

# Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

## TOWN OF GROTON



## 2010 FALL TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Monday, October 18, 2010 @ 7:00 PM

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Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting



**FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
OCTOBER 18, 2010**

Middlesex, ss.  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the eighteenth day of October, 2010 at Seven O'clock in the evening, to consider the following:

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**ARTICLE 1: PRIOR YEAR BILLS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money for the payment of unpaid bills from prior fiscal years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** *Town Meeting approval is required to pay bills from a prior fiscal year. A list of unpaid bills will be provided at Town Meeting.*

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**ARTICLE 2: AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 TOWN OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget as adopted under Article 5 of the April 26, 2010 Spring Town Meeting, and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2011, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN MANAGER**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** *The Fiscal Year 2011 Town Operating Budget was approved at the 2010 Spring Town Meeting in April, 2010. Any changes to this Budget would have to be made prior to setting the tax rate. The purpose of this article is to make any necessary changes to balance the FY 2011 Operating Budget. Handouts will be available at Town Meeting outlining any proposed changes.*

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**ARTICLE 3: TRANSFER MONEY INTO THE CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Capital Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** The Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$345,100 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to fund the FY 2011 Capital Budget. At a minimum, this amount should be returned to the Capital Stabilization Fund. The Fund has a balance of approximately \$200,000. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Capital Stabilization Fund equal to 1.5% of the total annual budget. Any balance beyond the 1.5% level should be added to the Capital Stabilization Fund in conjunction with the Capital Plan to reduce overall borrowing and associated costs. The target amount for the Capital Stabilization Fund will be provided at Town Meeting.

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**ARTICLE 4: TRANSFER MONEY INTO THE STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously**  
**Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously**

**Summary:** The balance in this fund is approximately \$1.2 million. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Stabilization Fund equal to 5% of the total annual budget. The target amount for the Stabilization Fund will be provided at Town Meeting.

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**ARTICLE 5: OFFSET THE TAX RATE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the General Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) or from other available funds for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the period beginning July 1, 2010, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting**  
**Finance Committee: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting**

**Summary:** The intent of this article is to use a portion of Free Cash or General Stabilization Fund monies as a funding source for the FY 2011 Budget in order to lower the amount of money required to be raised from taxes or to balance a deficit budget. The amount of Free Cash and General Stabilization Fund monies available for appropriation will be provided at Town Meeting.

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**ARTICLE 6: TEMPORARY TAX AMNESTY PROGRAM**

To see if the Town will vote to enact a temporary tax amnesty program, in accordance with Section 68 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010, in order to encourage the payment of certain delinquent tax obligations as follows:

**TOWN OF GROTON TAX AMNESTY PROGRAM**

Section 1. Amnesty Period - The amnesty program shall begin on October 19, 2010 and end on June 30, 2011.

Section 2. Program Scope - A taxpayer who meets all eligibility requirements set forth in Section 3 shall receive a waiver of 100% of the total accrued tax title interest owed on any of the following types of tax liabilities upon full payment of the outstanding liability, by the end of the amnesty period:

Real Estate Taxes assessed in FY1994 through FY2004.

Section 3. Eligibility Requirements - Each account considered for amnesty must be paid in full with a single installment before June 30, 2011. All tax title accounts having balances remaining due for the tax years, 1994 through 2004 that are paid in full will automatically receive the benefit of this amnesty program for tax title interest on those years. No amnesty benefits will be applied to balances in tax title beyond 2004.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** *Recently, Governor Patrick signed into law a Municipal Relief Package. Part of that package offers local communities the opportunity to adopt a temporary tax amnesty program in order to motivate tax payers who may be struggling to pay delinquent tax balances and added interest. The Amnesty Program would allow tax payers within strict parameters to be relieved of the interest portion of their obligation to the Town. The accounts that remain on the books with balances for the years 1994 through 2004 have accumulated an amount of interest that now exceeds the original principal. The Amnesty Program would be a way for the tax payers affected to pay off the tax obligation and get out from under an out of balance situation. The temporary window of opportunity will encourage tax payers to pay off old balances before the end of this fiscal year.*

**ARTICLE 7: FUNDS TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO MASS WPAT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for the preparation and submission of the initial application by the Town of Groton to the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (WPAT) for a low interest loan to be used for the construction of sewer infrastructure in the Lost Lake Needs Area, said appropriation to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Lost Lake Sewer Advisory Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** *The proposed expenditure is to create and submit the initial application to the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust to determine if the town qualifies for low interest loans related to the construction of a Waste Water Treatment Facility and Collection System to service the Lost Lake Needs Area. Completion of the application package requires a good deal of sophisticated financial and complicated engineering data and is most efficiently done by an engineering firm with knowledge and experience in preparing applications of this type. Using an experienced engineering firm to complete, prepare, and submit the application significantly improves the likelihood that the application will be accepted the first time and will help minimize the elapsed time between application submission and a decision. This includes representing the town at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) public hearing. The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program is currently at 2 percent interest paid over a 20-year period. Obtaining relatively low interest rates and favorable loan payback durations will contribute toward keeping the costs of the project to the Town and ratepayers as low possible.*

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**ARTICLE 8: FUNDS TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO USDA/ RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for the preparation and submission of an application by the Town of Groton to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) program for grants and/or low interest loans to be used for the design and construction of sewer infrastructure in the Lost Lake Needs Area, said appropriation to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Lost Lake Sewer Advisory Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (3 In Favor, 1 At Town Meeting)***

**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** *The proposed expenditure is to create and submit an application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development program for grants and/or low interest loans related to the design and construction of a Waste Water Treatment Facility and Collection System to service the Lost Lake Needs Area. The application package consists of an application, environmental report, and engineering report. Preparation of this package requires extensive financial and complicated engineering data and is most efficiently done by an engineering firm with knowledge and experience in preparing applications of this type. Using an experienced engineering firm to complete, prepare, and submit the application package significantly improves the likelihood that the application will be accepted the first time and will help minimize the elapsed time between application submission and a decision. The interest rates associated with this Federal government program are determined at the time of loan closing, with the Town receiving the agency's lowest rate at that point in time. Obtaining outright grants and relatively low interest rates with favorable loan payback durations will contribute toward keeping the costs of the project to the Town and rate payers as low possible.*

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**ARTICLE 9: FUNDS FOR THE DESIGN OF LOST LAKE SEWER DISTRICT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for engineering, preliminary design, design and contractor bidding services, and all other costs related to the construction of a sewer infrastructure in the Lost Lake Needs Area, said appropriation to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Lost Lake Sewer Advisory Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen:** *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*  
**Finance Committee:** *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

**Summary:** *The proposed expenditure is for engineering, design and bidding services related to creation of a Waste Water Treatment Facility and Collection System to service the Lost Lake Needs Area. This expenditure will provide the Town with a shovel-ready project and includes preliminary and final design; land surveys, including boring samples; municipal, State and Federal permitting; and contractor bidding services. The contractor bidding services include system design, bid solicitation (including sub-bids), preparation of contract documents, review of bids, assistance in contractor selection process. At the end of this process the Town of Groton enters into appropriate agreements.*

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**ARTICLE 10: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FUNDING ACCOUNTS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 10 of the 2010 Spring Town Meeting Warrant by amending the Fiscal Year 2011 allocation to the Community Preservation Committee's sub accounts as follows:

	<u>Original Allocation</u>	<u>Revised Allocation</u>
CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 26,000	\$ 36,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 52,000	\$ 72,000
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 52,000	\$ 72,000
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 52,000	\$ 72,000
Unallocated Reserve:	\$338,000	\$468,000

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** *When the original allocation took place at the Spring Town Meeting, the amount of reimbursement from the Commonwealth was not known and the allocation was based solely on the Town's Community Preservation Fund revenues. The purpose of this article is to account for the additional state Community Preservation Reimbursement and make the appropriate allocations to the various sub-accounts. Please note, that with the exception of the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without approval at Town Meeting.*

**ARTICLE 11: CPC PROJECT RECOMMENDATION**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2011, and further, vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating the following sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws:

CPC Proposal A:	Millstone Field Project:	\$20,000
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or to take any other action relative thereto.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** *The Groton Parks Commission has requested funds to prepare a Division of Conservation Services PARC Grant Application and a property appraisal to acquire a 15.5 acre parcel (more or less) on Cow Pond Brook Road adjacent to the Groton Department of Public Works Garage for the purpose of creating multi-use playing fields.*

**ARTICLE 12: ESTABLISH BUDGET FOR THE GROTON COUNTRY CLUB**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2011 Town Operating Budget and appropriate and/or transfer a sum or sums of money from the Receipts Reserved for the Groton Country Club to new budget line items 1700-1703 to be established within the Library and Citizens' Services division of the budget, as detailed below, for Groton Country Club operations, each item to be considered a separate appropriation for the purposes voted:

1700	Salaries:	\$107,150
1701	Wages:	\$ 46,750
1702	Expenses	\$162,550
1703	Minor Capital	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
	Total	\$336,450

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation – (2 In Favor – 2 At Town Meeting – 1 Against)***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommended (3 In Favor – 1 Against)***

**Summary:** *With the dissolving of the authorization of the Groton Country Club and Recreation Authority, and the expiration of the lease agreement between the Town and the Authority, the Town needs to establish a funding mechanism and authorization for the Country Club to continue to operate. The purpose of this article is to establish a line item budget for the Country Club from October 18, 2010 through June 30, 2011. User fees from the Country Club will be added to the Town's Local Receipts in order to fund the appropriation.*

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**ARTICLE 13: APPROPRIATION TO FUND TOWN FOREST EXPENSES**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money from Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest to Town Forest Expenses, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** *The Town Forest Committee anticipates certain operational expenses to occur over the next several years and this appropriation allows a small amount of funds to be readily available for those expenses. The funds will remain in a special account and be used only for Town Forest operational expenditures.*

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**ARTICLE 14: AMEND ZONING BYLAW §218-26 - FLEXIBLE DEVELOPMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218, Zoning, by deleting in its entirety Subsection 218-26F that reads as follows:

- F. Modification of lot requirements. The Planning Board encourages applicants for flexible development to modify lot size, shape, building setback and other dimensional requirements for lots within a flexible development, subject to the following limitations: [Amended 4-30-2007 ATM, Art. 26]
  - (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.

And by inserting in its place the following new Subsection 218-26F:

- F. Modification of lot requirements. Consistent with the purpose of this section, flexible development may vary from the dimensional requirements of Section 218-20 in order to promote more sensitive siting of buildings and better overall site planning. The Planning Board may waive the requirements of Section 218-20 where it finds such a waiver is consistent with the purpose of this section and is not detrimental or injurious to public health, safety and welfare as follows:
  - (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.
  - (2) The Planning Board may waive the dimensional requirements when requested to do so by the applicant, who shall provide specific alternative dimensional requirements and the justification and public purpose of the waivers requested.
  - (3) Such waivers may be incorporated as part of the special permit granted in connection with an application filed under this section or as an amendment to a special permit previously granted under this section.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**PLANNING BOARD**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting***  
**Finance Committee: *No Position***

**Summary:** *The proposed amendment clarifies that a Flexible Development enables the Planning Board to grant waivers from dimensional requirements through the special permit process, provided that the grant of such a waiver results in better site design and is consistent with the purposes of the Zoning Bylaw's Flexible Development provisions.*

**ARTICLE 15: AMEND THE SIGN BYLAW**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 196, "Signs" of the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting the current Chapter 196 in its entirety, and replacing it with a new Chapter 196, "Signs," as set forth in Appendix A to this warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously**  
**Finance Committee: No Position**

**Summary:** *This article replaces the unwieldy, inflexible Sign By-Law with simplified language that includes several improvements. The proposed bylaw introduces a user-friendly sign application process centered in the Land Use Department, a provision to address unforeseeable and unique circumstances, and an appeals process for denied permit applications. Passage of the new bylaw will not require any changes to existing, permitted signs.*

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**ARTICLE 16: LAND ACQUISITION – OLD DUNSTABLE ROAD**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to acquire, on behalf of the Town, a certain parcel of land located on Old Dunstable Road, shown as a portion of Parcel 91 on Groton Assessors' Map 243 containing approximately 52.4 acres, said land to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission for conservation and passive recreation purposes pursuant to Section 8C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws; to transfer or appropriate from the Conservation Fund a sum of money therefor, in advance of a Massachusetts Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity (LAND) Program (formerly Self-Help) grant with said proceeds to be returned to the Conservation Fund; to authorize the Conservation Commission to apply for a LAND grant for such acquisition pursuant to Section 11 of Chapter 132A of the General Laws and to act as the official representative for such application; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for any special legislation necessary for such acquisition; and to authorize the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen to execute all documents and take all actions necessary in connection with such acquisition, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Board of Selectmen: Not Recommended Unanimously**  
**Finance Committee: Not Recommended Unanimously**

**Summary:** *Applying for a state grant will enable the Town to leverage funds already set aside in the Conservation Fund for the acquisition of conservation land through a fee simple purchase. The land is a portion of New England Forestry Foundation's Wharton Plantation which has frontage on both sides of Old Dunstable Rd. and Rocky Hill Rd. It is the site of a seasonal cottage that is to be razed prior to acquisition of the parcel. Extensive frontage on the east shore of Baddacook Pond is included. Approval of this project would permanently preserve and protect 52.4 acres of an area that is a known habitat of rare species identified by the state Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.*

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**ARTICLE 17: LAND ACQUISITION – STATION AVENUE**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money and authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, lease, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise the following two parcels of land located on Station Avenue for the purpose of relocation of the existing Office and Garage facility of the Groton Electric Light Department in their entirety, said parcels being described as follows:

Parcel 1 - A certain parcel of land located on Station Avenue, Groton, Massachusetts, containing .12 acres, more or less, record title standing in the name of James G. Downes, Jr. and Shirley May Downes, as described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 12712, Page 664, said parcel being shown on Groton Assessors' Map 113, as Parcel 51;

Parcel 2 – A certain parcel of land located on Station Avenue, Groton, Massachusetts, containing .17 acres, more or less, record title standing in the name of Shirley May Downes, as described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 12541, Page 406, said parcel being shown on Groton Assessors' Map 113, as Parcel 52;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting***

**Summary:** *The Groton Electric Light Department has investigated several scenarios for the relocation of its current office facilities located on Station Avenue. After much deliberation, it was determined that rebuilding on Station Avenue is the best option. In order to construct the best facility with minimal impact on the Station Avenue neighborhood, it appears that acquiring land adjacent to the current facilities would be in the Department's best interest. The purpose of this article is to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire these two parcels on behalf of the Electric Light Department. The funds for these purchases will come from the revenues of the Electric Light Department.*

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**ARTICLE 18: FUNDING FOR ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT LAND PURCHASE**

To see if the Town will vote to use such sum or sums of money, as may be appropriated by the Electric Light Department, whether from the proceeds of the sale of the land and buildings at Station Avenue, Groton, Massachusetts, which property is presently occupied by the Electric Light Department garages, or other Electric Light Department funds, for the payment of the purchase price and expenses in connection with the purchase of the land adjacent to the existing Electric Light Department office and operations facility and described in the previous Article, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting***

**Summary:** *To appropriate the funds for purchase of the land described in the previous article from the Groton Electric Light Department available funds.*

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**ARTICLE 19:            *BORROWING AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT NEW OFFICES***

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Groton Electric Light Department to borrow a sum or sums of money, to construct new office and garage facilities for the Electric Light Department and all costs associated and related thereto, provided that the total amount to be borrowed not exceed the sum of two million dollars (\$2.0 million), or to take any other action relative thereto.

***ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS***

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (3 In Favor – 2 At Town Meeting)***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting***

**Summary:** *The purpose of this article is to appropriate the funds needed for the construction of new office and garage facilities for the Electric Light Department. These funds will be paid entirely from Light Department funds. Total project costs are not to exceed \$4.0 million and the amount borrowed shall not exceed \$2.0 million.*

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**ARTICLE 20:            *TRANSFER OF LAND BETWEEN TOWN AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT***

To see if the Town will vote to approve and authorize the transfer of custody of land between the Groton Electric Light Department (GELD) and the Town of Groton, said land being a portion of Assessors' parcel 113-55 (GELD owned 2.1 acres) for a portion of Assessors' parcel 113-53 (Town owned .25 acres) and a portion of Assessors' parcel 113-54 (Town owned .8 acres); said transfer to be approximately .9 acres of GELD land for approximately .9 acres of Town land to permit the construction of a new office and garage facilities by GELD, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***BOARD OF SELECTMEN***  
***ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS***

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***  
**Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting***

**Summary:** *To swap control of Town owned land so that the new office and garage facilities for the Electric Light Department can be built away from the rail trail and to allow for the development of the land along the rail trail.*

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**ARTICLE 21:            PETITION TO THE GENERAL COURT - GROUP INSURANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act substantially as follows:

An Act Authorizing the Town of Groton to Provide for Group Insurance

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

**SECTION 1**

Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 32B and chapter 150E of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the Town of Groton is authorized to negotiate and purchase group insurance policies for Employees, Retirees and Dependents without being subject to collective bargaining as defined in chapter 150E of the General Laws.

**SECTION 2**

Further, the Town of Groton is also authorized to alter current and future group insurance plan design features, and such action shall not be subject to collective bargaining as defined in chapter 150E of the General Laws.

**SECTION 3**

Further, the Town of Groton is also authorized, but not mandated, to participate in, and/or join the Group Insurance Commission ("GIC") established pursuant to chapter 32A of the General Laws, and such action shall not be subject to collective bargaining as defined in chapter 150E of the General Laws.

**SECTION 4**

The provisions of this act shall not affect any obligation under any collective bargaining agreement(s) to which the Town of Groton is a party, while such agreements are in effect.

**SECTION 5**

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (3 In Favor – 1 Against)***

**Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously***

**Summary:** For the past several years, there have been attempts in the State Legislature to amend chapter 150E to allow municipalities to negotiate and purchase group insurance policies for Employees, Retirees and Dependents without being subject to collective bargaining. Currently, any changes in plan design, co-pays, deductibles and cost sharing are subject to collective bargaining. This severely limits the Town's ability to make meaningful changes in health insurance costs to get them under control. The City of Lowell City Council passed a home rule petition that would give the City the right to make these changes without being subject to collective bargaining. The City has requested that all other municipalities petition for similar legislation to put pressure on the State Legislature to finally address this important concern to every city and town in Massachusetts. The purpose of this article is to petition the Legislature through a Home Rule Petition to allow the Town of Groton to make these changes without being subject to collective bargaining under Chapter 150E of the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

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**ARTICLE 22: SALE OR LEASE OF TARBELL SCHOOL**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or lease, for a period not to exceed 99 years, the building known as the Tarbell School which is 8,300 square feet on 1.44 acres of land located at 73 Pepperell Road, West Groton, Massachusetts, to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said building, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting**  
**Finance Committee: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting**

**Summary:** The Tarbell School has been vacant for the past two years. Prior to vacating the property, the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee conducted several public hearings on the re-use of the Building. A report was drafted and the School Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen develop an RFP requesting developers to submit proposals that will create either affordable housing or a retail use that is compatible with the neighborhood in West Groton. The Selectmen have issued an RFP and will present a proposal to Town Meeting based on the best proposal received.

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**ARTICLE 23: ACCEPT SECTION 9D OF CHAPTER 32B OF THE GENERAL LAWS**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of section 9D of Chapter 32B of the General Laws, which provides for Town payment of 50% of the health insurance premiums of surviving spouses of Town employees or retired employees, or take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously**  
**Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously**

**Summary:** *This article seeks to ratify the long-standing past practice of continuing health insurance for the surviving spouses of town employees and retirees. Our research indicates that the Town never accepted the appropriate section of the state law that defines coverage for these individuals. This article is intended to make legal the current practice of allowing surviving spouses access to the Town's health plans at the mandated 50% coverage. This article should be passed in conjunction with the following article, which will make the Town's higher contribution consistent with the past practice.*

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**ARTICLE 24: ACCEPT SECTION 9D½ OF CHAPTER 32B OF THE GENERAL LAWS**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of section 9D½ of Chapter 32B of the General Laws, which provides for Town payment of an additional percentage, above 50%, of the health insurance premiums of surviving spouses of Town employees or retired employees, or take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen:** *Recommendation (2 Against – 3 At Town Meeting)*  
**Finance Committee:** *Not Recommended Unanimously*

**Summary:** *This article proposes to set the Town's contribution for surviving spouses at 65%, consistent with current practice.*

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**ARTICLE 25: ACQUISITION AND ACCEPTANCE OF TRAIL EASEMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to acquire and accept an easement over land running between Hill Road and Fitch's Bridge Road and shown on Town of Groton Assessors' Maps as Parcels 104-32 and 213-66; to authorize the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen to execute all documents and take all action necessary in connection therewith; and to appropriate a sum of money for such purpose, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen:** *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*  
**Finance Committee:** *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

**Summary:** *This article seeks approval for acquisition of an easement over land currently owned by the Boston and Maine Corporation, which is the subject of a right of first refusal previously given to the Town by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation under Chapter 161C of the General Laws and which has been the subject of litigation regarding the Town's exercise of the right of first refusal. Acquisition of the easement will take place in connection with settlement of the litigation.*

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**ARTICLE 26: LEGAL AND SURVEY EXPENSES – JENKINS ROAD**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for legal and surveying expenses to locate the borders of Jenkins Road as they are related to Parcels I-37 and I-37B as shown on the former Groton Assessors' maps, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting***

**Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting***

**Summary:** *This article seeks funding for the Board of Selectmen and Trails Committee to conduct a survey and seek a judicial decision on the legal status and rights of public access over Jenkins Road from Farmers and Mechanics Property to Fitch's Bridge. These actions are for the purpose of allowing the Town to protect its property rights in Jenkins Road and provide important public access along the Nashua River.*

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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 27<sup>th</sup> Day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Ten.

Stuart M. Schulman

Stuart M. Schulman, Chairman

Anna Eliot

Anna Eliot, Vice-Chairman

George F. Dillon, Jr.

George F. Dillon, Jr., Clerk

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Member

Joshua A. Degen

Joshua A. Degen, Member

OFFICERS 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 mentioned as within directed. Personally posted by Constable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Duly Posted

# APPENDIX A

## CHAPTER 196 – SIGNS

### 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose and intent of this bylaw shall be to assure that all signs be appropriate to the land, building or use to which they are appurtenant; be protective of property values and the safety of the public; and not unnecessarily detract from the historic qualities and characteristics of the Town of Groton.

### 2. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

a) **General.** No sign shall be erected, altered or relocated without a permit issued by the Land Use Department. Where multiple signs are to be attached to a building, the exact location of the signs on the building shall be subject to approval by the Land Use Department at the time the permit is issued, unless the sign is located in a Historic District or unless the sign permit is being issued pursuant to a decision of the Sign Committee.

b) **Applications.** The applicant must submit to the Land Use Department a completed sign permit application, together with all supporting materials specifying building and sign dimensions, colors, attachment methods, position of the sign, and any other such pertinent information the Land Use Department may require to ensure compliance with this bylaw and any other applicable laws. Permit applications will be reviewed and acted upon as follows:

- (1) The Planning Board shall review permit applications for signs associated with a project under site plan review.
- (2) The Land Use Department shall review permit applications for replacement signs and temporary signs.
- (3) The Historic District Commission shall review permit applications for all signs in the Historic Districts.
- (4) The Sign Committee, appointed annually by the Town Manager, shall review all other permit applications.

c) **Fees.** Fees for sign permits shall be paid in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted by regulation of the Board of Selectmen.

d) **Nullification, Extension.** A sign permit shall become null and void if the work for which the permit was issued has not been completed within a period of six months from the date of the permit provided. For all sign permits, the Land Use Department may, in its discretion, issue extensions covering a period not to exceed one year from the date of issue of the original permit.

f) **Compatibility with Neighborhood and Building Context**

Signs shall be visually compatible with the building, neighboring buildings, and the character of the neighborhood or district in which they are located. Signs shall be carefully located to avoid obscuring important architectural building features, property sightlines, and views.

Sign material(s), scale, coloring, and details should be compatible with the structure or context with which they are associated.

Any sign mounted to a building shall be in a location suitable for that particular sign. The scale and proportions of the sign shall be compatible with the surrounding building elements, and the materials shall be compatible with surrounding materials. Sign attachment shall be accomplished in such a manner that when the sign is removed, there is no permanent damage to the building or important architectural features.

Relocation of an existing, authorized sign to a new location requires review and approval. A sign which may have been well integrated with its previous location may not necessarily fit as well in a new location.

If lighting is proposed, it shall be placed appropriately given the location with a minimum of wattage and ambient light.

g) **Inspection.** Any sign may be inspected periodically by the Land Use Department for compliance with this bylaw. All signs and other advertising structures, together with all their supports, braces, hooks, guys and anchors, shall be of substantial and sturdy construction, shall be kept in good repair and shall be painted or cleaned as often as necessary to maintain a clean, neat, safe and orderly appearance. Within 10 days of notice of non-compliance, the owner must take steps to correct the same.

h) **Removal of Existing Signs.**

- (1) Conforming signs may remain until and unless they violate this bylaw.
- (2) Non-conforming signs, which pre-date adoption of this bylaw, shall be subject to a permit requirement for any enlargement, redesign, replacement, or alteration in any way including repainting in a different color.

### **3. ADMINISTRATION AND PENALTIES**

a) **Enforcement.** The Land Use Department is hereby authorized and directed to enforce all of the provisions of this bylaw. The Land Use Department, in conjunction with the Sign Committee, Planning Board, and Historic District Commission, may issue regulations and guidelines as necessary to implement the provisions of this bylaw.

b) **Removal of Signs.** The Land Use Department shall order the removal of any sign erected or maintained in violation of this bylaw. Ten calendar days notice, in writing, shall be given to the owner of such sign, or of the building, structure, or premises on which such sign is located, to remove the sign or to bring it into compliance with the bylaw. If the owner fails to come into compliance, the Land Use Department shall issue a second written notice and a noncriminal citation in accordance with Chapter 1 of the Groton Code. If after five days, the owner continues to fail to come into compliance, the bylaw may be enforced through court action.

c) **Sign Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

- (1) **Right of Appeal.** Any applicant for a permit, any person who has been ordered by the Land Use Department to incur expense in connection with a sign, and any person dissatisfied with any refusal, order, or decision issued under this bylaw,

may appeal to the Sign Committee within 14 calendar days from the date of such refusal, order, or decision. For permit applications made to the Sign Committee, the appeal shall be to the Board of Selectmen. After notice given to such parties as the Sign Committee or Board of Selectmen shall order, a public hearing shall be held. Applying the standards in clause (2) below, where applicable, and interpreting this bylaw, the Sign Committee or Board of Selectmen shall affirm, annul or modify such refusal, order, or decision. The Sign Committee or Board of Selectmen may only annul or modify the refusal, order or decision by a unanimous decision. If the Sign Committee or Board of Selectmen modifies or annuls the action appealed from, the Land Use Department shall issue a permit or order in accordance with the decision of the Sign Committee or Board of Selectmen.

(2) **Variations in Specific Cases.** The Sign Committee may vary the provisions of this bylaw in specific cases which appear to it not to have been contemplated by this bylaw, and in cases wherein enforcement of the bylaw would involve practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship, if, in each instance, desirable relief may be granted without substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of this bylaw but not otherwise. Any decision to vary the provisions of this bylaw shall be unanimous and shall specify the specific provisions varied and the reasons therefor. Each decision of the Sign Committee shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk within thirty days after the hearing on the variance application and a copy of the decision shall be sent by mail or delivered to the applicant and any other person appearing at the hearing and so requesting in writing. Failure to file such a decision within thirty days after the hearing shall not affect the validity of any variance granted.

(3) **Conditions and Safeguards.** When acting under this subsection, the Sign Committee shall set forth appropriate conditions and safeguards whenever in its opinion they are desirable.

**4. ILLUMINATION**

- a) Exterior illumination of signs shall be so shaded, shielded or directed to create minimum ambient light, and so as not to reflect or shine on or into neighboring premises or into any public street.
- b) Neon lighting will not be permitted.
- c) Interior illuminated signs will not be permitted, with the exception of barber poles on barber shops.

**5. PROHIBITED SIGNS**

Unless otherwise permitted in this chapter, the following signs are prohibited:

- a) Signs which advertise an activity, business, product or service no longer produced or conducted on the premises.

- b) Signs which contain or consist of banners, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, other moving devices, strings of light bulbs or other similar devices, except a street banner may be erected over Main Street in front of the Town Hall advertising public entertainment or advertising charitable, religious, government or educational events, as may be specifically approved by the Land Use Department, for a period of time not to exceed eight consecutive days, the first of which shall occur not more than seven days prior to such entertainment or event. All said banners shall be removed within 24 hours after such entertainment or event. Standardized Main Street banners shall be reviewed by the Town Manager or his designee.
- c) Signs which have blinking, flashing or fluttering lights or other illuminating devices which have a changing light intensity, brightness or color.
- d) Signs illuminated by other than a stationary white or off-white steady light.
- e) Signs which are attached to utility poles, trees, fences, or structures such as overpasses and bridges. Signs attached to other signs are prohibited unless such subsidiary portions are an integral part of the total sign design.
- f) Mechanically activated signs, other than rotating barber poles.
- g) A free standing sign or part thereof that is more than ten (10) feet above ground level, or crown of the street, whichever is lower. A projecting or wall sign or part thereof that is higher than the wall to which it is attached or twenty (20) feet above ground level, whichever is less. Roof-mounted signs shall not extend above the peak of the roof.
- h) Signs mounted on a truck or trailer chassis with or without wheels whose primary function is a sign and not for the transport of goods or merchandise.
- i) Illuminated vending machines.

**6. RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS.**

In a residential district, the following signs are permitted:

- a) A sign of not more than two square feet in area, displaying the street number and/or the name of the occupant of the property.
- b) One professional or home occupation sign, or one sign identifying a nonresidential building or use permitted in a residential district, not to exceed six square feet. When more than one business exists on a residential district site, the total area of signs on that site shall not exceed six square feet.
- c) One sign identifying each public entrance to a subdivision or multi-family development such as apartments or town houses, of not more than six square feet in area. In addition, each family unit may be identified by a single sign of not more than one square foot, without time limit.
- d) Residential marker signs not to exceed three square feet.

**7. BUSINESS, OVERLAY AND MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS**

- a) Single-occupancy business premises with adequate property may have one freestanding sign not larger than 20 square feet, not to exceed 10 feet in height as measured from the grade at the location or the crown of the public street on which the sign is located.

- b) In case of a building setback from road of more than 70 feet, one additional building sign may be used. The size of the building sign shall be determined by the following formula: buildings under 5,000 square feet: one twenty-square-foot sign; buildings of 5,000 to 10,000 square feet: one forty-square-foot sign; buildings over 10,000 square feet: one sixty-square-foot sign. In those cases where a freestanding sign is impractical or nonfeasible, the business will be permitted a wall sign using the above formula.
- c) Multi-occupancy business buildings may have one freestanding sign not larger than 20 square feet with signboards for tenants. Where two or more businesses are located in a single building or within attached buildings or within a cluster of buildings sharing a common driveway, only one freestanding sign is permitted. Multi-occupancy business buildings may also have wall signs per the following provisions:
- d) Strip-mall-style retail buildings. Each unit may have one wall sign not to exceed 20 square feet. All signs must be generally consistent with other signs on the building.
- e) Residential-style retail or office buildings. Each unit may have a wall sign by its door of the building, not to exceed three square feet. All signs must be the same size.
- f) Multi-floor/multi-tenant industrial-style building. Each unit may have one thirty-square-foot maximum wall sign on its part of the building. All signs must be the same size.
- g) Incidental directional and identifying signs, such as "exit," "entrance," "officer," etc., not to exceed two square feet, will be permitted.
- h) Two-road exposure. Businesses that have property and buildings fronting on two public roads may have a freestanding sign on both roads, provided that the total area of both signs is not more than 150% of the allowed sign area for that site.
- i) Incidental signs or signs identifying a business activity shall not contain advertising for any other business or product.
- j) The square footage of wall signs/graphics shall be the total area formed by the outermost elements of the sign/graphics.
- k) No building sign will be permitted to extend above the peak of the roof on which it is erected.
- l) All building signs of a single type on any one building shall be the same size, i.e. all business signs or all directional signs, etc.
- m) Projecting hanging signs may be substituted for wall signs with the following provisions:
  - (1) All projecting signs on multi-occupancy buildings must be of the same type, (i.e. either all wall or all hanging signs and must all be the same size).
  - (2) No projecting sign shall exceed six square feet.
  - (3) Supporting structures will be kept in good repair by the owner.
- n) Window signs may not occupy more than 20% of the total area of the window in which they are hung. No interior sign illumination will be allowed.

- o) Signs pertaining to the lease or sale of a lot or building, provided that such signs do not exceed a total area of six square feet, until such time as all lots or properties have been rented or sold.
- p) Directories. Where there are three (3) or more businesses on a lot, or there are businesses without an entrance on the street frontage, a directory sign may be permitted for the purpose of traffic direction and control. The size of the directory sign shall not exceed nine (9) square feet plus one and one-half (1½) square feet per business establishment. Such a directory sign shall be included in the calculation of total permitted sign area for the lot.
- q) Awnings. Retractable, fabric awnings projecting from the wall of a building for the purpose of shielding the doorway or windows from the elements may include signage on the valance. Such signage shall not be included in the calculation of the total permitted sign area for the lot, provided that no lettering or symbol is greater than six (6) inches in height. No awning may extend to within two (2) feet of a curbline.

**8. UNIQUE AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

- (a) Consideration may be given to an application for a sign or sign program that deviates from the fixed criteria allowed under this bylaw. In such cases, the merits of the specific application will be considered relative to the context in which the signage will be located, with particular attention paid to: site distances, visibility, hierarchy, existing and proposed architecture, site and building entrances, neighborhood character, project scale, lighting, and historic appropriateness.
- (b) Approval of signs under the provisions of *Unique or Special Circumstances* shall require a Public Hearing by the applicable reviewing body, be thoroughly documented, and shall not constitute precedent for similar signage on the same or any other property.

**9. TEMPORARY SIGNS**

- (a) All temporary signs must be installed with permission of property owners and must be removed within specified periods of time. Temporary signs are not to be attached to a utility pole, fences, trees or other vegetation.
- (b) Temporary signs shall not be manufactured with snap-in, interchangeable lettering or be illuminated.
- (c) Temporary signs shall be located within 15 feet of the building entrance to the business or use they serve, except real estate signs, signs on Town of Groton Commons and Main Street Banners, and shall be limited in size to 8 square feet per side.
- (d) Temporary signs shall not be located on Town owned property without written permission from the Town Manager, and if deemed necessary by the Town Manager, from the Board of Selectmen and DPW Director. If the proposed sign on Town owned property is located in a Historic District, then written permission is also required from the Historic District Commission.
- (e) A Sign Permit is required for temporary signs in all cases except for the following:
  - 1) Political signs
  - 2) Yard Sale signs being displayed no more than 2 days prior to the event and removed within 12 hours following the sale.
  - 3) Contractor or vendor signs (up to 6 square feet in total area) being displayed while the specific contractor or vendor is actively at work, or for no more than 48 hours following completion or suspension of such work.

- 4) Business event signs, such as advertising an intermittent "sale", agricultural or unique product, when such signs are in compliance with temporary sign regulations and are attached to or part of an approved sign framework.
- 5) Freestanding special event signs for institutional, religious or not-for-profit organizations, which comply with temporary sign regulations, are not displayed for more than five days prior to the event, and are removed within one day following the event. No more than one such temporary sign shall be displayed on the same property.
- 6) Special event signs for institutional, religious or not-for-profit events, attached to a building or site structure, which are displayed only on the day of the special event.
- 7) Grand Opening, Open House or celebratory signs, such as to welcome a returning soldier, up to 25 square feet, which are displayed for not more than ten (10) days.
- 8) Signs to identify a new business or use, which comply with the regulations for permanent signs, and which are displayed for up to 60 days while an approved permanent sign is being fabricated.
- 9) A single small sign posted in a window, which is less than one and one half (1.5) square feet in size, not illuminated, displayed for not more than two weeks, and not displayed in conjunction with any other temporary sign posted in a window at the same address.
- 10) Signs pertaining to the lease, or sale of a lot or building, provided that such signs do not exceed a total area of six square feet until such time as all lots, apartments or buildings have been rented or sold.

## **10. SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

- a) Public Interest Signs. Signs containing cautionary messages, such as "Beware of Dog" or "No Trespassing" shall be exempt from the permit requirements of this bylaw, provided they do not exceed two (2) square feet in area.
- b) Directional and Traffic Safety Signs. Signs indicating "entrance", "exit", "parking", or similar traffic directional information, shall not exceed three (3) square feet in area per sign. Provided these signs are erected on a lot pursuant to a Town or State regulation, they shall not be counted in the maximum sign number and sign area requirements for the lot.
- c) Political, Ideological, Charitable, or Religious Message. Temporary display or expressions of political, religious, ideological or charitable ideas shall be exempt from the provisions of this bylaw, provided that no such sign shall be affixed to a tree or utility pole in a public way and that election signs shall not be erected for longer than sixty (60) days before the applicable election. Permanent signs of such nature shall not exceed the maximum dimensional limitations for the district in which they are located.
- d) 'Open Flag'. One "open" flag of three (3) feet by five (5) feet maximum dimension will be allowed per business with no permit required. Decorative flags are permitted on residences.
- e.) Off Premises Sign. Requires a permit and review as a 'unique and special circumstance' and must have the property owner's written permission.

## 11. DEFINITIONS

"**Sign**" means any object, device, display or structure, or part thereof, which is placed outdoors or which is visible from the outdoors, which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event, or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, design, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination or projected images. "Sign" shall include, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, billboards, pennants, ribbons, streamers, moving devices, strings of lights, awnings, marquees, canopies, vending machines, and similar devices. "Sign" shall not include national, state or municipal flags, athletic scoreboards, official announcements or signs of the government, or temporary holiday decorations customarily associated with any national, local or religious holiday.

"**Area of Sign**" - The area of a freestanding or attached sign shall include all lettering and accompanying symbols or designs, together with the background, whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed. The area shall not include basic supporting framework and bracing.

The area of a sign painted directly upon a building shall include all lettering and accompanying designs or symbols, together with any background of a different color than the finished material of the building face on which the sign is painted.

The area of a sign consisting of individual letters or symbols attached to a building, wall, or window shall be the area of the smallest rectangle which encompasses all of the letters or symbols.

A double-faced sign shall be deemed to be one sign having an area equal to the area of one side.

"**Appendage**" means an element added, applied or attached as a structural piece of the sign.

"**Business Establishment**" means an independent economic unit, in a single physical location, conducting a business.

"**Framework**" means a decorative and/or functional structure designed to securely hold a changeable temporary sign panel and constructed of material(s) and a theme that are compatible with the building, use, or site which they serve.

"**Land Use Department**" means the Land Use Director or his/her designee.

"**Off-Premises Sign**" means any sign which announces, advertises or gives directions to a business, commodity, service, activity or person elsewhere than the lot or building where the sign is located.

"**Projecting Sign**" means a sign supported by a building wall that is attached perpendicularly or at an angle to the wall on which it is mounted.

"**Temporary Sign**" means a sign or advertisement designed and intended to be displayed for a short period of time and not permanently mounted. Some examples of Temporary Signs include special events signs and construction signs.

**12. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

The invalidity of any section or provision of this bylaw, or its application to any sign, shall not invalidate any other section or provision, or the application of the bylaw to any other sign.

**13. INTERPRETATION AND CONFLICT CLAUSE**

This bylaw is not intended to interfere with, abrogate or annul any other bylaw, regulation, statute, or other provision of law. Where any provision of this bylaw imposes restrictions different from those imposed by any other regulation, bylaw, or other provision of law, whichever provisions are more restrictive or impose higher standards shall apply.

# NOTES

# NOTES

# NOTES

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

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PERMIT #3

# RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA