

Minutes

TOWN OF GROTON



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

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

April 28, 2008

***THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 5 IS AVAILABLE
IN THE BACK OF THE WARRANT***

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 28, 2008

Middlesex:
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Annual Town Meeting called to order by the Moderator at 7:00 PM. 154 voters were in attendance. The Moderator stated that the Warrant was duly posted. MOVED AND SECONDED, a Motion to waive the reading of the warrant was carried.

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-eighth day of April next, at Seven in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town officers and on the twentieth 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 One	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 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 One	Town Clerk	1 year
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 years
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 years

QUESTION 1:

Shall an act passed by the general court in the year 2008, entitled “An Act providing for the charter for the Town of Groton” be accepted?

QUESTION 2:

Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for its allocable portion of the bonds issued 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?

QUESTION 3:

Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to assess an additional \$106,437 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 eight?

ARTICLE 1: 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 – Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

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

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to hear and act on the reports of the Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments:

- Under this article the Annual Town Report is also accepted.
- Peter Cunningham reported the Blue Ribbon Committee’s recommendation that the Town Charter be positively voted at the Annual Town Election on May 20. The Charter was signed by the Governor on March 31. The Charter would become effective immediately upon an affirmative vote at Town Election. The search for a Town Manager would commence, with an anticipated hiring in Fall, 2008.

Article 1 carried by majority vote.

ARTICLE 2: 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 - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

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

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for Federal and State Grants for which the Town is or may be eligible and to expend the funds received thereunder.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 2 carried by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 3: ELECTED OFFICIALS’ COMPENSATION

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

Selectmen	\$ 760	Town Clerk	\$ 57,129
Board of Selectmen, Chrm.	\$ 910	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

Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials. The Town Clerk, Highway Surveyor and Tree Warden salaries include a 00.00% COLA.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to allow the following compensation for the following elected officials:

Selectmen	\$760	Town Clerk	\$57,129
Board of Selectmen, Chairman	\$910	Town Moderator	\$65
Assessors	\$850	Highway Surveyor	\$66,467
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$1,000	Tree Warden	\$1,415

for the ensuing year

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments: This Article does not provide increases for elected positions.

Article 3 carried by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 4: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Personnel By-law Wage and Classification Schedule as follows:

by moving the position of Deputy Chief: EMS from a stipend position to an hourly on call position at \$22.00 per hour;

and by adding a new Van Driver position under Grade Four (4).

or take any action thereon

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN & PERSONNEL BOARD

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5

Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

Summary: *The Deputy Fire Chief position would remain, but instead of a stipend it would change to an hourly and on call position. Also, this article would create a new Van Driver position that would work through the Senior Center and would be primarily responsible for transporting senior citizens.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to amend the Personnel By-law Wage and Classification Schedule by deleting the stipend for the position of Deputy Chief/EMS and inserting in its place the hourly on call rate of \$22/hr; and by adding the position of Van Driver under grade 4.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 4 carried by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 5: FISCAL YEAR 2009 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 (2009) and act on the budget of the Finance Committee, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: FINANCE COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

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

THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 5 IS AVAILABLE IN THE BACK PAGES.

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next fiscal year (2009) and act on the budget of the Finance Committee.

Comments:

- FY10 will be more financially challenging than FY09.
- FY09 State aid is expected to be flat. Most revenue line items are down.
- FY09 School budget are up.
- FY09 employee benefits are up.
- All other expense areas of municipal government saw a decrease.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,676,923 for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1600 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 1 to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION 2: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to appropriate from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved the sum of \$90,000 to Fire & Emergency Medical Services and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,662,227 for a total of \$2,752,227 for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 2000 through 2222 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 2 to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION 3: SCHOOLS

a.) Nashoba Valley Technical School

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$444,954 for Nashoba Valley Regional Technical School as represented by line 3000 in the Budget.

Comment:

- Increase of 25% to the NVTs budget is driven by state formula as it relates to the number of students.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 3a to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote.

b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,476,892 for Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by Lines 3020 through 3022 in the budget.

Comments:

- The total amount in the motion is lower than the published budget by \$3467 due to a correction in the excluded debt service.
- Presentation by Dr. Alan Genovese and Cynthia Barrett, Chairperson of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee, describing the need for the override and debt exclusion question, and the benefits and impacts of positive and negative override and debt exclusion votes.
- Lengthy discussions with audience on specific cost items, teacher (210 full time equivalents) / non-teacher (142.7 fte) ratios, Prescott and Tarbell buildings, and kindergarten programs

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion to Article 5 to raise and appropriate monies as represented by lines 3020 through 3022 in the budget carried by unanimous vote.

MOVED AND SECONDED that, in addition to the foregoing, the Town vote to raise and appropriate, contingent upon a favorable Proposition 2-1/2 override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g), an additional \$106,437 to pay the assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District for the ensuing year as shown on line 4000 in the budget, Groton Dunstable Regional School District Fiscal Year 2009 Override.

Comments:

- Motion provides budgetary mechanism only to appropriate monies to the school department, including override amounts if passed at Town Election.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion to Article 5 to raise and appropriate monies, contingent upon a favorable Proposition 2-1/2 override, as represented by line 4000 in the budget carried by majority vote.

NOTE: The Annual Town Meeting (ATM) was recessed at 8:03 pm in order to call the Special Town Meeting (STM) to order. There were 218 voters in attendance. The STM was recessed, and the ATM called back in order at 8:05 pm.

MOTION 4: HIGHWAY AND HEALTH

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,608,485 for Highway and Health as represented by lines 5000 through 5165 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 4 to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION 5: LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$918,661 for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by lines 7000 through 7162 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Comments:

- Sargisson Beach
 - Audience discussion with the Conservation Commission regarding Sargisson Beach funding alternatives, including the use of Trust Funds.
 - Interested parties should contact the Conservation Commission.
 - Current plan is to solicit \$75 beach sticker applications and determine if funding level can be reached by May 9. If funding level not reached, monies will be returned.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 5 to Article 5 carried by majority vote.

MOTION 6: DEBT SERVICE

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,525,891 for Debt Service as represented by lines 8000 through 8060 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 6 to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,470,749 for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 9000 through 9022; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 7 to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote

MOTION 8: WATER ENTERPRISE

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer from Water Enterprise Excess and Deficiency the sum of \$250,000 and to appropriate from Water Rates and Fees the sum of \$1,060,248 for a total of \$1,310,248 to the Water Enterprise Fund for FY2009 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 8 to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote

MOTION 9: SEWER ENTERPRISE

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency the sum of \$27,235 and to appropriate from Sewer Rates and Fees the sum of \$772,103 for a total of \$799,338 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY2009 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 9 to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote

Motion 10: ELECTRIC LIGHT

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to appropriate the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings or from municipal power and from the sale of jobbing during Fiscal 2009 for the Groton Electric Light Department; the whole to be expended by the Manager of that department under the direction and control of the Board of Electric Light Commissioners for the expenses of the ensuing fiscal year as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth. The total fund to be appropriated is -0-.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Motion 10 to Article 5 carried by unanimous vote

**THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WAS RECESSED AT 8:49 PM.
THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER.**

THE ATM RECONVENED AT 9:05 pm.

ARTICLE 6: FISCAL YEAR 2009 RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$150,000 for the Reserve Fund, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

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

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 for the Reserve Fund.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 6 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 7: GROTON COUNTRY CLUB BUDGET

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 Authority, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COUNTRY CLUB AUTHORITY
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 5 / Against 2

Summary: *The legislation creating the Country Club Authority requires that the Authority present its annual budget to the Town for approval. Please refer to handout at Town Meeting for budget figures.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote in accordance with Section 8 of Chapter 533 of the Acts of 1991, as amended by Chapter 115 of the Acts of 1995, and Chapter 387 of the Acts of 1998, to approve the Fiscal Year 2009 budget of the Groton Country Club Authority as set forth in the handout distributed at Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

The Chair declared that Article 7 carried by majority vote

ARTICLE 8: CAPITAL PLANNING FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Capital Stabilization fund a sum of money for the following purposes:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Brush Mower & Tractor	\$40,000	Highway
Pickup Truck	\$30,000	Highway
Pickup Truck	\$30,000	Highway
Police Cruiser	\$26,000	Police
Police SUV	\$30,000	Police
Mobile Data Terminal	\$31,000	Police

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

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

- *The Brush Mower will replace a 2000 John Deere Mower. The trade of the existing machine will be \$20,000 and the cost of this new machine, with the trade, is \$80,000. Half the cost of this new machine will be paid by GELD.*
- *The pickup truck for the Highway Department is in the capital plan for a scheduled replacement. It will replace a 1997 Chevrolet pickup truck. Trade in value for the 1997 truck is minimal; therefore it will be utilized until salvaged for parts and then junked.*
- *The pickup truck for the Highway Department will replace the existing 1986 Chevrolet pickup truck with over 90,000 miles that has exterior body deterioration which requires both structural and mechanical repairs. The truck will be a shared resource with the Transfer Station.*
- *The police cruiser will replace a 2001 vehicle that has in excess of 100,000 miles, which makes it an ineffective first line vehicle.*
- *The police SUV will replace a 1999 SUV with over 100,000 miles, which makes it an ineffective first line vehicle.*

- *The mobile data terminal is for the replacement of computer terminals for marked police cruisers that have become outdated. The replacement will add to efficiency and speed of response and provide critical information to officers in the field.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$187,000 for the purchase of the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Brush Mower & Tractor	(Highway Department)	\$40,000
Pickup Truck	(Highway Department)	\$30,000
Pickup Truck	(Highway Department)	\$30,000
Police Cruiser	(Police Department)	\$26,000
Police SUV	(Police Department)	\$30,000
Mobile Data Terminal	(Police Department)	\$31,000
		\$187,000

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3

The Chair declared that Article 8 carried by 2/3rds vote

ARTICLE 9: STABILIZATION ARTICLE FUND TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the General Stabilization Fund the following sums of money for the following purposes:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Voter Machines	\$21,000	Town Clerk
Turnout Gear	\$10,000	Fire Dept
Refurbish Apparatus	\$10,000	Fire Dept
Carpet Children's Room	\$13,000	Library
Senior Center Roof	\$14,500	Municipal Buildings
Police Dept Confinement Cage	\$4,000	Municipal Buildings
Replace Surveillance Camera	\$3,000	Police & Fire Comm.
Add two new cameras	\$2,215	Police & Fire Comm.
Map Star Angle Encoder	\$11,566	Police Department
Portable Radios	\$6,000	Police Department
Digital Cameras	\$1,400	Police Department

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

Summary: *The items listed above are minor capital (below \$25,000) from various town departments.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer from the General Stabilization Fund the sum of \$96,681 for the purchase of the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Voter Machines	Town Clerk	\$21,000
Turnout Gear	Fire Department	\$10,000
Refurbish Apparatus	Fire Department	\$10,000
Carpet Children's Room	Library	\$13,000
Senior Center Roof	Municipal Buildings	\$14,500

Police Department Confinement Cage	Municipal Buildings	\$4,000
Replacement Surveillance Camera	Police/Fire Communications	\$3,000
Add Two New Cameras	Police/Fire Communications	\$2,215
Map Star Angle Encoder	Police Department	\$11,566
Portable Radios	Police Department	\$6,000
Digital Cameras	Police Department	\$1,400
		\$96,681

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3

Comments:

- For the first time in recent memory, a list of minor capital items were removed from departmental budget requests and prioritized based on essential operational needs and cost.
- Stabilization funds are used to fund a portion of the minor capital request. The impact is to withdraw \$307k from the fund, with a remaining balance of \$approximately \$1.412m.

The Chair declared that Article 9 carried by 2/3rds vote

ARTICLE 10: FUND TRANSFER TO AFFECT THE TAX RATE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Stabilization Fund a sum of money for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the period beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

Summary: *This article balances a shortfall in available revenue from the State. The Council On Aging has requested a van to supplement the transportation provided by the Lowell Regional Transit Authority Road Runner service. While the State will reimburse the Town for some of the costs of this new service, there will be delays in reimbursement for up to two years. This means there will be no revenue available to cover the cost of this new service in FY09. The amount requested from the Stabilization fund will underwrite most of the first year of operation of this new service. It is hoped that in future years, State reimbursement revenue from prior year operations will serve to offset the majority of current year charges, so that any remaining non-reimbursed charges can be covered by the tax rate.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer from the General Stabilization Fund \$23,135 for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the period beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3

Comment:

- This article allows the Town to put up the money in advance of a reimbursement from the Commonwealth for a new senior transportation program.

Article 10 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 11: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE BUDGET

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

Appropriate \$ 42,500 for the Community Preservation Committee Operating Expenses
Appropriate \$ 85,000 for Open Space Reserve
Appropriate \$ 85,000 for Historic Resource Reserve
Appropriate \$ 85,000 for Community Housing Reserve
Appropriate \$ 552,500 FY09 Budget Reserve
Total Appropriation \$ 850,000

or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5

Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 6 / Against 1

Summary: *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary to ensure the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during FY09. With the exception of the operating expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting. It is anticipated that \$500,000 is the FY09 amount raised by the CPA (Community Preservation Act). We also expect to receive \$350,000 in matching funds in October of, 2008. 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.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund:

\$42,500	Community Preservation Committee Operating Expenses
\$85,000	Open Space Reserve
\$85,000	Historic Resource Reserve
\$85,000	Community Housing Reserve
<u>\$552,500</u>	<u>FY 09 Budget Reserve</u>
\$850,000	Total Appropriation

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments:

- This Article appears each year before the Annual Town Meeting and allocates funds to specific cost centers pre-determined by the regulations of the Community Preservation Act. With the exception of operating expenses none of these funds may be expended without Town Meeting vote.
- CPC funds can not be used to fund operating expenses, such as Sargisson Beach.
- Applications for use of CPC funds, including for recreational purposes, should be made to the Conservation Commission.
- Until this year, CPC funds have been matched 100%. Future funds are declining, as more towns join. FY09 match is expected to be 70%.

Article 11 carried by majority vote

ARTICLE 12: DEBT SERVICE AND PAYDOWN FOR SURRENDEN FARMS

To determine if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the amount of \$623,322.57 for debt service for FY09 for the 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:

\$92,541.61 from premiums on sale of bond, and \$37,368.46 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for payment of Short Term Bond principle of \$125,000 and Short Term Interest of \$4,910.07, for a total of \$129,910.07;

\$95,000 from the Open Space Reserve, and \$398,412.40 from the Community Preservation Unallocated Reserve for payment of Long Term Principle of \$275,000 and Long Term Interest of \$218,412.50 for a total of \$493,412.50: or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 6 / Against 1

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

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate \$623,322.57 for debt service payments for FY09 for the 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:

\$92,541.61	Premium on the Sale of Bond
\$37,368.46	Community Preservation Unallocated Reserve
\$95,000.00	Open Space Reserve
<u>\$398,412.50</u>	<u>Community Preservation Unallocated Reserve</u>

For the following payments:

\$125,000.00	Short Term Bond Principal
\$4,910.07	Short Term Interest
\$275,000.00	Long Term Principal
<u>\$218,412.50</u>	<u>Long Term Interest</u>
Total:	\$623,322.57

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 12 carried by majority vote

ARTICLE 13: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received 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 2009, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

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

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to renew the revolving account under Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received 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 in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments:

- This Article, as required by the laws of the Commonwealth, must be approved by Town Meeting annually. Applications occasionally require technical review and expertise to determine the environmental impact of certain stormwater drainage systems.

Article 13 carried by majority vote

ARTICLE 14: RE-AUTHORIZING REVOLVING FUND (CONSERVATION COMMISSION)

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 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 2009, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5

Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

Summary: *This article re-authorizes the use of the revolving fund (established in 2007) for the management of conservation land in Groton. Reauthorization allows for reduced fees for management of conservation lands in Groton. If the fund is not reauthorized the Town will have to allocate additional funds to the land management line item in the regular Conservation Commission budget.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to renew the revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ 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.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments:

- This Article, as required by the laws of the Commonwealth, must be approved by Town Meeting annually. Revenue received by the Conservation Commission over the year can be used to offset the costs of managing land under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.
- Funds are used to offset the costs of land management.

Article 14 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 15: REALLOCATE WETLANDS RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$1,760.56 from Wetlands filing fee receipts reserved for appropriation to the Conservation Commission Revolving Fund to be used for the management of conservation lands, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

Summary: *To appropriate additional funds to the revolving fund established in 2007 for the management of conservation lands in Groton. The funds proposed to be transferred have sat unallocated from wetlands filing fees collected prior to 2003; the transfer will allow the funds to be used to improve access and management of conservation lands. If the transfer is not approved the Town will have to allocate additional funds to the land management line item in the regular Conservation Commission budget.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer \$1,760.56 from Wetlands filing fee receipts reserved for appropriation to the Conservation Commission Revolving fund to be used for the management of conservation lands.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 15 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 16: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

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 2009 for those persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, not to exceed \$1,000, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation - Support 7

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

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Section 4, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1998, to allow an additional property tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2009 for certain persons who qualify for a property tax exemption under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, not to exceed \$1,000.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments:

- This article appears each year on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and it authorizes the Board of Assessors to grant certain property tax exemptions during FY09 to qualified individuals.
- Funds are reimbursed by the State.

Article 16 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 17: CONFIRMATORY EASEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey to Meeting Way Corporation, Inc. a confirmatory access and utility easement on a portion of the town-owned property located at Farmers Row and described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 48698, Page 412, and which portion is shown as "25FT Access Easement" on the sketch plan attached to

the Easement Agreement recorded with said Deeds in Book 48698, Page 408, on terms similar as those set forth in said Easement Agreement; or take any action related thereto.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position 6 / Against 1

Summary: *This article would allow for future access and placement of utilities over Town owned land.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant to Meeting Way Corporation, Inc. a confirmatory access and utility easement on a portion of the Town-owned property located at Farmers Row and described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 48698, Page 412, which portion is shown as a “25FT Access Easement” on the sketch plan attached to the Easement Agreement recorded with said Deeds in Book 48698, Page 408, on terms similar to those set forth in said Easement Agreement

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 17 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 18: ESTABLISH THE LOST LAKE SEWER COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a five (5) member Lost Lake Sewer Committee to research the feasibility of constructing a wastewater treatment plant and related infrastructure and to report to the 2009 Annual Town Meeting their findings; or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article provides the initial framework for addressing a long standing environmental concern of wastewater discharge into the aquifer in and around Lost Lake. Many home owners find it difficult to comply with state Title V regulations. The Committee would explore the feasibility of establishing a Sewer District, the location of the District, and cost of a treatment plant and all related infrastructure.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a five (5) member “Lost Lake Sewer Committee,” to research the practicality and need of establishing a Lost Lake Sewer District and constructing any related wastewater treatment infrastructure, and to report their findings at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Quantum of Vote: Majority

Comments:

- A report from Woodard and Curran, one of the Town’s Consulting engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection have long identified Lost Lake to have extremely high levels of nutrients in the soil. This is caused by the use of fertilizers on land abutting streams and other bodies of water with seepage from failed septic systems into the Lake. This article is the initial step to address that environmental threat.
- If you are interested in serving or helping out with these efforts please send a letter of interest to the Selectmen’s Office.

Article 18 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 19: ESTABLISH THE WEST GROTON SEWER COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a five (5) member West Groton Sewer Committee to research the feasibility of constructing a wastewater treatment plant and related infrastructure and to report to the 2009 Annual Town Meeting their findings, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation -- No Position

Summary: *This article provides the initial framework for addressing a long standing environmental concern about the discharge of wastewater into the aquifer in and around West Groton. Many home owners find it difficult to comply with state Title V regulations. The Committee would explore the feasibility of establishing a Sewer District, the location of the District, and cost of a treatment plant and all related infrastructure.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a five (5) member “West Groton Sewer Committee,” to research the practicality and need of establishing a West Groton Sewer District and constructing any related wastewater infrastructure, and to report their findings at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments:

- A report from Woodard and Curran, one of the Town’s Consulting engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection identified an area in West Groton to have high level of nutrients in the soil. This is caused by the use of fertilizers and seepage from failed septic systems into an already high water table. This article is the initial step to address that environmental threat.
- If you are interested in serving or helping out with these efforts please send a letter of interest to the Selectmen’s Office.

Article 19 carried by majority vote

ARTICLE 20: SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Sustainability Commission for the purpose of focusing the Town’s efforts to become a measurably sustainable community by:

- Raising awareness and educating Town officials and Townspeople on sustainability concepts and trends;
- Providing sustainability resources and advice for Town plans, policies and operations;
- Identifying opportunities for improved collaboration to enhance sustainability;
- Proposing specific sustainability actions, including energy efficiency;
- Regularly reviewing progress toward sustainability;
- Preparing an annual report to inform the Town on how well the Town is achieving its goal to become a sustainable community;

The Commission to consist of nine (9) members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The members will serve terms of three (3) years, provided, however, that of the members originally appointed three (3) shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year; three (3) for a term of two (2) years; and three (3) for a term of three (3) years; as designated by the Board of Selectmen

Sponsored By: SUSTAINABILITY STUDY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position 6 / Abstain 1

Summary: *This article proposes the establishment of a nine-member Sustainability Commission, as recommended by the Sustainability Study Committee, to foster the goals and objectives stated in the article.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a nine (9) member Sustainability Commission, the members to serve terms as specified in the Article printed in the Warrant, which would be responsible for reporting upon Groton’s efforts to become a measurably sustainable community as set forth in the text of the Article printed in the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments:

- The Selectmen agreed to place this question before Town Meeting as it was recommended by the Sustainability Study Committee. Overall the Commission would define standards to measure Groton’s community sustainability.
- A brief presentation was made by the Sustainability Committee

Article 20 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 21: UPDATE ZONING MAP

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton by striking out the existing Section 219-9, Location of Districts, which reads as follows:

“Said districts are located and bounded as shown on a map entitled “Town of Groton, Massachusetts-Zoning Map,” dated March 10, 2003, revised April 28, 2003, and revised and amended to date, and as shown on a series of maps entitled “Addendum: Town of Groton, Massachusetts-Zoning Map; Supplemental Descriptive Narrative and Maps” on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Said map, with the boundaries of the districts and all explanatory matter thereon, is hereby made a part of this chapter.”

And by inserting in its place a new Section 218-9 which reads as follows:

“Said districts are located and bounded as shown on a map entitled “Town of Groton, Massachusetts-Zoning Map,” dated March 10, 2003, revised February 12, 2008, and revised and amended to date, on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Said map, with the boundaries of the districts and all explanatory matter thereon, is hereby made a part of this chapter.”

Or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: PLANNING BOARD
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article is to update the Zoning Map, most recently amended in 2003, to show several zoning changes that have taken place since that time.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to amend Section 218-9 of Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton as printed in the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3
Article 21 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 22: STATION AVENUE OVERLAY DISTRICT PARKING

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 218-30.2 of Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Zoning, with regard to parking and loading requirements for the Station Avenue Overlay District Developments, by modifying subsection D.9.a of Section 218-30.2 to read as follows:

“Off-street Parking and Loading shall be regulated under §218-23 of this Chapter and the published Design Guidelines for the SAOD.”

Or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored By: PLANNING BOARD
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation – 5 At Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article is to amend the new Station Avenue Overlay District parking provisions by referencing the Design Guidelines that will allow shared parking and encourage bicycle and pedestrian activity.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to amend Section 218-30.2 of Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Zoning, as printed in the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3

Article 22 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 23: UPDATE WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton by striking out subsection 218-30.C, Establishment of Districts, which reads as follows:

- C. Establishment of Districts. The Water Resource Protection Districts are herein established as overlay districts. The Water Resource Protection Districts are described on a map with district boundary lines prepared by Applied Geographics, Inc. entitled “Water Resource Protection Districts, Town of Groton,” dated March 10, 2003. All maps are hereby made a part of this Zoning By-Law and are on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

And by inserting in its place:

- C. Establishment of Districts. The Water Resource Protection Districts are herein established as overlay districts. The Water Resource Protection Districts are described on a map with boundary lines prepared by Applied Geographics, Inc. entitled “Water Resource Protection Districts, Town of Groton,” dated February 21, 2008. All maps are hereby made a part of this Zoning By-Law and are on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: PLANNING BOARD
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article is to amend the Water Resource Protection District Map by including the area surrounding the West Groton Water Supply District’s new well in the Town Forest.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to amend Section 218-30.C of Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Zoning, as printed in the Warrant.

Quantum of Vote: 2/3

The Chair declared Article 23 carried by unanimous vote

ARTICLE 24: HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton, Section 218-24 Appearance, Subsection 218-24.B, Promotion of harmonious development, by striking out the existing subsection 218-24.B, which reads as follows:

- B. Promotion of harmonious development. In order to promote harmony in architectural treatment and avoidance of incongruous or inappropriate character of architectural appearance and arrangement of buildings detrimental to the property values of adjoining owners of the community, no building permit shall be issued for any new building or structure in an R-B Residential-Business District, a B Business District or an M Manufacturing District until plans showing proposed location and external appearance shall have been submitted to the Board of Selectmen for review, comment and suggestions with the advice of the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen shall have made such comment and suggestions or allowed three weeks to elapse after such submission without action.

And by inserting in its place a new subsection 218-24.B which reads as follows:

- B. Promotion of harmonious development. In order to promote harmony in architectural treatment and avoidance of incongruous or inappropriate character of architectural appearance and arrangement of buildings detrimental to the property values of adjoining owners of the community, no building permit shall be issued for any new building or structure in an R-B Residential-Business District, a B Business District, an M Manufacturing District, or in the Station Avenue Overlay District, until plans showing proposed location and external appearance shall have been submitted to the Planning Board for its review and approval.

The Planning Board shall review and approve, approve with such conditions as the Board may deem appropriate, or not approve the plan as described above within 30 days of its receipt of a plan. A decision of the Planning Board shall require a motion carried by a majority of Board members holding office at the time of the vote, and shall be in writing. No building permit shall be issued by the Building Inspector without written approval of the plan by the Planning Board or unless 30 days shall have elapsed from the date of the submittal of the plan without action by the Planning Board or without a request from the applicant for an extension of time for the consideration of the plan and approval of said request by the Planning Board.

The Planning Board may adopt and from time to time amend reasonable regulations for the administration of these requirements.

Or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By:	PLANNING BOARD
Board of Selectmen:	Recommendation - Support 3 / At Town Meeting 2
Finance Committee:	Recommendation – No Position

Summary: *This article is to designate the Planning Board, rather than the Board of Selectmen, as the reviewing authority for architectural plans for new construction in non-residential districts.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to amend Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Zoning, Section 218.-24.B, as printed in the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3

Comments:

- Currently the Board of Selectmen is responsible for reviewing architectural plans for the construction of non-residential buildings. This Article would transfer that responsibility to the Planning Board for more timely input and to a Board that is closer to the architectural consistency within and between non-residential projects or developments.

MOVED AND SECONDED to amend the main motion by revising the first paragraph in the new subsection 218-24B by adding the word “or” before “an M Manufacturing District” and by striking out the words , “Or in the Station Avenue Overlay District”.

The paragraph, as amended, shall read as follows:

“Promotion of harmonious development. In order to promote harmony in architectural treatment and avoidance of incongruous or inappropriate character of architectural appearance and arrangement of buildings detrimental to the property values of adjoining owners of the community, no building permit shall be issued for any new building or structure in an R-B Residential-Business District, a B Business District, **or** an M Manufacturing District, until plans showing proposed location and external appearance shall have been submitted to the Planning Board for its review and approval.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote to amend the main motion: Majority

The motion to amend the main motion carried by majority vote

Article 24 (amended) carried by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 25: BY-LAW PROHIBITING ILLICIT DISCHARGES

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by adding a new Chapter 154, Illicit Discharges to the Municipal Separate Storm Drain System, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By:	EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE/HIGHWAY SURVEYOR
Board of Selectmen:	Recommendation – Support 3 / At Town Meeting 2
Finance Committee:	Recommendation – No Position / Abstain 1

Summary: *This article is to create a new by-law to prohibit illicit discharges to the municipal storm drain system. The by-law must be adopted by May, 2008 as required by the EPA’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by adding a new Chapter 154, “Illicit Discharges to the Municipal Separate Storm Drain System,” a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk and contained in the handout provided at this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 25 carried by unanimous vote.

The Annual Town Meeting was dissolved at 10:18 pm

**MINUTES
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 28, 2008**

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 8:49 PM.

ARTICLE 1: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - 5 At Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation – At Town Meeting

Summary: *To transfer money within the FY08 budget. A handout will be available at Town Meeting.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, as shown in the handout distributed at this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Vote: Majority

Comments:

- During the course of the current fiscal year which ends on June 30th there is occasionally the need to transfer available, already appropriated but unused funds to pay for other shortfalls within the budget. This article authorizes that approval.

Article 1 carried by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 2: TRANSFER WITHIN WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer the sum of \$95,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2008 Water Department budget, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By: WATER COMMISSIONERS
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – Support 7

Summary: *This article allows for the transfer of the sum of \$95,000 from the Water Enterprise Surplus to the Water Department's Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Expenses.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer \$95,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2008 Water Department budget.

MOVED AND SECONDED to indefinitely postpone this article.

Quantum of Vote: Majority

Comments:

- This action is no longer necessary to complete the FY08 budget

The motion to indefinitely postpone Article 2 carried by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 3: TRANSFER WITHIN SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2008 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or take action thereon.

Sponsored By: SEWER COMMISSION
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – Support 7

Summary: *To transfer funds from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to pay for unanticipated additional costs for the pump station improvements at Nod Road and Partridgeberry Woods.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to authorize the transfer of \$50,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2008 Sewer Enterprise Department budget.

Quantum of Vote: Majority

Article 3 carried by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 4: GIBBET HILL CONNECTION TO TOWN SEWER

To see if the Town will vote to extend the “Groton Center Sewer District,” as established by the vote of the Special Town meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, to a portion of Lowell Road beginning at a manhole and continuing easterly approximately 750 feet to include specifically only Assessors’ lot 116-3-0, provided all cost of designing, laying, and construction of the additional sewer system and the cost of additional capacity and proportionate share of the General Benefit Facilities, if any, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby.

Sponsored By: SEWER COMMISSION
Board of Selectmen: Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee: Recommendation – Support 7

Summary: *This article seeks approval to extend the sewer district to include Assessors’ lot 116-3-0 to allow the Gibbet Hill Grill Restaurant and Barn at Gibbet Hill to connect to the Town sewer system.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to extend the “Groton Center Sewer District” to a portion of Lowell Road beginning at a manhole and continuing easterly approximately 750 feet to include specifically only Assessors’ lot 116-3-0, provided that all cost of designing, laying, and construction of the additional sewer system and the cost of additional capacity and proportionate share of the General Benefit Facilities, if any, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Comments:

- The Gibbet Hill Grill and related facilities recently experienced a failed septic system. This Article would allow for facilities located on Gibbet Hill to connect to the Town’s sewer system.
- The sewer system currently has a 25,000 gallon per day reserve capacity. The Gibbet Hill Grill connection is expected to use approximately 10,000 gpd.
- The Sewer District currently has 7 houses that have not connected to the system. The remaining 10,000 gpd reserve should be adequate for the future.
- There is no ability to increase the gpd reserve.

The floor moved the question. The Chair declared Article 4 carried by majority vote.

ARTICLE 5: POINT ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey the discontinued roadway known as Point Road and shown on a plan entitled “Lost Lake,” prepared by Shay and Leary, Engineers, which plan is duly recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as File Plan 844 and 845, to Linda Leavenworth, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Selectmen deem appropriate, or take any action thereon.

Sponsored By:	BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Selectmen:	Recommendation - Support 5
Finance Committee:	Recommendation – Support 7

Summary: *This article seeks to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey Point Road in the Lost Lake section of Groton. Point Road is largely unimproved and serves two property owners, both of whom have requested its discontinuance. The discontinuance was approved at the October 22, 2007 Special Town Meeting.*

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Town vote to transfer to the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of sale, the following described roadway property and authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey the discontinued roadway formerly known as Point Road and shown on a plan entitled “Lost Lake,” prepared by Shay and Leary, Engineers, which plan is duly recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as File Plan 844 and 845, to Linda Leavenworth, or her successors, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Selectmen deem appropriate.

Quantum of Vote: 2/3 Majority

Comment:

- This is a house keeping detail. The October 22, 2007 Special Town Meeting authorized the Board of Selectmen to discontinue Point Road, but there was an oversight in that the Article did not authorize the Selectmen to sell and or convey the land within the roadway. The negotiated price is \$900.

The Chair declared Article 5 carried by a 2/3rds vote.

Motion to dissolve the STM carried at 9:05 pm. The Annual Town Meeting resumed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael F. Bouchard
Temporary Town Clerk

BUDGET REPORT

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2009

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget, with recommendations from the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen., is attached to the Town Warrant

As predicted, FY 09 proved to be a difficult budget to bring into balance. With the exception of the allowable 2-1/2% tax increase and modest “new growth” estimates, the financial plan to be presented at the annual town meeting reflects significant *decreases* in revenue, including less revenue from fees and permits, lower expectations for Motor Vehicle excise tax, and less net State Aid. As noted below, balancing the FY09 operational budget required that certain extraordinary steps be taken, such as use of general stabilization funds.

Nearly 70% of the revenue increase this year was allocated to the two district school systems. Groton Dunstable District school officials are also requesting an override of Groton’s Proposition 2-1/2 limitations of approximately \$106,000 to bridge their operational budget gap. The budget document presents both the non-override budget and the alternative override budget for Groton Dunstable.

In terms of the Town’s operational services, the Finance Committee and the Selectmen jointly recommended cuts in services and some use of alternative sources of funding, including both the Capital Stabilization fund and the General Stabilization Fund. All aspects of town operations experienced cuts in funding, including personnel and labor hour reductions. The joint boards are also recommending funding increases in two areas – Information Services and Senior Center Transportation. Because this budget document presents the *adjusted* amounts recommended to fund labor, making it difficult to see the impact in the line item itself, the labor changes, as well as some other significant adjustments, have been summarized in a table that appears on the last page of the budget document.

Finally, this version of the budget does not take into account the effects of contract negotiations currently underway for two unions, contains no cost of living increases for non-union employees, and has been finalized at this point without confirmed new growth numbers or final State Aid numbers. It is expected that the Fall Town Meeting will include several additional changes to the FY 09 budget.