

**MINUTES  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2005  
With adjourned session of May 2, 2005**

The first session of the April 25, 2005 Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7pm by Town Moderator, Robert Gosselin. There is no quorum requirement for the Annual Town Meeting. Donald Black made announcements on the 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration. There was a brief slide presentation by the 'Founder's Day Committee' highlighting the celebration that will take place on May 21, 2005. Board of Selectmen Chair George 'Fran' Dillon presented a bouquet of flowers to Dr. Mary Athey Jennings for her eleven years as Superintendent of schools. Dr. Jennings will be retiring in June 2005. At 7:20 pm there were 134 voters in attendance. Frank Belitsky made an announcement that the Groton Senior Foundation, the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Nashoba Valley Medical Center will sponsor a workshop on the importance of having a Health Care Proxy. Richard Muehlke made an announcement regarding the Town Wide Litter Clean-up on Saturday May 7, 2005. This is an effort the 'clean-up' the Town of Groton for the upcoming Founders' Day festivities. There was a motion to waive the reading of the warrant. Motion was seconded. The reading of the warrant was waived. The Chair announced that the Annual Town Election will be held on May 17, 2005. The Polls will be open from 7am to 8pm.

**ARTICLE 1:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to hear and act on the report of the Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees

**Article 1 carried.**

**ARTICLE 2:**

Moved and seconded that the Town 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.

**Article 2 carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 3:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to allow for the elected officials listed in Article 3 of the warrant the compensation printed in the warrant.

**Article 3 carried unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 4:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, by deleting Chapter 48, Personnel, Section 3, Personnel Administrator, in its entirety and inserting in its place the following:

§48. Personnel Manager – To assist the Personnel Board in the exercise of its powers and duties under Section 48-2 there shall be employed a Personnel Manager reporting to the Board of Selectmen.

This would create a position of Personnel Manager who would report to the Board of Selectmen. The Town does need someone as a point person for personnel issues. Personnel Law is becoming more complicated. At this time we are only seeking a by-law for this position since there is no funding. Garret Boles spoke against this article. Since things are very 'lean' at this time, this is something that shouldn't be enacted. This position is a twenty hour week position which would qualify for health benefits. The cost to the taxpayer would be \$41,430 per year. Peter Cunningham reiterated that this is not a financial matter. At this time the BOS is merely seeking to place this into the by-law, since this is good government and good management. The Town has been derelict in dealing with personnel issues. Virginia Wood echoed Mr. Cunningham's comments. William Miller made a motion to move the question. This suppresses debate. The question was moved.

Article 4 is defeated.

**ARTICLE 5:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Personnel By-Law Wage and Classification Schedule as set forth in the Schedule distributed at this Town Meeting.

This is the wage and classification study. There is no COLA adjustment this year.

**Article 5 is carried by majority vote.**

**ARTICLE 6:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next fiscal year (2006), and act on the budget of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Dillon, commented that cities and towns are facing their worst year yet. Steve Webber explained the budget and the many issues that the town is facing. Charles McKinney made a presentation on behalf of the School Committee. Groton's MCAS scores are in the top 10% in the State. Over 90% of graduating seniors go on to college studies. Current total budget is 32 million. A great deal will be spent on health care and SPED costs are rising. \$275,000 costs of teachers' salaries' increase. The Peter Twomey Youth Center is in need of capital improvements. Craig Young developed a five year plan for building improvements. In summary we have a great school district; however, we have a serious financial issue. There will be cuts that will be noticed next year. It will be at least two years before we get out some of these fiscal issues.

1) GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,577,056 for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1600 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

**Motion carried**

2) PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved the sum of \$75,000 to Fire & Emergency Medical Services and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,578,311 for a total of \$2,653,311 for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 2000 through 2242 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Christopher Kelley made a motion to amend line 2041 to \$70,125 and reduce free cash by \$23,842. Town Counsel corrected the wording. Jay Prager from the Finance Committee commented that the need is not there. Mr. Cunningham commented that these fees don't make a lot of sense compared to other communities. Rebecca Pine asked what the money was for. Mr. Kelley responded that it is for fire protection related costs such as flushing and painting the hydrants. The chair questioned the numbers. Chair read the motion: *It's been moved and seconded to amend the FY06 budget by increasing line 2041 from \$23,842 to \$70,125.* The Chair asked the Finance Committee and Town counsel if they agreed with the math. Mr. Cunningham encouraged not supporting this article. The Chair asked Mr. Webber and Mr. Kelley to discuss the numbers so that a motion could be voted on. As of 8:30 pm there were 222 voters. The Chair asked for unanimous consent from the meeting to allow Mr. Kelley to withdraw his original motion so that the new motion could be presented with the corrected numbers. The Chair read the motion to amend: *Moved and seconded to amend the FY 06 by increasing line 2041 Groton Water Fire Protection from \$46, 283 to \$70, 125 and appropriating from free cash \$23,842.*

**The motion to amend was defeated.**

**The main motion carried by unanimous vote.**

### 3) SCHOOLS

#### *a) Nashoba Valley Technical School*

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$430,480 for Nashoba Valley Regional Technical School as represented by line 3000 in the Budget

Kevin McKenzie, Regional Representative for Nashoba Valley Technical School, made a motion to amend. He commented that the school would like to see the return of a facilities manager, increase from four to five custodians, and upgrade the business office. Superintendent Dr. Judith Klimkiewicz made a comment that she was available for any questions. Mr. Dillon commented that there is a concern of the certification of the E&D fund. The school had not filed balance sheets for E&D certification with the Department of Revenue since 1999. These reports must be filed yearly. As of 9 pm there were 239 voters in attendance. Michael Manugian commented that the numbers from the school will be certified by the State and to give the kids a break. The Chair asked the voters to unanimously approve the withdrawal of Mr. McKenzie's motion. Chair asked Town Counsel if an additional amendment was needed for the motion to amend. Motion to amend as corrected: *Moved and seconded to amend line 3000 to read \$452,313 and to appropriate from Free Cash \$21,833. Voted on the motion to amend.* The chair stated that it appeared the 'no's' had it. He asked if there were seven voters who wished to contest the Chair. There were seven voters who contested the vote, therefore tellers were called.

Tellers were called and duly sworn:

Stephen Conway  
Paul Funch  
Paul Fitzgerald

Patricia Tervo  
Judith Converse  
Stephen Boczenowski

**Motion to amend was defeated. 92 yes, 96 no  
Main motion carried by majority vote.**

*b) Groton Dunstable Regional School District*

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,206,646 for Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by Lines 3020 through 3022 in the budget.

**Motion carried by majority vote**

4) HIGHWAY AND HEALTH

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,440,581 for Highway and Health as represented by lines 5000 through 5145 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

**Motion carried by unanimous vote**

5) SEWER ASSESSMENT

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,936 for Sewer Assessment as represented by line 6000 in the Budget.

**Motion carried by majority vote. One voice opposed.**

6) LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$934,994 for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by lines 7000 through 7182 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

**Motion carried by majority vote**

7) DEBT SERVICE

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,845,297 for Debt Service as represented by lines 8000 through 8060 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

**Motion carried by unanimous vote**

8) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,950,726 for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 9000 through 9022; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

**Motion carried by unanimous vote**

9) WATER ENTERPRISE

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Rates and Fees the sum of \$1,227,930 to the Water Enterprise Fund for FY2006 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

**Motion carried by unanimous vote**

10) SEWER ENTERPRISE

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency the sum of \$35,457 and to appropriate from Sewer Rates and Fees the sum of \$683,305 for a total of \$718,842 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY2006 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

**Motion carried by unanimous vote**

11) ELECTRIC LIGHT

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings or from municipal power and from the sale of jobbing during Fiscal 2006 for the Groton Electric Light Department; the whole to be expended by the Manager of that department under the direction and control of the Board of Electric Light Commissioners for the expenses of the ensuing fiscal year as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth. The total fund to be appropriated is -0-.

**Motion carried by unanimous vote**

**ARTICLE 7:**

Moved and seconded that the Town 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.

**Article 7 carried by unanimous vote**

**ARTICLE 8:**

Moved and seconded that Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund \$98,000 for the following capital purposes:

Purchase of Intermediate Truck	\$45,000
PlymoVent installation at Fire Station 1	\$35,000
Purchase of Fire/EMS Dept. Radio Repeaters	\$18,000

Thomas Naughton Chair of Capital Planning commented that these are in line with Capital Planning guidelines. If approved, these items would be funded from the Capital Assets Stabilization Fund.

**Article 8 carried by unanimous vote**

**ARTICLE 9:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the remaining, unexpended balances of the following appropriations

\$15.93	Voted under Article 11 of the September 23, 2002, Special Town Meeting Warrant (Carol G. Wheeler Park)
\$8,500.00	Voted under Article 5 of the April 30, 2001, Annual Town Meeting Warrant as part of the Selectmen's Line Item Budget for FY02 (4 Corners land purchase)
\$14,949.25	Voted under Article 4 of May 3, 2004, Special Town Meeting Warrant (Brownloaf Development Investigation)
\$9,000.00	Voted under Article 11 of the April 30, 2001 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (demolition of buildings)

And raise and appropriate \$17,534.82 for the Reserve Fund, for a total of \$50,000.

These are unexpected expenses.

**Finance Committee unanimously supported this article.**

**Article 9 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 10:**

Moved and seconded that Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the purpose of constructing a parking lot at the Public Safety Building, 99 Pleasant Street, (Assessors Map 109 Parcel 3).

Michelle Collette asked if the \$20,000 includes engineering studies since this parcel is close to wetlands. Jack Saball did comment that the studies were included as well. Dr. John Bruner asked what the plans were for the second floor of the fire house. John Saball responded that the second floor will be used by the Fire Chief. As of 9:30 pm there were 241 voters.

**Finance Committee voted 7 to 1 in favor.**

**Article 10 carried by majority vote.**

**ARTICLE 11:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, \$7,800 to obtain actuarial services for the purpose of determining the future cost of post employment benefits.

Valerie Jenkins, Town Accountant, commented that this study is for retired employees under MGL Chapter 42B.

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 11 carried by unanimous vote**

**ARTICLE 12:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to update and reformat the Groton Code Book.

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 12 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 13:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund:

Appropriate \$ 20,000 for the Community Preservation Committee FY06  
Operating Expenses  
Appropriate \$ 40,000 for Open Space Reserve  
Appropriate \$ 40,000 for Historic Resource Reserve  
Appropriate \$ 40,000 for Community Housing Reserve  
Appropriate \$260,000 FY06 Budget Reserve  
Total Appropriation \$400,000

This is a housekeeping article based on anticipated Community Preservation Act funds.

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 13 carried by majority vote**

**ARTICLE 14:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to approve the plan entitled, "Town of Groton Sewer System" drawn by Woodard & Curran dated revised April 6, 2005 and otherwise, as stated in the warrant, and vote to amend Section 190-3 of the Groton Code as printed in the warrant.

This article will correct and update the original plan of the Groton Sewer District.

**Article 14 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 15:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 7 of the warrant for the Special Town Meeting of October 27, 2003.

**Article 15 carried by majority. One voice opposed**

**ARTICLE 16:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Groton Water Department through its Board of Water Commissioners to enter into agreements, pursuant to the provisions of MGL, Chapter 40, Section 39H, with any contiguous municipal water department and/or municipal water supply district for the supply of water.

**Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.  
Article 16 indefinitely postponed**

**ARTICLE 17:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to renew the revolving account under Chapter 44, § 53E½ 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, as printed in the warrant.

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 17 carried my unanimous vote**

**ARTICLE 18:**

Moved and seconded that Town vote, pursuant to Section 218-28D of the Code of the Town of Groton, to retain in place until the 2010 Annual Town Meeting Section 218-28, Development Rate Limitation, of Chapter 218-Zoning.

George Barringer, Planning Board Chair, stated that at the April 14, 2005 meeting, the Planning Board voted four in favor and three opposed to recommend that the Town Meeting adopt the proposed Zoning Amendment to retain the Development Rate Limitation provisions until 2010. This article is to limit growth not to stop or cap growth. This law has been in place since 1980. This By-law is subject to renewal every five years and is triggered by 120 building permits issued in the preceding 24 months. If we reach 120 permits issued then the rate limitation is triggered. Schools and the water supply are major concerns. Joshua Degen representing the minority report from the Planning Board stated that he has been in favor of this by-law. We need another process in lieu of this. We should follow the law since it says this should not be in place. Alan Hoch commented that the Town should vote not to renew the growth limitation by-law. This is not a good policy decision for a Planning Board. Town Counsel commented that there is a distinction between the Town of Groton By-law and the Town of Hadley decision. There was much debate on this article. Edna White urged voters to vote for this article.

**Motion was made to move the question. Question was moved.  
Article 18 carried by 2/3 majority as declared by Moderator.**

Mr. Dillon made a motion made to adjourn. Motion was seconded. **The first session of the April 25, 2005 Annual Town Meeting was adjourned to Monday May 2, 2005 at 7 pm. Meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm.**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
FIRST ADJOURNED SESSION  
MAY 2, 2005**

The first adjourned session of the April 25, 2005 Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm on May 2, 2005. There is no quorum requirement for the Annual Town Meeting. Moderator Robert Gosselin announced that candidates' night will be held on May 10 at the Groton Country Club at 7:30 pm. The contested offices were also announced. At 8pm the meeting will recess to the Special Town Meeting. George 'Fran' Dillon Chair for the Board of Selectmen, made an announcement that there are two different sizes of the Annual Town Report. Mr. Dillon acknowledged the photographers who took pictures for the report. Gregory Maloney and Lorraine Black were acknowledged for their beautiful pictures.

**ARTICLE 19:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton, Section 218-23D Shared Driveways, as printed in the warrant.

**Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to support.**

Carolyn Perkins remarked that the Planning Board voted unanimously to support this article. This is a correction.

**Article 19 carried by 2/3 vote.**

**ARTICLE 20**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Zoning By-law as follows:

Item 1. By adding a new Section 218-16D, entitled "Accessory Apartments," as printed in the warrant

And Item 2. By adding a new definition to Section 218-4 for Accessory Apartment, as printed in the warrant:

**Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to support.**

This article should be supported since many elderly people need a place to live. This does meet a very important social goal. Scott Wilson made a motion to amend to strike C(2) and replace with: *the owner of the premises must occupy one of the units except for temporary absences.* The chair read the motion to amend: *It has been moved and seconded to amend Article 20 by striking out section C parenthesis two which reads as follows: "An affidavit shall be provided stating that one of the two dwelling units shall be the residence for the tax purposes of the owner of the property"* and by inserting in its place the following: ***the owner of the premises must occupy one of the units except for temporary absences***".

**The motion to amend carried unanimously.**

**Article 20 carried by 2/3 as declared by chair**

**ARTICLE 21:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept Canterbury Lane as a public way and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire such lands and easements as are necessary in connection therewith.

**Planning Board voted unanimously to support.  
Article 21 carried by unanimous vote**

**ARTICLE 22:**

Moved and seconded that the Town 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 Capital Stabilization Fund.

**Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.  
Article 22 indefinitely postponed**

**ARTICLE 23:**

Moved and seconded that the Town 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.

**Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.  
Article 23 indefinitely postponed**

**ARTICLE 24:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \_\_\_\_\_ from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (free cash) for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the period beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006.

**Motion moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.**

**Article 25 is indefinitely postponed**

**ARTICLE 25:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to rezone from R-A (Residential-Agricultural) to B-1 (Business) certain premises situated at 48 Boston Road owned by Creed Realty Trust, consisting of approximately 13,500± square feet or 0.31 acres of area which premises is the land described in a deed recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 39242, Page 577, being shown as Parcel 36 on Assessors' Map 115 and to approve a concept plan entitled "Concept Plan," existing Tax and Real Estate Office, in the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, certain premises situated at 40 Boston Road owned by John E. Murphy, consisting of approximately 29,185± square feet or 0.67 acres of area which premises is the land described in a deed recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 14792, Page 471, being shown as Parcel 37 on Assessors' Map 115 and to approve a concept plan entitled "Concept Plan," existing Plumbing Office and Supply Facility, in the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, certain premises situated at 28 Boston Road owned by Beth Rea Nominee Trust, consisting of approximately 23,522± square feet or 0.54 acres of area which premises is the land described in a deed recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 23617, Page 283, being shown as Parcel 38 on Assessors' Map 115 and to approve a concept plan entitled "Concept Plan," existing Real Estate Office in the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, certain premises situated at 26 Boston Road owned by Stoneybrook Realty Trust, consisting of approximately 29,988 square feet or 0.91 acres of area which premises is the land described in a deed recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 15301, Page 206, being shown as Parcel 39 on Assessors' Map 115 and to approve a concept plan entitled "Concept Plan," existing Real Estate

Office in the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, certain premises situated at 6 Boston Road, owned by Peterborough Oil Company, Inc., consisting of approximately 62,421± square feet or 1.43 acres of area which premises is the land described in a deed recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 38554, Page 010, being shown as Parcel 40 on Assessors' Map 115 and to approve a concept plan entitled "Concept Plan," existing gas station, in the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, prepared by Richard G. Barry, said plan being on file with the Town Clerk.

Barry Cunningham made a motion *to amend to strike 29,988 and replace it with 39,640.* ***Motion to strike 29,988 and replace it with 39,640.*** Mr. Cunningham made a power point presentation highlighting the merits of this article.

Edward Kopec commented that this change should have been done years ago. George Barringer commented that the Planning Board voted not to support this article. This rezoning would impact public health, public safety and the center. We lose the control of the structure of that property. This will have an adverse effect since it will create a bottleneck coming into town. As of 7:45pm there were 144 voters. Georgana Cochran commented as a resident and she supports this article since the area would become more attractive. The Chair declared a temporary recess of the Annual Town Meeting at 8 pm. The Chair declared a quorum of 144 voters present for the Special Town Meeting. The Chair declared a recess in the Special Town Meeting and re-opened the Annual Town Meeting at 8:02 pm. Mr. Cunningham commented that he is a sensitive builder to the environment and that there will be oversight by Conservation Commission and Planning Board. Mr. Barringer commented that B1 Zoning is less restrictive than RA Zoning. Rena Swezey commented that her son-in-law used to own the General Store and if a business is located in a residential area it's very difficult to get financing and this poses a hardship on the business owner.

**Motion was made to move the question to amend. The motion to amend was carried by majority vote.**

**The main motion as amended required a 2/3 vote.**

Tellers were called and duly sworn:

Michael Manugian	Stephen Conway
Paul Funch	Richard Muehlke
Michael McElroy	Teresa David

**Article 25 was defeated. Failed to carry by 2/3 vote. 41 yes 99 no**

The Chair declared a recess in the Annual Town Meeting at 8:24pm and re-opened the Special Town Meeting

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
May 2, 2005**

Meeting was called to order at 8 pm with 144 voters present which satisfied the quorum requirement of 136 and recessed at 8:01 pm. Re-opened the Special Town Meeting at 8:24pm

**ARTICLE 1:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2005 budget A as shown in the handout presented to this meeting.

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 1 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 2:**

Moved and seconded that Town vote to transfer from free cash \$1059.12 for the following unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year:

\$678.12	Police Department Utility (Keyspan) bill (FY04)
\$381.00	Nashoba Valley Medical Center (FY04)

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support  
Article 2 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 3:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer the sum of \$250,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to supplement the appropriation voted under Article 8 of the warrant for the October 27, 2003 Special Town Meeting for "Phase II Testing and Engineering for Unkety Brook and/or Shattuck Well;" and to amend the vote taken under said Article 8 by revising the purpose of the appropriation to "Phase II Testing and Engineering for Unkety Brook and/or Shattuck Well and/or new well exploration."

**The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee and voted unanimously to support.  
Article 3 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 4:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus for the purpose of purchasing and installing a water booster pump station and associated water mains on Skyfields Drive.

**Article 4 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 5:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from free cash the following sums:

- \$14,957 to reduce the deficit in the Recreation Revolving Account
- \$4,361 to reduce the deficit in the New Horizons Grant Account

**The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 5 carried by majority vote.**

**ARTICLE 6:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule by deleting in its entirety:

Non-step and Stipend Positions Miscellaneous:	
Lifeguard Water Safety Instructor I	\$ 9.00
Grade 3	Transfer Station Clerk

And inserting in its place the following:

Non-step and Stipend Positions Miscellaneous:	
Lifeguard Water Safety Instructor I	\$ 9.50
Transfer Station clerk	\$14.29

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 6 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 7:**

Moved and seconded that the sum of \$929,000 be appropriated to pay the costs of designing, constructing and laying of the Boston Road Sewer System Extension beginning at Old Ayer Road and extending approximately 4,800 feet easterly to Assessors' Lot No. 235-31-1, including the payment of any and all other costs incidental and related thereto, all costs to be repaid by the assessment of betterments upon the properties benefiting thereby, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, be authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to rescind the votes taken under Articles 20 and 21 of the warrant for the October 25, 2004 Special Town Meeting, which appropriated separate amounts for design and construction of separate sections (1 and 2) of said sewer system extension.

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support  
Article 7 carried by 2/3 vote as declared by chair.**

**ARTICLE 8:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 19 of the October 25, 2004 Special Town Meeting Warrant, which authorized the Boston Road extension of the Groton Center Sewer System, by deleting therefrom the words "including parts of Skyfield Drive, as more definitively set forth on a map, dated September, 2004" and inserting in their place the words "as more definitively set forth on a map dated revised April 6, 2005," a copy of said new map being on file in the Town Clerk's office.

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 8 carried by unanimous vote.**

**ARTICLE 9:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$60,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the FY05 Sewer Enterprise Department budget.

**Finance Committee voted unanimously to support.  
Article 9 carried by unanimous vote.**

**A motion was moved and seconded to dissolve the STM. The May 2, 2005 Special Town Meeting dissolved at 8:38pm.** The chair called to order the Annual Town Meeting

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
FIRST ADJOURNED SESSION (CONTINUED)  
MAY 2, 2005**

The Chair called to order the Annual Town Meeting at 8:38pm on May 2, 2005 with Article 26.

**ARTICLE 26:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to rezone from R-A (Residential-Agricultural) to B-1 (Business) certain premise located at 536 Main Street, Groton, owned by Groton Development Corp., consisting of approximately .95 acres of land, more or less, which premises is described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 32598, Page 475, being shown on the old Assessors Map I, Block 77 Lot C., Map I Block 80, Lot 0 and Map I, Block 79, Lot 0, and on the current Assessor's map 216-93-0, in the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, and on a conceptual schematic development plan prepared by Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc., said plan being on file with the Town Clerk, and vote to approve said concept plan .

Attorney Robert Anctil, has represented Gillis Homes for 10 yrs. The article seeks to rezone 536 Main Street. It's a property that's adjacent to NEBS and Mill Run Plaza and across from a 40B project that will soon start construction. They are looking to build a less than 10,000 square feet two floor professional office building. Joshua Degen commented that the Planning Board voted 6 in favor and 1 opposed.

**Board of Assessors voted unanimously to support.  
Finance Committee voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed with 1 abstention.  
Article 26 carried by 2/3 majority as declared by the Chair**

**ARTICLE 27:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to delete Chapter 81 Section 2, Quorum, of the Code of the Town of Groton in its entirety and insert in its place the following:

*The quorum for any Special Town Meeting shall consist of the number of registered voters present.*

Jeffrey Wilson commented that all meetings should have a quorum and it's irresponsible to run a meeting without a quorum. Michael Manugian agreed that there should be a quorum and commented that a minority will make decisions whether good ones or bad ones for everyone. It's important to get as many people as possible to make the decisions. Peter Cunningham commented that not enough people turn out when it's regular business and stated that at tonight's meeting we barely made the quorum. Michelle Collette spoke in favor of the article. She stated that everyone in Town receives a copy of the warrant and if people are concerned they will show up.

The Chair called for tellers

Michael Manugian  
Paul Funch  
Michael McElroy

Stephen Conway  
Richard Muehlke  
Teresa David

**In favor 59 against 62.  
Article 27 was defeated.**

**ARTICLE 28:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to direct the Selectmen to perform an engineering study of the Town-owned land at Cow Pond Brook Parcels 247-35, 248-9, 248-39, 248-40, 248-41, 249-51 and 249-57 to determine its suitability for the construction of affordable housing and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to perform this study.

Virginia Wood commented that affordable housing is one of the major issues that this town needs to tackle. We need to explore and re-use existing buildings for affordable housing since new construction is discouraged. Theresa Ragot asked if state funding for this study had been explored. Brooks Lyman responded that he wasn't aware of this. In addition he complimented James Patierno for doing a fine job in building affordable housing in Groton.

**Article 28 was defeated.**

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

**The May 2, 2005 first adjourned session of the April 25, 2005 Annual Town Meeting was dissolved at 9:27 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Onorina Z. Maloney  
Town Clerk**