Hours: Outdoor watering is permitted only during daily periods of low demand, to be specified in the declaration of a State of Water Supply Conservation and public notice thereof.

d) Filling Swimming Pools: Filling of swimming pools is prohibited.

e) Automatic Sprinkler Use: The use of automatic sprinkler systems is prohibited.

Section 6 Public Notification of a State of Water Supply Conservation; Notification of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Notification of any provision, restriction, requirement or condition imposed by the Town as part of a State of Water Supply Conservation shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town, or by such other means reasonably calculated to reach and inform all users of

water of the State of Water Supply Conservation. Any restriction imposed under section 5 shall not be effective until such notification is provided. Notification of the State of Water Supply Conservation shall also be simultaneously provided to the Massachusetts Department of

Environmental Protection.

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Section 7 Termination of a State of Water Supply Conservation; Notice

A State of Water Supply Conservation may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board of Water Commissioners, upon a determination that the water supply shortage no longer exists. Public notification of the termination of a State of Water Supply Conservation shall be given in the same manner required by Section 6.

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Section 8 State of Water Supply Emergency; Compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Orders

Upon notification to the public that a declaration of a State of Water Supply Emergency has been issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, no person shall violate any provision, restriction, requirement, or condition of any order approved or issued by the Department intended to bring about an end to the State of Emergency.

Section 9 Penalties

Any person violating this by-law shall be liable to the Town in the amount of \$50 for the first violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation which shall inure to the Town for such uses as the Board of Water Commissioners may direct. Fines shall be recovered by indictment, or on complaint before the District Court, or by non-criminal disposition in accordance with section 21D of chapter 40 of the general laws. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 10 Severability

The invalidity of any portion or provision of this by-law shall not invalidate any other portion or provision thereof.

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: WATER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation-Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation-No position

Summary: *The proposed By-law is to provide the Board of Water Commissioners authority to implement mandatory water use restrictions when it has been determined by the Department of Environmental Protection that there is a State of Water Supply Emergency or when the Board of Water Commissioners determines that there is a State of Water Supply Conservation.*