

# Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

## TOWN OF GROTON



### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium

Beginning Monday, October 23, 2006 @ 7:00 PM

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Attention – Voters and Taxpayers:  
**Please bring this Report to Town Meeting**

Please see separate handout distributed at Town Meeting for Finance Committee, Capital Planning and Community Preservation Committees  
Recommendations



**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
OCTOBER 23, 2006**

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

**ARTICLE 1: Prior Year Fiscal Bills**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the payment of unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year as shown in the handout to be distributed at this Town Meeting, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *Invoices were submitted after the close of the fiscal year. Town Meeting approval is required to pay bills of a prior fiscal year.*

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**ARTICLE 2: Current Year Transfers**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2007 budget, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *To transfer money within the FY07 Budget. A handout will be available at Town Meeting.*

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**ARTICLE 3: Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Board of Health**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Board of Health, pursuant to Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the General Laws, to enter into Intermunicipal agreements for the performance of public health services or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF HEALTH  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – No Position

**Summary:** *This will allow the Board of Health to enter into inter-municipal agreements with other communities, as needed, to provide various public health services.*

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#### **ARTICLE 4. Purchase of a New Copier**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money for the purchase of a new copier for Town Hall, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 3 Support; 1 At Town Meeting  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *Approval of this article would fund the purchase of a new copier for use by various town departments at the Town Hall.*

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#### **ARTICLE 5. Grant of Easement Over Land to be Acquired from Boston & Maine Corporation**

To see if the Town will vote to grant an easement over land located at Assessors' Map 104-32, proposed to be acquired in the name of the Town by the Conservation Commission pursuant to General Laws Chapter 161C, to the owner of the land located at 134 Maple Avenue and to authorize the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen to execute all documents and take all action necessary to effectuate said grant, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN & CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – No Position

**Summary:** *This article seeks authority for the grant of an easement over land currently owned by the Boston and Maine Corporation and which is the subject of a right of first refusal given to the Town by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation pursuant to Chapter 161C of the General Laws.*

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#### **ARTICLE 6. Purchase of an Intermediate Truck**

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 intermediate truck for use by the Highway Department to maintain various public ways and properties, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN & HIGHWAY SURVEYOR  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting  
**Capital Planning Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *This item was postponed from the 2006 Annual Town Meeting and has been part of the Town's Capital Plan for many years as a scheduled replacement item.*

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## **ARTICLE 7. Purchase of Two Mowers**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to purchase two new mowers for use by the Highway Department to maintain various public parks and spaces, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN & HIGHWAY SURVEYOR

**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support

**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *This is an unexpected replacement due to an accident and fire which destroyed the mower which was being used by the Highway Department to maintain various recreational fields and public spaces. The purchase of two small mowers will allow greater flexibility of use.*

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## **ARTICLE 8: Police Patrolmen's Agreement for FY06**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to fund the first year (Fiscal Year 2006) of the Groton Police Patrolmen's Association Agreement or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support

**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *This article will authorize the new Patrolmen's Association agreement that was negotiated. A handout at Town Meeting will denote the changes to the agreement.*

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## **ARTICLE 9: Police Patrolmen's Agreement for FY07**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to fund the second year (Fiscal Year 2007) of the Groton Police Patrolmen's Association Agreement or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support

**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *This article will authorize the new Patrolmen's Association agreement that was negotiated. A handout at Town Meeting will denote the changes to the agreement.*

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## **ARTICLE 10: Groton Town Hall & Library Employees Contract for FY07**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to fund the first year (Fiscal Year 2007) of the Service Employees International Union, Local 888, Groton Town and Library Employees Agreement, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *This article will authorize the new Town Hall/Library Employees agreement that was negotiated. A handout at Town Meeting will denote the changes to the agreement.*

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### **ARTICLE 11. Update Bylaws**

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 updating the Groton Code Book or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** TOWN CLERK  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *These funds will cover Board of Health and Conservation Commission Wetlands Protection Regulations amendments to be included in the Groton Code Books.*

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### **ARTICLE 12. “Allowances for Applicant’s Gross Receipts under Clause 41A, Property Tax Deferrals”**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41A to increase the maximum qualifying gross receipts amount (income allowance) for persons applying for a property tax deferral under said clause to \$40,000, or take any action thereon.

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

**Summary:** *The income allowance for Clause 41A Property Tax Deferral is currently \$20,000 for all sources of income. By local option of town meeting, the amount of qualifying income for an individual or married couple can be increased to \$40,000. The Board of Assessors would like to increase the income levels in hopes that more tax payers would be eligible to qualify for the Tax Deferral Program.*

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### **ARTICLE 13. Engineering Related Costs for the Groton Residential Gardens Project**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to pay for engineering and related costs of the Groton Residential Gardens project, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *This is related to drainage issues at the Groton Residential Gardens project and Mill Run Plaza in connection with litigation involving the Town. One final inspection should be done and needs to be paid for, as well as a bill from Judith Nitsch Engineering, Inc. The Zoning Board of Appeals doesn’t have any engineering budget and the Planning Board’s and Selectmen’s budgets are almost used up for this project.*

#### **ARTICLE 14. Station Avenue Master Planning Project**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to fund preparation of design guidelines, a feasibility study, master planning and proposed zoning changes for the redevelopment of the Station Avenue area in the Town Center, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** PLANNING BOARD  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *The Planning Board is requesting funding in the amount of \$50,000 to prepare design guidelines for the Station Avenue area. The process will include public participation and evaluation of traffic, wetlands, and hydrology. The Board will work with a land use attorney to prepare a zoning amendment for presentation at a future Town Meeting.*

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#### **ARTICLE 15: Chicopee School #7 Rehabilitation**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$18,500 from the Community Preservation Historic Resource Reserve to fund the Community Preservation Application 2006-02, “Chicopee School #7 Rehabilitation,” or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE &  
SAWTELL SCHOOL FUND ASSOCIATION  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 2 Support; 2 Not Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Community Preservation Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting  
**Summary:** *These funds will allow the Sawtell School Fund Association to provide needed rehabilitation for this building. This will provide a unique setting for local schools to observe as part of their ongoing teachings on local history.*

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#### **ARTICLE 16: Historic Documents Preservation Project**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$16,400 from the Community Preservation Historic Resource Reserve to fund the Community Preservation Application 2006-03, “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 – At Town Meeting

**Community Preservation Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting  
**Summary:** *This project will protect town records covering more than 300 years.*

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### **ARTICLE 17: Community Wide Preservation Project**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$18,000 from the Community Preservation Historic Resource Reserve to fund the Community Preservation Application 2006-05, "Groton Community Wide Preservation Project," or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE & HISTORIC COMMISSION**

**Board of Selectmen:** **Recommendation – 4 Support**

**Finance Committee:** **Recommendation – At Town Meeting**

**Community Preservation Committee:** **Recommendation – At Town Meeting**

**Summary:** *This is the second segment of the project which will continue to document pre-historic and historic structures/resources in the Town of Groton/West Groton begun during FY06. Segment #2 will also create a list of resources eligible for National Historic Register designation, and identify locations of possible archeological assets.*

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### **ARTICLE 18. Norris Property**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$25,000 from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve to fund the Community Preservation Application 2006-06, "Norris Property," or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE & CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Board of Selectmen:** **Recommendation – 4 Support**

**Finance Committee:** **Recommendation – At Town Meeting**

**Community Preservation Committee:** **Recommendation – At Town Meeting**

**Summary:** *These funds will be used for demolition and removal of the buildings and septic system on the Norris property so that the Town can comply with the requirements of the conservation restriction on the property to "retain the premises predominantly in its natural, scenic and open condition."*

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### **ARTICLE 19. Wharton Plantation Foot Bridges**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$1,500 from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve to fund the Community Preservation Application 2006-09, "Wharton Plantation Foot Bridges," or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE & TRAILS COMMITTEE**

**Board of Selectmen:** **Recommendation – 4 Support**

**Finance Committee:** **Recommendation – At Town Meeting**

**Community Preservation Committee:** **Recommendation – At Town Meeting**

**Summary:** *These funds will be used to purchase materials to repair and replace existing foot bridges on the New England Forestry Foundation Wharton Plantation property.*



**ARTICLE 20. Prescott School Application for National Historic Register Designation**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$3,500 from the Community Preservation Historic Resource Reserve to fund the Community Preservation Application 2006-10, "Prescott School Application for National Historic Register Designation," or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE &  
HISTORIC COMMISSION COMMITTEE &

**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support

**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Community Preservation Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *National Historic Register designation will provide national recognition of the historic nature of this building and protect it from any potential demolition.*

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**ARTICLE 21. Lost Lake Fire Station Basketball Court**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$50,000 from the Community Preservation FY07 Budget Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2006-11, "Lost Lake Fire Station Basketball Court," or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE &  
PARKS COMMISSION

**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 3 Support; 1 Not Support

**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Community Preservation Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *These funds will be used to build a basketball court behind the Lost Lake Fire Station.*

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**ARTICLE 22: Transfer a Sum of Money to the Capital Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, 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 - 4 Support

**Finance Committee:** Recommendation - At Town Meeting

**Capital Planning Committee:** Recommendation - At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *Prior to Town Meeting, the fund had a balance of approximately \$9,000. 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 \$904,000.*

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**ARTICLE 23: Transfer a Sum of Money to the Stabilization Fund**

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 – At Town Meeting  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting  
**Capital Planning Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *Prior to Town Meeting, the Stabilization Fund had a balance of approximately \$1,100,000. 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 \$904,000.*

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**ARTICLE 24: Offset the Tax Rate**

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, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007, or take any action thereon.

**Sponsored By:** BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – At Town Meeting

**Summary:** *The effect of this article is to use a portion of Free Cash remaining after this Town Meeting or other non-tax sources (e.g. the General Stabilization Fund) as a funding source for the total FY07 budget thus lowering the amount of money required to be raised from taxes. Prior to this Town Meeting, the balance in Free Cash was approximately \$904,00. The balance in the General Stabilization Fund was approximately \$1.1 million.*

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**ARTICLE 25: Right to Farm Bylaw**

To see if the Town will vote to establish an agricultural commission to act as an advocate for and promote agriculture in the Town of Groton, and adopt a “Right to Farm Bylaw.”

**Sponsored By:** CITIZEN’S PETITION  
**Board of Selectmen:** Recommendation – 4 Support  
**Finance Committee:** Recommendation – No Position

**Summary:** *This bylaw will inform the residents of Groton that farming is allowed in the Town. The “Right to Farm” currently exists in Massachusetts according to the State statute. In addition to adopting this bylaw, the article asks that an Agricultural Commission be formed. The members of this Commission would be appointed by the Selectmen and would act to promote and advocate for agriculture in the Town of Groton.*

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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand six.

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.

Peter S. Cunningham  
Peter S. Cunningham, Chairman

George F. Dillon  
George F. Dillon Jr, Vice Chair

John L. Saball  
John L. Saball, Clerk

Mihran Keoseian  
Mihran Keoseian, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

\_\_\_\_\_  
Time

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Month / Date / Year

## NOTES







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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Groton, MA 01450  
Permit #3

# **POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA**