

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AND SUMMARY**

**MAY 5, 2003**

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 fifth 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 2003 budget, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:**                    **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen:** **Recommendation - Support**

**Finance Committee:** **Recommendation - Tabled for further information**

**Summary:** *To transfer money between line item accounts.*

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**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2003 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:**                    **SEWER COMMISSION**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support**

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support Unanimously**

**Summary:** \$20,000. *To transfer funds from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to pay for treatment of excess inflow and infiltration.*

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**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to fund a long-term Growth Impact Study on town infrastructure, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation -1 Support, 1 Not Support, 1 At Town Meeting**

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - Not Support Unanimously**

**Summary:** Not to exceed \$30,000. *This study is to assess long-term impact caused by the 45% growth in residential housing that has occurred since 1989. This study will supply the necessary information to Town Boards and Committees to know when infrastructure within the Town will require more staff, equipment and capital improvements to support the increase in population associated with growth. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs projects population to be approximately 22,000 at full residential build out based on our current zoning.*

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**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the fiscal year 2003 Wage and Classification Schedule by adding the Treasurer/Tax Collector position to grade 14, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support**

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support Unanimously**

**Summary:** *The Treasurer/Tax Collector position was recently changed from an elected position to an appointed position. After this change occurred, the position was graded by the Personnel Board and therefore needs to be included in the Personnel By Law Wage and Classification Schedule. The salary range for this position for FY03 is \$47,757-\$58,735*

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**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to pay unpaid Fiscal Year 2002 bills for the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** **HIGHWAY SURVEYOR**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support**

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - 5 Support, 1 Abstention**

**Summary:** *To pay for two prior fiscal year bills to Advance Security Systems, Inc. in the total amount of \$213.33*

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**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the return of \$3000 from \$30,000 appropriated under Article 44 of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of April 29, 2002, Williams Barn Restoration project, to the General Fund or to appropriate the same to another Town purpose, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** **Williams Barn Restoration Committee**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support**

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - 4 Support Returning to General Fund, 2 Not Support**

**Summary:** *Due in large part to dedicated, skilled, volunteer labor by generous citizens, the Williams Barn Restoration Project is accomplishing its objectives under the estimated budget. The Committee believes that in these challenging fiscal times, a cost reduction of ten percent is consistent with Town objectives.*

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**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Library Trustees to acquire, on behalf of the Town, a portion of the land located at 103-105 Main Street and shown on Assessors' Map 113, Lot 19 in connection with pedestrian pathway and site improvements for the Groton Public Library and to take all action necessary for such acquisition; and vote to appropriate a sum of money therefor; or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:                      Library Trustees**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support**

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - 3 Support, 1 Not Support, 2 Recused**

**Summary:** *This article will allow the Town to acquire a small strip of land which abuts the north side of the library in order to have the necessary width for the installation of a walkway. The only cost for this purchase is the payment of seller's attorney fees, which will be paid for with existing funds in the Library account.*

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**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, § 198-16 Extension, by striking out the following sentence:

“A full or limited land-disturbance permit shall be valid for one year from the date the permit is issued.”

And inserting in its place:

“A full or limited land-disturbance permit shall be valid for two years from the date the permit is issued.”

Or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By: Earth Removal Advisory Committee**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support**

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - No Position**

**Summary:** *The Earth Removal Advisory Committee is proposing this change so that an erosion control permit is valid for two years rather than one year.*

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**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton, section 218-25.1, Personal Wireless Services Facility, subsection 218-25.1 H, Development Regulations, by striking out existing item (3) which reads as follows:

“(3) Silver paint or galvanized finish shall be used on the portion of the outside of a personal wireless services tower that rises above the tree line in order to blend into the landscape.”

And inserting in its place:

“(3) In order to blend into the landscape and minimize the visual impact of a personal wireless services tower that rises above the tree-line, the tower shall be finished in a manner acceptable to the Planning Board.”

**Sponsored by: PLANNING BOARD**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support**

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - No Position**

**Summary:** *The Planning Board is proposing this zoning amendment to allow the Board to determine the type of finish used on telecommunication towers and associated equipment in order to minimize visibility.*

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**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 9 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Capital Planning Committee, Section 2, Duties, by adding the following paragraphs:

- C. The Capital Planning Committee will prepare a capital budget for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. Capital projects, excluding land purchases, will only be considered at the Annual Town Meeting. The capital budget will include capital projects with a total cost of not more than \$500,000. Any capital project exceeding the \$500,000 capital budget limit will require a separate article.

For capital projects consisting of improvements, rehabilitation, additions to, or new construction of, municipal buildings and that require architectural or engineering design, said cost of such design shall first be approved at the Annual Town Meeting. A good faith estimate of the total project costs, including all so-called soft and hard costs, will be given. Once the project costs are known, final approval of the project, including construction funding will be required at the next Annual Town Meeting.

- D. The Capital Planning Committee will oversee capital projects and meet periodically with the project manager or project representatives of the Town and/or the contract. The Capital Planning Committee will give project reports and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

**Sponsored by: CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

**Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support Unanimously**

*Summary: This article will further define the duties of the committee by having one article, similar to the budget article proposed by the finance committee, for capital items that are less than \$500,000. Additionally, it will be required that the committee oversee the progress of approved projects, to ensure the capital plan is being executed.*

And you will serve this warrant by posting a true and attested copy of the same in at least two public places in said Groton, fourteen days before the day appointed for said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make return of your doings to the Town Clerk on or before time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this sixteenth day of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand three.

OFFICER'S RETURN

Groton Middlesex

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Dann Chamberlin, Chairman

Pursuant to the within Warrant,

I have this day notified the

INHABITANTS to assemble at the

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas D. Hartnett, Clerk

Time, Place and for the purpose

within mentioned as within directed.

Personally posted by constable.

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Peter S. Cunningham, Member