

**Warrant, Summary, and
Recommendations**

TOWN OF GROTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium

Beginning Monday, October 24, 2005 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers:

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
OCTOBER 24, 2005**

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-fourth day of October next, at 7:00 P.M. in the evening, to consider the following:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the following unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year:

\$ 62.50	Computer Committee expense
\$344.00	Municipal Building expense
\$ 30.00	To refund recreation program fees

Or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By:	BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen:	Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee:	Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *Invoices for the above costs were submitted after the close of Fiscal Year 2005. Town Meeting approval is required to pay any prior year invoice.*

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the first year of the SEIU Local 888, Highway, Water, Transfer Station Contract for Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By:	BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen:	Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee:	Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *This will approve funding for the first year of the new DPW contract as well as fund the first year. A handout at town meeting will summarize changes to the contract.*

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in the schedule to be distributed at Town Meeting and to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund to the department line items also shown in a handout to be distributed at Town Meeting, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 4 Support; 3 Abstention

Summary: *This article will provide and fund a 2½% COLA for FY 06 for Personnel Bylaw employees.*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 3 of the April 25, 2005 Annual Town Meeting and allow the following revised compensation for the following elected officials for Fiscal Year 2006, and raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money to fund the department line items:

Town Clerk	\$54,244
Highway Surveyor	\$63,110
Tree Warden	\$ 1,344

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *To provide and fund a 2½% COLA for FY 06 for full time elected officials.*

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease for a municipal parking lot, of property shown on Assessors' Map 113, Parcel 60, located at 14 Station Avenue, and raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the Town's lease payments, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 6 Support; 1 Abstention

Summary: *This article will allow the Selectmen to lease the property on Station Avenue located between the Fire Station and the Town Hall. The proposed lease payment is \$1600 per year. The property will be used as a municipal parking lot.*

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), a sum of money to add to the Snow and Ice Budget for FY 2006, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *The Highway Department Snow and Ice Account always has a deficit at the end of the year. Currently this account has an appropriation of \$170,000. It is anticipated that up to \$75,000 will be added to this account.*

ARTICLE 7: 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 – 1 Support, 3 at Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support \$0

Summary: *Prior to Town Meeting, the Stabilization fund had a balance of approximately \$1,065,000. The amount to be added 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 Stabilization Funds. Prior to this Town Meeting, the balance in Free Cash was approximately \$845,000.*

ARTICLE 8: 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 Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 1 Support, 3 at Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support \$279,000
Capital Planning Committee: Recommendation- At Town Meeting

Summary: *Prior to Town Meeting, the fund had a balance of approximately \$119,000. The Capital Stabilization Fund is used to fund capital items. The financial management goal is to have 1.5% of the total budget dedicated to capital improvements. Prior to this Town Meeting, the balance in Free Cash was approximately \$845,000.*

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) or from other available funds for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the period beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – At Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support Using all remaining Free Cash towards this article except \$200,000 which should remain in Free Cash

Summary: *Prior to Town Meeting, the balance in the Unreserved Fund Balance (Free Cash) was approximately \$845,000. The Fiscal Year budget is out of balance because the estimation of “new growth” was higher than actually certified by the State. The transfer requested in this article will balance the budget.*

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$2,500,000 (Two Million Five Hundred Thousand) borrowing authorized by the Groton Dunstable Regional School District to pay additional costs of acquiring land for the purpose of locating the new District High School, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *This article authorizes the Regional School Committee to borrow up to an additional \$2.5 million for the high school property, known as the Casella property, located on Chicopee Row.*

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate an amount of \$185,000 from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve and/or the Community Preservation FY06 Budget Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2005-02, “Conservation Commission,” or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE & (Conservation Commission)
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *This article will place CPA funds in the Town’s Conservation fund. The Conservation Fund currently has approximately \$344,000.*

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate an amount of \$18,000 from the Community Preservation Historic Resource Reserve and/or the Community Preservation FY06 Budget Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2005-03, “Historic Documents Preservation Project,” or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE &
(Town Clerk)
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *The cost to protect all the records would be \$82,000. This article will begin the process of protecting the records that are in the worst condition.*

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate an amount of \$81,000 from the Community Preservation Community Housing Reserve and/or the Community Preservation FY06 Budget Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2005-04, “Nine Affordable Units at Rocky Ridge,” or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE &
(Housing Authority)
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 1 Support, 1 Not Support; 2 at Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *This project will assist the Groton Housing Authority in lowering the mortgage and thereby lowering rent for nine affordable units being built in the Rocky Ridge development off Sandy Pond Road.*

ARTICLE: 14 To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate an amount of \$23,190 from the Community Preservation FY06 Budget Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2005-06, “Sargisson Beach Docks,” or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE &
(Recreation Commission)
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 7 Support

Summary: *These funds will be used to purchase and install new docks at the Sargisson Beach.*

ARTICLE: 15 To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate an amount of \$22,500 from the Community Preservation Historic Resource Reserve and/or the Community Preservation FY06 Budget Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2005-07, “Groton Community Wide Preservation Project,” or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE &
(Historic Commission)
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 1 Not Support; 3 at Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 1 Not Support; 6 at Town Meeting

Summary: *This first segment of the project will complete a community survey of at least 150 structures and/or resources in the Town of Groton.*

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate an amount of \$60,000 from the Community Preservation Historic Resource Reserve and/or the Community Preservation FY06 Budget Reserve and/or the Community Preservation FY06 Community Preservation Committee FY06 Operating Expenses to fund Community Preservation Application 2005-09, "Fitch's Bridge Restoration Design," or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE & (Friends of Fitch's Bridge, Greenway Committee)**
Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation – 4 at Town Meeting**
Finance Committee: **Recommendation – 3 Not support; 4 at Town Meeting**

Summary: *These funds will be used to generate a design for restoration of Fitch's Bridge. Having this design in hand will allow the town to seek state and federal funds to assist in the restoration of the bridge as a pedestrian and equestrian crossing of the Nashua River.*

ARTICLE 17: 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 2006 for certain persons who qualify for a property tax exemption under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**
Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation – 4 Support**
Finance Committee: **Recommendation – 7 Support**

Summary: *This is a yearly article which allows the Town to increase the exemption from \$500 to \$1,000 for Elderly, Blind or Service Disabled Veterans.*

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way Wharton Row as laid out by the Board of Selectmen on September 6, 2005, and as shown on a Plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan, Wharton Row, Ames Meadow in Groton, Mass." dated January 29, 2004 by Doucet Survey Inc., a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
Board of Selectmen: **Recommendation - 4 Support**
Finance Committee: **Recommendation – No position**

Summary: *To accept Wharton Row as a public way.*

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 27, Section 1. Appointment Inspector of Wires by removing the words “and raises and appropriates the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) for said purpose,” or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No position

Summary: *The Town is working on updating the Groton Code. The Wire Inspector is paid by an inspection fee schedule therefore this section of the code is no longer relevant.*

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting Chapter 157, Junk Collectors, in its entirety, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No position

Summary: *This is another article to clean up the Groton Code. The Junk Collector’s by law was created in 1935 to allow person to obtain a license to collect junk “from place to place in the Town.” This by law is outdated and no longer necessary.*

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting Chapter 168, Peddler and Solicitors, in its entirety, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No position

Summary: *Town Counsel has informed the Selectmen that this by law is subject to legal challenge on constitutional grounds. In addition an individual can still obtain a hawker/peddler license from the state which would allow him to sell goods (e.g. hot dogs at the 350th celebration) in the Town.*

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to extend the “Groton Center Sewer System,” as established by vote of the Special Town Meeting February 6, 1989, under Article 7, to a portion of Old Ayer Road to include specifically Assessors’ Lots 114-11, 114-10, 114-9, 114-8, 114-1, 114-2, 114-3, 114-4, and 222-24, as more definitively set forth on a map entitled “Proposed Old Ayer Road Extension,” dated September 19, 2005, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk’s office, provided all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the additional sewer system and the cost of additional capacity, if any, are paid by the assessment of betterments upon the properties benefited thereby, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: SEWER COMMISSION
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 3 Support; 1 at Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 6 Support; 1 abstention

Summary: *To extend the Groton Sewer System from the beginning of Old Ayer Road to the “Riley/Breese” Lot (222-24).*

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money, for the design, construction, and laying of a sewer extension beginning at Old Ayer Road and extending approximately 1,075 feet to Assessor’s Lot 222-24 and any other costs incidental and related thereto, all costs to be repaid by the assessment of betterments upon the properties benefiting thereby, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: SEWER COMMISSION
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 6 Support; 1 Abstention

Summary: *To obtain funding for the sewer system extension that will begin at Old Ayer Road and extend approximately 1,075 feet to Assessors’ Lot 222-24. All costs will be repaid by the assessment of betterments upon the properties benefiting from the extension.*

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Sewer Commission to charge interest on the betterment assessments made in connection with the Old Ayer Road extension of the Groton Center Sewer System at a rate of equal to two percent (2%) above the rate of interest chargeable to the Town for the betterment project, in accordance with Section 13 of Chapter 80 of the General Laws, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: SEWER COMMISSION
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 6 Support; 1 Abstention

Summary: *To allow for interest on betterment assessments at 2% over the Town’s bond rate.*

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 19, Growth Management Advisory Committee, by deleting Section 1, Membership terms of office; in its entirety and inserting in its place the following:

There is hereby created a Growth Management Advisory Committee consisting of nine residents of the town to be appointed by the Moderator, one member to be appointed upon the recommendation of each of the following: the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Capital Planning Committee, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Assessors respectively, and one at-large member for terms of three years; provided however, that of the members

originally appointed, three shall be appointed for a term of one year; three for a term of two years; and three for a term of three years, as designated by the Moderator.

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: GROWTH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No position

Summary: *This will change the membership of GMAC from 7 members to 9 members by adding representation from the Board of Assessors and Finance Committee.*

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

Given under our hands this 3rd day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand five.

OFFICER'S RETURN

Groton Middlesex

Pursuant to the within Warrant,
I have this day notified the
INHABITANTS to assemble at the
Time, Place and for the purpose
within mentioned as within directed.
Personally posted by constable.

George F. Dillon, Jr.
George F. Dillon Jr, Chairman

John L. Saball
John L. Saball, Vice Chair

Robert W. Nordblom
Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk

Peter S. Cunningham
Peter S. Cunningham, Member

Mihran Keoseian
Mihran Keoseian, Member



Groton Town Meeting Amendment Work Sheet

Select one of the shaded sections by marking the box.
Please print neatly and cross through all words that do not apply.

I move to amend the {main motion | amendment}

by striking the words _____

and by substituting the words _____

I move to amend the {main motion | amendment}

by striking in its entirety {Section | Paragraph} # _____

and by substituting in its place the following: {Section | Paragraph} # _____

I move to amend the {main motion | amendment}

by adding the following {words | sentence | paragraph} _____

after the words _____

Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____

Street: _____ Date: _____

See instructions and information on reverse

Continuation

Instructions for using this form:

- Neatly print all information.
- Select the shaded section to be used by marking the check box.
- In the selected section, cross through all words that are not to be part of the amendment.
- Fill in the identification information and signature at the bottom of the form.
- Request to be recognized by the Moderator and then move the amendment by reading the completed form.
- Present the completed and signed form to the Moderator.

From the *Groton Town Meeting Procedures* booklet:

Amendments

If a voter wished to change a motion in some fashion, the procedure is to amend the motion. All motions to amend must be in writing and must state exactly how the voter wishes to change the motion so that the Moderator can know exactly what it is the voter wants to do before ruling on the motion or putting it to a vote. A voter who wishes to amend a *main motion* must have the amendment in writing and available to hand to the Moderator *before* rising to offer the amendment. The Moderator may refuse to put to the Meeting an amendment which is not immediately available in writing – the Moderator also will rule out of order an motion to amend which changes the original motion so drastically that, in the Moderator’s opinion, the motion is no longer within the “four corners” of the article.

An amendment may consist of adding, deleting, or substituting words in the motion. It may take the form of a “motion to substitute”: a different motion. Sometimes a speaker tries to amend “the article,” but this is improper language. It is the motion on the floor, not the article on the Warrant, that is to be amended.

A motion to amend requires only a majority vote, even though the motion to be amended may require two-thirds or more for final passage.

General Information:

- An amendment may be made to modify either the main motion already on the floor or another amendment that has been previously moved.
- All motions to amend must be presented to the Moderator in writing.
- All amendment must keep the amended motion within the general scope of the originally posted warrant article. This is referred to as “within the four corners” of the article.
- Town counsel may be asked to review an amendment and present an opinion on the legality of the amendment prior to being accepted by the Moderator for consideration by town meeting.
- Amendments should (if possible) be carefully written and reviewed prior to town meeting.
- It is strongly recommended that the Moderator be made aware of the intention to present an amendment well before the start of Town Meeting or as soon as possible within Town Meeting.**

Town of Groton
Board of Selectmen
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

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