

Town of Groton

2016 Spring

Town Meeting

Packet

April 25, 2016

**SPRING TOWN MEETING
MOTIONS
APRIL 25, 2016**

ARTICLE 1: HEAR REPORTS

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to hear and receive the report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Scheduled to Give Reports: **Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School
Charter Review Committee**

ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to allow the following compensation for the following elected officials:

Town Clerk	\$ 77,556
Town Moderator	\$ 65

for the ensuing year.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 3: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2017 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2016 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 4: FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

MOTION 1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mover: Gary Green

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,901,549 for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 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: LAND USE DEPARTMENTS

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$425,575 for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY

Mover: Robert Hargraves

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved the sum of \$225,000 to Fire & Emergency Medical Services and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,444,831 for a total of \$3,669,831 for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 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: SCHOOLS

Mover: Bud Robertson

a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$570,080 for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 in the Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,303,717 for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by Lines 1410 through 1413 in the Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 5: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,142,673 for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 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: LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,583,834 for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1703 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 7: DEBT SERVICE

Mover: Barry Pease

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,282,713 for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2007 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 8: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mover: Barry Pease

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,617,512 for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 3000 through 3012 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 9: WATER ENTERPRISE

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Rates and Fees the sum of \$1,024,851 to the Water Enterprise Fund for FY 2017 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 10: SEWER ENTERPRISE**Mover: David Manugian**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency the sum of \$51,252 and to appropriate from Sewer Rates and Fees the sum of \$647,024 for a total of \$698,276 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY 2017 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 11: LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE**Mover: David Manugian**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Local Access Cable Fees the sum of \$230,779 to the Local Access Cable Enterprise Fund for FY 2017 to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursement to the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 12: ELECTRIC LIGHT**Mover: David Manugian**

MOTION: I move 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 2017 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

ARTICLE 5: APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR OPEB TRUST**Mover: John Petropoulos**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$200,000 from Line Item 3010 "Health Insurance/Employee Expenses" of the Fiscal Year 2017 Town Operating Budget adopted under Article 4 of the 2016 Spring Town Meeting, to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 6: FISCAL YEAR 2017 CAPITAL BUDGET**Mover: Joshua Degen**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$426,980 from the Capital Stabilization Fund; transfer the sum of \$16,000 from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; and transfer the sum of \$60,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); for a total of \$502,980, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the following capital items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Swap Loader	\$ 35,000	Fire/EMS
Fire Boat	\$ 16,000	Fire/EMS
Pick-Up Truck	\$ 30,000	Highway Department
Brush Mower	\$ 45,000	Highway Department
IT Infrastructure	\$ 50,000	Town Facilities
Building Security	\$ 60,000	Town Facilities
Baler	\$ 40,000	Transfer Station
Carpet Replacement	\$ 20,000	Library
Property Improvements	\$ 46,500	Park
Police Cruisers	\$ 89,746	Police Department
Tasers	\$ 39,134	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$ 20,000	Groton Country Club
Boom Sprayer Unit	\$ 6,500	Groton Country Club
Triplex – Greens Mower	<u>\$ 5,100</u>	Groton Country Club
Total	\$502,980	

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority

ARTICLE 7: FEASIBILITY STUDY - SENIOR CENTER**Mover: Peter Cunningham**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2016, for the purpose of retaining a consultant(s) to conduct a feasibility/assessment study to determine the future needs of the Groton Senior Center, including whether a new facility is needed, and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 8: EXTEND SEWER SYSTEM**Mover: Peter Cunningham**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to extend the "Groton Center Sewer System," as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, to include the property shown on Assessors' Lot 222-55 (122 Old Ayer Rd), such extension to be only for the exclusive use of the property currently shown on Groton Assessors' Maps as Lot 222-55, which is proposed to be used and occupied by Indian Hill Music, Inc., and on the condition that, and only for as long as, said property is used as a music education and performance center by Indian Hill Music, Inc. or its successors or assigns; otherwise, the system extension shall terminate and be null and void; and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the proportionate share of any General Benefit Facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 9: TRANSFER FROM FY 2016 CAPITAL BUDGET Mover: Gineane Haberlin

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the unexpended portion of the appropriation voted under Article 9 of the April 27, 2015 Spring Town Meeting, said sum to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2016 to pay for the construction of a new Playground at Cutler Field, and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 10: FUNDS TO REPAIR RETAINING WALL**Mover: Mark Gerath**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Board of Library Trustees in Fiscal Year 2016, to repair the retaining wall located on the south side of the Groton Public Library, and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 11: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**Mover: Stuart Schulman**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2016 Town Operating Budget, being the sums of money identified in the “**Transfer funds from**” line items designated in the Information Packet distributed to voters for this Town Meeting, said sums to be transferred to the various line items in the “**Transfer funds to**” categories designated within the Information Packet, the total amount to be transferred being \$100,388.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Transfer funds from:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount To Be Transferred</u>
1100 – Information Technology Salary	\$ 300
1370 – Police & Fire Communications – Wages	\$ 77,295
1501 – Highway Department – Wages	\$ 10,000
1700 – Country Club – Salary	\$ 600
– 111F Deductible Reserve – FY 2015	<u>\$ 12,193</u>
Total	\$100,388

Transfer funds to:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Transferred To</u>
1101 – Information Technology – Wages	\$ 300
1300 – Police Department – Salaries	\$ 14,465
1301 – Police Department – Wages	\$ 26,815
1311 – Fire Department – Wages	\$ 30,000
1502 – Highway Department – Expenses	\$ 10,000
1701 – Country Club – Wages	\$ 13,770
1702 – Country Club – Expenses	<u>\$ 5,038</u>
Total	\$100,388

ARTICLE 12: MONEY - OFFSET SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION A: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$0 from Overlay Surplus, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2016 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 8 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting.

MOTION B: I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 13: TRANSFER - WATER ENTERPRISE FUND Mover: James Gmeiner

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer the sum of \$90,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2016 Water Enterprise Department Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 14: TRANSFER - SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND Mover: Thomas Orcutt

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2016 Sewer Enterprise Department budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 15: PRIOR YEAR BILLS Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$14,204 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to pay the following unpaid bills from a prior fiscal year:

National Grid	\$ 4,485
Sprague Energy	\$ 8,694
Norel Service Company, Inc	<u>\$ 1,025</u>
Total	\$14,204

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 4/5's Majority

ARTICLE 16: DEFICIT BALANCES IN GRANTS

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$548 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to offset a deficit balance for the 911 Training Grant for Fiscal Year 2014.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 17: ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAXATION FUND

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 60, §3D to establish a Town aid to the elderly and disabled taxation fund for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income; and further to establish a taxation aid committee to consist of the chairman of the Board of Assessors, the Town Treasurer and three residents of the Town to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, which committee shall adopt rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of the fund and to identify the recipients of such aid.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 18: CPC FUNDING ACCOUNTS

Mover: Bruce Easom

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate and allocate the following sums from the Community Preservation Fund to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 10,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 65,000
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 65,000
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 65,000
Unallocated Reserve:	\$445,500

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 19: CPC FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION 1: Affordable Housing Coordinator

Mover: Daniel Emerson

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$52,500 from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2017-01 "Affordable Housing Coordinator".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 2: Middle School Track Rehabilitation

Mover: Matthew Frary

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$160,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2017-02 "Middle School Track Rehabilitation".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: Historic Monument Restoration

Mover: Robert DeGroot

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$38,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2017-03 "Historic Monument Restoration".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: Prescott School Upgrades

Mover: Russell Burke

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve and to appropriate the sum of \$65,071 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$165,071 to fund Community Preservation Application 2017-04 "Prescott School Upgrades".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 20: AMEND CHAPTER 218-28 - ZONING CODE **Mover: George Barringer**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows: Amend Section 218-28 Development Rate Limitation by deleting Section 218-28, Development Rate Limitation, in its entirety.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **2/3's Majority**

ARTICLE 21: AMEND CHAPTER 218-6 - ZONING CODE **Mover: George Barringer**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Section 218-6.E (1) of the Zoning Code of the Town of Groton by deleting the existing Section 218-6.E (1) and replacing it with a new Section 218-6.E (1) as set forth in the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **2/3's Majority**

ARTICLE 22: AMEND CHAPTER 128, SECTION 3(E) **Mover: Anna Eliot**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Section 3(E) of Chapter 128, of the Code of the Town of Groton, Dogs by deleting the phrase "10 days" and inserting in its place "7 days," thereby changing the length of time a dog must remain in the Groton Town shelter from ten days to seven days, as is required by State Law.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

ARTICLE 23: NON-BINDING RESOLUTION **Mover: John Petropoulos**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to file as Interveners to oppose the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

CONSENT AGENDA: ARTICLES 24 through 30

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each, and that, with respect to Article 25, the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of \$80,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and the sum of \$396,144 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$476,144 to fund the Surrenden Farm debt service for Fiscal Year 2017; provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority



BUILDING COMMUNITY

A STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT FOR PRESCOTT SCHOOL

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE
FOR PRESCOTT SCHOOL

REPORT TO
THE TOWN MANAGER AND GROTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

APRIL 2016



Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
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Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School

Greg Sheldon, *Chair*
Anna Eliot, *Vice Chair*
Halsey Platt, *Clerk*
Bruce Easom, *Member*
Annika Nilsson-Ripps, *Member*
Becky Pine, *Member*
Lynwood V. Prest, *Member*

To: The Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen

From: Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School

Re: Submission of the Committee's final report to the Board of Selectmen

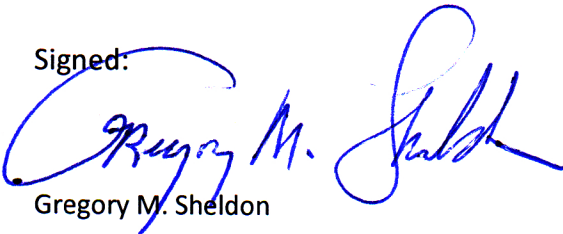
Date: April 8, 2016

By a vote of 6-0, with one member absent, taken on April 7, 2016, the Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School has completed its work and thereby submits its findings and recommendations for your consideration in this our final report titled, *Building Community: A Strategic Blueprint for Prescott School*.

During the course of our research, analysis and deliberation the Committee met with and heard from many Groton residents who expressed their support for creating a vibrant mixed use Community Center in the historic Prescott School. The Committee strongly believes this "Blueprint" offers a balanced approach and a viable plan to achieve this goal in a place where neighbors can gather and build the kind of lasting relationships that help define community.

We wish to thank the Selectmen for the opportunity to complete our work, arrive at our recommendations, and contribute to an important Town conversation about the future.

Signed:


Gregory M. Sheldon

ABSENT

Anna Eliot


Annika Nilsson-Ripps


Halsey Platt

Halsey Platt


Becky Pine

Becky Pine


Bruce Easom

Bruce Easom


Lynwood V. Prest

Lynwood V. Prest

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“The primary objective of the Committee shall be to pursue and engage in courses of action intended to stabilize, preserve and maintain, both physically and financially, the Prescott School.”

From the Charge to the Committee, See Appendix 1



Photo Credit: Sarah Campbell

Introduction

The Committee addresses the above primary objective in writing our report, *Building Community: A Strategic Blueprint for the Future of Prescott School*. The Committee discovered, in the course of its public engagement, there was wide support from town residents to present a vision and a plan that would “reflect the values and serve the needs of the Town for generations to come.”

Among the Committee’s chief findings:

1. The building is “*stable*” and in good condition
2. An anchor tenant is interested in continuing their occupancy and would, therefore, bring financial “*stability*” to the building
3. Current and projected long term Community Preservation Act funds that if approved at Town Meeting would form the basis of a prudent finance plan to “*preserve*” Prescott
4. With the formation of a not-for-profit Friends of Prescott, Inc., stepping forward, with a sustainable business model to lease the building would “*maintain, both physically and financially, the Prescott School.*”
5. Establishing a mixed-use Community Center at Prescott School would serve the community of Groton well into the future.

History

In 1870, Andrew Robbins donated land to the town with the stipulation that it be used for educational purposes. The town’s first high school, the Butler School, was built on the site in 1871. Fire destroyed part of the original building in 1925. When the school was re-built, the architects added a front wing and rear assembly hall to the original building. The school then reopened as The Groton High School in 1928. The school was subsequently renamed Prescott School after Groton Native Colonel William Prescott, Commander of the American Forces at Bunker Hill.

Owned by the town, Prescott has educated children at the high school, junior high school and elementary school levels. The building is currently being used by the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD) for administrative offices. For almost a century, this stately, historic brick building has been an integral piece of the character of Groton Center.

Background

Town leaders began discussing the potential re-use of the Prescott School in 2010 after It was announced by the

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Superintendent of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD) that the District would vacate the building's administrative offices at the end of their lease with the Town by September, 2015.

The Town formed the Prescott Re-Use Committee to study potential uses for the building including an inn, a fire station, and/or a mixed use commercial/senior citizen center. The final recommendation was that the building be turned into an inn. After the Town issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) there was no interest from the private sector. Subsequently, a recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to sell the building to be privately developed as an office building failed the necessary support at two Town Meetings in the spring and fall, 2014.

The Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School (the Committee) was then established by the Town Manager in December 2014. It began its work in January, 2015 and has been meeting regularly. The Committee has a web page on the Town's website where all pertinent information is accessible to town residents. (www.townofgrotonma.org)

The Committee has been charged with providing the Board of Selectmen with a vision for the future use of Prescott School along with recommendations for a short term (5 year) Plan and a long term (20 year) Plan that maximizes the best uses of the building and site. See Appendix 1, Charge to the Committee.

Getting to Work:

In its early days, the Committee organized itself into two standing subcommittees: The Public Engagement Subcommittee and the Research and Analysis Subcommittee. The Public Engagement Subcommittee conducted a series of outreach efforts designed to gather information from the public and examined "Business Models" of similar initiatives from comparable communities. The Research and Analysis Subcommittee examined the current conditions, structural, code and finance related issues for the Prescott School. See Chapter 3 and Appendices 3, 4, and 5.

The two subcommittees operated for approximately six months. The full Committee has been focused since then on completing its use, development, and finance analysis and drafting its findings and recommendations.

Meeting the Charge

Soon after its formation the Committee discovered that with the recent arrival of a new School Superintendent there has been every indication that the Administrative offices would like to remain in the Prescott School. Another important development that has come forward that did not exist at the time of the two previous recommendations (inn and office space) is the formation of a private nonprofit 501c3 organization called Friends of Prescott, Inc. The Friends of Prescott, Inc. is an active community group dedicated to achieving the goal that the Prescott School should be maintained as a town asset and developed into a community center to meet the growing needs of the Town.

Therefore, given the stability of the GDRSD remaining a tenant and the active interest from a community organization to step forward to create a vibrant community focus, there is a unique opportunity for the Committee to design and recommend, in response to its charge, a short term five year plan (see Chapter 7) that calls for incremental project based investment to bring the building up to code while upgrading the facility to meet the needs of the current tenant. In addition, the Town should continue to explore the potential for expanded use by nonprofit organizations as well as the potential for commercial mixed uses during this five year

time-frame. See five year plan in Chapter 7.

The long term twenty-year plan calls for a more complete renovation of the building based on investing in the facility to meet the future needs of a growing community. (see 20 year Development Plan Chapter 7) The Finance Plan for this second phase Development Plan will target future Community Preservation Act funds, federal, state, and private grants and the potential for revenues generated from tenants occupying space in the building. See Finance Plan Chapter 9.

In order to meet this challenge it will take commitment from Town residents, many of whom have expressed a desire to keep the building in Town ownership (see Appendix 2, Survey Results). A true partnership will need to be established between the Town, the GDRSD, and those interested parties who want to create a vibrant Community Center in the heart of Groton Center. We have learned during the course of our research that there are many successful examples of neighboring communities accomplishing just this.

The Committee has worked hard to be transparent in its outreach, engagement, research and analysis of all potential users. We believe, based on our work, that our recommendation to keep the Prescott School as a town asset and invest in it as a mixed-use Community Center can be achieved through a thoughtful, comprehensive and patient plan as set forth in this Strategic Report. The Committee believes that our findings and recommendations for the future use of Prescott School reflect the values of the community and will serve the needs of the Town for generations to come.

By September 2015, the Committee began drafting a “vision” for the future use of the Prescott School as called for in its charge. After several drafts and revisions the Committee voted unanimously on November 18 the following:

Vision

The Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School puts forth the following “vision” for the future use of the facility based on our public engagement and on our internal research, analysis, and deliberation.

A Vision for Prescott: To stabilize, preserve, maintain and invest in the Prescott School, using a sustainable financial operating model, as a unique and historic municipal asset for the purpose of serving the citizens of Groton as a mixed-use public building. The Prescott Building shall be geared towards three important purposes: a home for the central offices of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, a place for community engagement and learning, and as a space to house local businesses to support economic development in the town center. Prescott School will thereby add meaningful vibrancy to our town center and add an additional dimension to what the Town of Groton currently offers to the community.

The Committee’s Work to Date has Included the Following:

1. Conducted public interest surveys and potential user investigations
2. Hired an architect/engineer to do a full structural, system and seismic resistance review to determine what code upgrades will be required
3. Developed lower, middle and upper schematic plans based on working assumptions of intended uses, informed by public surveys and scoping exercises
4. Developed a scope of work and detailed requirements for each floor’s envisioned use

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5. Hired a cost estimator to estimate the cost based on the defined scope of work and requirements
6. Prioritized required short-term renovation projects while considering the estimated costs and available funding
7. Created a two-phased development plan that outlines both short-term and long-term renovations enabling the building management to move tenants in as quickly as possible
8. Identified funding mechanisms for the prioritized short term renovations
9. Developed a long-term plan for a complete renovation and continuing maintenance of the building
10. Identified a number of potential paying tenants and community groups interested in using space in the building

Findings

The Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School reports the following findings for the future use of the facility based on our public engagement and on our internal research, analysis, and deliberation.

- The GDRSD has indicated that they would like to work with the Town to reach a long-term agreement to keep their administrative offices in the building
- The GDRSD is currently paying for all costs related to the maintenance and operation of the building
- The town has extended the lease with the GDRSD Administrative Offices for the next two years (2015 – 2017) and by mutual agreement to add two additional years (2019).
- A private nonprofit 501c3, with the name of Friends of Prescott, Inc., has stepped forward with the desire to negotiate with the Town for the opportunity to manage the building
- The Committee has identified local businesses interested in establishing residence within Prescott School
- Prior to 2022, CPA funds may be available to target limited renovations for specific projects to improve safety and code compliance within the building
- The key to incremental investment during this five year plan is to stay under 30% of the building's assessed value (approx. \$600,000/\$2M) so that the short-term renovations do not "trip code", forcing a total renovation within the short-term
- Five years in the future, larger amounts of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds may be available with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and approval of town meeting in 2022 when Surrenden Farm debt service payments are scheduled to end
- Besides CPA funding the Committee has identified various federal and state grant opportunities as well as the potential for private fundraising to assist in the financing of both the short and long-term renovations
- The Committee received 27 Space Requirement Forms from potential users and received more than 40 recommended use ideas at its Public Forum
- The building's structural integrity is sound and able to accommodate several different types of use
- Over the last 20 years, upgrades to the building (new roof, a new boiler, new windows, a concrete ramp etc.) have totaled \$683,000
- A 2015 Town Survey indicated that 72% of respondents want to see the Prescott School stay in town ownership and be maintained for public use
- A five-year and twenty-year finance and development plan is achievable
- The Committee contacted UMass Lowell Professor Dianna Archibald who teaches a Grant Writing course during the spring 2016 semester. Dr. Archibald assigned a student, Christian Robichard, to research potential state and federal grants that Prescott School may be eligible for. Mr. Robichard has identified six potential grants and as part of his course work is drafting a grant application that may fund the installation of an elevator for Prescott School. (See Appendix 8)

- An Operational Budget has been projected to provide the Prescott School, Management Organization, and/or the Town with a positive cash flow (See chapter 8 for more details)

Table 5 Typical Case Annual Revenue and Expense Summary (in 2016 dollars)

Fiscal Year	Revenue	Expense	Net
2018	\$ 78,196	\$80,513	(\$2,317)
2019	\$ 91,826	\$90,473	\$ 1,353
2020	\$109,468	\$100,433	\$ 9,039
2021	\$127,110	\$105,393	\$21,717
2022	\$184,793	\$110,353	\$74,440
2023-2038	\$209,731	\$110,353	\$99,378

- A Finance Plan has been developed that would primarily use CPA funds, already anticipated, to finance the Phase 2 renovations.
- The Committee received two cost estimates for the Phase 2 Development Plan, ranging from \$4,208,178 to \$5,848,751

Commonly Asked Questions:

During the course of the Committee's work, it considered and answered several questions, including the following (for a more complete list, see Chapter 10);

Q: What makes the Committee think that the majority of residents don't still want to sell the Prescott School?

A: The Committee conducted extensive outreach and public engagement to determine this very question. The Committee hosted an Open House/Public Forum and conducted a Town Survey to learn that in fact, more than 70% of respondents wanted to see the Town retain the Prescott School and see it put to a public use.

Q: Has the Committee considered selling the building?

A: Yes, we did, however, only one business submitted a Potential Use Form indicating that they would be interested in purchasing the Prescott School. This was weighed against the overwhelming response by residents to retain the building as a town asset.

Q: Will operating Prescott add to the town budget like the Country Club?

A: No, the projected budget with a mixed administrative/commercial/community use is expected to generate a positive cash flow in the near-term.

Q: Will my taxes go up based on this Committee's recommendations?

A: Our recommendations offer an opportunity to create a mixed use town building that does not require that any additional taxpayer funds be needed. Through the use of CPA funds and an Enterprise Fund sourced by positive cash flow over the next three to five years, we believe that this building does not require additional funds from the town budget.

Q: Why should we believe this recommended plan will work?

A: The Committee believes it has designed a reasonable, responsible and prudent plan that will allow for a gradual ramp up of investment and use over the next five years. The Committee sees little downside to encouraging this exercise in building community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendations and Timeline

The Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School puts forth the following set of recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for the future use of the facility based on our public engagement and on our internal research, analysis, and deliberation.

As stated in the Committee's vision, we recommend to the Board of Selectmen, that Prescott School be retained by the Town in order to "stabilize, preserve, maintain and invest in the Prescott School, using a sustainable financial operating model, as a unique and historic municipal asset for the purpose of serving the citizens of Groton as a mixed-use public building".

The Committee believes the financing of the renovation of Prescott School, as presented, is a fiscally prudent and reasoned plan that does not impact the tax rate. The plan does require cooperation between the Board of Selectmen, the Community Preservation Committee, voters at Town Meeting and Friends of Prescott, Inc.

1. Finance Strategy for 5-year Development Plan (FY2017-FY2021)
 - 100% CPA funding is predicated on receiving up to \$600,000. Some percentage of funding may come from outside sources such as federal grants, state grants and private fundraising.
2. Finance Strategy for 20-year Development Plan (FY2022-FY2042)
 - The second phase financing will fund the long term renovation estimated to be between \$4,208,178 and \$5,848,751.
 - This plan relies on the availability of CPA funding and Town approval when the Surrenden Farm debt service obligation ends in FY2021.
 - 100% CPA funding is predicated on receiving between \$4,000,000 and \$6,000,000 on a 15 to 20-year note. Some percentage of funding may come from outside sources such as federal grants, state grants and private fundraising.

Project Timeline:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Submit Strategic Plan to Board of Selectmen | April 8, 2016 |
| • Meet in Joint Session with Board of Selectmen to discuss recommendations | April 20, 2016 |
| • Report findings and recommendations to Town Meeting | April 25, 2016 |
| • Support Friends CPA application at Town Meeting | April 25, 2016 |
| • Appoint Prescott Community Center Committee | May 2016 |
| • Request Building Inspector to certify a Change of Use to accurately reflect how the building is currently being used. | May 2016 |
| • Prescott Community Center Committee coordinate with COA Senior Center Feasibility Study | May 2016 |
| • Begin Phase 1 renovation projects from CPA funds | Summer 2016 |
| • Friends take a sub-lease from GDRSD to begin taking space in the building | September 2016 |
| • Town executes a ten year lease with Friends of Prescott to manage the building to take effect September 2017 | Fall 2016 |
| • Support subsequent Phase 1 renovation projects from CPA | Spring 2017 |
| • Continue Phase 1 renovation | Summer 2017 |
| • Friends to sign long term leases with current and interested tenants | September 2017 |
| • Request Town support for funding architectural and design plans for | |

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| Phase 2 renovations | Spring 2021 |
| • Request Town support for Community Preservation Act funds necessary to accomplish Phase 2 building and site renovations | Spring 2022 |
| • Begin Phase 2 renovations of Prescott | Summer 2022 |

Conclusion

This Strategic Plan is designed that in case the Plan, as recommended, does not come to fruition over the next five years, the town retains all of its options to consider alternative plans for Prescott School including turning it into some other municipal use or selling it. The Committee believes that given the chance to succeed at creating a Community Center the residents of Groton will respond with enthusiasm to make it happen.

CHAPTER 10: CONCLUSION

“The primary objective of the Committee shall be to pursue and engage in courses of action intended to stabilize, preserve and maintain, both physically and financially, the Prescott School.”

From the Charge to the Committee, See Appendix 1

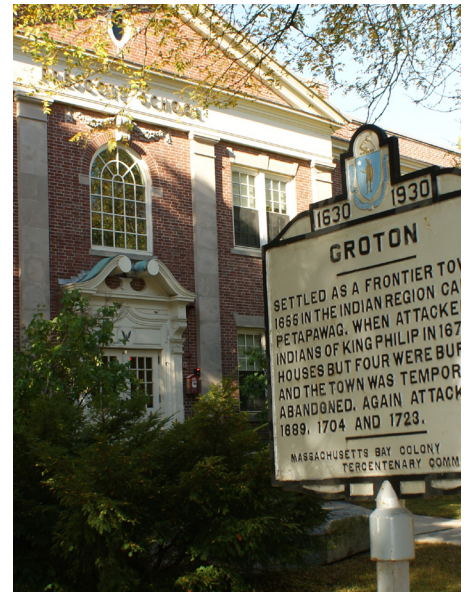


Photo Credit: Sarah Campbell

The Committee addresses this primary objective in writing our report, Building Community: A Strategic Blueprint for Future Use of Prescott School. The Committee discovered, in the course of its public engagement, there is wide support from town residents to present a vision and a plan that would *“reflect the values and serve the needs of the Town for generations to come”* (Committee’s Charge from The Town).

Among the Committee’s chief findings:

1. The building is *“stable”* and in good condition
2. An anchor tenant is interested in continuing their occupancy and would, therefore, bring financial *“stability”* to the building
3. Current and projected long term Community Preservation Act funds that if approved at Town Meeting would form the basis of a prudent finance plan to *“preserve”* Prescott
4. With the formation of a not-for-profit Friends of Prescott, Inc., stepping forward, a sustainable business model to lease the building would *“maintain, both physically and financially, the Prescott School.”*
5. Establishing a mixed-use Community Center at Prescott School would serve the community of Groton well into the future.

The Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School has, over the past fifteen months, conducted a thorough review and a detailed analysis of the many issues, challenges and opportunities surrounding the future use of the Prescott School. The Committee recognizes that, while the challenges may be great, the desire by many town residents to build a strong sense of community at Prescott is even greater.

As demonstrated throughout this document all of the principal charges to the Committee are addressed in each of the ten chapters. The Committee has endeavored to meet its charge and respond to the task before it with transparency and candor. Our Committee meetings were posted and open to the public. All of our minutes and other important documents, including videos of the May 2, 2015 Public Forum, a drone-fly through of the building, and a February 6, 2016 Friends of Prescott panel: Lessons from Other Communities are readily available on the Town’s Website.

The Committee’s vision for Prescott School as a mixed-use public asset was formed after extensive public engagement. It was formed after a professional structural review indicated the building is in good condition. It was formed after a strategy was developed to phase in the necessary renovations – first, by bringing the building up to code and meeting ADA compliance over a five-year period, and then secondly - to complete

CHAPTER 10: CONCLUSION

a more substantial renovation to meet the needs of the community well into the future. It was formed after a finance plan was designed to match the two-phased development plan. It was formed after a management plan, with a projected operating budget, allowed for a gradual ramping up of mixed uses in the building and that the operations of the building would pay for themselves.

All of this planning was done while keeping the current and future financial condition of the Town in mind. Because there is no immediate pressure to do “something” with the building, the timeline to renovate and ramp up its uses was to take effect over a period of five to seven years. One of the goals of the Committee has been for Prescott School to contribute both financially to the town while also contributing to a new dimension of what it means to live in Groton.

This strategic plan attempts to strike a balanced approach to have the building serve the community as a town asset. The mixed-use occupancy of the building includes the current tenant, the Administrative Offices of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District in approximately 1/3 of the space, additional space (approximately 1/3) is set aside for commercial and retail companies to bring businesses downtown, and finally space is set aside (approximately 1/3) for the Friends of Prescott to create programs for a vibrant Community Center.

The following is a list of question the Committee has heard during the course of its deliberations, along with answers to those questions.

Q: I have never been in the building, I hear it is falling apart.

A: The building is in sound condition.

Q: If the vote to sell the building only failed by 2 votes at Town Meeting doesn't that mean that the majority wanted to sell the building?

A: In order to sell municipal property (Prescott) Town Meeting must approve with a 2/3 majority vote. While a majority of attendees at two Town Meetings voted to sell the building, in each case it failed to receive the necessary 2/3 majority.

Q: What makes the Committee think that the majority of residents don't still want to sell the Prescott School?

A: The Committee conducted extensive outreach and public engagement to determine this very question. The Committee hosted an Open House/Public Forum and conducted a Town Survey to learn that in fact, more than 70% of respondents wanted to see the Town retain the Prescott School and see it put to a public use.

Q: Has the Committee considered selling the building?

A: Yes, we did, however, only one business submitted a Potential Use Form indicating that they would be interested in purchasing the Prescott School. This was weighed against the overwhelming response by residents to retain the building as a town asset.

Q: Isn't there sufficient and available space in Town for groups to meet, like the conference room at GELD, at the Country Club, the Library, etc, ?

A: The Committee studied this question and determined that the public was more interested in creating a Community Center where residents would gather for a variety of programing and space for both recreation and commerce, offering more than just meeting space.

Q: Has the Committee signed any leases of new tenants?

A: No, the Committee was not charged with issuing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) or negotiating leases. The Committee has heard from a number of potential interested users.

Q: Haven't some the members of the Board of Selectmen indicated they do not want the town to be a landlord?

A: Yes, however, the Committee is recommending that a private not-for-profit organization lease the building and become the operator of Prescott.

Q: Will operating Prescott add to the town budget like the Country Club?

A: No, the projected budget with a mixed administrative/commercial/community use is expected to generate a positive cash flow in the near-term.

Q: Isn't the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Administrative Office spending tax dollars if they were to stay in the building?

A: Yes, but they have studied whether to stay and pay rent or leave and have to split up their core office functions to several different sites within their District facilities. They have determined it is more efficient to stay at Prescott. It is important to note Dunstable will be contributing 23% of the lease.

Q: Will the building provide revenues for the town?

A: Yes, the projected budget is expected to provide a revenue stream.

Q: Is there an opportunity to see retail and commercial uses in the building?

A: Yes, as stated in the vision and the development plan a mixed use of administrative (1/3) commercial/retail (1/3) and community (1/3) use is planned for the building.

Q: Have you considered having the Senior Center relocate to the building?

A: Yes, the Committee met with the Council on Aging Planning Committee on site to discuss potential interest. The COA is preparing to conduct a Feasibility Study, which will examine all its options. We have considered how the Senior Center might become part of the Prescott School Building if the Town decides that is the best option.

Q: Has the Committee considered adding Municipal Parking on site?

A: Yes, the Committee has recommended that the site include municipal parking as well as building a connected walking bridge to the rail trail.

Q: Will my taxes go up based on this Committee's recommendations?

A: Our recommendations offer an opportunity to create a mixed use town building that does not require that any additional taxpayer funds be needed. Through the use of CPA funds and an Enterprise Fund sourced by positive cash flow over the next three to five years, we believe that this building does not require additional funds from the town budget.

Q: Why should we believe this recommended plan will work?

A: The Committee believes it has designed a reasonable, responsible and prudent plan that will allow for a gradual ramp up of investment and use over the next five years. The Committee sees little downside to encouraging this exercise in building community.

CHAPTER 10: CONCLUSION

Next Steps

This Strategic Plan is an advisory report to the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen. The Committee strongly believes that it has accomplished an important service to the town. By researching and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, the Committee has begun a Town-wide conversation about the building and its potential for the town. Our recommendations should be given every consideration as a strategic blueprint for the future use of this historic and iconic landmark in the center of Groton.

During the course of its work, the Committee discovered that many residents see Prescott School as a source of pride and expressed a real desire to utilize the building as a town facility. The creation of a Community Center for Groton has the potential to bring residents together as has been the case in surrounding communities. The Committee believes that this Strategic Plan encourages town residents to get involved with implementing the vision for Prescott School as a true Community Center through the work of The Friends of Prescott, Inc. and by welcoming local businesses to the building. The benefits seen in neighboring communities by creating a place where citizens can participate in the life of the community adds to the robust sense of place.

The Committee believes our recommendations to the town are achievable. The key to accomplishing this plan is in the implementation going forward. The Committee recommends establishing a Prescott Community Center Committee that is focused on the details necessary to bring the vision to reality. This committee for example, working with the Friends of Prescott, Inc., would take on the job of writing the grant applications identified in the plan. It would work with the Friends of Prescott to ramp up occupancy and phase in the reconstruction schedule to renovate the building.

Project Timeline:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Submit Strategic Plan to Board of Selectmen | April 8, 2016 |
| • Meet in Joint Session with Board of Selectmen to discuss recommendations | April 20, 2016 |
| • Report findings and recommendations to Town Meeting | April 24, 2016 |
| • Support Friends CPC application at Town Meeting | April 24, 2016 |
| • Appoint Prescott Community Center Committee | May 2016 |
| • Begin Phase 1 renovation projects from CPA funds | Summer 2016 |
| • Friends take a sub-lease from GDRSD to begin using space in the building | September 2016 |
| • Town executes a ten year lease with Friends of Prescott to manage the building to take effect September 2017 | Fall 2016 |
| • Support subsequent Phase One renovation projects with CPA funds | Spring 2017 |
| • Continue Phase 1 renovation | Summer 2017 |
| • Friends of Prescott to sign long term leases with current and interested tenants | September 2017 |
| • Request Town and CPC support for funding architectural and design plans for Phase 2 renovations | Spring 2021 |
| • Request Town support for C PA funds necessary to accomplish Phase 2 building and site renovations | Spring 2022 |
| • Begin Phase 2 renovations of Prescott | Summer 2022 |

This Strategic Plan is designed so that in case this Plan, as recommended, does not come to fruition over the next five years, the town retains all of its options to consider alternative plans. These options may include selling the building or turning it into some other municipal use. The Committee believes that given the chance to succeed the residents of Groton will see it through.

GDRSD FY2017 Budget – Town Meeting Information

What is happening in our schools?

So many great things are happening in our district on a daily basis. We have fabulous teachers and staff, curious students, involved parents, and community members who value education. Unfortunately, for several years staffing and program cuts were made due to insufficient revenue streams. These cuts are now affecting student performance, school support systems, and education quality.

What is the Needs Assessment report and what are its findings?

The School Committee asked Dr. Rodriguez and her team to put together a thorough assessment of the district, identifying areas of need and their root causes, corrective actions required, and accountability metrics to track progress. The report was completed and released in November 2015. The key findings of the Needs Assessment report are:

1. We need to reverse declining student performance in core areas caused by the loss of essential staffing and resources.
2. We need to restore and improve programs to meet the needs of students in the areas of the arts, library science, physical/behavioral health, technology and engineering, and foreign language.
3. We need to provide comprehensive social and emotional support to our students.
4. We need to improve performance of students with disabilities while meeting the needs of all learners.
5. We need to provide essential support services including kindergarten assistants, technology support staff, nursing staff, custodial and maintenance staff, business office staff, and administrative assistants

Why is the school district requesting a \$4 million increase to its budget?

As noted above, Superintendent Rodriguez led an in-depth analysis of the district's strengths and areas of need. The School Committee reviewed the Needs Assessment, and instructed the Superintendent to develop her FY2017 Budget to include all of the identified needs. The required increase to both maintain existing programs and services and to meet the identified needs was just over \$4 million.

What will the additional amount be spent on?

For a full explanation, please review the Needs Assessment and FY2017 Recommended Budget documents at www.gdrsd.org. In summary the additional revenue will allow for addition of much needed items:

- 18.5 Teachers
- 14 Support Staff
- 2 Network Technicians
- 1.5 Administrative Asst.
- 1 Maintenance Employee
- 2 Custodial Employees
- Academic Supports
- Social & Emotional Supports
- Curriculum Coordination
- Instructional Materials
- Data Management System
- Professional Development

A full list of new staff positions by school is included below.

How do we know that money will be well spent?

The Superintendent has defined success metrics that will be tracked and achieved over the next six years. The goals set will be incorporated into annual District Improvement Plans, which are approved and reviewed by the School Committee. As the hired leader for education in our district, Dr. Rodriguez works tirelessly with her team to determine where money is needed and how to maximize positive impacts on students.

GDRSD FY2017 Budget – Town Meeting Information

Will this budget increase require an override?

The Board of Selectmen in both Groton and Dunstable have put a Proposition 2 ½ override question on the spring election ballot to fund the overall municipal budget, including school district assessments. The dates for spring elections in each town are:

	Groton	Dunstable
Ballot Vote	Tuesday, May 17 th	Monday, May 16 th

Is the budget sustainable? Will there be more overrides in coming years?

The budget spending is sustainable. Overall spending growth of about 3% annually is needed to support the district, independent of the needs assessment. The District Technology and Capital Plans will be completed in May. Discussion of those plans and potential financial impacts will certainly follow.

Revenue for the district is the controlling question. State and federal aid for our district has been flat for several years, due to a broken state funding formula. Our actual net school spending was just 1.7% above the minimum set by the state in 2015—we cannot spend less than we do now. This puts the entire burden of our required spending increases onto our local revenue sources.

Isn't Groton-Dunstable a top-ranked district?

Every ranking that is published looks at different sets of information, and there are areas where Groton-Dunstable continues to do well. Most published rankings focus on the high school level, and are using data that is at least two years old. Much of this data tracks students who had the benefit of strong foundations in past years when our district was better funded and staffed.

Why is the School Committee funding all the needs now instead of over time?

The School Committee recognizes that the district's needs have grown over several years, and that it will take several years to turn things around. To delay further implementation of a plan that will address those needs does not serve the best interests of our students. We finally have a stable administration committed to improving the district. We finally have an understanding of the true needs of the district, and what is required to address those needs. We also recognize that the needs are great enough that spreading them over time might require recurring overrides in one or both towns, which is not a desirable approach.

What happens if we are unable to secure revenue to support the Needs Assessment?

If the budget or an override is turned down at the ballot this May, the budget comes back to the School Committee for re-consideration. The School Committee may re-approve the same budget, or reduce the budget. If the Needs Assessment items are not supported the district will continue to decline and additional cuts may be necessary.

GDRSD FY2017 Budget – Town Meeting Information

Needs Assessment Budget Staffing Changes

The table below defines the positions and stipends defined as part of the Needs Assessment. Some of these would involve re-structuring or adding to existing positions, while others would be new staffing headcount.

Swallow Union	Florence Roche	Middle School	High School	District
1.0 Special Ed. Co-Teacher	1.0 Special Ed. Co-Teacher	1.0 Literacy Teacher/ Specialist	.333 Mandarin Teacher	1.0 Elementary Adjustment Counselor
.5 Reading Specialist	1.0 Reading Specialist	.4 Mandarin Teacher	1.0 Math Teacher	1.0 Elementary Literacy Coordinator
.4 Math Specialist	.6 Math Specialist	1.0 Math Teacher/ Specialist	1.0 ELA Teacher	.6 School Psychologist
.2 Speech Language Pathologist	.4 Speech Language Pathologist	1.0 Library/ Media Specialist	1.0 Social Studies Teacher	1.0 Business Clerk
.4 Tech Integration Specialist	.5 Nursing Assistant	.5 Reading Specialist	1.0 Guidance Counselor	2.0 Network Technicians
.5 Library/ Media Specialist	.6 Technology Integration Specialist	1. 0 Special Ed. Co-Teacher	.67 Music Teacher	K-12 PBH Coordinator Stipend
1.0 Specialist Area Teacher	1.0 Library/ Media Specialist	.33 Music Teacher	.67 Art Teacher	K-12 Fine Arts Coordinator Stipend
.5 Kindergarten Assistant	1.5 Specialist Area Teacher	Increase MSS Admin. Assistant to 261 Days	.333 Theater Teacher	1-12 Foreign Language Coordinator Stipend
	1.0 Kindergarten Assistant	.38 Records Secretary	.166 Videography Teacher	1.0 Maintenance
			1.0 Content Area Coordinator Coverage	2.0 Custodians
			.7 Registered Nurse	.5 ELL Teacher
			.5 Athletic Dept. Secretary	4.56 Lunch Aids

GDRSD FY2017 Budget – Town Meeting Information

FY2017 Budget by Function

Function	Function Description	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Approved	FY2017 Adopted	Difference
1000	District Leadership and Administration	\$1,198,378	\$1,115,571	\$1,432,145	\$316,574
2000	Instructional Services	\$17,995,203	\$18,362,766	\$21,571,615	\$3,208,849
3000	Other School Services	\$2,520,231	\$2,552,653	\$2,742,805	\$190,152
4000	Maintenance	\$2,279,561	\$2,601,726	\$2,816,803	\$215,077
5000	Fixed Charges	\$5,948,120	\$6,898,819	\$7,118,857	\$220,038
7000	Fixed Assets	\$135,559	\$108,695	\$138,220	\$29,525
8000	Debt Retirement and Service	\$3,238,988	\$3,100,863	\$2,948,691	(\$152,172)
9000	Programs with Other Districts	\$2,167,081	\$1,708,737	\$1,706,203	(\$2,534)
	Totals:	\$35,483,121	\$36,449,830	\$40,475,339	\$4,025,509

State Has Shifted Education Funding Burden to Local Revenues

Fiscal Year	State Mandated Minimum Spending	State Contribution (Chapter 70)	Required Local Contribution	Spending Above Mandated Minimum
2007	\$22,069,166	\$10,590,960 <i>(48% of mandated spending)</i>	\$11,478,206 <i>(52% of mandated spending)</i>	\$4,057,721 18% above
2015	\$29,341,465	\$10,513,273 <i>(36% of mandated spending)</i>	\$18,828,192 <i>(64% of mandated spending)</i>	\$486,299 1.7% above
	↑33%	↓1%	↑64%	



MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK REHABILITATION PROJECT



ESTIMATED COST IS \$160,000

BENEFITS TO THE TOWN

- IMPROVED SAFETY FOR THE SCHOOL CHILDREN
- REPAIR A VALUABLE ASSET FOR THE SCHOOLS
- FACILITY RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC USE
- USING CPC FUNDS MIMIMIZES TAX BURDEN FOR RESIDENTS

GENERAL PROJECT TIMELINE

- MARCH- COMPLETE CPC APPLICATION PROCESS
- APRIL- TOWN MEETING VOTE
- JULY- START PROJECT
- SEPTEMBER- SCHOOL STARTS WITH NEW TRACK

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS

- ATHLETIC BOOSTERS
- PRIVATE ATHLETIC GROUPS OR CLUBS
- DUNSTABLE CPC (\$36,800, Estimated)

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- SELECTMEN
- GDRSD
- SQRR
- ATHLETIC BOOSTERS
- PARKS COMMISSION



FINAL PRODUCT

**TOWN OF GROTON
COMMITTEE INTEREST FORM**

Town Government needs citizens who are willing to give time in the service of their community. If you are interested in serving, on a voluntary basis, on boards and committees within the Town, please complete this form and return to:

**TOWN OF GROTON
Board of Selectmen
173 MAIN STREET
GROTON, MA 01450-1237**

Date: _____

Name _____
First M.I. Last

Address _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Circle One GROTON, 01450 WEST GROTON, 01472

Telephone No. (home) _____ (cell) _____

Preferred e-mail Address _____

Occupation _____

Background _____

Town activities/issues, which interest you:

Specific committees or positions in which you are interested:

Department Name	Vacancies
Archives Committee	5
Bylaw Review & Study Committee	1
Housing Partnership	3
Military Community Covenant	1
Recycling Committee	1
Scholarship Committee	1
Sustainability Commission	2
Underground Utility Study Committee	2
Williams Barn Committee	1
Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate	2
Weed Harvester	1

[illegible]

[illegible]



Groton Town Meeting Amendment Work Sheet

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

☐

I move to amend the {main motion | amendment}

by striking the words _____

and by substituting the words _____

☐

I move to amend the {main motion | amendment}

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

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

☐

I move to amend the {main motion | amendment}

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

after the words _____

Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____

Street: _____ Date: _____

See instructions and information on reverse

Continuation

Instructions for using this form:

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

From the *Groton Town Meeting Procedures* booklet:

Amendments

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

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

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

General Information:

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