

# Town of Groton

2020 Fall

Town

Meeting

Handout

*October 3, 2020*



**FALL TOWN MEETING  
MOTIONS  
October 3, 2020**

**ARTICLE 1: REMOVE “SUNDOWN TOWN”**

**Mover: Joshua Degen**

**MOTION:** I move to establish from October 3, 2020 forward that Groton, Massachusetts rejects wholeheartedly the designation as a “Sundown Town”, and further, that Groton, Massachusetts welcomes people of all race.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 2: PRIOR YEAR BILLS**

**Mover: Alison Manugian**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of Six Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$610) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) for the payment of the following bills of a prior fiscal year:

Triangle Portable Services, Inc.	\$160
Jane Fry	\$150
Sally Hensley	\$150
Paul Martell	<u>\$150</u>
Total	\$610

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

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**ARTICLE 3: AMEND FY 2021 TOWN OPERATING BUDGET**

**Mover: Joshua Degen**

**CONSENT MOTION ON THE BUDGET**

I move that the town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 4, pursuant to Article 3, 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 budget motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 1:** I move that the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, as adopted pursuant to Article 4 of the June 13, 2020 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 \$2,133,418 to \$2,177,833 so as to: increase Line Item 1030 – “Town Manager Salaries” by \$4,415, from \$228,635 to \$233,050; increase Line Item 1141 – “Elections & Board of Registrars Expenses” by \$10,000, from \$12,185 to \$22,185; increase Line Item 1160 – “Insurance and Bonding” by \$20,000, from \$230,000 to \$250,000; and increase Line Item 1180 – “Postage/Town Hall Expenses” by \$10,000, from \$60,000 to \$70,000; And to transfer the sum of \$24,415 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and, further, to raise and appropriate from the Fiscal Year 2021 tax levy and other general revenues of the Town the sum of \$20,000 to fund said increases.

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**MOTION 2:** I move that the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, as adopted pursuant to Article 4 of the June 13, 2020 Spring Town Meeting, be amended as follows, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted:

**PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY:** By increasing the Protection of Persons and Property Appropriation from \$4,369,427 to \$4,395,632 so as to increase Line Item 1312 – “Fire Department Expenses” by \$26,205, from \$174,700 to \$200,905; And to transfer the sum of \$6,205 from the Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved , and, further, to raise and appropriate from the Fiscal Year 2021 tax levy and other general revenues of the Town the sum of \$20,000 to fund said increases.

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**MOTION 3:** I move that the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, as adopted pursuant to Article 4 of the June 13, 2020 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 from \$2,254,853 to \$2,294,853 so as to increase Line Item 1552 – “Solid Waste Disposal Tipping Fees” by \$40,000, from \$135,000 to \$175,000; And to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and, further, to raise and appropriate from the Fiscal Year 2021 tax levy and other general revenues of the Town the sum of \$20,000 to fund said increases.

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**MOTION 4:** I move that the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, as adopted pursuant to Article 4 of the June 13, 2020 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 decreasing the Library and Citizen Services from \$1,719,650 to \$1,695,650 so as to: decrease Line Item 1701 – “Groton Country Club Wages” by \$15,000 from \$144,000 to \$129,000; and decrease Line Item 1702 – “Groton Country Club Expenses” by \$9,000, from \$136,000 to \$127,000.

**ARTICLE 4: AMEND WAGE & CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE Mover: Rebecca Pine**

**MOTION:** I move that the Wage and Classification Schedule as adopted pursuant to Article 3 of the 2020 Spring Town Meeting be amended as printed in the Warrant for the 2020 Fall Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLES 5, 6 & 7 CONSENT MOTION Mover: Tom Orcutt**

I move that the town take affirmative action on Articles 5, 6, & 7, 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.

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**ARTICLE 5: TRANSFER - WATER ENTERPRISE FUND**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of \$160,000 be transferred from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 6: TRANSFER - CENTER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of \$50,000 be transferred from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 7: TRANSFER - FOUR CORNERS SEWER FUND**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of \$5,000 be transferred from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 8: TRANSFER - CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND Mover: John Reilly**  
**ARTICLE 9: TRANSFER - STABILIZATION FUND**  
**ARTICLE 10: TRANSFER - GDRSD CAP STAB FUND**

**MOTION:** I move that Articles 8, 9 and 10 be considered in one motion and be Indefinitely Postponed

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 11: FISCAL YEAR 2021 CAPITAL BUDGET Mover: John Giger**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of One Hundred Fifty One Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$151,570) be appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, for capital items for a Pick-Up Truck for the Highway Department (\$45,000) and a Police Cruiser for the Police Department (\$56,570), and, to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$101,570 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) and that \$50,000, be transferred from surplus funds borrowed by the Town to pay costs of replacing the roof of the Groton Public Library, which project is now complete and for which no financial liabilities remain, to pay costs of making upgrades to the Police Station, as permitted by G.L. c. 44, §20.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 12: STORM WATER UTILITY BUDGET Mover: John Giger**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$188,800), be transferred from Stormwater Facilities User Fees Receipts to be expended by the Town Manager, to operate the Fiscal Year 2021 Stormwater Facilities Utility Enterprise as follows:

Salaries/Benefits	\$ 43,800 (7 Month Salary/Benefits)
Equipment	\$ 5,000
Capital Outlay	\$ 50,000
Compliance Costs	\$ 80,000
Disposal/Expenses	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total:	\$188,800

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 13: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES Mover: Alison Manugian**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of retaining environmental consulting services in support of the demolition of the former Squannacook Sportsmen's Club in West Groton, and all costs associated and related thereto.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 14: COMPLETE STREETS ENGINEERING**

**Mover: John Giger**

**MOTION:** I move that the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of professional engineering services for the design of traffic safety and pedestrian improvements funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts "Complete Streets" program.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 15: ASSESSORS CYCLICAL INSPECTIONS**

**Mover: Alison Manugian**

**MOTION:** I move the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) be raised and appropriated from the FY 2021 tax levy and other general revenues of the Town, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of conducting the cyclical inspection process of inspecting every property in town within the Department of Revenue's five-year period guidelines.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 16: CPA FUNDING ACCOUNTS**

**Mover: Bruce Easom**

**MOTION:** I move that the following sums be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund and allocated to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 5,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Unallocated Reserve:	\$544,430

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 17: CPA FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Mover: Bruce Easom**

**CONSENT MOTION ON CPA FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

I move that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 7, under Article 17, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and 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**

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**MOTION 1: Lost Lake/Knops Pond Restoration**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2021-02 "Lost Lake/Knops Pond Restoration".

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**MOTION 2: Conservation Fund**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and the sum of Two Hundred Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$219,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$221,000, to fund Community Preservation Application 2021-03 "Conservation Fund".

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**MOTION 3: Portrait Restoration**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$11,400) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2021-04 "Portrait Restoration".

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**MOTION 4: Library Pocket Doors**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Ten Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$10,500) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2021-06 "Library Pocket Doors".

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**MOTION 5: Hazel Grove**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$9,242) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2021-07 "Hazel Grove".

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**MOTION 6: WWI Cannon Restoration**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2021-10 "WWI Cannon Restoration".

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**MOTION 7: Emergency Rental Assistance**

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2021-14 "Emergency Rental Assistance".

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**ARTICLE 18: SPECIAL LEGISLATION**

**Mover: Rebecca Pine**

**MOTION:** I move to petition the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation authorizing the Treasurer of the Town of Groton, notwithstanding section 54 of chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other general or specific law to the contrary, to invest the Town's Trust Funds pursuant to the standards of the Massachusetts Prudent Investor Act, codified in Chapter 203C of the General Laws as set forth in the Warrant for the 2020 Fall Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 19: AMEND ZONING – SITE PLAN REVIEW**

**Mover: Russ Burke**

**MOTION:** I move that the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapters 218-2.5, 218-9.3, 218-9.3.A., 218-93.B.(1) and 218-9.3B.(2) be amended as set forth in the Warrant for the 2020 Fall Town Meeting.

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

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**ARTICLE 20: AMEND ZONING – ATTACHED ACCESSORY**

**Mover: Tim Svarzkopf**

**MOTION:** I move that the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapters 218-9.4.1 and 218-9.4.2 be amended as set forth in the Warrant for the 2020 Fall Town Meeting.

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

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**ARTICLE 21: AMEND ZONING – DETACHED ACCESSORY**

**Mover: George Barringer**

**MOTION:** I move that the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218-9.4.3 be amended as set forth in the Warrant for the 2020 Fall Town Meeting.

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

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**ARTICLE 22: AMEND CHAPTER 128 – DOGS**

**Mover: Rebecca Pine**

**MOTION:** I move that the Code of the Town of Groton be amended by deleting Chapter 128, “Dogs” in its entirety and replacing it with a new Chapter 128, “Dogs”, as set forth in the Warrant for the 2020 Fall Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**ARTICLE 23: ACCEPT RED PEPPER LANE**

**Mover: Rebecca Pine**

**MOTION:** I move that Article 23 be indefinitely postponed.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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# ARTICLE 1

## What is a “Sundown Town”?

A Sundown Town is one that is all white on purpose, because people of color were intentionally excluded. The term comes from signs such as one in Ohio that read “N-----, don’t let the sun go down on you in Waverly”. The signs and term were used mostly in the south, mid-west and western US and less frequently on the eastern seaboard. This lack of frequent use in our area does not mean that intentional exclusion of non-white people was not present in cities and towns across New England.

## Is Groton a Sundown Town? Was it ever a Sundown Town?

Professor James Loewen (PhD, Harvard University) author of the book, Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism taught at Tougaloo College, an HBC (Historically Black College) which hosts a website of possible Sundown Towns, on which Groton is one of 17 towns listed for Massachusetts. This is based on a well stated but anonymous entry by a single individual on the website.

Whether Groton was ever formally designated as a Sundown Town cannot be verified at this time. Dr. Loewen recommends that researchers study the census, read old newspapers, conduct oral histories to discover the true history of any town that is all white. Connie Sartini, Town Diarist and Groton Herald reporter, found that the town of Ashby had an actual vote. She and others continue to search our town's history.

What we do know from local history and the book Immigrants and Yankees in Nashoba Valley, MA by Wolkovich-Valkavicius is that the KKK was active in Groton in the 1920s with mostly anti-Catholic actions. Groton at 350: The History of a Massachusetts Town, 1655-2005, B. Murray, Editor, verifies this history in its “Immigrants and the Ku Klux Klan” chapter.

We know that Groton is currently primarily “white”.

We know that the N word was written in the boys’ bathroom at GD Middle School within the last year.

We know that property was defaced with racial slurs at the County Club earlier this year.

We know that our country is struggling to understand and address racism that is ongoing long after the Civil War and the Civil Rights Act.

And, we know that the recent Black Lives Matter march held in Groton was very well attended, respectful and peaceful, and that members of the Groton Police Department joined in the march.

And, Groton now has a town-created Diversity Task Force and community-created A Better Community Facebook group.

Even if information that Groton was/is a Sundown Town is unable to be corroborated through town records, we recommend that should Groton ever have been intentionally racist or exclusionary, we affirm that it is not now, nor will ever be, a town that deliberately excludes anyone.



# Hazel Grove Agricultural Association Capital Improvement

CPA # 2021-07

Viewing tower and shed

## Hazel Grove Park beginning in 1854

Donated to Town of Groton under the Park Commission in 1941 by William P. Wharton



## Groton Riding and Driving Club est. 1932

Their purpose is to serve as a local hub for Standardbred training and management of racehorses



## Groton Pony Club founded in 1957

# Groton Pony Club

## Home Base is Hazel Grove Park



**Benefit to town:**  
 Attracts over 350 visiting riders & supporters into town through

- 2 horse shows
- regional US PONY CLUB RALLY.
- Clinics



- ✓ Groton PC sends members to national championships ever year to represent region
- ✓ Members sit 2 exams RATED BY us pony club on HGAA site each year
- ✓ Clinics run all year open to public



## Buildings:

### Viewing Tower Uses: Safety viewing platform, shelter and storage



- Replace leaking roof
- Replace siding with new vertical siding
- Add missing shutters and locking door
- Replace first floor flooring, second floor was replaced earlier



- Replace ladder
- Add second floor railing at ladder



View of grounds from the viewing tower second floor



These views are for safety during events

**Storage shed** Uses: Storage of supplies used by HGAA for maintenance, storage of old signs, harnessing of horses and shoeing of horses.

- Replace windows
- Replace the missing electrical service from the telephone pole, electrical outlets and interior lights
- Replace leaking roof



**HAZEL GROVE**  
AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



The board members of Hazel Grove Agricultural Association, Groton Pony Club, Groton Riding and Driving club and all of our members that use this wonderful facility thank you for any and all support from the Groton townspeople and those in the surrounding area.



# 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.**



