

Town of Groton

The seal of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with an open book labeled "HOLY BIBLE" and a figure holding a staff. The shield is surrounded by a wreath. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "TOWN OF GROTON MASSACHUSETTS" at the top and "1655" at the bottom. The words "FAITH" and "LABOR" are also visible within the seal's design.

2026 Fall Town Meeting Packet

October 3, 2026

**FALL TOWN MEETING
MOTIONS
OCTOBER 3, 2026**

Article 1: Prior Year Bills

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the sum of Four Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$430) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) the payment of the following bill from a prior fiscal year:

Service Tire Truck Centers	\$430
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Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **4/5s Majority**

Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9

Mover: Matt Pisani

CONSENT MOTION

MOTION: I move that the Town take affirmative action on Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 pursuant to the motions as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided however that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

Article 2: Amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Town Operating Budget

BUDGET MOTIONS

MOTION 1: I move that the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, as adopted pursuant to Article 5 of the May 2, 2026 Spring Town Meeting, be amended as follows, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted:

General Government: By increasing the General Government Appropriation from \$2,701,294 to \$2,776,794 so as to increase Line Item 1022 – “Select Board Expenses” by \$25,000 from \$4,750 to \$29,750; increase Line Item 1032 – “Town Manager Expenses” by \$20,500 from \$12,100 to \$32,600; increase Line Item 1062 – “Board of Assessors Expenses” by \$10,000 from \$63,617 to \$73,617; increase Line Item 1080 – “Town Counsel Expenses” by \$20,000 from \$90,000 to \$110,000; and transfer the sum of \$75,500 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to fund said increases.

MOTION 2: I move that the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, as adopted pursuant to Article 5 of the May 2, 2026 Spring Town Meeting, be amended as follows, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted:

Department of Public Works: By increasing the Department of Public Works Appropriation from \$2,247,020 to \$2,272,020 so as to increase Line Item 1541 – “Municipal Buildings and Property Maintenance Expenses” by \$25,000 from \$282,950 to \$307,950; and transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to fund said increase.

MOTION 3: I move that the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, as adopted pursuant to Article 5 of the May 2, 2026 Spring Town Meeting, be amended as follows, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted:

Library and Citizen’s Services: By increasing the Library and Citizen’s Services Appropriation from \$2,489,751 to \$2,523,322 so as to increase Line Item 1620 – “Veteran’s Service Officer Salary” by \$33,571 from \$6,622 to \$40,193; and raise and appropriate from the Fiscal Year 2027 tax levy and other general revenues of the Town the sum of \$33,571 to fund said increase.

Article 3: Transfer Money Into the Capital Stabilization Fund

MOTION: I move that \$691,000 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 4: Transfer Money into the Stabilization Fund

MOTION: I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

Article 5: Transfer Money into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund

MOTION: I move that \$377,514 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 6: Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

Article 7: Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that \$10,000 be transferred from the Four Corners Enterprise Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2027 Four Corners Budget for general expenses.

Article 8: Transfer Within the Stormwater Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that \$30,000 be transferred from the Stormwater Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2027 Stormwater Budget for general expenses.

Article 9: Appropriation to Fund Town Forest Expenses

MOTION: I move to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from the Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest to Town Forest Expenses.

Article 10: Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements

Mover: Mary Jennings

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate Three Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,900,000), to be expended by the Town Manager to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-10 “Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements”, including all incidental and related costs; and further, to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, shall be authorized to borrow the sum of \$3,900,000, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(1), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town for this purpose; and further, that the Town Manager shall be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of this purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for this purpose; and further, the Town Manager shall be authorized to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, pursuant to P.L.88-578, or any other applications for funds in any way connected with this purpose, as described in Article 10 of the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting; and further, that upon completion of the improvement project, the real property identified as Assessor’s Parcels 249-40 and 249-57 shall be controlled and managed by the Park Commission as public parks and playgrounds in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 45, Section 3; and further, the real property identified as Assessor’s Parcel 249-51 along Hoyts Warf Road, containing approximately 10.4 acres, shall be transferred from the control of the Select Board to the Conservation Commission.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 11: Install Irrigation System – Country Club**Mover: John Reilly**

MOTION: I move to appropriate One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,700,000) to be expended by the Town Manager to install an irrigation system and make various improvements to the Groton Country Club Golf Course, including all incidental and related costs; and further, to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, shall be authorized to borrow the sum of \$1,700,000 pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 8(15), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town for this purpose; and further, the Town Manager shall be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for this purpose.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 12: Means-Tested Property Tax Exemption**Mover: Nick Degaitas**

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to establish a means-tested senior citizens property tax exemption as set forth under Article 12 of the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 13: Clean Energy Facilities Consolidated Permitting**Mover: Russ Burke**

MOTION: I move to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, as set forth in Article 13 of the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 14: Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facilities**Mover: Russ Burke**

MOTION: I move to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, Section 218-10.3, as set forth in Article 14 of the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 15: Senior Property Tax Freeze Program

Mover: Samuel Palmer

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to establish a senior property tax freeze program as set forth under Article 15 of the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 16: Study Housing Opportunities and Municipal Finance Mover: Russell Harris

MOTION: I move that the Town study housing opportunities and municipal finance as set forth under Article 16 of the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

NOTES

[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.**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**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, SELECT BOARD
173 MAIN STREET, GROTON, MA 01450**

Date: _____

Name _____
First M.I. Last

Mailing Address _____

Circle One GROTON, 01450 WEST GROTON, 01472

Telephone No. (home) _____ (cell) _____

Preferred e-mail Address _____

Occupation _____

Background _____

Specific committees in which you are interested:

Department Name	Vacancies
Agricultural Commission	1
Capital Planning Advisory Committee	1
Conductorlab Oversight Committee	1
Council on Aging	1
Design Review Committee	1
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee	2
Great Ponds Advisory Committee	1
Greenway Committee	3
Historic Districts Commission	1
Historical Commission	1
Housing Partnership	2
Insurance Advisory Committee	2
Invasive Species Committee	2
Local Cultural Council	5
Old Burying Ground Committee	2
Scholarship Committee	3
T.R.E.A.D Committee	2
Weed Harvester Committee	2
Williams Barn Committee	1
Zoning Board of Appeal (Associate Members)	1