

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450

Beginning Monday, April 30, 2007 @ 7:00 PM

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

THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 8 IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: TOWN HALL, LIBRARY, POLICE STATION, SENIOR CENTER, MOISON'S ACE HARDWARE, GROTON AND WEST GROTON POST OFFICES.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
APRIL 30, 2007**

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 Thirtieth day of April next, at Seven in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town officers and on the 22nd day of May next at an adjourned session thereof to give their ballots for:

| | | |
|----------------|--|---------|
| Vote for One | Board of Assessors | 3 years |
| Vote for One | Board of Health | 3 years |
| Vote for Two | Board of Selectmen | 3 years |
| Vote for One | Commissioner of Trust Funds | 3 years |
| Vote for Three | Constable | 3 years |
| Vote for Two | Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee | 3 years |
| Vote for One | Groton Electric Light Commission | 3 years |
| Vote for One | Housing Authority | 5 years |
| Vote for Two | Park Commission | 3 years |
| Vote for Two | Planning Board | 3 years |
| Vote for One | Sewer Commission | 3 years |
| Vote for One | Tree Warden | 1 year |
| Vote for Two | Trustees of the Groton Public Library | 3 years |
| Vote for One | Water Commission | 3 years |

QUESTION 1: Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to assess an additional \$937,570 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Town’s share of the cost of operating the Groton Dunstable Regional Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and seven?

ARTICLE 1: TO HEAR REPORTS

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 – 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees or Commissions.*

ARTICLE 2: TO APPLY FOR GRANTS

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 – 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

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

ARTICLE 3: RECOGNIZE CITIZENS AND EMPLOYEES FOR EXTENSIVE SERVICE TO THE TOWN

To see if the Town will vote to recognize certain citizens and employees for their extensive service to the Town of Groton, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *Recognition of citizen volunteers and employees is important for future citizen engagement and morale for employees.*

ARTICLE 4: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

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

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Selectmen | \$ 950 | Town Clerk | \$ 57,129 |
| Board of Selectmen, Chrm. | \$ 1,100 | Town Moderator | \$ 65 |
| Assessors | \$ 850 | Highway Surveyor | \$ 66,467 |
| Board of Assessors, Chrm. | \$ 1,000 | Tree Warden | \$ 1,415 |

for the ensuing year, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials. The Town Clerk, Highway Surveyor and Tree Warden salaries include a 2.75% COLA.*

ARTICLE 5: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

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: BOARD OF SELECTMEN & PERSONNEL BOARD

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – 3 Support; 2 Abstain

Summary: *The Wage and Classification schedule for non-union employees includes a 2.75% COLA for FY08.*

ARTICLE 6: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund:

- Appropriate \$ 46,000 for the Community Preservation Committee Operating Expenses
- Appropriate \$ 92,000 for Open Space Reserve
- Appropriate \$ 92,000 for Historic Resource Reserve
- Appropriate \$ 92,000 for Community Housing Reserve
- Appropriate \$598,000 FY08 Budget Reserve
- Total Appropriation \$920,000

Or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary to ensure the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during FY08. With the exception of the operating expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting. It is anticipated that \$460,000 is the FY08 amount raised by the CPA (Community Preservation Act). We also expect to receive \$460,000 in matching funds on October 15, 2007. 10% of that amount must be allocated for each of the three separate categories: Open Space, Historic Preservation and Community Housing. 5% will be reserved for operating expenses of the Community Preservation Committee; the balance of the total will be placed in the Budget Reserve.*

ARTICLE 7: DEBT SERVICE AND PAYDOWN FOR SURRENDEN FARMS

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$1,003,297 for debt service payments for the FY08 Surrenden Farm land acquisition, as authorized under Article 1 of the warrant for the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting, from the following Community Preservation reserves:

- \$165,000 from the Open Space Reserve
- \$838,297 from Budget Reserve

for the following payments: \$131,504 for short term interest on a short term note which will become a long term bond in July 2007, \$510,000 to reduce the overall amount of the long term bond; \$135,000 for FY 08 long term debt principal payment; \$215,155 for long term debt interest payment, and \$11,638 for short term interest on a State Self-Help Grant Anticipation Loan, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored by: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *This article appropriates the debt service payments for the Surrenden Farm Land Purchase.*

ARTICLE 8: FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET

To see if the Town will 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 (2008) and act on the budget of the Finance Committee, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: FINANCE COMMITTEE

Summary: *Budget - See Finance Committee report which includes the Finance Committee's and Board of Selectmen's recommendations.*

THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 8 IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: TOWN HALL, LIBRARY, POLICE STATION, SENIOR CENTER, MOISON'S ACE HARDWARE, GROTON AND WEST GROTON POST OFFICES.

ARTICLE 9: BUDGET AND REACCEPT AUTHORITY LEGISLATION

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 and Chapter 387 of the Acts of 1998, 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 – 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 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 10: CAPITAL PLANNING FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the following purposes:

| Item | Amount | From Capital Stabilization |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| Backhoe (Highway) | \$ 87,000 | \$ 87,000 |
| Refurbish Baler Shed (Board of Health) | \$ 60,000 | \$ 60,000 |
| Backhoe (Board of Health) | \$ 65,000 | \$ 65,000 |
| Plymovent (Fire Department) | \$ 35,000 | \$ 35,000 |
| Emergency Generators (Maintenance) | \$ 27,475 | \$ 27,475 |

Or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 3 Support; 2 Not Support
Capital Planning Committee: Recommendation – 3 Support

Summary: *The Capital Planning Committee met and discussed the merits of the proposed budget and voted in favor to support.*

ARTICLE 11: FISCAL YEAR 2008 RESERVE FUND

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 - 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *The Finance Committee Reserve Fund is used for unanticipated emergencies.*

ARTICLE 12: ACCEPT AND ACQUIRE LOT 2 “Surrenden Farm”

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a parcel of land at no additional consideration from the Trust for Public Land, shown as “Lot 2” on a plan of land entitled “Plan of Land, The Marion Danielson Strachan Family Trusts, Shirley Road, Groton Massachusetts, Tax Map 219, Lot 8, Tax Map 220, Lot 35,” dated November 6, 2006, Scale 1”=200’ and prepared by Beals Associates, Inc., recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 1613 of 2006, located at the former Surrenden Farm, or take any action thereon.

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

Summary: *The Trust for Public Land has held this parcel of land since the closing on the entire property. The Department of Fish and Wildlife originally wanted ownership of this parcel however through a negotiated agreement with Fish and Wildlife, it was decided that the Town could own this property. This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to accept the land from the Trust for Public Land.*

ARTICLE 13: RIGHT TO FARM BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following by-law, or take any action thereon:

RIGHT TO FARM

SECTION 1: Intent and Purpose

The intent and purpose of this By-Law is to state with emphasis the Right-To-Farm accorded to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, and all state statutes and regulations thereunder including, but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, Paragraph 1; Chapter 90, Section

9; Chapter 111, Section 125A; and Chapter 128, Section 1A. We the citizens of the Town of Groton restate and republish these rights pursuant to the Town's authority conferred by Article 89 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution.

This general By-Law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculturally-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Groton by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies. This By-Law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town. This By-Law shall not restrict the Town of Groton from enforcing any existing regulation or adopting any new regulation.

SECTION 2: Definitions

The word **“farm”** shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies under private ownership used for the purpose of commercial agriculture, or accessory use thereto.

The words **“farming”** or **“agriculture”** or their derivatives shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- dairying
- production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- raising of livestock, including horses;
- keeping of horses for commercial or recreational purposes; and
- keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle, ratites (such as emus, ostriches, and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas, and camels), and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees and fur-bearing animals.

“Farming” shall encompass activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- operation and transportation of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the town;
- control of pests, including, but not limited to, insects, weeds, predators, and disease organisms of plants and animals;
- application of manure, fertilizers, and pesticides;
- conducting agriculture-related educational and farm based recreational activities, including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;
- processing and packaging of the agricultural output and the operation of a farmer's market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- maintenance, repair, or storage of seasonal equipment, or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products; and
- on-farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.

SECTION 3: Right to Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist within the Town of Groton. The above described agricultural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays, and weekends by night or day and shall include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust and fumes associated with normally accepted

agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community, and society in general. The benefits and protections of this By-Law are intended to apply exclusively to those commercial agriculture and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Moreover, nothing in this Right to Farm By-Law shall be deemed as acquiring any interest in land, imposing any land use regulation, or restricting the Town of Groton from enforcing any existing regulation or adopting any new regulation.

SECTION 4: Disclosure Notification

Not later than twenty-one (21) days after the purchase and sale contract is entered into, or prior to the sale or exchange of real property if no purchase and sale agreements exists, for the purchase or exchange of real property, or prior to the acquisition of a leasehold interest or other possessory interest in real property located in the Town of Groton, the landowner shall present the buyer or occupant with a disclosure notification which states the following:

It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food, and other agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire lies within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but are not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust, and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within the Town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations including the ability to access water services for such property under certain circumstances. Additionally, buyers or occupants are informed that all motorized vehicles shall be prohibited from traveling over any farm without written permission of the landowner.

A copy of the disclosure notification shall be given on a form prepared by the Town and shall be signed by the landowner prior to the sale, purchase, exchange or occupancy of such real property. A copy of the disclosure notification shall be filed with the Board of Selectmen or its designee prior to the sale, purchase, exchange or occupancy of such real property. In addition to the above, a copy of this disclosure notification shall be provided by the Town to landowners each fiscal year by mail.

SECTION 5: Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Board of Selectmen, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, or the Board of Health, depending upon the nature of the grievance. The filing of the grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved person may have. The Zoning Enforcement Officer or the Board of Selectmen shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance, and report its recommendations to the referring Town authority within an agreed upon time frame.

The Board of Health, except in cases of imminent danger of public health risk, shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and

facilitate the resolution of the grievance, and report its recommendations to the Board of Health within an agreed upon time frame.

SECTION 6: Agricultural Commission

An Agricultural Commission has been established by vote of the October 23, 2006 Special Town Meeting to address and represent agricultural issues and interests in the Town of Groton. The Commission consists of five (5) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Vacancies and expired terms shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission and following the rules of the Town of Groton Committee Handbook. No less than three members of the Commission shall be engaged in the business of farming or related agricultural industries. This does not preclude all five members of the Commission being actively engaged in the business of farming or related agricultural industries. The duties and responsibilities of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to: advising the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Earth Removal – Stormwater Advisory Committee, and other local organizations on projects and activities, including acquisitions and other transactions involving lands in the Town of Groton; engaging in projects and activities to promote the business of farming activities and traditions and farmland protection, including programs, education and community events, and reporting on projects and activities on an annual basis in the town report.

SECTION 7: Severability Clause

If any part of this By-Law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this By-Law. The Town of Groton hereby declares the provision of this By-Law to be severable.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN & AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article will reaffirm the fact that the Town supports agriculture, farming and the preservation and use of open land for agricultural purposes.*

ARTICLE 14: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION AMOUNTS

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 2008 for those persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 59, Section 5, not to exceed \$1,000, or take any action thereon.

Sponsor: BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *This article is geared to elderly persons, blind persons, and veterans with service related disabilities. It will increase the exemption provided under state statute up to 100% of the exemption.*

- 5) Temporary employees or employees working intermittent schedules shall not be entitled to vacation with pay.

B. Length of service requirements.

- 1) Accruals and maximum accumulations:

| | Per Month (hours) | Annually | Maximum Accumulation |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Through 5 years of continuous service | 6-2/3 | 10 days or 2 weeks | 20 days or 4 weeks |
| Beginning the 6 th year of continuous service through the 10 th year of continuous service | 10 | 15 days or 3 weeks | 30 days or 6 weeks |
| Beginning the 11 th year of continuous service through the 15 th year of continuous service | 13-1/3 | 20 days or 4 weeks | 30 days or 6 weeks |
| Beginning the 16 th year of continuous service and thereafter | 16-2/3 | 25 days or 5 weeks | 30 days or 6 weeks |

- 2) The above is to be effective July 1, 2007. Maximum accumulations which exceed the above maximums on July 1, 2007 must be reduced to appropriate maximums prior to June 30, 2008.
- 3) “Continuous service” is defined as an uninterrupted period of Town employment on a permanent basis. An employee transferring from one department to another without a break in service shall receive credit for vacation purposes for his total time of permanent Town employment.

C. Upon termination of employment, employees shall be paid for any earned but unused vacation time.

Sponsor: PERSONNEL BOARD
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *The above changes incorporate the following: an additional week of vacation time after 15 years of Town employment; limiting the amount of time that can be accumulated to a maximum of six weeks to control unfunded liabilities; providing vacation benefits to permanent employees working 20 hours or more, as well as prorating benefits for those who work less than 40 hours; adding language to pay out earned but unused vacation to terminating employees, and clarifying language regarding use and payment of vacation time. In general, the above changes bring the benefits and controlling language more in line with the Town’s four union contracts.*

ARTICLE 17: PERSONNEL BY-LAW AMENDMENT - HOLIDAYS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 48, Section 8, by deleting sub-section B in its entirety, and by deleting sub-sections A (4) and A (5) and replacing them with the following:

- A. 4) Holiday pay shall be computed on the basis of 40 hours' straight time pay. Holiday entitlement shall be prorated to coincide with the number of standard hours worked each week.
- 5) Permanent employees required to work on recognized holidays will be paid the holiday pay to which they are entitled plus the regular rate for hours worked. If a holiday falls on an employee's regularly scheduled day off, the employee shall be granted compensatory hours off equal to the employee's standard holiday entitlement, to be scheduled at the supervisor's reasonable discretion.

Sponsor: PERSONNEL BOARD
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *The above changes eliminate an unnecessary section of the By-Law which referenced the School Department, and incorporate the following: provision of Holiday benefits to permanent employees who work 20 or more hours per week; prorating the benefit for those working less than 40 hours, and clarifying language governing holiday pay or compensatory time off. The above changes bring the benefit and controlling language more in line with the Town's four union contracts.*

ARTICLE 18: PERSONNEL BY-LAW AMENDMENT – INGRADE ADVANCEMENT & LONGEVITY

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 48, Section 12, by deleting sub-section A (7) in its entirety; by deleting Section A(4)(a) and replacing it with the following:

- A. 4) In grade advancement.
 - a. Subject to the approval of the appropriate department head and the Personnel Board, every employee subject to the plan who has been in continuous employment of the Town for at least six months prior to the start of the Fiscal Year (July 1), and who has a satisfactory performance record shall be eligible for advancement to the next higher step until the maximum for the job is reached.

and by adding a new sub-section E, as follows

- E. Each permanent employee of the Town, subject to length of service requirements listed below, shall receive a longevity payment annually, beginning July 1, 2007.
 - 1) A permanent employee is one as defined in Subsection A (2) of Administrative Order No. 1.
 - 2) Longevity pay shall be paid in the pay period following the employee's anniversary date. Longevity pay shall be prorated to coincide with the number of standard hours worked each week.
 - 3) Temporary employees and employees working intermittent schedules shall not be entitled to longevity pay.

4) Length of service requirements

| Length of Service | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| Beginning the 11 th year through the 15 th year | \$250 |
| 16 th year through the 20 th | \$500 |
| 21 st year and thereafter | \$1000 |

Sponsor: PERSONNEL BOARD

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – 3 Support; 2 Not Support

Summary: *The above changes eliminate a section specific to the Highway Department (now covered by its own Union contract), add a minimum work service requirement to attain the first in-step advancement, and add longevity payments for employees who have worked more than 10 years for the Town of Groton, providing a benefit that is included in all four union contracts.*

ARTICLE 19: PERSONNEL BY-LAW AMENDMENT – PERSONAL TIME

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 48, Section 14, by deleting the section, in its entirety, and replacing it with the following:

48-14. Administrative Order No. 8: Personal Days

A. Each Permanent employee of the Town will be entitled to three (3) personal days per year.

1) Personal days will be granted to those employees who work twenty (20) or more hours per week. Personal time shall be computed on the basis of 40 hours' straight time pay and will be pro-rated to coincide with the number of standard hours per week. Example: an employee who works four (4) hours per day is entitled to three (3) four (4) hour Personal days.

2) A permanent employee is one as described in Subsection A(2) of Administrative Order No.1

3) Employees will receive three (3) Personal days beginning July 1, 2007 and thereafter July 1st of each fiscal year.

4) Any remaining accrued earned time will need to be exhausted by June 30, 2007.

5) Personal days shall be taken at a time that is mutually agreeable to the employee and supervisor. Personal days must be taken in one (1) hour increments. Employees will lose Personal days not taken within the fiscal year and will not be compensated for personal days not taken. Personal time shall not be used to alter an employee's schedule on a regular or recurring basis.

B. Permanent employees hired after July 1, 2007 will receive the three (3) personal days beginning one (1) year from their date of hire prorated in the first (1st) year from date of hire to the subsequent June 30th and will receive three (3) days annually on each subsequent July 1st.

C. Upon an employee's termination personal time will not be paid out.

Sponsor: PERSONNEL BOARD
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *The above changes eliminate the Earned Leave days benefit in its entirety. Earned leave days are replaced with a Personal Days benefit that gives By-law employees three days of personal time at the beginning of the fiscal year. There is a “use it or loose it” rule, where By-law employees must use the personal days before the end of each fiscal year.*

ARTICLE 20: PERSONNEL BY-LAW AMENDMENT - MEMBERSHIP

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 48, Section 1, by deleting the first sentence of the section in its entirety, and replacing it with the following:

There is hereby established a Personnel Board consisting of three members to be appointed by the Selectmen, and each member shall serve for a term of three years; provided, however, that of the members originally appointed one shall serve for a term of one year, one shall serve for a term of two years, and one for a term of three years as designated by the Selectmen.

Sponsor: PERSONNEL BOARD
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *The above language changes the composition of the Personnel Board from five members to three members.*

ARTICLE 21: STREET ACCEPTANCE: DEERFIELD DRIVE, FAWN TERRACE LANE & ALLISON PARK ROAD

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

Deerfield Drive, Fawn Terrace Lane and Allison Park Road: As shown on a plan entitled “Deerfield Drive, Fawn Terrace Lane & Allison Park Road As-built for Deerhaven Subdivision in Groton, Mass. Dated February 19, 2004, Revised 6/28/04; 9/6/05; 1/25/06 prepared for Fox Meadow Realty Corp. by R. Wilson and Associates,” together with drainage easement, water and utility easements, or take any action thereon.

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

Summary: *To accept Deerfield Drive, Allison Park and Fawn Terrace Lane as public ways.*

ARTICLE 22: ACCEPT BRIDGE STREET AS A PUBLIC WAY

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way Bridge Street as shown on a plan recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan 334 of 1987, or take any other action thereon.

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

Summary: *To accept Bridge Street as a public way.*

ARTICLE 23: ACCEPT CHAPTER 44, SECTION 53E ½ CONSERVATION COMMISSION REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving account under Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received for agricultural or silvicultural activities conducted on Town-owned conservation lands under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Conservation Commission for oversight and management of conservation lands owned by the Town, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2008, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *The Conservation Commission does not anticipate a large amount of receipts, but would like to put in place a mechanism for receiving any funds generated from conservation lands into a land management ‘revolving’ type fund which can be used for management activities such as, but not limited to, brush-hogging, mowing, signs, gates, placing boundary markers, removal of invasive or non-native vegetation, wildlife boxes, materials for trail bridges, and the preparation of Forestry Management Plans or Conservation Management Plans.*

ARTICLE 24: EARTH REMOVAL

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 134 Earth Removal, Chapter 198 Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development, and Chapter 239 Earth Removal, by replacing the name “Earth Removal Advisory Committee” with the name “Earth Removal – Stormwater Advisory Committee” and the name “Earth Removal Inspector” with the name “Earth Removal – Stormwater Inspector,” wherever they appear in the text, or take any action thereon.

Sponsor: EARTH REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *The Earth Removal By-Law and the responsibilities of the Earth Removal Advisory Committee and Inspector have changed significantly since the By-Law was adopted in 1963. The new names more accurately reflect the jurisdiction of the Committee and Inspector with the adoption of the Stormwater Management By-Law in 2006.*

ARTICLE 25: RENEW REVOLVING ACCOUNT FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees under Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Earth Removal – Stormwater 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 2008, or take any action thereon.

Sponsor: EARTH REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *This article reauthorizes the use of the revolving fund for technical review and processing of applications submitted under Chapter 198, Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development.*

ARTICLE 26: AMEND CHAPTER 218 OF THE TOWN CODE, “FLEXIBLE DEVELOPMENT”

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton, Section 218-26 Flexible Development, subsection 218-26F Modification of Lot Requirements, by adding the words, “building setback,” after the word “shape.” so that the paragraph as amended shall read as follows:

F. Modification of lot requirements. The Planning Board encourages applicants for flexible development to modify lot size, shape, building set back, and other dimensional requirements for lots within a flexible development, subject to the following limitations:

- (1) Lots having reduced area or frontage shall not have frontage on a street other than a street created by the flexible development; provided, however, that the Planning Board may waive this requirement where it is determined that such reduced lot(s) are consistent with existing development patterns in the neighborhood.

Or take any action thereon.

Sponsor: PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article clarifies that the term “dimensional requirements” includes building setbacks for lots created under the Flexible Development provisions.*

ARTICLE 27: ACCEPT M.G.L CHAPTER 39, SECTION 23D; PARTICIPATION IN ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

To see if the Town will vote to accept, for all boards, committees, or commissions holding adjudicatory hearings in the Town, the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23D, which provide that a member of a board, committee, or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member’s absence from one session of such hearing, provided that certain conditions are met as specified in said statute, or take any action thereon.

Sponsor: PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support

Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article accepts a provision of state statute that allows a member to miss a single session of a public hearing and still be eligible to vote on the matter, provided that the member reviews the recording or transcription of the hearing and has examined any evidence received at the missed session. The Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Health,*

Conservation Commission, Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee, Historic District Commission and Historical Commission and Board of Selectmen support this article.

ARTICLE 28: INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF PEPPERELL TO PURCHASE POTABLE DRINKING WATER

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Groton Water Department to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Pepperell, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Sections 4A and 38, or any other enabling authority, to purchase potable drinking water to service the proposed Reedy Meadow Estates Project, including House #473 on Nashua Road, House #465 on Nashua Road and one additional dwelling unit on Lot #229-2 on Nashua Road, or take any action thereon.

Sponsor: WATER COMMISSIONERS
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article will permit the Board of Selectmen and/or the Board of Water Commissioners to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Pepperell for the purpose of purchasing potable drinking water to service the proposed development as recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (D.E.P.)*

ARTICLE 29: LOST LAKE DAM

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take by Eminent Domain, or otherwise acquire, the land on which the Lost Lake Dam is situated together with the land immediately adjacent thereto as may be necessary for the maintenance of the Dam, and the dam structure itself, for the purpose of general municipal purposes and to ensure that the safety of the public is not at risk as a result of the failure of the dam, or take any action thereon.

Sponsor: PETITIONERS
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – At Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Not Support

Summary: *This article authorizes the taking of the Lost Lake dam and the land it is situated on by eminent domain. The ownership of the dam has been in limbo since 1934; approval of this article will resolve that uncertainty and ensure the continued maintenance and integrity of the dam and thus the lake.*

ARTICLE 30: REZONE – 368 MAIN STREET

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Groton’s Zoning Map to rezone from R-A (Residential-Agricultural) to R-B (Residential-Business) certain premises located at 368 Main Street owned by David W. Gilson, consisting of approximately 3.34 acres of area, which premises is described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 30314, Page 342 being shown as Parcel 40 of Assessors’ Map 110, or take any action thereon.

Sponsor: PETITIONERS
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – At Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article rezones property at 368 Main Street from R-A to R-B to allow the property to continue its agricultural pursuits by permitting agricultural activities that are now necessary to assure local farm its viability and sustainability.*

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 2nd day of April in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

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.

Constable

Date Duly Posted

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Chairman

George F. Dillon, Jr.

George F. Dillon, Jr., Vice Chair

John L. Saball

John L. Saball, Clerk

Joshua A Degen

Joshua A. Degen, Member

Mihran Keoseian

Mihran Keoseian, Member

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal 2008 (Effective July 2007)**

Factor:

1.0275

| Grade | Position Title | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Step 4 | Step 5 | Step 6 | Step 7 | Step 8 |
|--------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 4 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 30,974 | 31941 | 32932 | 33946 | 34984 | 36069 | 37178 | 38334 |
| | Wages | | | | | | | | |
| | Cable TV Production Assistant Park Department Office Assistant | 14.89 | 15.35 | 15.83 | 16.33 | 16.82 | 17.34 | 17.88 | 18.43 |
| 5 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 32,743 | 33,757 | 34,796 | 35,881 | 36,990 | 38,122 | 39,301 | 40,528 |
| | Wages | | | | | | | | |
| | Administrative Officer Office Assistant | 15.74 | 16.23 | 16.74 | 17.24 | 17.78 | 18.33 | 18.90 | 19.48 |
| 7 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 38,759 | 39,962 | 41,188 | 42,462 | 43,783 | 45,128 | 46,520 | 47,959 |
| | Wages | | | | | | | | |
| | Administrative Secretary to Adm Officer Administrative Assistant to Police Chief | 18.63 | 19.21 | 19.80 | 20.41 | 21.05 | 21.70 | 22.36 | 23.07 |
| 8 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 42,982 | 44,303 | 45,670 | 47,086 | 48,549 | 50,058 | 51,616 | 53,219 |
| | Wages | | | | | | | | |
| | Cable TV Access Programming Director | 20.66 | 21.31 | 21.96 | 22.65 | 23.33 | 24.06 | 24.81 | 25.58 |
| 9 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 44,019 | 45,388 | 46,803 | 48,242 | 49,728 | 51,261 | 52,842 | 54,470 |
| | Wages | | | | | | | | |
| | Fire Fighter/EMT | 21.16 | 21.81 | 22.50 | 23.19 | 23.91 | 24.65 | 25.40 | 26.18 |
| 10 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 50,483 | 52,039 | 53,644 | 55,295 | 57,017 | 58,786 | 60,603 | 62,467 |
| | Wages | | | | | | | | |
| | Fire/EMS Manager | 24.28 | 25.01 | 25.78 | 26.58 | 27.40 | 28.27 | 29.13 | 30.03 |
| 11 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 54,234 | 55,909 | 57,631 | 59,423 | 61,264 | 63,151 | 65,109 | 67,114 |
| | Wages | | | | | | | | |
| | Personnel Manager Transfer Station Supervisor | 26.08 | 26.88 | 27.71 | 28.56 | 29.46 | 30.36 | 31.30 | 32.27 |
| 12 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 54,399 | 56,073 | 57,819 | 59,612 | 61,453 | 63,363 | 65,321 | 67,350 |
| | Wages | | | | | | | | |
| | | 26.15 | 26.96 | 27.79 | 28.67 | 29.54 | 30.47 | 31.40 | 32.38 |

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal 2008 (Effective July 2007)**

Factor:

1.0275

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 13 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | Library Director Town Accountant | 55,861 | 57,583 | 59,352 | 61,192 | 63,080 | 65,039 | 67,043 | 69,119 |
| | Wages | 26.86 | 27.69 | 28.53 | 29.43 | 30.32 | 31.27 | 32.24 | 33.24 |
| 14 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Treasurer/Tax Collector Water Department Manager | 56,333 | 58,079 | 59,872 | 61,712 | 63,623 | 65,580 | 67,609 | 69,709 |
| | Wages | 27.08 | 27.92 | 28.78 | 29.66 | 30.59 | 31.53 | 32.50 | 33.52 |
| 15 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | Police Lieutenant | 59,400 | 61,240 | 63,127 | 65,085 | 67,090 | 69,166 | 71,313 | 73,507 |
| | Wages | 28.55 | 29.45 | 30.35 | 31.29 | 32.26 | 33.26 | 34.28 | 35.34 |
| 16 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | Police Captain IT Manager | 61,547 | 63,435 | 65,415 | 67,445 | 69,521 | 71,667 | 73,885 | 76,172 |
| | Wages | 29.58 | 30.51 | 31.45 | 32.43 | 33.42 | 34.46 | 35.52 | 36.63 |
| 17 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 68,954 | 71,077 | 73,271 | 75,536 | 77,871 | 80,277 | 82,754 | 85,302 |
| | Wages | 33.15 | 34.16 | 35.23 | 36.31 | 37.44 | 38.60 | 39.77 | 41.01 |
| 18 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | Fire Chief Police Chief | 74,569 | 76,880 | 79,263 | 81,716 | 84,240 | 86,835 | 89,525 | 92,285 |
| | Wages | 35.85 | 36.96 | 38.10 | 39.28 | 40.49 | 41.75 | 43.04 | 44.36 |
| 19 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | Administrative Officer | 76,527 | 78,885 | 81,316 | 83,840 | 86,434 | 89,100 | 91,860 | 94,691 |
| | Wages | 36.78 | 37.93 | 39.10 | 40.31 | 41.55 | 42.85 | 44.16 | 45.52 |
| 20 | Salary | | | | | | | | |
| | | 82,055 | 84,516 | 87,052 | 89,663 | 92,353 | 95,124 | 97,977 | 100,917 |
| | Wages | 39.29 | 40.47 | 41.70 | 42.94 | 44.23 | 45.56 | 46.93 | 48.34 |

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal 2008 (Effective July 2007)**

Factor:

1.0275

Non-step and Stipend Positions

Fire/EMS Department

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Deputy Chief: Fire | 17,522 |
| Deputy Chief:EMS | 10,278 |
| Rescue Advisor | 5,078 |
| Call Captain: Fire | 21.66 |
| Call Captain: EMS | 21.66 |
| Call Lieutenant: Fire | 21.22 |
| Call Lieutenant: EMS | 21.22 |
| Call Lieutenant: Rescue | 21.22 |
| Call Firefighter | 18.57 |
| Call Emergency Medical Technician | 18.57 |
| Call Rescue Personnel | 18.57 |
| Probationary Firefighter | 15.46 |
| Probationary Emer. Med. Technician | 15.46 |
| Probationary Rescue Personnel | 15.46 |

Miscellaneous

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Veterans' Agent | 1,708 |
| Director Veterans' Services | 1,708 |
| Earth Removal Inspector | 1,752 |
| Dog Officer | 13,699 |
| Animal Inspector | 2,041 |
| Animal Control Officer | 2,041 |
| Town Diarist | 83 |
| Keeper of Town Clock | 1 |
| Conservation Land Manager | 13.79 |
| Parking Attendant | 10.00 |
| Graves Registration Officer | 245 |
| Emergency Management Director | 1,245 |
| Election Worker: Warden | minimum wage |
| Election Worker: Precinct Clerk | minimum wage |
| Election Worker: Inspectors (Checkers) | minimum wage |

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium

Beginning Monday, May 7, 2007 @ 8:00 PM

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

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MAY 7, 2007**

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, seventh day of May next, at 8:00 P.M. in the evening, to consider the following:

ARTICLE 1: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM 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 – At Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

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

ARTICLE 2: TRANSFERS WITHIN WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer a sum of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the FY 07 Water Department budget, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: WATER COMMISSIONERS
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – 5 Support

Summary: *This article allows for the transfer of \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Surplus to the Water Department's Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Expenses.*

ARTICLE 3: STATION AVENUE OVERLAY DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218, Zoning, by establishing a new overlay districted as described on a map with district boundary lines prepared by Applied Geographics, Inc. entitled "Station Avenue Overlay District, Town of Groton, Massachusetts" dated March 10, 2007, and accompanying text. A copy of the map and text of the proposed "Station Avenue Overlay District" being on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Or take any action thereon.

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

Summary: *This article creates a new zoning overlay district located along Station Avenue. The purpose of the Station Avenue Overlay District is to promote a socially and economically vibrant town center by enabling commercial and residential development that is consistent with the town's master plan and the design guidelines for the district.*

ARTICLE 4: PETITION THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR A CONSERVATION RESTRICTION RE: ARTICLE 97 LAND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, maintenance and control of the parcel of land described below, currently held by the Board of Water Commissioners for water supply purposes, to the Board of Water Commissioners for the purpose of granting or consenting to an eminent domain taking of a conservation restriction to be held by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through the Division of Fish and Game, on said land located at Shirley Road, Groton, Massachusetts and more particularly described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 3061, Page 314; and to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to grant or consent to said conservation restriction in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 184, Sections 31-34, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Water Commissioners shall determine to be appropriate, so that said land may be held jointly for water supply purposes and purposes consistent with said conservation restriction; and further, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Board of Water Commissioners to petition the Massachusetts General Court to approve the change in custody and the change in use of said land for the purpose stated herein pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: WATER COMMISSIONERS
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 4 Support
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article seeks authorization to place a conservation restriction over a ten-acre (10) parcel under the control of the Board of Water Commissioners as part of the Surrenden Farm land purchase previously approved at Town Meeting(s).*

ARTICLE 5: DISCONTINUE POINT ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue as a public way Point Road in its entirety as the same is shown on the Shay and Leary plan entitled “Lost Lake” recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as File Plan 844 and 845, Point Road being shown on Assessors’ Map 122 lying between Parcels 93 and 94, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – At Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article seeks to discontinue the public way known as Point Road in the Lost Lake section. Point Road is largely unimproved and serves two property owners, both of whom have requested its discontinuance. Both properties have frontage on Island Road. If approved, this road would no longer be the obligation of the Town to maintain and would become the property of the two adjacent landowners.*

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 2nd day of April in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

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.

Constable

Date Duly Posted

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Chairman

George F. Dillon, Jr.

George F. Dillon, Jr., Vice Chair

John L. Saball

John L. Saball, Clerk

Joshua A Degen

Joshua A. Degen, Member

Mihran Keosecian

Mihran Keosecian, 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.**

Groton Community Center Survey

In the past, Groton offered town residents a variety of recreational and social activities, including the Senior Center, the Groton Country Club, the Parks Department, and the Recreation Department. The current Senior Center is cherished by the town's seniors and serves a valuable and appreciated service, but it is often overcrowded and the number of seniors in Groton is increasing. The Groton Country Club offers golf and swimming, but can be expanded and improved. Recently the Recreation Department was discontinued, and there are no other formal recreational buildings remaining in Groton. Over the last year the Groton Community Foundation (GCF) reviewed this situation, conducted a town survey, and proposed that, through federal and state grants and private donations, a community center could be constructed at the Groton Country Club that would improve and expand existing services and provide additional activities that would benefit all residents of our town.

The Board of Selectman has commissioned an ad hoc committee to conduct an expanded survey of the town asking residents to assess their desires for future facilities and programs. Please take a moment to consider activities and facilities that you would like to see made available in town and then complete and return the following survey to the ad hoc committee. In the interest of attaining as broad a response as possible, please encourage every member of your household (adults and children) to provide input. Everyone is invited to respond individually, but if a single survey is returned to represent a household response, please indicate the ages of everyone whose opinion is represented. For your convenience, an online form is available through a link at www.townofgroton.org. Please respond by May 15th, 2007 – paper responses can be dropped off at Town Hall, the Groton Senior Center, the Groton Public Library, or the Groton Country Club, or mailed to the Selectmen's Office marked "SURVEY ENCLOSED" at 173 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450. Thank you for your time!

The premise for funding the Community Center is that the cost of building the improved facilities will not be borne by taxpayers and that operating expenses will be covered by combining the budgets of existing services.

In appreciation for completing this survey, a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate for the Gibbet Hill Grill is being offered. If you are interested, please fill in your name and phone number.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Survey

1. Do you think Groton should build a Community Center?
 Yes No
2. If existing combined operating budgets prove to be insufficient to cover the operating expenses of the new facility, should the necessary funds be generated by:
 User fees Use of town tax dollars A combination of both
3. If Government programs and private contributions are not adequate to construct the Community Center, do you support using town tax dollars to augment construction costs?
 Yes No

4. Do you support the Groton Country Club as a location for the Community Center?
 Yes No If not, what is your preferred location? _____
5. How many people of what ages are represented in this response?
 _____ 66 or older _____ 40-65 _____ 20-39 _____ 13-20 _____ 12 and under
6. What community activities and facilities do you currently use?
 Groton Senior Center
 Groton Country Club
 Golf
 Swimming
 Facility Rental
 (prior) Groton Recreation Activities
 Peter Twomey Center

Rate your interest in the following activities/facilities according to the scale

- A = no interest
 B = some interest
 C = very interested

(Place one check per row, at most.)

| | A | B | C |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | |
| Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chess Club | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Continuing Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pool Tables | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ping Pong | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reading Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kitchen Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Snack Bar | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Small Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Toddler Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Senior Day Care | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Picnic Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Game Room | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | A | B | C |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | |
| Art Room | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ice Skating/Hockey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Weight Room | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Therapy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Skateboarding | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rock Climbing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Racquetball | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Exercise Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Squash | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other _____

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

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

POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA