

SPRING TOWN MEETING

MAY 2 2026

MINUTES

INDEX

Article 1:	Receive Reports	Pg 3
Article 2:	Elected Officials Compensation	Pg 3
Article 3:	Wage and Classification Schedule	Pg 3
Article 4:	Appropriate FY 2027 Contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund	Pg 4
Article 5:	Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operating Budget	Pg 4
Article 6:	Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget	Pg 9
Article 7:	Community Preservation Funding Accounts	Pg 16
Article 8:	Community Preservation Funding Recommendations	Pg 17
Article 9:	Special Act to Exempt Certain Uncontrollable Costs from the Tax Levy	Pg 22
Article 10:	Amend Chapter 168 of the General Bylaws – Stretch Energy Code	Pg 24
Article 11:	Squannacook River Dam Repair	Pg 26
Article 12:	Amend Zoning Bylaw – Clarify Appeal Process in Site Plan Review	Pg 27
Article 13:	Funding For Destination Groton Committee	Pg 29
Article 14:	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	Pg 29
Article 15:	Transfer Within the Sewer Enterprise Fund	Pg 30
Article 16:	Transfer Within Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund	Pg 30
Article 17:	Prior Year Bills	Pg 31
Article 18:	Appropriate Funding to Offset Snow and Ice Deficit	Pg 31
Article 19:	Debt Service for the Middle School Track	Pg 32
Article 20:	Funding for Main Street Traffic Study	Pg 33
Article 21:	Appropriation to Fund Town Forest Expenses	Pg 33
Article 22:	Establishing Limits for Various Revolving Funds	Pg 34

The Town of Groton met for the Annual Spring Town Meeting on Saturday, May 2 2026, in the Marion Stoddart Building Auditorium at 344 Main Street. Despite the unseasonably chilly weather and intermittent rain, 510 residents qualified to vote in elections and town affairs checked in throughout the course of the Meeting to conduct the Town’s business. Moderator Jason Kauppi called the Town Meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

The Moderator welcomed the voters, especially those who were attending Town Meeting for the first time. He informed the assembly that closed captioning was being offered, and thanked the volunteers and staff who had dedicated much time and consideration to developing this accessibility solution in response to concerns from the community about low volume at previous Meetings. This was the first time closed captioning was offered at Groton Town Meeting. Text

was displayed on a large screen at the lefthand edge of the stage, and front row seating was reserved for those who wished to utilize the new resource.

In recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary, the Moderator quoted the minutes of the Town Meeting during which the Town voted to declare independence from Great Britain. On June 27th 1776, Groton Town Meeting voted to "give our assent to such Declaration, and whatever measures may be thought proper and necessary by Congress, for forming alliances with foreign powers and forming a Confederation of the Colonies at such time and in such manner as to them shall deem best for the good of the whole."

The Moderator sought unanimous consent to appoint David Manugian as Deputy Moderator at 9:10am, which was granted, and Mr Manugian was sworn in by the Town Clerk. A moment of silence was held at 9:15am for Grotonians who have passed away since the prior Town Meeting, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 9:16am. Then the voters got down to business.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to waive the requirement for reading the warrant.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 294...No: 35

Motion to waive the reading of the warrant passed by a majority.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to limit debate to 3 minutes for each speaker with the exception of the main opponent and proponent of each article and at the discretion of the Moderator.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 361...No: 36

Motion to limit debate to 3 minutes passed by a 2/3rds majority.

The Moderator stepped aside for Articles 1-4 and the Deputy Moderator Manugian presided for the first consent agenda.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to ask the Town to 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: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 353...No: 39
Motion passed by majority.

The Deputy Moderator stepped aside and Moderator Jason Kauppi resumed his duties at 9:24am

Article 1: Receive Reports

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to receive the report of the Select Board and other Town Officers and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: No Position

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that the Town's 2025 Annual Report be received and placed in the permanent records of the Town.

QUANTUM: Majority
VOTE: Article 1 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 2: Elected Officials Compensation

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to set the compensation for the elected officials of the Town for the ensuing year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that the following compensation be set for the following elected officials for the ensuing year: Town Moderator - \$1,000.

QUANTUM: Majority
VOTE: Article 2 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2027 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that the Town of Groton Wage and Classification Schedule be amended and adopted for Fiscal Year 2027 as printed in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 3 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 4: Appropriate FY 2027 Contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Chapter 32B, Section 20, of the Massachusetts General Laws, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 4 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 5: Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operating Budget

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2027), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 1 GENERAL GOVERNMENT: A motion was made and seconded that Two Million Seven Hundred One Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars (\$2,701,294) be

hereby appropriated for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$22,250 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and the sum of \$2,679,044 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 382...No: 43

Motion 1 passed by majority.

MOTION FOR CONSENT: A motion was made and seconded that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 2 through Motion 13, 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 that motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

The Moderator read the title of each motion and the voters were provided opportunity to request a hold. No holds were issued.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 373...No: 39

Article 5 Motions 2-13 passed by majority vote.

MOTION 2 Land Use Departments: A motion was made and seconded that Five Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars (\$596,422) be hereby appropriated for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$8,125 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and the sum of \$588,297 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 2 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 3 Protection of Persons & Property: A motion was made and seconded that Five Million Sixty Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$5,060,927) be appropriated for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$758 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 \$4,710,169 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 3 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 4A Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School: A motion was made and seconded that the sum of Nine Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Nine Dollars (\$939,609) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 4A passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 4B Groton Dunstable Regional School District: A motion was made and seconded that Thirty Million One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$30,001,459) be hereby appropriated for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by lines 1410 through 1414 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$250,000 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District; the sum of \$174,500 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); the sum of and the sum of \$29,576,959 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 4B passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 5 Department of Public Works : A motion was made and seconded that Two Million Two Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Twenty Dollars (\$2,247,020) be hereby appropriated for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, \$3,880 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and \$2,243,140 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 5 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 6 Library and Citizens Services: A motion was made and seconded that the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$2,489,751) be hereby appropriated for Library and Citizens' Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1713 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$65,463 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), the sum of \$130,000 be transferred from Local Access Cable Receipts Reserved, and \$2,294,288 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 6 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 7 Debt Service: A motion was made and seconded that Six Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Thirty-Three Dollars (\$6,775,033) be hereby appropriated for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2005B as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$198,725 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), the sum of \$98,680 be transferred from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved, and the sum of \$6,477,628 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 7 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 8 Employee Benefits: A motion was made and seconded that Four Million Eight Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-One Dollars (\$4,848,431) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for Employee Benefits as represented by Line Items 3000, 3002, 3010, 3011 and 3012 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 8 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 9 Water Enterprise: A motion was made and seconded that Two Million One Hundred Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Ten Dollars (\$2,112,610) 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 as shown in the

Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$1,814,242 be appropriated from Water Rates and Fees, the sum of \$74,380 be hereby transferred from Water Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, the sum of \$33,000 be transferred from the 3M Settlement Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, and the sum of \$190,988 in the Town's General Fund Operating Budget be raised and appropriated to be allocated to the Water Enterprise for FY 2027.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 9 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 10 Sewer Enterprise: A motion was made and seconded that One Million Thirty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$1,035,771) 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 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$924,643 be appropriated from Sewer Rates and Fees, the sum of \$74,759 be hereby transferred from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, and the sum of \$36,369 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2027.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 10 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 11 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise: A motion was made and seconded that One Hundred Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$103,539) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$62,163 be appropriated from Four Corners Sewer Rates and Fees, the sum of \$35,150 be hereby transferred from Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, and the sum of \$6,226 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2027.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 11 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 12 Stormwater Utility Enterprise: A motion was made and seconded that Two Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$282,565) 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 the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$246,869 be hereby transferred from Stormwater Utility Rates and Fees, and the sum of \$35,696 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2027.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 12 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION 13 Electric Light: A motion was made and seconded 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 2027, as defined in the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 154, Section 57, 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: Majority

VOTE: Motion 13 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 5 passed by majority.

Article 6: Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed Town Manager's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2027:

Item #1 – Ambulance 2 Replacement

\$500,000

Fire and EMS

Summary: This is a scheduled replacement of Ambulance 2. The Fire Department maintains two ambulances and schedules replacement of each ambulance every five (5) years. The intention of the Town is to borrow the cost of the ambulance (estimated to be \$500,000) and pay it back over five years from ambulance receipts.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #2 – PFAS Free Structural FF Gear **\$50,000** **Fire and EMS**

Summary: PFAS has been used in firefighting gear for a long time due to its ability to withstand high temperatures and repel water and oils. Firefighters have long been known to suffer from a highly increased rate of cancers that are caused by the use of PFAS. These chemicals are shown to contribute to or are responsible for cases of breast, kidney, and testicular cancers within the fire service. Effective January 1, 2027, manufacturers and sellers of personal protective equipment for firefighters will be prohibited from knowingly selling gear containing “intentionally added PFAS” chemicals, meaning PFAS chemicals or products that break down into PFAS chemicals that are intentionally added to the product during manufacturing. Last year, the Town appropriated \$80,000 and in FY 2027, the Town is requesting \$50,000 to complete the purchase of new PFAS-Free gear for the Town’s Firefighters.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #3 – Pick-Up Truck **\$75,000** **Highway**

Summary: This is a scheduled replacement. The average life of a pick-up truck is approximately 7 years. By replacing one vehicle every couple of years, this will allow the fleet to stay in good shape. They are front line pick-ups used for day-to-day operations as well as snow plowing.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #4 – Brush Mower/Field Mower **\$30,000** **Highway**

Summary: This is the cost of rehabbing one of the Brush Mowers in FY 2027 to extend its life. This is a cost effective request to save purchasing a brand new Mower. In FY 2031, the Town will replace the second mower (purchased in 2019) as part of normal replacement of equipment.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #5– Truck Painting **\$25,000** **Highway**

Summary: The plan is to paint truck beds every four years. Salt is the largest issue the DPW deals with in maintaining its fleet. While the DPW washes the trucks after every storm, salt still has a negative impact on the truck beds. Spending the funds to paint the beds will extend the life of the fleet.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #6 – IT Infrastructure

\$40,000

Town Facilities

Summary: This item in the Capital Budget was established over eleven years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2027, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: 10 replacement computers; Replace aging servers and storage arrays; Investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; Network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage; and Improve door lock and security system maintenance.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #7 – Municipal Building Minor Capital

\$120,000

Town Facilities

Summary: This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in our municipal building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in our municipal buildings. In Fiscal Year 2027, Minor Capital Items have been added to this request as well. This was done due to the fact that all Minor Capital Items were removed from the FY 2026 Operating Budget to balance the budget. In FY 2027 an additional \$30,000 is being added to this appropriation to pay for the repair of the Fire Alarm System at Legion Hall.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #8 – Property Improvements

\$25,000

Park Department

Summary: The Park Commission has been working over the past several years developing a strategy to address deficiencies in the various Park Department Properties located throughout Groton. Since FY 2015, the Town has appropriated \$25,000 each year so that the Park Commission can develop a capital improvement program that will allow them to keep our various park locations in good shape.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #9 – Police Cruisers ***\$147,010*** ***Police Department***

Summary: This appropriation is for the purchase of two police cruisers and related equipment for replacement of cruisers that are no longer cost effective to maintain. This allows for less mileage per year, better maintenance scheduling, assignment of cars to officers and for a programmed replacement schedule that ensures line cars are rotated out at reasonable mileage and wear. Un-marked cars are rotated in the same fashion.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #10 – Police Minor Capital ***\$34,750*** ***Police Department***

Summary: This is a new Capital Item each year to provide funds for various minor capital needs of the Police Department. In FY 2027, this funding will be used to purchase soft armor, heavy vests, pay for the traffic camera system, repair the Gibbet Hill Radio Room Interior Ceiling and purchase new helmets for the ATV and Bicycle teams.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #11 – Electronic Control Devices - Tasers ***\$10,500*** ***Police Department***

Summary: The Police Department's current Electronic Control Device (ECD, Taser) is at end-of-life and not serviceable. Axon products provide integrated data storage for both the ECD and future acquired Body-Worn-Cameras (BWC). The total cost of the ECD replacement is \$97,796. We applied for and anticipate receiving a JAG grant in the amount of \$50,000. The Town is responsible for 1 payment of \$12,500 and 3 annual installments of \$10,500 for a total cost to the town of \$49,000. This is the second of the final four installments.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #12 – Golf Carts ***\$27,000*** ***Country Club***

Summary: In FY 2027, the Town will replace all Golf Carts with 27 new Carts on a five year lease/purchase. This is the first of five payments.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #13 – Ventrac Attachments	\$10,918	Country Club
---------------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------

Summary: In FY 2023, the Town purchased a Ventrac unit using a five year lease-to-purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$10,918. This is the final payment. The Ventrac unit is a most versatile piece of equipment. The attachments already in use include units for plowing, aeration, seeding, landscaping and mowing difficult terrain. This vehicle is used on a daily basis.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #14 – Greens Equipment – Truckster XD	\$14,736	Country Club
---	-----------------	---------------------

Summary: This is a heavy payload 4x4 utility truck that can transfer up to 3,500 lbs. of debris, sand and loam to and from areas of the Course. This vehicle is used on a daily basis in the Spring and Fall when course cleanup is a daily occurrence. During the Summer months, it is used for various Course projects. This vehicle is being paid for over five years. This is the third of five payments.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #15 – Greens Equipment – Greens Mower	\$12,067	Country Club
---	-----------------	---------------------

Summary: This item replaced a greens mower. The old mower has been converted to a tee & collar unit, and the old tee & collar unit was converted to a greens roller unit. Ideally, the Club will purchase a new mower every five years. This is the third of four payments for this equipment.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #16 – Greens Equipment – Fairway Mower	\$20,000	Country Club
--	-----------------	---------------------

Summary: This is a request to replace the Club's current Fairway Mower. This mower will be purchased on a five year lease purchase arrangement. This will be the first of five payments.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #17 – Greens Equipment – Rough Mower \$20,000 Country Club

Summary: Similar to the Fairway Mower, this is a request to replace the Club's current Rough Mower. This mower will be purchased on a five year lease purchase arrangement. This is the first of five payments.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #18 – Roof for the Pavilion \$14,200 Country Club

Summary: The pavilion at the Groton Country Club is used by the Club for its summer camp operations, as well as, storing equipment in the winter months. The roof is in need of replacement.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #19 – Communication Improvements \$99,500 Police/Fire/DPW

Summary: This item seeks authorization to fund improvements to the Town's communications infrastructure to ensure reliable operation of public safety and municipal communication systems. The proposed work includes a structural analysis of the Gibbet Hill communications tower, replacement and upgrading of antennas, installation or enhancement of microwave communication links, and improvements to the HVAC system serving the equipment shelter to improve and maintain the integrity of the Town's communication systems. The total cost of the improvements is \$108,771. The Groton Electric Light Department is contributing \$9,313 towards these improvements, reducing the request to \$99,500.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION A: A motion was made and seconded that Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase and equip a new

Ambulance 2 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 \$500,000 under and pursuant to the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(1), 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: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE: Yes: 389...No: 48

Article 6 Motion A passed by 2/3rds majority.

MOTION B: A motion was made and seconded that Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$775,681) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, for the capital items identified as Items 2 through Item 19 as set forth in Article 6 of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$50,000 be transferred from the Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved, and the sum of \$725,681 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

AMENDMENT: A motion was made and seconded to amend the previous motion (Motion B of Article 6) by striking “\$34,750” from the Police Minor Capital line item and inserting in its place the sum of \$14,750; and by striking the total appropriation of “\$775,681” and inserting in its place the sum of \$755,681; and by striking the Capital Stabilization Fund transfer of “\$725,681” and inserting in its place the sum of \$705,681; and by excluding funding for the Flock Safety camera system from this article.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE TO AMEND: Yes: 228...No: 206

Motion to Amend Article 6 Motion B passed with a majority.

The Capital Line items as amended:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
PFAS Free Structural FF Gear	\$50,000	Fire and EMS
Pick-Up Truck	\$75,000	Highway
Brush Mower/Field Mower	\$30,000	Highway
Truck Painting	\$25,000	Highway
IT Infrastructure	\$40,000	Town Facilities

Municipal Building Minor Capital	\$120,000	Town Facilities
Property Improvements	\$25,000	Park Department
Police Cruisers	\$147,010	Police Department
Police Minor Capital	\$14,750	Police Department
Electronic Control Devices - Tasers	\$10,500	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$27,000	Country Club
Ventrac Attachments	\$10,918	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Truckster XD	\$14,736	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Greens Mower	\$12,067	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Fairway Mower	\$20,000	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Rough Mower	\$20,000	Country Club
Roof for the Pavilion	\$14,200	Country Club
Communication Improvements	\$99,500	Police/Fire/DPW
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$755,681</u>

Following debate, the Moderator called for a vote on the main motion as amended.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: 383 yes...45 no

Article 6 as amended passed by a majority.

Article 7: Community Preservation Funding Accounts

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund: Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 34,000
Open Space and Recreation Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Unallocated Reserve:	<u>\$ 760,500</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1,135,000</u>

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that the following sums be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund and allocated to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 34,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 113,500
Unallocated Reserve:	<u>\$ 760,500</u>
Total	<u>\$1,135,000</u>

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 377...No: 62

Article 7 passed by majority.

Article 8: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2027, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and by authorizing the Select Board, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Against – Green, McDonald)

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Due to the length of Motion 1 for Article 8, a short version of the motion was read aloud while the text of the longer version was displayed onscreen and included in the 2026 Spring Town Meeting Information Handout.

MOTION 1 Short Version: A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to approve the Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements project as set forth under Article 8, Motion 1, in the Town Meeting Information Handout.

MOTION 1 Long Version: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town would vote that, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Four Million Two Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,284,000), be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-02 “Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements”, identified on Assessors Maps as Parcels 249-40 and 249-57, that said parcels be managed, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 45, Section 3, and as it may hereafter be amended and other Massachusetts statutes relating to public parks and playgrounds, to be managed and controlled by the Park Commission of Groton, 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 \$4,284,000, under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and 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; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to file on behalf of the Town of Groton 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 the scope of this project, as described in Article 8.B of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION: Following debate, a motion was made to move the previous question.

QUANTUM: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE ON SUBSIDIARY MOTION: Yes: 348...No: 88

Motion to move the previous question passed by a 2/3rds majority.

QUANTUM OF MOTION 1: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE: Yes: 203...No: 230

Motion 1 of Article 8 failed to pass by a 2/3rds majority.

CONSENT MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that the Town take affirmative action on Motions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, under Article 8, 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.

Holds were placed on Motions 4 and 5 of Article 8.

QUANTUM: Majority

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE: Yes: 252...No: 57

Motions 2, 3, 6 and 7 of Article 8 were passed by majority via consent agenda.

CPC Proposal A: Lighting Improvements – Prescott

\$9,850

Summary: The Town Manager’s Office and the Prescott Community Center request \$9,850 to replace existing halogen fixtures in the gymnasium with high-bay LED fixtures equipped with motion sensors, and to improve lighting at the rear and side accessible entrances by installing new LED wall-mounted lights. Funding for this project will come from the Historic Preservation Reserve in the amount of \$9,850.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 2: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town would vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$9,850) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-01 “Lighting Improvements – Prescott” as described in Article 8.A of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 2 of Article 8 passed by majority via consent agenda.

CPC Proposal C: Housing Coordinator – FY 2027

\$72,829

Summary: This item requests \$72,829 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding from the Community Housing category to support the wages and benefits of the Town of Groton’s Housing Coordinator position (25 hours per week). The full amount will be funded from the Community Housing Reserve.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 3: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town would vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Seventy-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$72,929) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-04 “Housing Coordinator – FY 2027”, as described in Article 8.C of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 3 of Article 8 passed by majority via consent agenda.

CPC Proposal D: Pollinator Pathway Garden

\$2,500

Summary: The Sustainability Commission is requesting \$2,500 to enhance the landscaped area by upgrading the current dirt pathway by constructing a stone dust walking path to provide a more durable and accessible surface for pedestrian use. The full amount will be funded from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 4: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town would vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space and Recreation Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-05 “Pollinator Pathway Garden” as described in Article 8.D of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 342...No: 35

Motion 4 of Article 8 passed by majority.

CPC Proposal E: FY 2027 Housing Request

\$100,000

Summary: The Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) is requesting \$100,000 to continue its work to create, preserve, and support Affordable Housing in Groton. Funding is necessary for the AHT to act when an opportunity arises. Community Preservation Funds can be used for the acquisition, creation, preservation, and support of community housing and for the rehabilitation or restoration of community housing that is acquired or created with CPA funds. To fund this project, \$92,985 will come from the Community Housing Reserve and \$7,015 will come from the Unallocated Reserve.

Select Board: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against – Manugian)

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 5: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town would vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-07 “FY 2027 Housing Funds Request”, as described in Article 8.E of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 237...No: 140

Motion 5 of Article 8 passed by majority.

CPC Proposal F: Cutler Softball Field Establishment **\$99,000**

Summary: The Groton-Dunstable Youth Softball League is requesting \$99,000 to improve player safety and field quality. The project includes installing protective sideline fencing, constructing dugouts with benches and roofs, and purchasing an infield groomer to support consistent field maintenance and safe playing conditions. The full amount will be funded from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 6: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town would vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Ninety-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$99,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space and Recreation Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-08 “Cutler Softball Field Establishment” as described in Article 8.F of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 6 passed by majority via consent agenda.

CPC Proposal G: Boutwell Playground Renovation **\$233,923**

Summary: The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District is requesting \$233,923 to install new playground equipment, replace existing playground surfacing, and improve the adjacent parking area. These upgrades will provide a safe, accessible play space with inclusive features and improved access for users of all abilities. To fund this project, \$42,329 will come from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve and \$191,594 will come from the Unallocated Reserve.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 7: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town would vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Forty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars (\$42,329) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and One Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars (\$191,594) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$233,923, to fund Community Preservation Application 2027-09 “Boutwell Playground Renovation”, as described in Article 8.G of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Motion 7 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 8 Motions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 9: Special Act to Exempt Certain Uncontrollable Costs from the Tax Levy

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act entitled “An Act Relative to Adjusting the Municipal Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Groton to Exempt Certain Uncontrollable Costs” as follows:

“An Act Relative to Adjusting the Municipal Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Groton to Exempt Certain Uncontrollable Costs

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

SECTION 1.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the Town of Groton, the calculation of the municipal levy limit and levy ceiling pursuant to section 21C of chapter 59 of the General Laws shall exclude certain uncontrollable costs as set forth in this act.

SECTION 2.

For the purposes of this act, the following costs incurred by the Town of Groton shall be excluded from the annual calculation of the levy limit and levy ceiling under section 21C of chapter 59 of the General Laws:

(a) Group health insurance costs incurred pursuant to chapter 32B of the General Laws, including but not limited to subscriber premiums, employer contributions, retiree health insurance obligations, and reimbursements for Medicare Part B or related plans.

(b) Pension appropriations required pursuant to chapter 32 of the General Laws, including but not limited to annual required contributions to the local or regional retirement system, pension funding schedules approved by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, and payments toward unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities.

SECTION 3.

Amounts excluded under this act:

- (a) shall not be considered an increase in the levy limit under subsection (f) of said section 21C;
- (b) shall not require voter approval pursuant to subsections (g) or (h) of said section 21C; and
- (c) shall not be considered a permanent increase to the base levy limit of the Town of Groton.

SECTION 4.

The commissioner of revenue shall promulgate regulations or issue guidance establishing the method by which the Town of Groton shall certify eligible costs and report such exclusions in the annual Tax Rate Recapitulation.

SECTION 5.

Not later than 180 days after the passage of this act, the Department of Revenue shall issue any guidelines, regulations, or forms necessary to implement the provisions of this act as they apply to the Town of Groton.

SECTION 6.

This act shall take effect on July 1 following its passage and shall apply to all fiscal years beginning on or after that date, 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.”

Select Board: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against – Manugian)

Finance Committee: No Position

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to indefinitely postpone Article 9.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 324...No: 17

Article 9 was indefinitely postponed.

Article 10: Amend Chapter 168 of the General Bylaws – Stretch Energy Code

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code, specifically 225 CMR 22 and 225 CMR 23, including Appendices RC and CC, and including future editions, amendments, or modifications thereto, to regulate the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting Chapter 168, Stretch Energy Code, in its entirety, and inserting in its place the text set forth below, provided that said adoption of the Specialized Stretch Energy Code and this amendment of the Code of the Town of Groton shall be effective as of January 1, 2027, and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make any numbering or formatting edits necessary to conform to the publication conventions of the Code of the Town of Groton, or to take any other action relative thereto.

“Chapter 168 Specialized Stretch Energy Code

§ 168-1 Definitions.

As used in this Chapter 168, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and published in state regulations as part of 780 CMR.

Stretch Energy Code

Codified by the combination of 225 CMR 22 and 23, not including Appendices RC and CC, the Stretch Energy Code is a comprehensive set of amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) seeking to achieve all lifecycle cost-effective energy efficiency in accordance with the Green Communities Act of 2008, as well as to reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code. Specialized Energy Code Codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, the Specialized Energy Code adds residential and commercial appendices to the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code, based on amendments to the respective net-zero appendices of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to incorporate the energy efficiency of the Stretch energy code and further reduce the climate

impacts of buildings built to this code, with the goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector no later than 2050.

§ 168-2 Purpose.

The purpose of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, also referred to as the Specialized Energy Code, is to provide a more energy efficient and low greenhouse gas emissions alternative to the Stretch Energy Code or the baseline Massachusetts Energy Code, applicable to the relevant sections of the State Building Code for both new construction and existing buildings.

§ 168-3 Applicability.

This Specialized Energy Code shall apply to residential and commercial buildings.

§ 168-4 Adoption.

The Specialized Code, including any future editions, amendments, or modifications is herein incorporated by reference into this Chapter 168.

§ 168-5 Enforcement.

The Specialized Energy Code shall be enforceable by the Building Commissioner.

§ 168-6 Effective Date.

The effective date of this Chapter 168 shall be January 1, 2027.”

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code and amend the Code of the Town of Groton effective as of January 1, 2027, as set forth in Article 10 of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION: Following debate, a motion was made to move the question.

QUANTUM: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE ON SUBSIDIARY MOTION: Yes: 286...No: 59

The motion to move the question passed by a 2/3rds majority.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 150...No: 200

Article 10 failed by a majority.

Article 11: Squannacook River Dam Repair

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, including Community Preservation funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money to be expended by the Town Manager for the repair of the Squannacook River Dam, including all incidental and related costs, and further, to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain such land and easements that may be necessary to complete said project and maintain said dam on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town, and further, to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act as may be necessary for the acquisition of said land or easements outside of the boundaries of the Town of Groton, 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against – Manugian)

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (5 In Favor, 1 Against – Easom, 1 Abstained – Eliot)

Due to the length of the Motion for Article 11, a short version of the motion was read aloud while the text of the longer version was displayed onscreen and included in the 2026 Spring Town Meeting Information Handout.

MOTION Short Version: A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to approve the Squannacook River Dam Repair project as set forth under Article 11 in the Town Meeting Information Handout.

MOTION Long Version: I move that Eight Hundred Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$812,500) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the repair of the Squannacook River Dam, including all incidental and related costs, that to meet this appropriation, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of \$133,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve, and, further, that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the further sum of \$679,500, under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1), 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 repair; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift,

purchase, or eminent domain such land and easements that may be necessary to complete said project and maintain said dam on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town; and further, to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act as contained in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, as may be necessary for the acquisition of said land or easements outside of the boundaries of the Town of Groton, 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.

At 12:53pm, a non-voter requested permission to speak. The Moderator asked for the Meeting's permission to allow the non-voter to address the assembly.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 136...No: 173

The vote to allow the non-voter to address the assembly failed by a majority.

At 1:00pm, a second non-voter requested permission to speak. The Meeting voted on whether or not to allow the non-voter to address the assembly.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 112...No: 184

The vote to allow the non-voter to address the assembly failed by a majority.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION: Following debate, a motion was made to move the question.

QUANTUM: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE ON SUBSIDIARY MOTION: Yes: 250...No: 47

The motion to move the question passed by a 2/3rds majority.

QUANTUM: 2/3s Majority

VOTE: Yes: 125...No: 182

Article 11 failed to pass by a 2/3rds majority.

Article 12: Amend Zoning Bylaw – Clarify Appeal Process in Site Plan Review

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, by adding the following in Section 218-2.5.D(2):

“(d) Within 90 days of the close of the public hearing, the Planning Board shall vote on a decision and authorize the filing of a written decision with the Town Clerk within 14 days.

(e) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Planning Board as site plan approval authority may appeal such decision as provided in MGL c. 40A, Section 17, within 20 days after such decision has been filed with the Town Clerk.”

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

Planning Board: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This technical amendment to the Zoning Bylaw clarifies the process for appeal of site plan decisions. The Planning Board’s standard practice for site plan decisions has been to follow the same appeal procedures utilized for special permits, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40A, Section 17. However, this process is not specifically laid out in the site plan review section of the Zoning Bylaw. Town Counsel recommends that the Zoning Bylaw be amended to specify that site plan decisions must be appealed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40A, Section 17.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, Section 218-2.5.D(2) as set forth in Article 12 of the Warrant for the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: 2/3s Majority

VOTE: Yes: 134...No: 14

Article 12 passed by 2/3 majority.

MOTION FOR CONSENT: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town would vote to combine for consideration Articles 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 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.

A hold was placed on Article 13. The Moderator continued with the consent motion inclusive of Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

QUANTUM: Majority

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE: Yes: 140...No: 7

Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 13: Funding for the Destination Groton Committee

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2027, 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This Article requests \$15,000 in FY27 funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out its charge, which is 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 official, and Town Committees and residents in a series of public information forums, economic research and data analysis, in order to, through Groton 2036 A Ten-Year Vision, prepare for an increase in both visitors and potential revenue to town while at the same time work to preserve public safety and Groton's rural small-town charm. The purpose of this request is to fund the operation of the DGC Website, pursue major matching grants in Destination Marketing, Development, Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, and Cultural programs that promote Groton and meet the needs of increased visitors. A portion of this funding will be used for local match opportunities and to produce a series of Groton Public Engagement Vision Forums to promote Groton as a gateway for the region.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded 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 2027, 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: Majority

VOTE: Yes: 96...No: 53

Article 13 passed by majority.

Article 14: Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2026 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article allows the Water Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Water Department Budget. This Article should be considered a placeholder at this time as the Water Commission does not anticipate needing a transfer at this time. Any adjustment/request will be provided to the Town Meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 14 was indefinitely postponed via consent agenda.

Article 15: Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2026 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Center Sewer Budget. This Article should be considered a placeholder at this time as the Sewer Commission does not anticipate needing a transfer at this time. Any adjustment/request will be provided to the Town Meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 15 was indefinitely postponed via consent agenda.

Article 16: Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2026 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Four Corners Sewer Budget. This Article should be considered a placeholder at this time as the Sewer Commission does not anticipate needing a transfer at this time. Any adjustment/request will be provided to the Town Meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 16 was indefinitely postponed via consent agenda.

Article 17: Prior Year Bills

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

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

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

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 17 was indefinitely postponed via consent agenda.

Article 18: Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the April 26, 2025 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 26. The current deficit is projected to be approximately \$300,000.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000) be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund and One Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$165,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), for a total amount of \$345,000, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the April 26, 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 18 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 19: Debt Service for Middle School Track

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for debt service for Fiscal Year 2027 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This Article appropriates the debt service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$1,405,374 for the project. In FY 2027, the Community Preservation Committee will pay \$648,945 in debt service (\$627,000 in principal payment and \$21,945 in interest payment) for this appropriation that will pay off the Debt. To fund this appropriation the entire amount will come from the Unallocated Reserve. This payment is the final payment on the project.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of Six Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$648,945) from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund the debt service for Fiscal Year 2027 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: Majority

VOTE: Article 19 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 20: Funding for Main Street Traffic Study

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, to hire an engineering consultant to conduct a traffic study of the portion of Main Street under the control of the Town, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This Article seeks funding to supplement funding received from the State to hire MDM Transportation Consultants to conduct an in depth traffic study, including parking spaces, pedestrian safety and intersection improvements of the portion of Main Street under the control of the Town. The purpose of this duty is to improve the overall safety (vehicular and pedestrian) of this roadway.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 20 was indefinitely postponed via consent agenda.

Article 21: Appropriation to Fund Town Forest Expenses

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

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: The Town Forest Committee is seeking funds to cover the cost of removing a dead stand of Red Pines that are creating a hazard in the Town Forest. The amount needed is estimated to be \$12,000 based on an estimate from the Committee's consulting Forester.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to transfer the sum of \$12,000 from the Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest to Town Forest Expenses.

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 21 passed by majority via consent agenda.

Article 22: Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to add or delete any revolving account and/or to set the FY 2027 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2027 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Park Commission	\$100,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$20,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$40,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$20,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$20,000

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This Article sets the limit of annual spending for the various revolving funds authorized by previous Town Meeting votes and is currently set forth in the Town's Bylaw for said purpose.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to amend Section 71-1 of the Code of the Town of Groton (entitled "Funds Established", by inserting the following amendment establishing a new revolving fund, to follow after the "Conservation Commission" revolving fund:

**Program
or Purpose**

**Representative or Board
Authorized to Spend**

**Departmental
Receipts**

Park Commission

Park Commission

User fees received
for use of Town Fields

and, further, to amend Section 71-2 (entitled “Limitation on or increase in expenditures) by adding the following text to the end of the existing text: “The second paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 3, is accepted to allow any balance in the Park Commission Revolving Account at the close of each fiscal year to remain available for expenditure, without appropriation for such purposes in future years”, and, further, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to set the FY 2027 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2027 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Park Commission	\$100,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$20,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$40,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$20,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$20,000

QUANTUM: Majority

VOTE: Article 22 passed by majority via consent agenda.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting. The Moderator called for a voice vote, and the motion to dissolve was passed unanimously.

Town Meeting dissolved at 2:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Bannasch, Groton Town Clerk



A True Copy Attest: _____