

Town of Groton



2023 Spring Town Meeting Packet

April 29, 2023

**SPRING TOWN MEETING
MOTIONS**

APRIL 29, 2023

CONSENT MOTION #1 – Articles 1 through 4

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, 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

Article 1: Hear Reports

MOTION: I move that the Town’s 2022 Annual Report be accepted and placed in the permanent records of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 2: Elected Officials’ Compensation

MOTION: I move that the following compensation be set for the following elected officials for the ensuing year: Town Moderator - \$1,000.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

MOTION: I move that the Town of Groton Wage and Classification Schedule be amended and adopted for Fiscal Year 2024 as printed in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 4: Appropriate Funding for OPEB Trust

MOTION: I move that One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) 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 5: Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operating Budget

CONSENT MOTION #2 – Operating Budget

Mover: Bud Robertson

I move that the town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 14, under Article 5, 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: 2/3s Majority

MOTION 1: General Government

MOTION: I move that Two Million Three Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars (\$2,349,147) be hereby appropriated for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$19,930 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of \$2,329,217 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 2: Land Use Departments

MOTION: I move that Four Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Five Hundred Eight Dollars (\$492,508) be hereby appropriated for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$6,358 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of \$486,150 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: Protections of Persons & Property

MOTION: I move that Four Million Seven Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Seven (\$4,737,597) be appropriated for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$787 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); the sum of \$350,000 be transferred from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; and the sum of \$4,386,810 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: SCHOOLS

a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

MOTION: I move that the sum of Seven Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$762,656) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 in Appendix A of the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

MOTION A: I move that the sum of Twenty-Six Million Four Hundred Three Thousand Five Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$26,403,512) be hereby raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by lines 1410 through 1413 as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION B: I move that the sum of Two Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars (\$298,796) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Seven Dollars (\$253,407) be hereby transferred from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund, for a total sum of \$552,203, to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District to pay for the capital assessment from said School District as represented by line 1414 in Appendix A of the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

MOTION 5: Department of Public Works

MOTION: I move that Two Million Three Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$2,351,495) be hereby appropriated for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, \$5,788 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and \$2,345,707 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 6: Library and Citizens' Services

MOTION: I move that the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$1,945,270) be hereby appropriated for Library and Citizens' Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1703 as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$8,494 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and \$1,936,776 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 7: Debt Service

MOTION: I move that Four Million Nine Hundred Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Seven Dollars (\$4,980,707) be hereby appropriated for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2005B in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation the sum of \$137,674 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); the sum of \$105,951 be transferred from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; and the sum of \$4,737,082 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 8: Employee Benefits

MOTION: I move that Four Million Nine Hundred Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars (\$4,930,663) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 3000, 3002, 3010, 3011 and 3012 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 9: Water Enterprise

MOTION: I move that One Million Nine Hundred Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$1,940,823) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Water Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town of the Groton Water Enterprise Fund as represented in the Water Enterprise Budget in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$1,556,653 be appropriated from Water Rates and Fees; the sum of \$175,368 be hereby transferred from Water Enterprise Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$208,802 in the Town’s General Fund Operating Budget be raised and appropriated to be allocated to the Water Enterprise for FY 2024.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 10: Sewer Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Eight Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$889,498) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town for the Groton Sewer Enterprise Fund as represented in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$858,404 be appropriated from Sewer Rates and Fees; and the sum of \$31,094 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2024.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 11: Four Corners Sewer Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Seventy-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$77,812) be hereby appropriated for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant report; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$53,728 be appropriated from Four Corners Sewer Rates and Fees; the sum of \$21,150 be hereby transferred from Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$2,934 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2024.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 12: Local Access Cable Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Thirty Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$230,137) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Cable Access Commission to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursements to the Town of the Local Access Cable Enterprise Fund as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant report; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$114,331 be appropriated from Local Access Cable Fees; the sum of \$73,172 be hereby transferred from Local Cable Access Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$42,634 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Local Access Cable Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2024.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 13: Stormwater Utility Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$242,520) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Town Manager to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursements to the Town of the Stormwater Utility Enterprise as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant report; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$191,498 be hereby transferred from Stormwater Utility Rates and Fees; and the sum of \$51,022 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2024.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 14: Electric Light

MOTION: I move that the income from sales of electricity to private customers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings, together with receipts from jobbing accounts, be appropriated for the Groton Electric Light Department, the whole to be expended by the Manager of the Groton Electric Light Department under the direction and control of the Groton Board of Electric Light Commissioners, for expenses of the Department for Fiscal Year 2024, as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the Mass. General Laws, and that, if said sum and said income shall exceed said expense for said year, such excess shall be transferred to the construction fund of said plant and appropriated and used for such additions thereto as may thereafter be authorized by the Board of Electric Light Commissioners.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 6: Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget

Mover: John Reilly

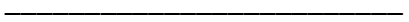
MOTION A: I move that Four Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$442,900) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase and equip a new Ambulance 1 for the Fire Department, and for the payment of all costs associated and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$442,900 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that the Town Manager 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 such purchase.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

MOTION B: I move that Six Hundred Ninety Thousand One Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$690,142) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the capital items as set forth under Article 6 in the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$70,000 be transferred from the Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; and the sum of \$620,142 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Command Vehicle	\$ 70,000	Fire and EMS
Loader	\$220,000	Highway
IT Infrastructure	\$ 50,000	Town Facilities
Municipal Building Repairs	\$ 25,000	Town Facilities
Building Maintenance Van	\$ 60,000	Town Facilities
Property Improvements	\$ 25,000	Park Department
Police Cruisers	\$125,142	Police Department
Hazmat Storage Evidence Locker	\$ 30,000	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$ 25,000	Country Club
Driving Range Improvements	\$ 50,000	Country Club
Greens Equipment	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	Country Club
Total	\$690,142	

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority



Article 7: Opioid Settlements Special Purpose Stabilization Fund Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws, to establish a special purpose stabilization fund, known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors, to be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of said Section 5B and dedicate all of the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article, effective for Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023; and further, to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) \$4,990.48 received from opioid settlements to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 8: Funding for Destination Groton Committee Mover: John Reilly

MOTION: I move that Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the purpose of providing funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 9: Funding for Sustainability Commission Mover: Becky Pine

MOTION: I move that Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of providing funding for the Sustainability Commission to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 10: Amend the Charge of the Sustainability Commission Mover: Becky Pine

MOTION: I move to amend the vote taken under Article 20 of the April 28, 2008 Spring Town Meeting, which created the Sustainability Commission, by authorizing the Select Board, in conjunction with the Sustainability Commission, to create a new Charge of the Commission, including the number of members of the Commission and length of terms, and authorize the Select Board to amend said Charge and Membership from time to time as the Board deems appropriate at a duly posted meeting of the Select Board.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 11: Election Equipment Purchase – Poll Pads Mover: Matt Pisani

MOTION: I move that Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$13,600) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase Poll Pads for use by the Town Clerk to check-in voters at all elections and Town Meetings, including all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 12: Construct New Water Main to Address PFAS Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate Sixteen Million Seven Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$16,780,000) for the purposes of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street in Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources, and all incidental and related costs, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the Massachusetts General Laws; and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow \$16,780,000 under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §8(5) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow all or a portion of said sum from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C of the General Laws and to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan; and, further, that the Town Manager 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 such purpose.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 13: Community Preservation 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:	\$ 20,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$106,991
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$106,991
Community Housing Reserve:	\$106,991
Unallocated Reserve:	\$728,937

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 14: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations

MOTION 1: Housing Trust Funds Request - \$200,000

Mover: Dan Emerson

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-01 "Housing Trust Funds Request".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 2: Preservation of Lake Massapoag - \$4,000

Mover: Richard Hewitt

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-02 "Preservation of Lake Massapoag".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: Conservation Fund – FY 2024 - \$400,000

Mover: Carolyn Perkins

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$215,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$400,000, to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-03 "Conservation Fund – FY 2024".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond - \$80,000 **Mover: Anna Eliot**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-04 "Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 5: Construct Softball Diamonds at Cutler Field - \$90,000 **Mover: Anna Eliot**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-05 "Construct Softball Diamonds at Cutler Field".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 6: Housing Coordinator – FY 2024 - \$55,857 **Mover: Russ Burke**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Fifty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$55,857) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-07 "Housing Coordinator – FY 2024".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 7: Squannacook River Rail Trail - \$90,000 **Mover: Carolyn Perkins**

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-09 "Squannacook River Rail Trail".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 15: An Act Merging Certain Voting Precincts **Mover: Matt Pisani**

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to merge Precincts 1 and 3A into one Precinct known as Precinct 1, as set forth under Article 15 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 16: Amend Charter – Article 3, Section 3.2.2 (v)

Mover: Becky Pine

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to amend Article 3, Section 3.2.2 (v), of the Groton Town Charter, as set forth under Article 16 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 17: Amend Charter – Article 4, Sections 4.2(iii) & 4.2(iv)

Mover: Matt Pisani

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to amend Article 4, Sections 4.2(iii) and 4.2(iv), of the Groton Town Charter, as set forth under Article 17 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 18: Amend General Bylaws – Dog Hearings

Mover: John Reilly

MOTION: I move to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 128, Dogs, by amending Section 128-3, Enforcement, as set forth under Article 18 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 19: Amend Zoning Bylaw – Accessory Apartment

Mover: Russ Burke

MOTION: I move to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218, Zoning, Sections 218-3, Definitions, and Section 218-9.4, Accessory Apartment, as set forth under Article 19 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 20: Conservation Land Purchase

Mover: Olin Lathrop

MOTION: I move to appropriate from the Town’s Conservation Fund the sum of \$601,500, for the purpose of acquiring for conservation and passive recreation purposes, by eminent domain, negotiated purchase, or otherwise, certain real property known as the “Casella Property”, consisting of 119 acres, more or less, owned by the Casella Realty Trust, as shown on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts” prepared by Dillis & Roy Civil Design Group, dated 03/01/2023, which is on file in the Town’s Conservation Commission Office, said parcel to be acquired by the Conservation Commission and held under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 8C, of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements under Chapter 132A, Section 11 and/or any other applicable statute for said acquisition; and further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary for said acquisition; and further, to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction with respect to said parcel to a qualified entity under terms and conditions the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in best interest of the Town and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 184, Sections 31 through 33.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 21: Grant Conservation Restrictions on Various Parcels

Mover: Olin Lathrop

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant conservation restrictions with respect to all or a portion of the parcels set forth under Article 21 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, of the Massachusetts General Laws, and further, to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation to authorize any of said conservation restrictions in accordance with Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, 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 22: Grant Conservation Restriction

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move to modify the vote taken under Article 19 at the 2011 Spring Town Meeting and authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction with respect to all or a portion of the real property located off of Lowell Road (Groton Assessor’s Parcel 234-04) described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 21, 1999, in Book 30446 at Page 61, to the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further to authorize the Select Board to transfer the care, custody, and control of said parcel to the Conservation Commission after granting said conservation restriction to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 23: Citizens’ Petition – Rezone 797 Boston Road

Mover: Eileen Hackney

MOTION: I move to rezone the property situated at 797 Boston Road, which is shown on the Groton Assessor’s Maps as Parcel 133-49 and described in a deed recorded with Middlesex County South District Registry of Deeds in Book 45322 at Page 597, as Neighborhood Business (NB).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

CONSENT MOTION #3 – Articles 24 through 33

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, 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

Article 24: Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) be transferred from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Water Department Operating Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 25: Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be transferred from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 26: Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) be transferred from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 27: Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) be transferred from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Cable Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 28: Prior Year Bills

MOTION: I move that Article 28 be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 29: Current Year Line-Item Transfers

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2023 Town Operating Budget, being the sums of money identified in the “**Transfer funds from**” line items designated below, said sums to be transferred to the various line items in the “**Transfer funds to**” categories designated below, the total amount to be transferred being \$80,355.

Transfer funds from:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount To Be Transferred</u>
3010 – Health Insurance	<u>\$80,355</u>
Total	\$80,355

Transfer funds to:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Transferred To</u>
1242 – Building Inspector - Expenses	\$20,000
1275 – Board of Health – Consulting	\$ 5,355
1701 – Country Club – Wages	\$44,000
1702 – Country Club – Expenses	<u>\$11,000</u>
Total	\$80,355

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 30: Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit

MOTION: I move that One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) be appropriated from American Rescue Plan Act Funds, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 31: Amend Funding Distribution for Middle School Track

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate \$880,000 to pay additional costs of designing, constructing and equipping a new Middle School track, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, said amount shall be transferred, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, from the Community Preservation Fund as follows: Sixty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$66,000) appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and Seven Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Dollars (\$794,000) appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$880,000, and, further, that the \$1,000,000 authorized to be borrowed by vote of the Town under Article 9 of the Warrant of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting for this purpose is hereby reduced by \$880,000.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 32: Debt Service for Middle School Track

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of \$55,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund the debt service for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting and Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 33: Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds

MOTION: I move, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to set the FY 2024 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2024 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$50,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$10,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority



Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Destination Groton Committee

Greg Sheldon, *Chair*
Jeff Gordon, *Vice Chair*
Mairi Elliot, *Clerk*
Julie Platt, *Member*
Joni Parker Roach, *Member*



Destination Groton Committee Article 8 Presentation before Town Meeting April 29, 2023

Article 8 is to provide \$15,000 in funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out its charge to pursue a course of action intended to engage all Town stakeholders, including the business and non-profit communities, Town leaders, Federal and State elected officials and Town residents, in order to, prepare for an increase in visitors to town while at the same time work to preserve its rural small-town charm.

The purpose of this request is to meet a state required minimum local Town expenditure in a prior fiscal year of \$15,000 in order to qualify for major matching grants in Destination Development, Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, and Cultural programs that promote Groton for increased visitors. The funding will be used to set aside for local match opportunities (\$10,000) and in producing an Annual Regional Tourism Conference (\$5,000) to promote Groton as a gateway for the region.

- ***The Destination Groton Committee (DGC) has embarked on a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote Groton and its many attractions while working to preserve the beauty and charm of the Town we all love. Go to: destinationgroton.com***
- ***The DGC has formed a series of regional partners to date including Local, State, and Federal elected officials, two Regional Planning Commissions and two Regional Chambers covering a 250 square mile area from Fitchburg to Lowell.***
- ***DGC has an interest in increasing local tax revenues to the town through attracting targeted economic investment and thereby derive the benefits from the economic impact a clean industry like tourism will bring.***
- ***Our agenda for the year is to produce a quarterly Newsletter; conduct a Townwide Survey; apply for a series of development grants; apply for the state to designate***



Groton as a “Cultural District”; produce a Regional Tourism Conference; and conduct the necessary research and data analysis for a ten-year Strategic Blueprint.

- ***We have been working closely with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and have to date been awarded two major District Local Technical Assistance grants: A contract to assist us in developing a ten-year Strategic Blueprint has been executed with a scope of services that will equate to \$45,000 in value. The second award will cover the cost of hiring a Grant Writer. A third request for a Traffic Study is pending.***
- ***Our FY24 plan is to leverage funds from the Town to meet our goals to secure infrastructure grants and attract matching funds from a variety of federal, state, and regional sources.***
- ***We ask for your support for this request and thank you.***





Groton Sustainability Seminars

KICKOFF: “The Big Picture” Panel
Thursday, May 4th at 7pm
Groton Center & Groton Channel TV

First of Over One Dozen FREE Seminar Sessions
 Providing Residents with Information and
 Ideas They Can Put to Use

Covering:

- What’s the latest news in Climate Change – globally, nationally & regionally?
- What opportunities are enabled by recent U.S. & state legislation: the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the MA Climate Bill?
- What motivated you to care about the issues and what are you working on?
- What can Groton residents begin to do – *today* – to help make a difference?

Featuring:

- Local Boston-area Climate Leader: Keith Bergman (Climate Reality Project)
- Educators from Multiple Secondary Schools in Town: Melanie McCracken (GDRHS) and Michelle Ruby (Lawrence Academy)
- Motivated and Motivational Students: Catherine Daly and Svea Sullivan (President & Vice President, GDRHS Environmental Club)
- Practical, Inspired Professionals: Sue Thomas (Town Sustainability Coordinator – Westford and Carlisle) and Charlotte Weigel (Groton Sustainability Commission)

Coming Sessions: *[To view the full draft curriculum, use the QR-code at the top of the page, or go to <https://bit.ly/DraftCurriculumPDF> from your web browser.]*

Practical In-Home Changes

May 25th, 7:00pm
 Miranda D’Oleo, [Mass. Climate Action Network, MCAN]
 Zoe Eckert, [Mass. Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, MMWEC]

Heating & Cooling Options

June 15th, 7:00pm
 Bob Zogg [HeatSmart]
 John Moore, [NE Solar Hot Water]
 Phil Francisco [Sustainability Commission]

Land Use Case Study

June 29th, 7:00pm
 Carolyn Francisco
 Kim Kuliesis [Laurel Gardens]
 Trevor Smith [Weston Nurseries]

Explanation for Articles 20-22

Spring Town Meeting, 29 Apr 2023

LAND grant details

In July 2022, the Conservation Commission Submitted a LAND (Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity) grant application to help purchase the Casella parcel west of the high school. This property is about 119 acres.

A professional third party appraisal had been done, and the appraised price of \$588,000 agreed to as the purchase price by the Conservation Commission and the Casellas. The LAND grant was for a total project cost of \$601,500 which includes legal and administrative expenses, such as a formal survey. Groton's LAND grant reimbursement rate is 60%, which means the grant will pay \$360,900. The Conservation Commission must pay for all expenses first, then get reimbursed the \$360,900 afterwards. All transactions must be completed by early June, so that reimbursement can happen before the end of the fiscal year at the end of June.

The Conservation Commission was notified in September that it would be awarded the LAND grant, with the grant being formally contracted in December.

Need conservation restrictions

As part of the DCS (Division of Conservation Services, the granting agency) award process, a review of previous conservation acquisitions via a LAND grant or using CPA (Community Preservation Act) funds was conducted. One requirement of such purchases is that an independent party hold a CR (conservation restriction) on such properties.

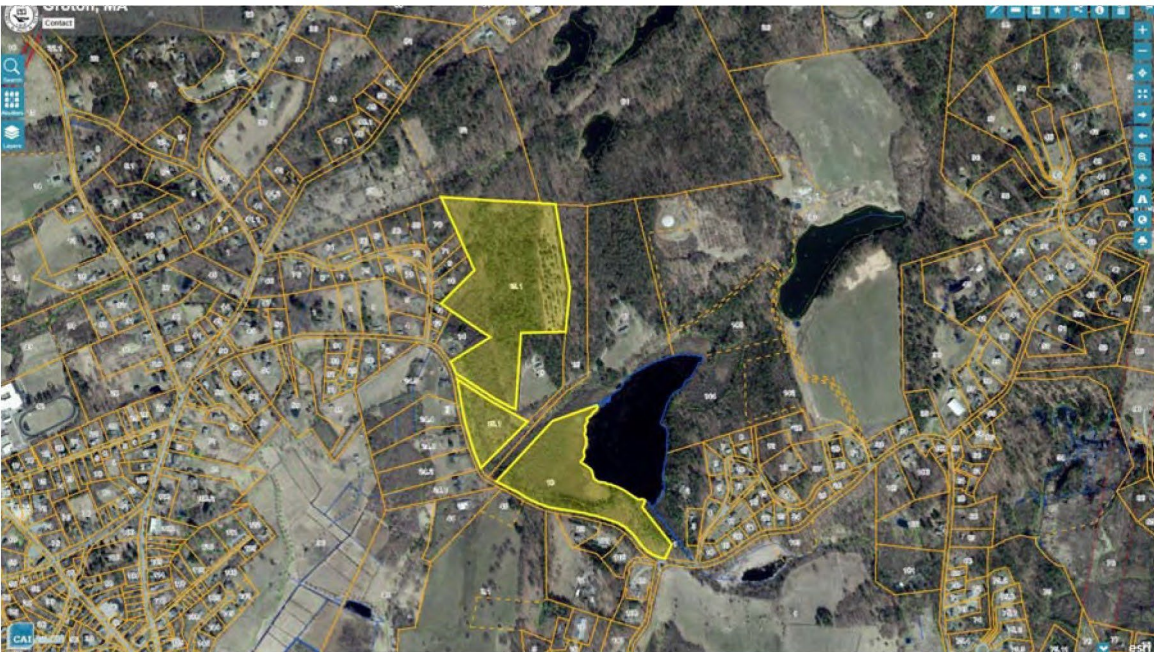
DCS found that there were five such previous acquisitions that were not yet protected by CRs. These were the Patricia Hallett Conservation Area, The Priest and Martins Pond Conservation Areas, the Fucillo Conservation Area, the Baddacook Pond East Shore Conservation area, and the Unkety Brook well site. Of these, the first four were acquired by the Conservation Commission, and the last by the Water Department.



Casella property, west of high school, parcel 227-117. Article 20 authorizes purchase, getting grant, and CR.



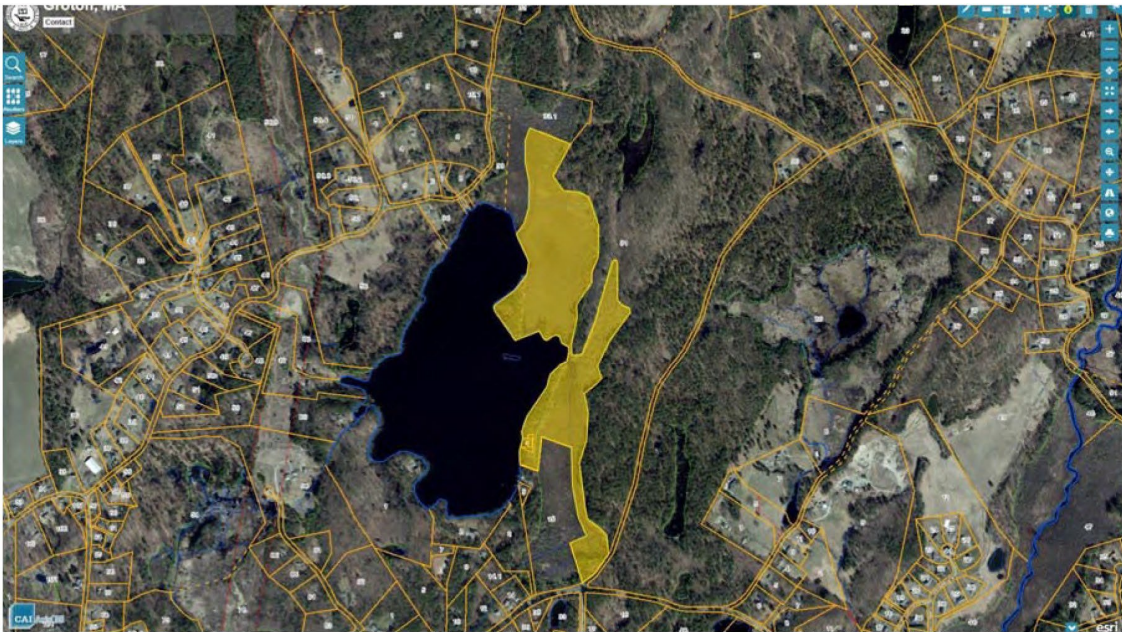
Patricia Hallet Conservation Area, off of West main street west of senior center, parcels 106-31 and 106-32. Article 21 #16 and #17 authorize CR.



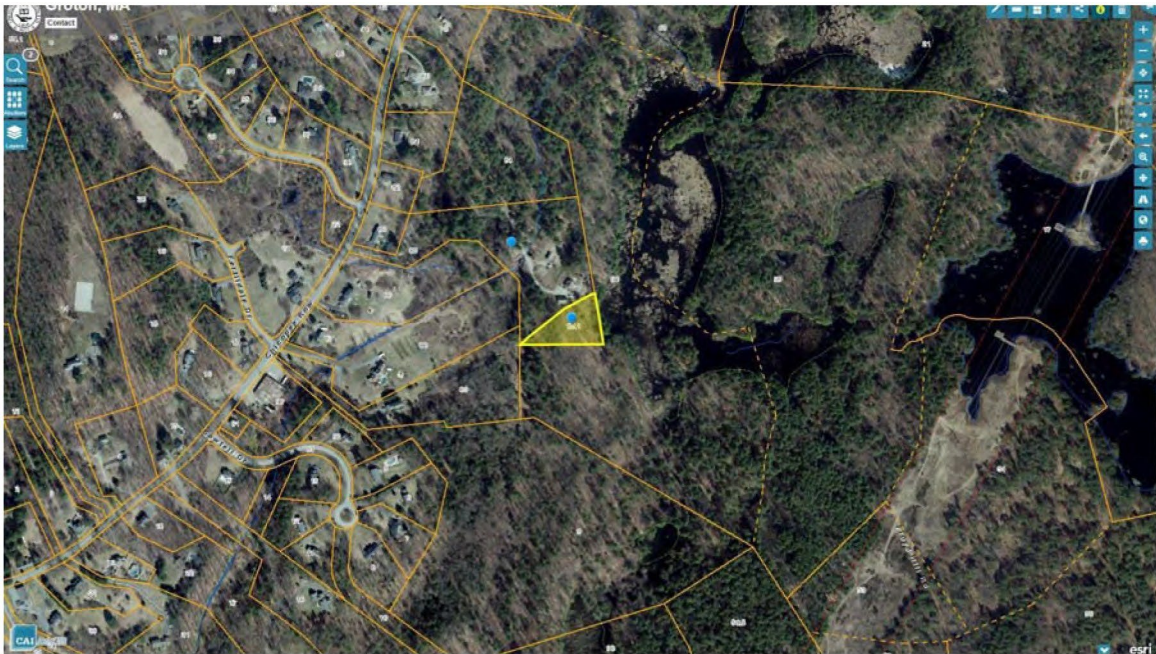
Priest Family and Martins Pond Conservation Areas, Martins Pond Road, parcels 224-15.1 and 224-18. Article 21 #14 and #15 authorize CR.



Fucillo Conservation Area, south of Route 40 between power lines and Lost Lake Drive, parcels 233-98.1 and 233-98.2. Article 21 #11 and #12 authorize CR.

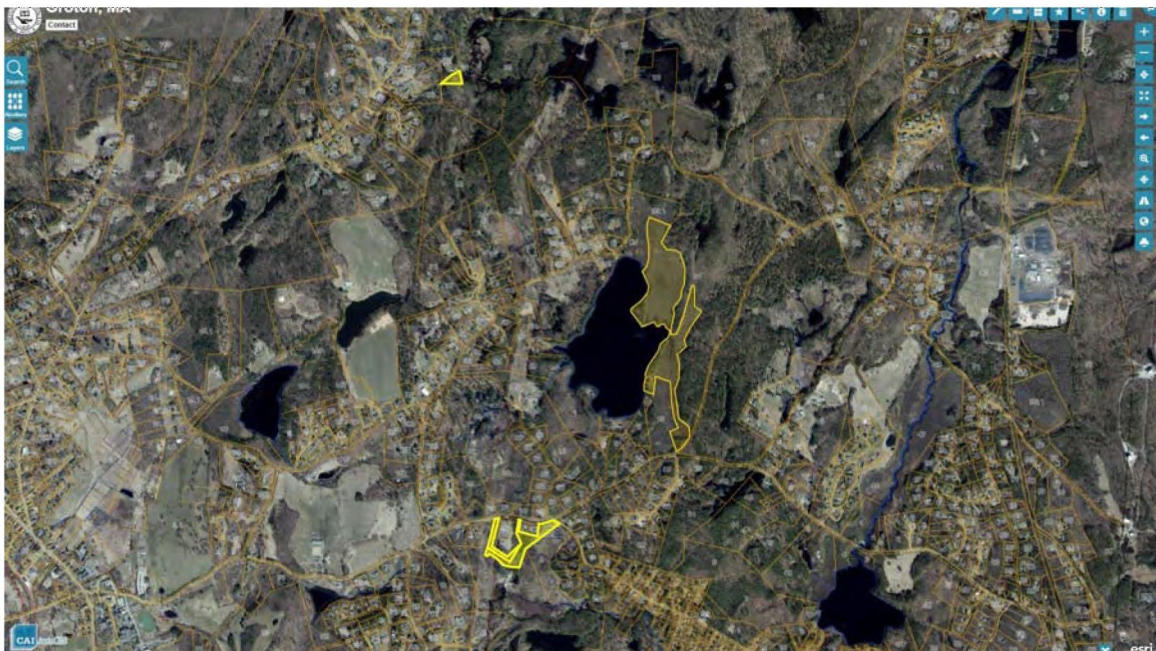


Baddacook Pond East Shore Conservation Area, parcel 243-31.1. Article 21 #10 authorizes CR.



*Unkety Well Site near Unkety Brook east of Chicopee Row, parcel 231-85.1.
Article 21 #1 authorizes CR.*

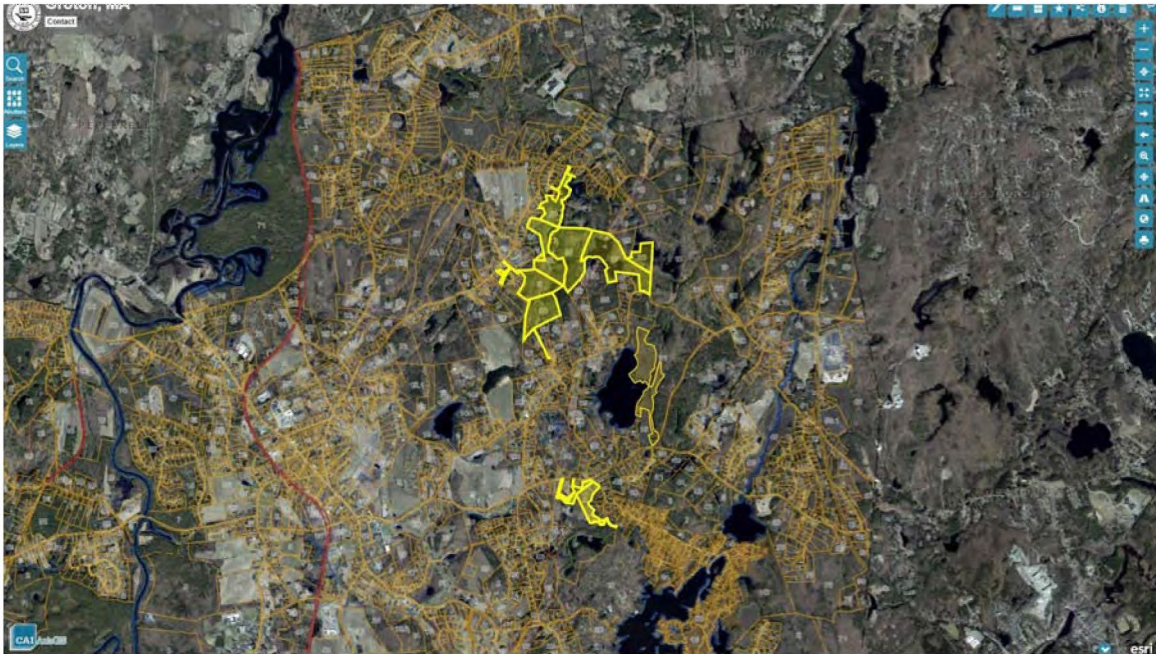
Of these, the Conservation Commission was already in negotiations with the Groton Conservation Trust (our local private non-profit land trust) to hold CRs on the Hallet parcel, and the Priest and Martins Pond parcels. As a result of the June deadline, this process was accelerated, and is on track to be completed in time. The Trust was unable to take CRs on the remaining three within the required time, which are Fuccillo, Baddacook East Shore, and the Unkety Well Site.



*The remaining three properties requiring CRs. Unkety Well site at top,
Baddacook East Shore at center, Fucillo at bottom.*

It was found that the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was willing to hold CRs on these properties, and is able to do so within the June deadline. However, holding a CR is not free and requires some work and expense, like regular monitoring. DFG is in the business of protecting land with significant ecological value, and needs to commit its CR-holding resources accordingly.

DFG is willing to hold the CRs on the three properties shown above if they are included in a bundle with other land so that the overall ecological value is higher. An additional nine parcels are proposed to be added, all already conservation lands.



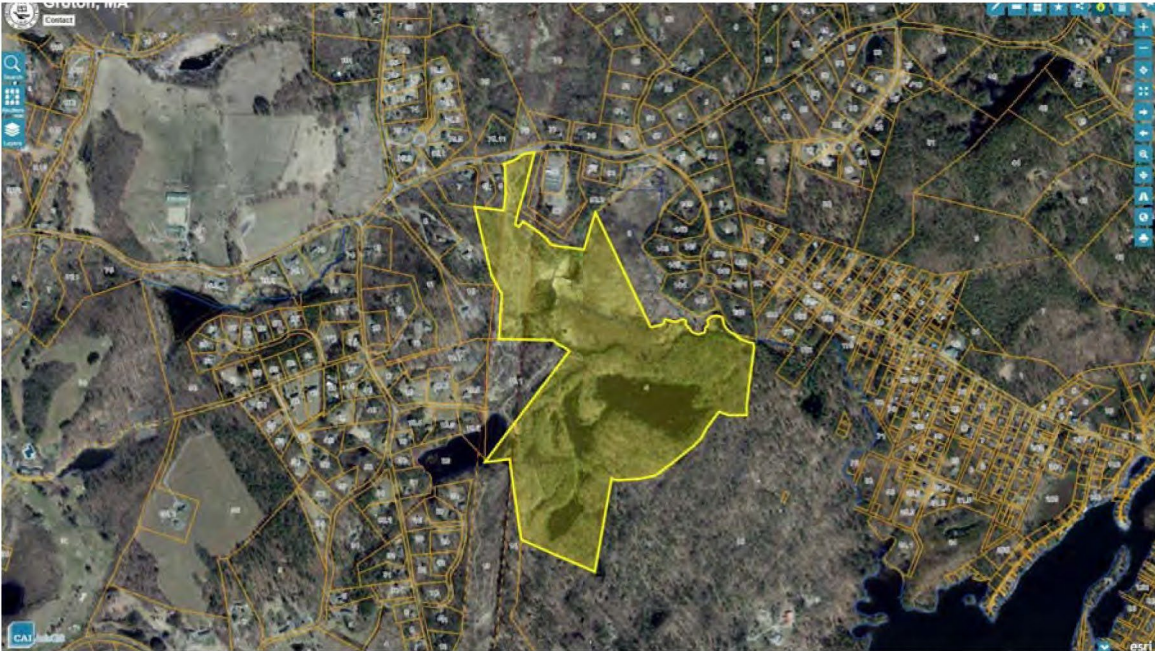
Bundle of properties DFG is proposing to hold CRs on. Article 21 #1-13 authorize CRs.

An independent party, like DFG, holding CRs on conservation parcels affords extra protection to the land. It makes it more difficult to break the protections and build houses there, for example. The Conservation Commission has endorsed DFG holding CRs on the additional parcels.

No money is to change hands for any of the CRs described above. The Trust and Fish and Game further their missions, while the Town gets additional protection on conservation lands without any cost to Groton taxpayers.

The Brown Loaf parcel

In addition to the bundle of CRs described above, DFG has proposed paying for a CR on about 103 acres east of Gay Road and north of the Grotonwoods baptist camp. This is being called the "Brown Loaf" parcel to make it easy to refer to.



The Brown Loaf parcel, east of Gay Road, north of the Grotonwoods baptist camp, parcel 234-04. Article 22 authorizes granting CR, then transferring to Conservation Commission.

The Brown Loaf parcel was originally purchased by the town in 1999 for general municipal use. Since then, it has been considered for several purposes, including a site for the high school and affordable housing. None of these worked out due to difficult topography and many wetlands interspersed throughout the site.

The same properties that make it difficult to develop also make it attractive for conservation land. The 2011 spring town meeting authorized the Select Board to transfer this parcel to the Conservation Commission. It has not yet been transferred to the Conservation Commission, and is currently still under control of the Select Board.

Fish and Game has proposed that the Brown Loaf parcel be included in the bundle of CRs it will hold, and is willing to pay \$1,000 per acre or the appraised value, whichever is lower. Assuming \$1,000/acre, the town would receive about \$103,000 into the general fund (not the conservation fund). The plan is for the Select Board to then transfer ownership to the Conservation Commission.

Considering several uses were examined and none of them found feasible, \$103,000 is the most the town is ever likely to get for this parcel. After that, it will continue to serve as protected land maintaining the rural character of the town and provide for passive outdoor recreation.

Warrant articles

Article 20 authorizes the Conservation Commission to accept the \$360,900 grant the state has already allocated for us. It also gives permission to grant a CR to an independent party, as required by the LAND grant.

Article 21 authorizes the Conservation Commission and the Select Board to grant CRs on the total 17 individual parcels as discussed above.

Article 22 authorizes the Select Board to grant Fish and Game a CR on the Brown Loaf parcel, then to transfer the parcel to the Conservation Commission.



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.**

**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
Commission on Accessibility	2
Great Pond Advisory Committee	4
Historic District Commission	2
Historical Commission	1
Housing Partnership	1
Insurance Advisory Committee	4
Local Cultural Council	4
Old Burying Ground Commission	2
Personnel Board	1
Scholarship Committee	3
Sustainability Commission	1
Trails Committee	2
Weed Harvester Committee	2
Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate)	1