

Warrant and Minutes

TOWN OF GROTON



2014 SPRING TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Beginning Monday, April 28, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

***THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 5 IS AVAILABLE
IN THE BACK OF THE WARRANT***



Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

Parking – Universally accessible parking spaces are available in the parking lot in front of the Groton Dunstable Middle School South. There is a ramp providing access from the parking lot to the front door of the Middle School.

Wheelchair Accessible & Companion Seating – Wheelchair spaces, seating for people with mobility issues and companion seats are available in the center aisle on both sides of the auditorium.

Sign Language – A Sign Language Interpreter will be provided for the hearing impaired, upon request, at least one week prior to the meeting.

Speaking at Town Meeting – There will be volunteers available to bring hand-held microphones to voters who have mobility issues or cannot stand in line and wait at the microphones.

Restrooms – Accessible restrooms are available near the entrance to the auditorium.

Transportation to Town Meeting - The Council on Aging van will be available to Groton residents attending Town Meetings at no charge. All riders will be at the meeting prior to the start. However, the van will depart the school at 10 PM regardless of the status of the meeting. The van is wheelchair accessible. Your reservation can be made by calling the Senior Center at 978-448-1170. Seats will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Questions or concerns - If you or a member of your household has questions or would like to request a sign language interpreter, please contact ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette at Town Hall at 978 448-1105 at least one week before the Town Meeting.

**SPRING TOWN MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2014**

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator

Robert L. Gosselin, Sr.

Board of Selectmen:

Peter S. Cunningham, Chairman
Joshua A. Degen, Vice-Chairman
Anna Eliot, Clerk
Jack G. Petropoulos, Member
Stuart M. Schulman, Member

Finance Committee:

Jay M. Prager, Chairman
Gary Green, Vice-Chairman
Joseph Crowley
Robert Hargraves
David Manugian
Bud Robertson
Steven Webber

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Town Clerk:

Michael F. Bouchard

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM on April 28, 2014 at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided.

There is no quorum requirement for this Annual Town Meeting. 145 voters were present. Later in the proceedings, at approximately 7:30 PM, 394 voters were present.

Mr. Kauppi thanked the Commission on Accessibility for their work in organizing accessibility-friendly arrangements in the performing Arts Center. The Council on Aging was also thanked for making their van available to meeting attendees.

Announcements:

- The report of the Town Meeting Review Study Committee is available at the town Clerk's office and at www.townofgroton.org.
- The Annual Town Election will be held May 20, 2014 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Precincts 2 and 3 will now vote at the Pool and Golf Center, 94 Lovers Lane. Precinct 1 will continue to vote at the Groton Senior Center, 163 West Main Street.
- Candidates Night will be on May 8 at the Black Box Studio at the High School.

Boy Scouts-Troop 3 led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Troop 3 was inaugurated in April of 1924, and is celebrating its 90th year.

Mr. Robert L. Gosselin, Sr. was voted as Deputy Moderator by unanimous consent, and was sworn by the Town Clerk.

It was determined that the warrant was duly posted. The reading of the warrant was waived by unanimous vote.

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Middlesex, ss.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of April, 2014 at Seven O'clock in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the twentieth day of May, 2014 at an adjourned session thereof to give their ballots for:

Vote for One	Board of Assessors	3 Years
Vote for One	Board of Health	3 Years
Vote for Two	Board of Selectmen	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	1 Year
Vote for Two	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	5 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	3 Years

ARTICLE 1: HEAR REPORTS

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions.*

Mover: John Petropoulos

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

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

No reports were offered.

Vote: Article 1 Main Motion Passed by Majority Vote

ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to allow the following compensation for the following elected officials:

Selectman (four)	\$ 760	Town Clerk	\$ 71,649
Board of Selectmen, Chairman	\$ 910	Town Moderator	\$ 65
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$ 910	Assessor (two)	\$ 760

for the ensuing year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Against)*

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

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

Selectman (four)	\$ 760	Town Clerk	\$ 71,649
Board of Selectmen, Chairman	\$ 910	Town Moderator	\$ 65
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$ 910	Assessor (two)	\$ 760

for the ensuing year.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

Mr. Degen explained that the compensation for the Town Clerk was modeled on the bylaw employees' compensation plan.

Vote: Article 2 Main Motion passed by Unanimous vote

ARTICLE 3: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2015 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Against)*

Summary: *This article proposes a wage adjustment of four (4%) percent for FY 2015 for the three employees covered by the Personnel Bylaw. This follows the Supervisors' Union Contract which calls for a two (2%) wage adjustment to the employees' base pay on June 30, 2014 with no payout and a two (2%) percent wage adjustment on July 1, 2014 on the new base rate.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2015 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2014 Spring Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion

Request to explain why Bylaw employees can't handle sensitive information and belong to a union. The bylaw employees process information that is confidential to the Town and cannot be disclosed in collective bargaining.

Vote: Article 3 Main Motion passed by Unanimous vote.

**ARTICLE 4: RESCIND MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT VOTE - ARTICLE 8 - 2013
FALL TOWN MEETING**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 8 of the October 21, 2013 Fall Town Meeting that authorized the Town to become a member of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 252, Section 5A and Chapter 583 of the Acts of 1973, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Board of Health: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *At the request of the Board of Health, the 2013 Fall Town Meeting voted to become a member of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project for a minimum of three (3) years. The annual cost to the Town of Groton would be \$73,000. Due to the projected budget shortfall of*

the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen closely examined the Municipal Budget to reduce expenses to meet the needs of the School District and minimize the tax impact to the residents. Based on this, the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Manager are recommending that the Town Meeting rescind this authorization to create more levy capacity to address other FY 2015 budgetary needs.

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 8 of the October 21, 2013 Fall Town Meeting that authorized the Town to become a member of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 252, Section 5A and Chapter 583 of the Acts of 1973.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Membership in the Mosquito Control Project is being asked so that this money can be reallocated to the schools.
- Mr. Weber, Board of Health, thinks this is an excellent program but this is not the right time to join due to the fiscal demands placed on the town from the schools.
- Q: Is public health a priority?
 - R: Yes
- Q: Is a priority and saved one citizen from becoming ill, shouldn't this program be kept?
 - R: This is one of many programs that are being cut. Schools are also a priority.
- Resident "enraged" that the problems of one department not able to manage their budget takes away a benefit from others.
- Q: How much would it cost the Town to spray for mosquitos outside of this consortium, should we need to do this?
 - R: If there was a serious mosquito borne health issue, the Town would be compelled to spray. In a situation like that, the spraying would be air born spraying, and the costs would be picked up by the state. Not aware of any cases where the town would be compelled to spray and also pay for it.
- This request to rescind is part of a larger set of spending curbs used to balance the budget and also fund the increase in the school allocation.
- Q: would the Selectmen bring this article back if the budget allows?
 - R: Yes
- Q: Are golf carts a higher priority?
 - The golf carts lease is funded from the capital budget. It is not a sound financial principle to fund operations from "one time" revenue sources.

Vote: Article 4 Main Motion passed by a Majority vote.

ARTICLE 5: FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next fiscal year (2015), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Against)*

Summary: *Budget – In accordance with Section 6 of the Town Charter, the Finance Committee conducts its annual budget process by receiving the Town Manager's proposed balanced budget on or before December 31st; meeting with department heads and boards; holding public budget hearings in preparation for issuing its recommendations to Town Meeting; and presenting its budget recommendations at Spring Town Meeting. The budget handout for this Article is contained in Appendix A of this Warrant. Please also see the Town Manager's Report which includes the Finance Committee's and Board of Selectmen's recommendations.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2015) and act on the budget of the Finance Committee.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- A presentation on the budget was given by Mr. Degen. "It's easy to point fingers" but we need to find solutions and move on. The Town needs \$1.4m to fund the schools. \$300k in municipal budget cuts have been proposed, including the mosquito spraying program, reinstitution of Sargisson Beach and other programs. These reductions, along with \$377k planned within the budget, use of \$325k in unexpended tax capacity and \$400k in debt exclusion (from the April 1 vote) allow the Town to fund the \$1.4m.
- Budget highlights include funding the third year of union contracts, the FY2015 employee performance incentive program, fully funding police and fire wages (including anticipated overtime), funding medicare and county retirement (but also benefiting from a reduced health insurance premium), funding increased enrollment at Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School and a Council on Aging Van. The net impact of the budget will be \$102 per \$100k of assessed valuation, or about \$408 tax increase for a house assessed at \$400k.

ARTICLE 5 - MOTION 1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT
Mover: Gary Green

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,762,762 for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 5 – Motion 1 passed by Majority vote.

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Article 5 - MOTION 2: LAND USE DEPARTMENTS

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$407,038 for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 5 – Motion 2 passed by Majority vote

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Article 5 - MOTION 3: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY

Mover: Steven Webber

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved the sum of \$175,000 to Fire & Emergency Medical Services and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,108,910 for a total of \$3,283,910 for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 5 – Motion 3 passed by Majority vote

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Article 5 - MOTION 4: SCHOOLS

Mover: Robert Hargraves

a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$572,775 for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 in the Budget.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- 22% increase in assessment

- Groton's enrollment has increased from 33 to 39 students.
- Q: How much does it cost per student at NVTRHS , and how does that compare to Groton-Dunstable?
 - R: It costs about \$15,000 for a student at NVTRHS. It wasn't know how much a "per student" cost was for the GDRSD. It was pointed out that it's more fair to compare "high school to high school" costs, and to also consider that a technical high school services 18 programs and carries costs for equipment in these programs, not carried by non-technical schools. Smaller class sizes are also necessary due to safety concerns.

Vote: Article 5-Motion 4a passed by Unanimous vote.

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b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,756,023 for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by Lines 1410 through 1413 in the Budget.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Ms. Manugian, Chair of the GDRSC, gave a presentation on the district's budget. She addressed the history of FY 13 and 14, and presented the FY15 budget.
- Q: What does it mean that the Excess and Deficiency fund is depleted?
 - R: It means that emergencies that would be funded from the E&D account would need to be funded directly by the member towns. The standard for E&D is 2 to 4% of the operating budget.
- Special Education is a contributor to, but not the cause of the budget issues.
- Town meeting member offered that the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen are to be commended for stepping up to address the school funding issue.
- Q: Are any teachers laid off?
 - R: In mid-year FY14, 7.2 full-time-equivalents were let go. They were not all teachers. The positions were detailed.
- Q: Are these positions reinstated in the FY15 budget?
 - R: No
- Q: What are the proposed FY15 reductions?
 - R: 8.16 full-time-equivalent positions were detailed. Normal attrition and enrollment patterns were considered when proposing these cuts. It was stated that this was a conservative, but normal, approach to budgeting.
- "We need more teachers and less technology."
- Q: Actual enrollment, especially at the elementary and middle school grades are increasing class sizes. How can reducing faculty , especially when summer traditionally brings an influx of students, be justified?
 - R: The District does not have the revenues to keep class size as low as some would like. Enrollment trends are expected. If there is a dramatic influx of students, the Superintendent has the ability to hire.
- Q: What will happen going forward?

- R: The District will focus on a strategic planning process with community involvement. Special education is a difficult area to forecast, as it can even fluctuate mid-year.
- No funds are targeted to replenish the E&D account.
- Q: Why is the Assistant Superintendent being replaced when that money could be used to hire more teachers?
 - R: The Assistant's position is important in a District of this size. This position will also assume HR responsibilities.

MOTION to Move the Question

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE on the Motion to Move the Question: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

VOTE on Article 5 – Motion 4b: Passed by Majority vote.

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ARTICLE 5 - MOTION 5 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,042,784 for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

VOTE on Article 5 – Motion 5: Passed by Majority vote.

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Article 5 – MOTION 6 LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

Mover: Joseph Crowley

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,633,141 for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1703 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 5 - Motion 6 passed by Unanimous vote.

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Article 5 - MOTION 7: DEBT SERVICE

Mover: Gary Green

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,418,721 for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2007 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote: Article 5 - Motion 7 passed by Majority vote.

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Article 5 - MOTION 8: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
Mover: Joseph Crowley

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,171,724 for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 3000 through 3012 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote: Article 5 – Motion 8 passed by Majority vote.

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Article 5 - MOTION 9: WATER ENTERPRISE
Mover: Steven Webber

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Rates and Fees the sum of \$979,622 to the Water Enterprise Fund for FY 2015 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote: Article 5 – Motion 9 passed by Majority vote.

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Article 5 – Motion 10: SEWER ENTERPRISE
Mover: Steven Webber

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency the sum of \$56,884 and to appropriate from Sewer Rates and Fees the sum of \$616,282 for a total of \$673,166 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY2015 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote: Article 5 – Motion 10 passed by Majority vote

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Article 5 – Motion 11: ELECTRIC LIGHT
Mover: Joseph Crowley

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote: Article 5 – Motion 11 passed with a Unanimous vote

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Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #4 – IT Infrastructure \$40,000 Town Facilities

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established five years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2015, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: Twenty-three new computers for Town Hall/Public Safety Building/Fire/Library; Server for the Council on Aging; Expand fiber from Town Hall to Public Safety Building and new Fire Station; Replace four servers with warranties expiring in FY 2015; Battery backup expansion for Town Hall and Public Safety Building; Core layer 3 switch for routing and fiber management layer 3 (Public Safety Building).*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #5 – Building Security \$30,000 Town Facilities

Summary: *This is the first year appropriation of a three year plan to upgrade and update the alarms in all Town buildings. It will include video, and swipe cards as well as other entry protective measures to enhance the safety of our employees and the public. This measure is a recommendation of the Police Chief.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Unanimously (5 In Favor, 0 Against)*

Item #6 – Roof Top Units \$43,690 Library

Summary: *The Library has 7 HVAC units that heat and cool the building. Unit #3 needed replacing in 2011. We had catastrophic failure of both Units #5 and #6 in October, 2013, requiring emergency replacement to get heat to the third floor of the Library. Units 1, 2, 4, and 7 all need replacing. Units 1 and 7 are in the worst condition, but any of these 4 units could fail at any time. Three out of the seven have already failed at this point.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #7 – Police Cruisers \$120,000 Police Department

Summary: *Purchase of three police cruisers and related equipment for replacement of cruisers that are no longer cost effective to maintain. This would allow the Department to have six marked cruisers. This allows for less mileage per year, better maintenance scheduling, assignment of cars to officers and for a programmed replacement schedule that ensures that line cars are rotated out at reasonable mileage and wear, and also that un-marked cars are rotated in the same fashion.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #8 – Rough Mower**\$10,000****Pool & Golf Center**

Summary: *This essential mower is used to regularly cut the “rough” adjacent to the fairways. Three years ago, the Town replaced a very old mower that was inoperable and not repairable with a new Jacobsen rough mower. The Town purchase of the mower is on an installment basis, with an annual lease to buy cost of approximately \$10,000 for each of five years. This article seeks the fourth of five installment payments.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Against)*

Item #9 – Golf Carts**\$20,000****Pool & Golf Center**

Summary: *In FY 2013, the Pool & Golf Center replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with new 2012 Club Car DS gas powered carts using a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of approximately \$20,000. This article seeks funding for the third of five installment payments.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Against)*

Item #10 – Boom Sprayer Unit**\$6,500****Pool & Golf Center**

Summary: *In FY 2014, the Pool & Golf Center replaced this essential sprayer that is needed to regularly distribute fertilizer and pesticides over the golf course throughout the entire golf season. This machine enables the Center to use concentrated liquid chemicals which are both much more efficient and cost effective than granular chemicals. The cost of this Unit is \$32,500. The Town financed this purchase with a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$6,500. This article would appropriate the second of five installments.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Against)*

or to take any other action relative thereto:

TOWN MANAGER

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$355,190 from the Capital Stabilization Fund and transfer the sum of \$280,000 from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved for a total of \$635,190 for the following capital items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
EMS Ambulance	\$280,000	Fire/EMS
Forestry Unit Conversion	\$ 50,000	Fire/EMS
Pick-Up Truck	\$ 35,000	Highway Department
IT Infrastructure	\$ 40,000	Town Facilities
Building Security	\$ 30,000	Town Facilities

Roof Top Units	\$ 43,690	Library
Police Cruisers	\$120,000	Police Department
Rough Mower	\$ 10,000	Pool & Golf Center
Golf Carts	\$ 20,000	Pool & Golf Center
Boom Sprayer Unit	<u>\$ 6,500</u>	Pool & Golf Center
Total	\$635,190	

Moved and Seconded

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

Minutes:

- Q: What is the building security item?
 - R: This item is part of a three year plan to enhance building security for the town buildings. The Public Safety Building is planned to be the first building to be upgraded with cameras and other security devices.
- Q: What position does the Finance Committee have on the building security expense?
 - R: Unanimous to support.
- Q: Money is being requested for the Country Club. What are the receipts form the Country Club?
 - R: There is a deficit of \$30,000 in FY14. The expectation each year is that the club break even. In the past 2 to 3 years it has run an approximate \$30,000 deficit.
- Q: We see a number of requests for remodeling and equipment. Can we afford this?
 - R: These are minimum investments to keep the club operational. The equipment money are payments on 5 year leases, at the end of which the town will own the equipment.

Vote: Article 6 - Main Motion passed by 2/3 Majority. 7 voters did not contest the ruling of the Chair.

ARTICLES 7 THROUGH 15 PERTAIN TO FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUSINESS

ARTICLE 7: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2014 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2014 Town Operating Budget, being the sums of money identified in the “**Transfer funds from**” line items designated in the Information Packet distributed to voters for this Town Meeting, said sums to be transferred to the various line items in the “**Transfer funds to**” categories designated within the Information Packet, the total amount to be transferred being \$305,845.

Transfer funds from:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount To Be Transferred</u>
1312 – Fire Department Expenses Encumbered	\$ 28,521
1370 – Police & Fire Communications - Wages	\$147,000
1501 – Highway Department – Wages	\$ 35,000
1701 – Country Club – Wages	\$ 26,156
1703 – Country Club – Minor Capital	\$ 1,000
2007 – Debt Service	<u>\$ 68,168</u>
Total	\$305,845

Transfer funds to:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Transferred To</u>
1030 – Town Manager – Salaries	\$ 2,000
1031 – Town Manager – Expenses	\$ 4,000
1060 – Board of Assessor – Salaries	\$ 500
1061 – Board of Assessor – Wages	\$ 700
1072 – Treasurer/Tax Collector – Expenses	\$ 2,000
1210 – Planning Board – Salaries	\$ 500
1250 – Mechanical Inspector – Fee Salaries	\$ 5,000
1251 – Mechanical Inspector – Expenses	\$ 1,500
1301 – Police Department – Wages	\$ 55,000
1302 – Police Department – Expenses	\$ 42,000
1311 – Fire Department – Wages	\$ 55,521
1312 – Fire Department – Expenses	\$ 25,000
1410 – Groton-Dunstable School District – Operating Expenses	\$ 513
1500 – Highway Department – Salaries	\$ 500
1502 – Highway Department – Expenses	\$ 35,000
1542 – Municipal Building & Property Maintenance – Minor Cap	\$ 10,000
1611 – Senior Center Van – Expenses	\$ 3,000
1660 – Library – Salary	\$ 3,020
1661 – Library – Wages	\$ 5,310

1700 – Country Club – Salary	\$ 94
1702 – Country Club – Expenses	\$ 42,687
3012 – Employee Benefits – Medicare/Social Security	<u>\$ 12,000</u>
Total	\$305,845

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 7 – Main Motion: Passed by Majority vote

ARTICLE 8: TRANSFER WITHIN WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2014 Water Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Water Commission: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This article allows the Water Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2014 Water Department Budget.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 8 – Main Motion passed by Unanimous vote

ARTICLE 9: TRANSFER WITHIN SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2014 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Sewer Commission: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2014 Sewer Enterprise Department budget.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 9 – Main Motion passed by Unanimous vote

ARTICLE 10: *PRIOR YEAR BILLS*

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.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

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.*

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION A: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$0 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) for the payment of unpaid bills from prior fiscal years.

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

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 10 – Motion B passed by Unanimous vote

ARTICLE 11: *PERSONAL PROPERTY REVALUATION*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for the purpose of updating the Town's Personal property values beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Majority (3 In Favor, 2 Against)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Board of Assessors: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Town of Groton received a directive from the Department of Revenue to rediscover, relist and revalue all business personal property accounts in the summer of 2014. The inspection program should include both taxable and exempt personal property accounts. All assets should be itemized on the personal property field card. This article would appropriate the necessary funding to accomplish this mandate from the DOR.*

Mover: Rena Swezey

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) for the purpose of updating the Town's Personal property values beginning in Fiscal Year 2015.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 11 – Main Motion passed by Majority vote

ARTICLE 12: *APPROPRIATE FUNDING FROM RECEIPTS RESERVED FUND*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Receipts Reserved or Appropriation Fund to reimburse Line Item 1552 "Solid Waste Disposal Tipping Fees" of the Fiscal Year 2014 Operating Budget for expenses related to motor vehicle damage repair, or to take another action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This past July, a 2005 Chevrolet C4500 owned by the Highway Department was involved in an accident that resulted in an insurance claim reimbursement of \$25,439. Pursuant to MGL c. 44, §53, sums in excess of \$20,000 recovered under the terms of a fire or physical damage insurance policy may not be used to restore or replace such property without specific appropriation. This transfer would allow the Town to reimburse the budget that was used to pay this bill earlier this Fiscal Year with insurance proceeds received from MIIA.*

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$25,439 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund to reimburse Line Item 1552 "Solid Waste Disposal Tipping Fees" of the Fiscal Year 2014 Operating Budget for expenses related to motor vehicle damage repair.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 12 – Main Motion passed by Majority vote

ARTICLE 13: APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR DEFICIT BALANCES IN GRANTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from available funds to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2012 Development Grant, and, further, to transfer a sum or sums of money from available funds to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2012 911 Support and Incentive Grant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *Over the last several years, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has awarded the Town of Groton grant money for upgrades and maintenance to our 911 Dispatch equipment. These are reimbursable grants and the award is not forwarded to the Town until after the expense has been made. In regards to the two grants noted above, the Commonwealth disallowed a small portion of the Town's reimbursement request after the vendors had been paid. These deficits must be cleared in order to close out the grants for the FY 14 year end.*

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$8,678.30 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2012 Development Grant and to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2012 911 Support and Incentive Grant.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 13 – Main Motion passed by Unanimous vote

ARTICLE 14: APPROPRIATE REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED FROM SURETY

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund – reimbursement proceeds from the Center Fire Station Project bond surety – to the New Center Fire Station Project Account established pursuant to the vote under Article 1 of the January 26, 2013 Special Town Meeting, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Center Fire Station and all other costs associated and related thereto, including construction administration, or to take another action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *Due to the inability to complete the Fire Station Construction Project, the Town terminated its agreement with TLT Construction Corporation, the contractor who was awarded the bid for the project, and took over the management and oversight of the project. The Town filed a bond claim against TLT with Western Surety, the insurance company holding the Performance Bond. To settle the bond claim and meet the financial needs of the project, the*

Surety paid the Town approximately \$249,000. The purpose of this article is to add this money to the construction funding so that it may be used to complete the construction of our new Center Fire Station.

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$248,161.53 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund – reimbursement proceeds from the Center Fire Station Project bond surety – to the New Center Fire Station Project Account established pursuant to the vote under Article 1 of the January 26, 2013 Special Town Meeting, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Center Fire Station and all other costs associated and related thereto, including construction administration.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 14 – Main Motion passed by Unanimous vote

ARTICLE 15: INSTALLATION OF ACCESSIBLE DOOR OPENERS AT LIBRARY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for the installation of accessible power assist door openers on the main entrance doors of the Public Library and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Library Trustees: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This article is in response to the daily struggle of library visitors to enter the library. There are two sets of heavy doors to enter the building from the parking lot. Both require a free hand and the strength to pull two doors open. Visitors in wheelchairs or with mobility issues of any kind, parents with strollers, delivery personnel carrying packages, artists carrying artwork, performers bringing in equipment, and patrons carrying a large pile of books or simply a large coffee and a laptop bag – all have to successfully negotiate the double set of manual doors to enter the library. This article would fund the installation of handicap/power-assist openers on two main library doors – one interior and one exterior – at a cost of approximately \$9,000. Once the doors are installed, visitors would be able to press a button to open each door automatically. The doors would stay open for a short period of time to allow for easy, unimpeded entrance into (and exit from) the library.*

Mover: Mark Gerath

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$9,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) for the installation of accessible power assist door openers on the main entrance doors of the Public Library and all costs associated and related thereto.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 15 – Main Motion passed by Unanimous vote

ARTICLE 16: NVTSD ACCELERATED ROOF REPAIR PROJECT

To see if the Town will approve the sum or sums of money authorized to be borrowed by the Nashoba Valley Technical School District, for the purpose of paying costs of the Accelerated Roof Repair Project at the Nashoba Valley Technical High School, located at 100 Littleton Road, Westford Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Nashoba Valley Technical School Committee, with the understanding that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; and that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-two point twenty six percent (52.26%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; said amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA, or to take any other action relative thereto.

NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to request that the Town of Groton approve the borrowing authorized by Nashoba Valley Technical School District (District) for the purpose of paying the costs of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Roof Repair Project at the Nashoba Valley Technical High School. The anticipated MSBA grant reimbursement rate is fifty-two point twenty-six percent (52.26%). District project costs in excess of the MSBA grant will be the responsibility of the Nashoba Valley Technical School District and its member towns.*

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town approve the \$2,802,362 (TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO DOLLARS) borrowing authorized by the Nashoba Valley Technical School District, for the purpose of paying costs of the Accelerated Roof Repair Project at the Nashoba Valley Technical High School, located at 100 Littleton Road, Westford Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Nashoba Valley Technical School Committee; with the understanding that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant

approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; provided further that any grant that District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-two point twenty-six percent (52.26%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; with the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote to be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Several questions and responses related to clarifying the cost to the Town.
- 48% of the total cost will be borne by the member towns, allocated by pupil enrollment percentage. MSBA will pay 52% of the project.
- The cost to Groton will be approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year for 10 years.

Motion to Move the Question

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rds Majority

Vote: Article 16 Motion to move the Question failed to achieve 2/3rd Majority.

7 voters did not contest the ruling. Debate Continued.

Vote: Article 16 – Main Motion passed Unanimous vote

ARTICLE 17: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FUNDING ACCOUNTS

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:	\$ 7,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 67,650
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 67,650
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 67,650
Unallocated Reserve:	\$466,050

or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary to ensure the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during Fiscal Year 2015. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

Mover: Richard Hewitt

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

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 7,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 67,650
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 67,650
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 67,650
Unallocated Reserve:	\$466,050

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 17 - Main Motion passed by Unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 18: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2015, 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 General Laws, and by authorizing the Board of Selectmen, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift 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 General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A:	Ledge Rock Field	\$41,000
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Summary: *At last year's Spring Town Meeting, the Town appropriated \$900,000 for the construction of new playing fields known as Ledge Rock Fields. \$309,000 came from the Unallocated Reserve of the Community Preservation Fund. The purpose of this proposal is to seek an additional \$41,000 and use the additional funds to develop the plans to start the Site Plan Review Process with the Planning Board and make the project "shovel ready" which will improve the Town's chances of obtaining a grant from the Commonwealth to help fund the project.*

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 1: Ledge Rock Fields

Mover: Gineane Haberlin

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$41,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2015-01 "Ledge Rock Fields", said funds to be available in Fiscal Year 2014.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Jonathan Strauss, Park Commissioner, recommends that this project be deferred and not funded due to the financial status of the Town.
 - Engineering costs has been paid by user groups.
 - \$300,000 previously awarded fro this project by the CPC will be returned.
 - Recommends defeat of this motion.
- Q: Can this money be used to grow grass at Cutler Field?
 - R: No. This CPC money can only be spent upon the recommendation of the CPC and a subsequent town meeting vote. Money for grass operations could be applied to the CCP independently.

Vote: Article 18 – Motion 1 was defeated.

CPC Proposal B:	Mile Stone Restoration	\$23,000
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Summary: *In 1902/1903, 27 mile stone markers were installed along the main roadways leading into Groton Center. The Groton Historical Commission has conducted a thorough inventory of these markers and determined that seventeen (17) of these markers are in need of repair and restoration. Funding from this appropriation will be used to either reset, re-etch or rebuild these markers.*

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 2: Mile Stone Restoration Project	Mover: Robert DeGroot
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I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$23,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2015-04 "Mile Stone Restoration Project".

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote: Article 18 – Motion 2 passed by Majority vote.

CPC Proposal C:	Conservation Fund	\$100,000
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Summary: *The Conservation Fund has been used by the Conservation Commission to purchase Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and to purchase conservation land outright within the Town of Groton. Placing CPA funds into the Conservation Fund makes them instantly available to the Conservation Commission for acquiring open space that may be available for purchase for only a short period of time.*

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Not Recommended Unanimously
Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 3: Conservation Land Fund

Mover: Richard Hewitt

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$9,376.91 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and to appropriate the sum of \$90,623.09 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$100,000 to fund Community Preservation Application 2015-05 "Conservation Land Fund".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Conservation fund should be at \$750,000 to \$1.0 million. Currently it is a \$400,000.
- Finance Committee did not recommend unanimously. If the property was large or important enough, town meeting should vote on it.
- Sometimes, the Conservation Commission has to act more quickly or on a different timetable. The Finance Committee position does not consider this.
- Modern conservation land is conserved through partnerships and relationships with the State. The Conservation Commission has been very responsible. Properties are appraised and usually 60% are reimbursed.
- Open space is also good for households and taxes as services are less.
- Q: Can CPC money be used to preserve Prescott School?
 - R: Theoretically yes.
- Adding to conservation land can enhance connections to the 110 miles of trails.

Motion to Move the Question

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rd Majority

Vote: Motion to Move the Question passed by 2/3rd Majority

Vote on Article 18 – Motion 3: Passed by Majority vote

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Motion to Adjourn to 7:00 PM on May 5 at the Middle School Auditorium

Moved and Seconded

Meeting Adjourned by Majority vote at 10:34 PM

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Adjourned Session called to order on May 5, 2014 at 7:10 PM.

102 people were in attendance. 161 people were in attendance later in the meeting.

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Article 18 (continued)

CPC Proposal D:

Sargisson Beach Restoration

\$109,590

Summary: *For the past several years, volunteers have spent countless hours cleaning and restoring Sargisson Beach. While this has been very effective, more attention is required*

therefore the Selectmen appointed the Sargisson Beach Committee. This project would take restoration of the property to the next level addressing severely undercut and eroding lake banks, creating improved fishing access to the deepest part of the Lake, repairing the existing stone wall and providing storm water runoff management to prevent further beach sand erosion. This project will provide improved open space and recreation access and protect the town of Groton's only public access to Lost Lake and Knopps Pond.

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

MOTION 4: Sargisson Beach Restoration

Mover: Gineane Haberlin

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$109,590 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2015-06 "Sargisson Beach Restoration and Erosion Control".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Andrew Davis gave a presentation on the beach restoration project.
- Groton Lakes Association is in support of Sargisson Beach restoration. Repairing the beach is a good complement to the recent weed control activities. Groton Lakes Association has donated \$5,000 to the beach work.
- Q: Why did this erosion occur?
 - R: Wave action and natural forces over time.
- Q: How much parking is available at Sargisson Beach?
 - R: Parking is not marked. Working to improve the parking.
- Q: Why is the water raised and lowered (via the dam)? Doesn't this cause the erosion?
 - R: The dam is not the issue. It has been in operation for 100 years. The 6 week raising and lowering process is to protect walls and docks. Waves created by the wind is the cause of the erosion.

Vote: Article 18 – Motion 4 passed by Majority vote.

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CPC Proposal E:

Country Club Driving Range

\$47,000

Summary: *The Driving Range at the Country Club is in need of refurbishment as it is in disrepair and is poorly configured. The range is not deep enough nor in good enough repair to allow patrons to practice using their driver or other woods. In addition, the tee box platforms are rotted and need to be replaced. The short depth of the range can be mitigated by replacing netting. This funding will be used to purchase and install new poles, cabling and netting, and replace rotted tee boxes to allow for greater use of the range.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended By Majority Vote (4 In Favor, 1 Against)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (3 In Favor, 2 Against, 1 Abstain)*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

MOTION 5: Country Club Driving Range

Mover: Richard Hewitt

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$47,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2015-07 "Country Club Driving Range".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Q: How much money will need to be invested in the Country Club before the Town realizes a return?
 - R: The Club loses \$30,000 per year. Reinvigoration of the driving range will reduce the loss. The goal of the new Golf Pro (Jim Tenant) is to make the golf operations sustainable.
- Q: The Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 2 against and 1 abstain. What were the reasons members voted against?
 - R: Gary Green would like to see a strategic plan which would incorporate better utilization for townspeople, and more attractive overall for townspeople.

MOTION to Move the Question

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rd Majority

Vote: Motion to Move the Question passed by 2/3rd Majority

Vote: Article 18 – Motion 5 passed by Majority vote. 7 voters did not contest.

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CPC Proposal F: Housing Coordinator Increased Hours \$47,618

Summary: *The Town established the position of Housing Coordinator in 2009. Since that time, the Community Preservation Administrative Account has paid the salary of this position (currently at 19 hours). The purpose of this project would be to increase the position to 25 hours and cover all of the costs associated with the position (salary and benefits) from the Community Housing Reserve. Since 2009, the role and responsibility of the position have expanded considerably in serving the affordable housing needs of the community. A detailed job description of this position is available in the Office of the Board of Selectmen/Town Manager.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MOTION 6: Affordable Housing Coordinator

Mover: Richard Hewitt

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$47,618 from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2015-11 "Affordable Housing Coordinator".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 18 – Motion 6 passed by Majority vote.

ARTICLE 19: AMEND CHAPTER 215 OF THE CODE OF GROTON

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 215, "Wetlands", of the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting the current Chapter 215 in its entirety, and replacing it with a new Chapter 215, "Wetlands", a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

Conservation Commission: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *The article proposes revisions to Groton By-Law Chapter 215 to address the following: (1) to increase clarity for By-Law users; (2) to better align our By-Law with the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131, § 40 ("Wetlands Protection Act") and evolving Massachusetts case law; and (3) to clarify standards for altered areas. Please see the back of the Warrant for a draft of the new proposed bylaw.*

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 215, "Wetlands", of the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting the current Chapter 215 in its entirety, and replacing it with a new Chapter 215, "Wetlands", as set forth in the copy on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Brooks Lyman offered an amendment:
I move to amend Article 19 by inserting the words: "that meets the definition of a Seasonal Wetland as defined in Section 215-9" after the word "water" at the end of Section 215-2.

Mr. Lyman stated that the purpose of the amendment was to ask that Section 215-9 be held to the Seasonal Wetland standard. Mr. Black, Mr. Morrison and others from the

Wetland Protection Bylaw Committee voiced reservation on changing language in the bylaw, given that the bylaw sections are very dependent upon each other for meaning. The Committee had not seen this proposed change to the bylaw previously and had had no chance to study it.

MOTION to Move the Question of the Amendment:

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rd Majority

Vote: Motion to Move the Amendment passed by 2/3rd Majority

Vote: Motion to Amend Article 19 was defeated

Vote: Article 19 – Main Motion passed by Majority vote

ARTICLE 20: AMEND CHAPTER 205 OF THE CODE OF GROTON

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 205, “Vehicles, Unregistered” of the Code of the Town Groton by deleting the current Chapter 205 in its entirety, and replacing it with a new Chapter 205, “Vehicles, Unregistered”, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: *Groton Bylaw Chapter 205 was adopted by the Town in 1992 to “regulate and control unregistered and disassembled motor vehicles” within the Town to protect views along publicly traveled roads and minimize visual impact on neighborhoods. The purpose of the proposed replacement of Chapters 205 is to better define the conditions of permissible storage for unregistered vehicles and the process for obtaining a permit. Please see the back of the Warrant for a draft of the new proposed bylaw.*

AMEND CHAPTER 205 OF THE CODE

Mover: Jack Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 205, “Vehicles, Unregistered” of the Code of the Town Groton by deleting the current Chapter 205 in its entirety, and replacing it with a new Chapter 205, “Vehicles, Unregistered”, as set forth in the copy on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Mr. Bouchard presented the changes proposed by the Bylaw Review Committee. He stated the existing bylaw was viewed as “unenforceable” by the Police Chief, and that changes were needed to remove the lack of clarity. The proposed bylaw defines terms, defines the time frame within which a violation would be deemed to start and clarifies the

schedule of fines. He stated that the proposal added clarity, was more enforceable and more fair to residents.

- There were many questions from the floor about how specific situations would be treated under the proposal.

MOTION to Move the Question

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rd Majority

Vote on Motion to Move the Question: Passed by 2/3rd Majority

Vote: Article 20 – Main Motion was declared to pass by Majority vote. 7 voters contested the ruling. Counted vote 102 in favor; 59 opposed – Motion passed.

(Counters: Barry Pease, Michael Manugian, Connie Sartini, Robert Johnson, Eric Yanchenko, Lori Jeromin)

ARTICLE 21: SALE OR LEASE OF PRESCOTT SCHOOL

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or lease, for a period not to exceed 99 years, the building known as Prescott School, which comprises of approximately 27,330 square feet, and all or a portion of the 2.81 acre site on which it is located at 145 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts, to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said building, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended By Majority Vote (4 In Favor, 1 Against)

Finance Committee: Recommended By Majority Vote (4 In Favor, 2 Against)

Summary: *The Board of Selectmen has been working with the Prescott Re-Use Committee and the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee to come up with a use for the former Prescott School which has been the home of the District Offices of the Regional School District for the past five years. A Request for Proposals issued last year sought proposals to convert the building into a hospitality use. Unfortunately due to market conditions, the Town did not receive any proposals. Recently, the Board of Selectmen was approached by a couple of different businesses expressing an interest in the building. The Board of Selectmen re-advertised the building for sale for any use other than housing. The purpose of this article is to present the successful proposal to Town Meeting for approval and disposal of the building. A full report will be made to the Spring Town Meeting.*

SALE OR LEASE OF PRESCOTT SCHOOL

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer to the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of sale and/or lease, the custody and control of the building known as Prescott School, which comprises approximately 27,330 square feet, and all or a portion of the 2.81 acre site on which it is located at 145 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or lease such property for a period not to exceed 99 years, for a sum of not less than \$35,000, and to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the

Commonwealth for the disposal of said property, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation.

Moved and Seconded

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

Minutes:

- Mr. Greg Yanchenko presented his plan to purchase and renovate the Prescott School building. It would be called Prescott Place. His plan is to move his businesses into part of the building, and lease space. He also planned to build 60 parking places to be used as a municipal lot and allow traditional activity such as tree sales and car washes to continue on the property.
- Prescott School Reuse Committee members both opposed and supported the proposal. Some members wished to retain the building for community use. Others thought that if the town were to sell the property for commercial use, this proposal was a good one.

MOTION to Indefinitely Postpone the Question

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

- One audience member did not favor the proposal. Suggestion was to move town offices into Prescott and sell town hall as a way to reinvigorate Station Avenue.
- Q: Can the town sell the property yet maintain control over what happens to it?
 - R: No. This proposal allows the town, after two years, to exercise eminent domain to reacquire the property at a cost of 2x the commercial investment.
- Q: Is the town getting fair market value for the property?
 - R: one member (realtor) thought "no", and argued that the Central Registry is not an effective marketing tool for real estate as it does not get a wide circulation like an MLS listing would. Another member (realtor) substantiate that the commercial investment needed equated the fair value of the property, although the town doesn't realize that money.
- General opinions were to retaining the building for community use for those against this proposal. Those favoring the proposal thought it was a good business use for the building that would complement the town character and help stimulate Groton center.
- Q: The Finance Committee voted 3-2 in favor. What was the dissenting opinion?
 - R: Mr. Green said that he "yes" votes were in support of what was thought to be a viable proposal. The "no" votes were due to a lack of details of the plan and questions about the sale amount (i.e. was it a fair market value?).

MOTION to Move the Question (to Indefinitely Postpone)

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rd Majority

Vote on the Motion to Move the Question: Passed by 2/3rd Majority

**VOTE: Motion to Indefinitely Postpone was Defeated with 71 in favor and 76 against.
(Main Motion remained on the floor.)**

After some further debate involving general usage, legal and technical questions and potential costs for maintenance and rehabilitation for town use, another Motion to Move the Question was made:

MOTION to Move the Question (Main Motion)

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rd Majority

Vote on the Motion to Move the Question: Passed by 2/3rd Majority

Vote: Article 21 Main Motion failed to achieve a 2/3rd Majority with a vote of 84 in favor of the Main Motion and 53 against.

Motion to Adjourn until May 12 at 7:00 at the Performing Arts Center

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

Vote: Passed by Majority Vote

SECOND ADJOURNED SESSION was called to order at 7:00 PM on May 12, 2014. 123 voters attended the 2nd Adjourned Session.

ARTICLE 22: TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR PRESCOTT SCHOOL SALE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to prepare and submit to the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council a certified project application for designation of the property known as the Prescott School located at 145 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts, and shown on Assessors' Map 113, Parcel 43, as an Economic Opportunity Area, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 23A of the General Laws; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a tax increment financing plan with Prescott Place, LLC pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 59 of the General Laws, in connection with the development of said property; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such actions as are necessary to obtain approval of the certified project application and to implement the tax increment financing plan, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended By Majority Vote (4 In Favor, 1 Against)

Finance Committee: Recommended By Majority Vote (4 In Favor, 2 Against)

Summary: *A part of a proposal received for the sale of the Prescott School was a request from the Proposer "Prescott Place, LLC", to enter into a Tax Increment Financing Plan to help finance the proposed renovations to the Prescott School. This is similar to what was done with Capstone Properties when they renovated Rivercourt Residences. The Board of Selectmen is placing this article on the Warrant as a placeholder in the event it decides to move forward with the Proposal received from Prescott Place, LLC on the sale of the Prescott School. A more detailed explanation will be presented to Town Meeting should the Selectmen decide to move forward with this sale.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to prepare and submit to the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council a certified project application for designation of the property known as the Prescott School located at 145 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts, and shown on Assessors' Map 113, Parcel 43, as an Economic Opportunity Area, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 23A of the General Laws; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a tax increment financing plan with Prescott Place, LLC pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 59 of the General Laws, in connection with the development of said property; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such actions as are necessary to obtain approval of the certified project application and to implement the tax increment financing plan.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

I Move to Indefinitely Postpone this Article

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 22 – Motion to Indefinitely Postpone passed by Majority vote

ARTICLE 23: SALE OR LEASE OF CENTER FIRE STATION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or lease, for a period not to exceed 99 years, the building known as the Groton Center Fire Station, which comprises approximately 5,005 square feet, and all or a portion of the 0.26 acre site on which it is located at 20 Station Avenue, Groton, Massachusetts, to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said building, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended By Majority Vote (4 In Favor, 1 Against)

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *With the new Center Fire Station on Farmers Row slated to be completed later this spring, the Town will no longer have a need for the current Center Fire Station on Station Avenue. The Board of Selectmen has issued an RFP for the sale of this building and hopes to have a final proposal for consideration at Town Meeting. The purpose of this article is to present the successful proposal to Town Meeting for approval and disposal of the Building. A full report will be made to the Spring Town Meeting.*

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer to the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of sale and/or lease, the custody and control of the building known as the Groton Center Fire Station, which comprises approximately 5,005 square feet, and all or a portion of the 0.26 acre site on which it is located at 20 Station Avenue, Groton, Massachusetts, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or lease such property for a period not to exceed 99 years, for a sum of not less than \$100,000, and to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said property, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation.

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

Minutes:

- The Town received 5 bids. This was the superior bid. An ice cream shop, farm stand and bicycle shop are being proposed. The building will be renovated to a design that sympathizes with the original design of the building. The commercial interests will occupy the first floor. Public rest room will be available. The second floor may be renovated to a single residential unit. The proposal will need to undergo a site plan review and obtain a special permit.
- An intended consequence of this proposal is to stimulate Station Avenue activity and to provide services to the rail trail, including the public rest rooms.
- The Town will have a right to buyback if the plan doesn't come to fruition in 3 years.
- This proposal involves a local business person making a significant investment. The proposal enhances the rail trail and local agriculture.
- Planning Board (Carolyn Perkins): the Planning Board voted unanimously to support this proposal.

MOTION to Move the Question
Moved and Seconded
Quantum: 2/3rd Majority
Vote: Motion to Move the Question passed by 2/3 Majority.

Vote: Article 23 – Main Motion passed by 2/3 Majority.

**ARTICLE 24: REZONE PARCEL 101-22 FROM PUBLIC USE
TO RESIDENTIAL – AGRICULTURAL "R-A"**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map established under Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton to rezone from Public Use (P) to Residential-Agricultural (R-A) a parcel of land located at 33 West Main Street consisting of approximately 0.28 acres, being shown on Assessors' Map 101 as Parcel 22, or take to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *No Position*
Planning Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *Currently, Squannacook Hall is zoned for public use because it is owned by the Town and was used for municipal purposes. The Board of Selectmen has solicited proposals for the sale of Squannacook Hall and has received one proposal for its re-use (please see Article 27 for further explanation). Since the building will no longer be used for municipal purposes, it should be rezoned accordingly.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Map established under Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton, section 218-9, to rezone from Public Use (P) to Residential-Agricultural (R-A) a parcel of land located at 33 West Main Street consisting of approximately 0.28 acres, being shown on Assessors' Map 101 as Parcel 22.

Moved and Seconded

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

Minutes:

- Mr. Platt presented that an agreement was reached with the church with regards to parking.
- Planning Board (George Barringer): The Planning Board voted to support Articles 24 and 25 as good adaptive reuse of the building. The building will be added back onto the tax rolls.

Vote: Article 24 – Main Motion passed by a 2/3rd Majority.

ARTICLE 25: CONCEPT PLAN APPROVAL – 33 WEST MAIN STREET

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Section 218-27.C of the Zoning Bylaw regarding Planned Multi-Family Residential Development, to approve the concept plan entitled "Re-Development of Squannacook Hall" for planned multi-family/residential development for the land owned by the Town of Groton located at 33 West Main Street, and shown on Assessors' Map 101 as Parcel 22, which plan is on file with the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *As discussed in Articles 24 and 27, the Board of Selectmen has solicited proposals for the sale of Squannacook Hall through the Request for Proposals process and has received one proposal to convert the building into four (4) residential rental units. Pursuant to our Zoning Bylaw, this type of use requires concept plan approval at Town Meeting for a planned multi-family residential development.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Section 218-27.C of the Zoning Bylaw regarding Planned Multi-Family Residential Development, to approve the concept plan entitled "Re-Development of Squannacook Hall" for planned multi-family/residential development for the land owned by the Town of Groton located at 33 West Main Street, and shown on Assessors' Map 101 as Parcel 22, which plan is on file with the Town Clerk.

Moved and Seconded

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

Minutes:

- Planning Board (George Barringer): The Planning Board voted to support Articles 24 and 25 as good adaptive reuse of the building. The building will be added back onto the tax rolls.

Vote: Article 25 – Main Motion passed by 2/3rd Majority.

ARTICLE 26: REPAIR SEPTIC SYSTEM AT SQUANNACOOK HALL

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 repair the septic system at Squannacook Hall located on West Main Street in West Groton, and for all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Abstain)*

Summary: *Please see the summary in Article 27. During the negotiations with the prospective buyer of Squannacook Hall, the Board of Selectmen has agreed to repair the Septic System as part of the purchase and sale agreement. The estimated cost of the repair is \$30,000. By selling this building and putting it on the tax rolls, the Town will receive an estimated \$10,000 a year in taxes. The Board of Selectmen believes it is reasonable to invest in a new system to allow the sale to move forward, with an anticipated three year period to recoup the cost of the system.*

Mover: Ann Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, to repair the septic system at Squannacook Hall located on West Main Street in West Groton, and for all costs associated and related thereto.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 26 – Main Motion passed by Majority vote.

ARTICLE 27: SALE OR LEASE OF SQUANNACOOK HALL

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or lease, for a period not to exceed 99 years, the building known as Squannacook Hall, which comprises of approximately 4,402 square feet, and all or a portion of the 0.28 acre site on which it is located at 33 West Main Street, West Groton, Massachusetts, to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said building, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Abstain)*

Summary: *Squannacook Hall has been vacant for the past four years. A re-use study was completed four years ago for the future use of the Building. However, due to cost and lack of a viable septic system, no action was taken on the proposed rehabilitation. The Town has successfully designed a Title V septic system that was permitted by the Board of Health. Based on this, the Board of Selectmen issued a Request for Proposals for the disposition of the Building. The Town received one proposal to convert Squannacook Hall into four (4) residential rental units and rent the building for the next twenty (20) years. The purpose of this article is to present the proposal in more detail to the Town Meeting for approval of the disposition of the Building. A full report will be made to the Spring Town Meeting.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of sale, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell, for a sum of not less than \$100, the Town-owned building known as Squannacook Hall, which comprises approximately 4,402 square feet, and all or a portion of the 0.28 acre site on which it is located at 33 West Main Street, West Groton, Massachusetts, to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said building, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation.

Moved and Seconded

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

Minutes:

- Members expressed surprise over a selling price of \$100, and the town will install a new septic system. The town is making this investment in order to be able to sell the building and put it back on the tax rolls. Mr. Platt will invest approximately \$500,000 to improve the building into 4 apartment units.

VOTE: Article 27 – Main Motion passed by 2/3rd Majority.

ARTICLE 28: AMEND CHAPTER 190 OF THE CODE OF GROTON

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 190 of the Groton Code by deleting Sections 190-1 and Section 190-2 ("The Mandatory Sewer Hookup Bylaw") and replacing them with the following sections:

§ 190 - 1 Connections Required.

The owner or occupant of a building situated within the Groton Center Sewer System (the Sewer System), as it may be amended, shall:

A. In the case of an existing building within the Sewer System as of the effective date of this article, connect said building to the sewer with an effective drain within six months of said effective date or, in the case of an extension of the Sewer System within two years of the date when said sewer is available for such connection.

B. In the case of a new building within the Sewer System constructed after the effective date of this article, or in the case of renovation of a building which would trigger the requirement to upgrade a subsurface sewage disposal system under the provisions of Title 5 of the State Environmental Code (310 CMR 15.000) or any successor regulation, connect said building to the sewer prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy by the Building Inspector.

C. Authority

The Groton Sewer Commission and the Groton Board of Health shall both be responsible for enforcement and oversight of Sections 190-1 and 190-2 and may act independently and cooperatively within their respective areas of responsibility. The Groton Sewer Commission shall provide administrative services, such as maintenance of connection records for properties within the Sewer System and issuance of notices to property owners. The Groton Board of Health shall address matters of compliance and act upon applications for variances.

§ 190 – 2 Variance.

A variance from the connection requirement may be granted by the Board of Health for any one of the following reasons:

A. That said land by reason of its grade or level or any other cause cannot be drained into such sewer, or that a connection is economically unfeasible (defined as the cost of connection being in excess of 10% of the assessed value of the subject property). The applicant shall provide sufficient documentary evidence that a connection is not a feasible option; or

B. In the case of property used for residential purposes, that the buildings on said land are served by a private on-site subsurface sewage disposal system which was issued a Certificate of Compliance in accordance with the provisions of said Title 5 as in effect on or after March 31, 1995 and, after an inspection as defined in 310 CMR 15.302, is determined not to be failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in 310 CMR 15.303. Such variance shall continue for a period of three years, provided the subsurface sewage disposal system is pumped once a year during said three years, or for a period of two years if the system has not been so pumped. After such time period the system shall be re-inspected and an additional variance may be granted if the re-inspection determines the system is not failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in 310 CMR 15.303. Any variance granted under this sub-section shall expire upon the “transfer of title” to the property served by the system, as defined in 310 CMR 15.301, and the property shall be connected no later than 90 days after the date of the transfer of title.

C. In the case of property used for non-residential purposes, that the buildings on said property are served by a private on-site subsurface sewage disposal system which was issued a Certificate of Compliance in accordance with the provisions of said Title 5 as in effect on or

after March 31, 1995 and, after an inspection as defined in 310 CMR 15.302, is determined not to be failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in 310 CMR 15.303. Such variance shall expire after one year. After such time period the subsurface sewage disposal system shall be re-inspected and a variance may be granted if the re-inspection determines the system is not failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in 310 CMR 15.303. Any variance granted under this sub-section shall expire upon the "transfer of title" to the property served by the system, as defined in 310 CMR 15.301, and the property shall be connected no later than 90 days after the date of the transfer of title.

D. In the event that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection or successor entity institutes a set of requirements for subsurface sewage disposal system performance stricter than those set forth in the then current version of said Title 5, any variances granted hereunder shall NOT be considered as exempting the applicable disposal system from the connection requirement. Instead, in that case, any existing systems with variances must either meet the new requirements or the property must be connected to the Sewer System. Such mandatory connections shall be made within 90 days of the effective date of the new requirements for commercial properties or six months of said effective date for residential properties.

E. The Board of Health may review any Title 5 inspection and any approved subsurface sewage disposal works permit to determine if a subsurface sewage disposal system is protective of public health and safety and the environment in considering any variance request.

F. A Notice of any variance granted hereunder shall be recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds and evidence thereof provided to the Board of Health. Such Notice shall state that the variance shall expire upon the "transfer of title" as defined in 310 CMR 15.301.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Sewer Commission: *Recommended Unanimously*

Board of Health: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *Since the adoption of the original bylaw, Title 5 adopted criteria requirements for inspection. This article allows a variance from the requirement to hook up if the property owner demonstrates through a Title 5 inspection that their on-site subsurface sewage disposal system is determined not to be failing to protect public health and safety and the environment as defined in Title 5, 310 CMR 15.303.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 190 of the Groton Code by deleting Sections 190-1 and Section 190-2 ("The Mandatory Sewer Hookup Bylaw") and replacing them with new Section 190-1 and Section 190-2, as set forth in the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Mr. Orcutt explained that this bylaw update removes the old sections of Chapter 190 and replaces it with language more consistent with later versions of Title V.
- The current bylaw requires a hookup to sewer within 2 years. The proposed amendment allows for a functioning septic, certified by a Title V inspection, to receive a waiver.
- Mr. Gmeiner stated that the proposal gives a fair way to assess the need for a particular sewer connection requirement.
- Betterments are not affected by either bylaw version.

MOTION to Indefinitely Postpone

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

After some further discussion, **MOTION to Move the QUESTION (Indefinitely Postpone):**

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3 Majority

Vote: Motion to Move the Question passed by 2/3rd Majority

VOTE: Motion to Indefinitely Postpone was defeated with 54 against, 53 in favor

MOTION to Move the Question (Main Motion)

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3 Majority

Vote: Motion to Move the Question (Main Motion) passed by 2/3rd Majority

VOTE: Article 28 – Main Motion passed by Majority vote. 7 voters did not contest.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED BY THE TOWN MODERATOR AT THE END OF ARTICLE 34.

ARTICLE 29: APPLY FOR GRANTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for Federal and State Grants for which the Town is or may be eligible and to expend the funds received thereunder, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Abstain)

Summary: *To allow the Board of Selectmen to apply for grants that may become available during the year.*

ARTICLE 30: DEBT SERVICE FOR SURRENDEN FARMS

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 Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5 for debt service for Fiscal Year 2015 for the Surrenden Farm Land Acquisition, as authorized under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Abstain)*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article appropriates the debt payments for the Surrenden Farm Land Purchase. Funding for this article will come from Community Preservation Funds. The anticipated debt service for Fiscal Year 2015 is \$486,475.*

ARTICLE 31: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Chapter 44, §53E½ of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received under Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Stormwater Management - Low Impact Development, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee for administration, oversight and review activities under Chapter 198, with the maximum amount to be expended in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2015, or to take any other action relative thereto.

STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Abstain)*

Summary: *This article reauthorizes the use of the revolving fund for technical review and processing of applications submitted under Chapter 198, Stormwater Management - Low Impact Development.*

ARTICLE 32: CONSERVATION COMMISSION REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½ for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received for agricultural or silvicultural activities conducted on Town-owned conservation land under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Conservation Commission for oversight and management of conservation lands owned by the Town, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2015, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Abstain)*

Summary: *This article reauthorizes the use of the revolving fund (established in 2007) for the management of conservation land in Groton. Reauthorization allows for reduced fees for management of conservation lands in Groton.*

ARTICLE 33: AFFORDABLE HOUSING REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew, under the authority of the Town Manager, a revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½ for the receipt of revenue and funding of expenses related to marketing and monitoring Affordable Housing units within developments in the Town, said revenue, in the form of receipts and fees, to be credited to said account and expended by the Town Manager for this purpose, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2015, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Abstain)*

Summary: *A revolving fund is a tool used by cities and towns to allow a particular department or board to account for its revenues and expenses for particular programs separately from the General Fund. Program expenses can be directly offset by related revenue taken in, and expenditure of those monies requires no additional appropriation. Revolving funds must be authorized annually by Town Meeting at which time spending limits are established. This particular fund will utilize revenue collected in connection with land development for the purpose of promoting occupancy of affordable housing units as they become available. The funds will be spent largely on marketing and monitoring functions.*

ARTICLE 34: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Section 4, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, to allow an additional property tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2015 for those persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, not to exceed \$1,000, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended By Majority Vote (5 In Favor, 1 Abstain)*

Summary: *This article is geared toward elderly persons, blind persons and veterans with service connected disabilities. It would increase the exemption under state statute up to 100% of the exemption.*

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION – Articles 29 through 34

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each, and that, with respect to Article 30, the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of \$90,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and the sum of \$396,475 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$486,475 to fund the Surrenden Farm debt service for Fiscal Year 2015; 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.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Articles 29 through 34 Consent Agenda passed by Majority vote.

MOTION to Dissolve the Spring 2014 Annual Town Meeting

Moved and Seconded

Vote: the Meeting was dissolved by Majority vote at 8:28 on May 12.

Moderator Introducing Consent Agenda to Save Time at Town Meeting

In order to save time at Town Meeting, the moderator will use a procedure known as a consent agenda. It is the bundling of non-controversial articles into a single motion to be voted on by Town Meeting. Routinely used in other towns, the consent agenda can save time by not requiring a main motion, a second, an explanation and a vote on every routine article to which there is no objection or question.

What Articles Are Included

The consent agenda will generally consist of regular housekeeping articles unanimously supported by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. Articles that change by-laws, introduce new spending or require more than a majority vote are ineligible.

In this warrant, Articles 30 to 35 have been identified by the moderator as being appropriate for the consent agenda. At Town Meeting, voters will receive a handout with the final consent agenda, as changes are possible between the time of this writing and April 28.

How Consent Agendas Work

When the meeting reaches the first article to be included in the consent agenda, the moderator will explain the process. The moderator will read the title of every article included in the consent agenda. He will pause after each article to allow any voter who has a question on the article to loudly state, "hold."

The held article will be set aside for individual consideration apart from the consent agenda. The voter who holds an article will be asked to identify him- or herself to the moderator so that he or she may be called upon later to address the article.

After the meeting agrees on which articles to include in the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every article included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail depending on the majority vote.

The articles held from the consent agenda will then be taken up individually in the order in which they appear in the warrant.

What Voters Need To Do

Town Meeting voters should review in advance the articles in the consent agenda and note whether there are any they wish to "hold." A voter can then state "hold" when the moderator calls the article number and title to remove it from the consent agenda.

Any voter with questions about Town Meeting procedure may call Town Moderator Jason Kauppi at (978) 448-6421 or email him at jasonkauppi@gmail.com.

Hereof fail not and make return of your doings to the Town Clerk on or before time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 7th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen.

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Chairman

Joshua A. Degen

Joshua A. Degen, Vice-Chairman

Anna Eliot

Anna Eliot, Clerk

Stuart M. Schulman

Stuart M. Schulman, Member

John G. Petropoulos

John G. Petropoulos, Member

OFFICERS RETURN
Groton, Middlesex

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have this day notified the Inhabitants to assemble at the time, place, and for the purpose mentioned as within directed. Personally posted by Constable.

Constable

Date Duly Posted

BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2015

Pursuant to Article 6, Sections 6-3 and 6-4 of the Charter of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Manager are pleased to submit for your consideration the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. When the proposed budget was originally submitted by the Town Manager to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen, the Groton Dunstable Regional School District had not yet completed its budget. As has been my history over the last six budget cycles, I developed a budget, in conjunction with my Finance Team, that made decisions based on incorporating a two and one half (2½%) percent increase. The original budget contained proposals developed with the intent to improve the delivery of services, while still remaining well under the anticipated FY 2015 Levy Limit. That said, the needs of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District to maintain services far outweighed the need to improve the delivery of services within the Municipal Budget.

The Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and I worked very hard to meet the needs of the School District without making major cuts to the Municipal Budget and negatively impacting services. Due to strong budgeting over the last several years, the Town was in the unique position to develop strategies to meet the needs of the School District. My Finance Team and I proposed a multi-level plan that was accepted by both the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. The Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee developed a level services budget that required an increased assessment from the Town of Groton of \$1,403,699 or 8.58%. To meet this assessment, several changes in the Municipal Budget had to be made.

To begin with, the original proposed budget had already set aside \$378,000 in new spending for the Regional School District. Next, at the request of and in conjunction with the Finance Committee, I developed reductions in the Municipal Budget Request in the amount of \$300,000. To meet this, I proposed that any new funding proposals be eliminated, along with minor reductions in current spending. These reductions were proposed with an effort to maintain the same level of services. The one major reduction would be to rescind the vote to join the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project in FY 2015, saving approximately \$73,000. The Town

Meeting will be asked to take this action under Article 4 at Town Meeting. In addition, the original proposed budget was approximately \$402,000 under the anticipated FY 2015 Levy Limit. These three areas alone developed approximately \$1,000,000 in revenues to help fund the assessment of the School Budget. However, the Town was still \$400,000 shy of meeting the assessment. To make further reductions in the municipal budget of this magnitude would have severely impacted Municipal Services.

Therefore, I proposed that the Town consider excluding the debt service associated with the New Center Fire Station. When we originally proposed this project to Town Meeting, we developed a budget that allowed the Town to fund the debt service within the operating budget and the limitations of Proposition 2½. At that time, we informed the Town Meeting that if the need arose, we could ask the voters to consider excluding that debt to meet any important need of the Town. A strong school department providing a strong education to our children is clearly an important need. The Board of Selectmen agreed to put this question before the voters, and on April 1, 2014, the Town of Groton voters approved the question to exclude the debt service providing the additional \$400,000 needed to fund the assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District.

While we were able to meet the assessment of the School District, there are still a couple of areas I would like to address with regard to the Municipal Budget. For the past several fiscal years, we have not adequately funded the Police Department Wage Account. Both Town Meeting and the Finance Committee have been asked to appropriate additional funds each spring (either a line item transfer or Reserve Fund Transfer) to fully fund this account. Due to the timing of setting the budget and the way additional wage issues were budgeted, the Police Wage Account has never fully accounted for contractually obligated increases, overtime coverage or reserve police officers. This has caused deficits in each of the last two fiscal years of between \$80,000 and \$120,000 in that Account. The Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Operating budget attempts to fully fund the Police Wage Account at the onset. Similarly, we did a review of the Fire Department Wage Account to meet the anticipated impacts of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement. The proposed budget addresses this issue as well. My Finance Team and I will closely monitor these budgets to ensure that adequate funding is provided throughout Fiscal Year 2015.

The Town now has seven (7) Collective Bargaining Units. All Agreements run through June 30, 2015. In FY 2015, they all call for a two (2%) percent wage adjustment. Please note that the Supervisors' Union Agreement calls for a two (2%) percent adjustment on June 30, 2014 that does not pay any additional wages in FY 2014, but will impact the two (2%) percent wage adjustment in FY 2015. Having agreements with all of our unions has allowed us to maintain a stable work force and provide a solid budgetary forecast in FY 2015. I have recommended, and the Board of Selectmen and Personnel Board have agreed, that the remaining three (3) By-Law employees receive the same adjustment as the Supervisors Union. This will be the second year that we have implemented the performance incentive program for several of our union employees, as well as our By-Law employees. This program allows employees to earn up to an additional two (2%) percent wage increase based on a review of their performance by their department manager. I am pleased to report that this program continues to be very successful. The Fiscal Year 2015 financial impact of the negotiated and recommended wage adjustment, along with the performance incentive program is as follows:

Total Needed for Wage Adjustment	\$158,834
Total Needed for Performance Incentive	<u>\$ 34,018</u>
Total Budgetary Impact:	\$192,852

The following is a breakdown of the proposed FY 2015 Town Operating Budget by function:

<u>Function</u>	<u>FY 2014 Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2015 Proposed</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
General Government	\$ 1,746,272	\$ 1,762,762	\$ 16,490	0.94%
Land Use Departments	\$ 404,148	\$ 407,038	\$ 2,890	0.72%
Protection Persons & Property	\$ 3,118,168	\$ 3,283,910	\$ 165,742	5.32%
Department of Public Works	\$ 2,036,669	\$ 2,042,784	\$ 6,115	0.30%
Library and Citizens Services	\$ 1,606,721	\$ 1,633,141	\$ 26,420	1.64%
Debt Service	\$ 1,532,019	\$ 1,418,721	\$(113,298)	-7.40%
Employee Benefits	\$ 3,092,424	\$ 3,171,724	\$ 79,300	2.56%
Municipal Government Total	\$13,536,421	\$13,720,080	\$183,659	1.35%
Nashoba Technical High	\$ 468,592	\$ 572,775	\$ 104,183	22.23%
Groton Dunstable Schools	<u>\$16,352,324</u>	<u>\$17,756,023</u>	<u>\$1,403,699</u>	<u>8.58%</u>
School Department Total	\$16,820,916	\$18,328,798	\$1,507,882	8.96%
TOTAL FY 2015 BUDGET	\$30,357,337	\$32,048,878	\$1,691,541	5.57%

The total Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Operating Budget, including Regional School Assessments and excluded debt, is \$32,048,878 or an increase of 5.57%. This proposed budget is \$74,780 under the anticipated FY 2015 Proposition 2½ Levy Limit. When you take into consideration the proposed Capital Budget and additional appropriations raised on the recap sheet, the total proposed budget is \$33,240,844. The Fiscal Year 2014 Tax Rate has been certified at \$17.38. Based on the proposed Budget, the estimated Tax Rate in Fiscal Year 2015 is \$18.40, or an increase of \$1.02. In Fiscal Year 2014, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at \$400,000) is \$6,952. Under this proposed budget, that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$7,360 or an increase of \$408. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2014 and FY 2015:

	<u>Actual FY 2014</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2015</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Levy Amount	\$24,260,190	\$25,703,296	\$1,443,106	5.94%
Tax Rate On Levy	\$16.03	\$16.81	\$0.78	4.86%
Average Tax Bill	\$6,412	\$6,724	\$312	4.86%
Excluded Debt	\$2,049,772	\$2,433,390	\$383,618	18.72%
Tax Rate On Excluded Debt	\$1.35	\$1.59	\$0.24	17.78%
Average Tax Bill	\$540	\$636	\$96	17.78%
Final Levy Amount	\$26,309,962	\$28,136,686	\$1,826,724	6.94%

Final Tax Rate	\$17.38	\$18.40	\$1.02	5.86%
Average Tax Bill	\$6,952	\$7,360	\$408	5.86%

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, Town Accountant Patricia DuFresne, Town Treasurer/Collector Michael Hartnett, Principal Assessor Rena Swezey and all of the Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions for their outstanding work and cooperation in assisting in the preparation of the Proposed Operating Budget. In addition, the outstanding support and cooperation by Superintendent of Schools Anthony Bent, Assistant Superintendent Kerry Clery, Business Manager Jared Stanton and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee was extremely important in developing a budget that allowed us to maintain services for our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad
Groton Town Manager

			TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2015 REVENUE ESTIMATES		
			BUDGETED FY 2014	ESTIMATED FY 2015	CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE			\$ 24,895,001	\$ 25,778,076	\$ 883,075
DEBT EXCLUSIONS			\$ 2,049,772	\$ 2,433,390	\$ 383,618
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID			\$ 818,909	\$ 805,868	\$ (13,041)
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY			\$ (634,811)	\$ (74,780)	\$ 560,031
LOCAL RECEIPTS:					
General Revenue:					
	Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes		\$ 1,285,000	\$ 1,325,000	\$ 40,000
	Penalties & Interest on Taxes		\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ -
	Payments in Lieu of Taxes		\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000	\$ -
	Other Charges for Services		\$ 66,500	\$ 89,100	\$ 22,600
	Fees		\$ 414,000	\$ 375,000	\$ (39,000)
	Rentals		\$ 27,000	\$ 25,000	\$ (2,000)
	Library Revenues		\$ 15,000	\$ 12,000	\$ (3,000)
	Other Departmental Revenue		\$ 492,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 33,000
	Licenses and Permits		\$ 256,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 19,000
	Fines and Forfeits		\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ -
	Investment Income		\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,000
	Recreation Revenues		\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ -
	Miscellaneous Non-Recurring		\$ -		\$ -
	Sub-total - General Revenue		\$ 3,413,500	\$ 3,488,100	\$ 74,600
Other Revenue:					
	Free Cash		\$ 100,000		\$ (100,000)
	Stabilization Fund for Minor Capital		\$ -		\$ -
	Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief		\$ -		\$ -
	Capital Asset Stabilization Fund		\$ 369,500	\$ 355,190	\$ (14,310)
	EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve		\$ 200,000	\$ 455,000	\$ 255,000
	Community Preservation Funds		\$ -		\$ -
	Water Department Surplus		\$ -		\$ -
	Sewer Department Surplus		\$ -		\$ -
	Insurance Reimbursements		\$ 22,000		\$ (22,000)
	Encumbrances		\$ -		\$ -
	Sub-total - Other Revenue		\$ 691,500	\$ 810,190	\$ 118,690
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE			\$ 1,004,768	\$ 979,622	\$ (25,146)
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE			\$ 836,687	\$ 673,166	\$ (163,521)
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE			\$ 33,075,326	\$ 34,893,632	\$ 1,818,306

TOWN OF GROTON		
FISCAL YEAR 2015		
TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS		
FY 2015 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		
Town Manager Proposed Budget		
General Government	\$	1,762,762
Land Use Departments	\$	407,038
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	3,283,910
Regional School Districts	\$	18,328,798
Department of Public Works	\$	2,042,784
Library and Citizen Services	\$	1,633,141
Debt Service	\$	1,418,721
Employee Benefits	\$	3,171,724
A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS		\$ 32,048,878
B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS		\$ 635,190
C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS		\$ 1,652,788
D. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REQUEST		
OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED		
1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes	\$	-
2. Debt and interest charges not included	\$	-
3. Final court judgments	\$	-
4. Total Overlay deficits of prior years	\$	1,000
5. Total cherry sheet offsets	\$	-
6. Revenue deficits	\$	-
7. Offset Receipts	\$	20,000
8. Authorized deferral of Teachers' Pay	\$	-
9. Snow and Ice deficit	\$	200,000
10. Other		
E. TOTAL OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED		\$ 221,000
F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES		\$ 110,776
G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS		\$ 225,000
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$ 34,893,632
FY 2015 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		
ESTIMATED TAX LEVY		
Levy Limit	\$	25,778,076
Debt Exclusion	\$	2,433,390
A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY		\$ 28,211,466
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		\$ 805,868
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED		\$ 3,488,100
C. OFFSET RECEIPTS		\$ -
D. ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$ 1,652,788
E. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS		\$ -
F. FREE CASH		\$ -
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS		
1. Stabilization Fund		
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	355,190
3. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	455,000
G. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$ 810,190
TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		\$ 34,968,412
FY 2015 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		\$ 74,780

APPENDIX A				TOWN OF GROTON					
				FISCAL YEAR 2015					

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
FINANCE COMMITTEE								
1040	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	0.00%	\$ 33.21	0.45%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	0.00%	\$ 33.21	0.45%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT								
1050	Salaries	\$ 104,468	\$ 70,227	\$ 73,064	\$ 73,064	4.04%	\$ 16.18	0.22%
1051	Wages	\$ 30,585	\$ 31,780	\$ 33,065	\$ 33,065	4.04%	\$ 7.32	0.10%
1052	Expenses	\$ 33,427	\$ 31,600	\$ 30,560	\$ 30,560	-3.29%	\$ 6.77	0.09%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 168,480	\$ 133,607	\$ 136,689	\$ 136,689	2.31%	\$ 30.27	0.41%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS								
1060	Salaries	\$ 77,381	\$ 79,637	\$ 83,246	\$ 83,246	4.53%	\$ 18.43	0.25%
1061	Wages	\$ 78,328	\$ 84,950	\$ 87,696	\$ 87,696	3.23%	\$ 19.42	0.26%
1062	Expenses	\$ 12,217	\$ 17,475	\$ 18,250	\$ 18,250	4.43%	\$ 4.04	0.05%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 167,926	\$ 182,062	\$ 189,192	\$ 189,192	3.92%	\$ 41.89	0.56%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR								
1070	Salaries	\$ 53,919	\$ 77,719	\$ 79,273	\$ 79,273	2.00%	\$ 17.55	0.24%
1071	Wages	\$ 102,259	\$ 112,738	\$ 92,471	\$ 92,471	-17.98%	\$ 20.47	0.28%
1072	Expenses	\$ 18,732	\$ 18,840	\$ 18,774	\$ 18,774	-0.35%	\$ 4.16	0.06%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 2,112	\$ 8,100	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	-25.93%	\$ 1.33	0.02%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 179,522	\$ 219,897	\$ 199,018	\$ 199,018	-9.49%	\$ 44.06	0.61%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	TOWN COUNSEL							
1080	Expenses	\$ 60,765	\$ 90,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	-16.67%	\$ 16.61	0.23%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 60,765	\$ 90,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	-16.67%	\$ 16.61	0.23%
	HUMAN RESOURCES							
1090	Salary	\$ 51,927	\$ 68,624	\$ 71,396	\$ 71,396	4.04%	\$ 15.81	0.21%
1091	Expenses	\$ 4,942	\$ 4,750	\$ 4,450	\$ 4,450	-6.32%	\$ 0.99	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 56,869	\$ 73,374	\$ 75,846	\$ 75,846	3.37%	\$ 16.80	0.22%
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
1100	Salary	\$ 81,626	\$ 115,080	\$ 121,618	\$ 121,618	5.68%	\$ 26.93	0.37%
1101	Wages	\$ 17,299	\$ 33,305	\$ 34,640	\$ 34,640	4.01%	\$ 7.67	0.10%
1102	Expenses	\$ 23,960	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	-0.80%	\$ 5.49	0.07%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 122,885	\$ 173,385	\$ 181,058	\$ 181,058	4.43%	\$ 40.09	0.54%
	GIS STEERING COMMITTEE							
1120	Expenses	\$ 11,470	\$ 15,400	\$ 15,100	\$ 15,100	-1.95%	\$ 3.34	0.05%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 11,470	\$ 15,400	\$ 15,100	\$ 15,100	-1.95%	\$ 3.34	0.05%
	TOWN CLERK							
1130	Salaries	\$ 66,193	\$ 68,867	\$ 71,649	\$ 71,649	4.04%	\$ 15.86	0.22%
1131	Wages	\$ 44,788	\$ 49,185	\$ 53,041	\$ 53,041	7.84%	\$ 11.74	0.16%
1132	Expenses	\$ 3,223	\$ 10,079	\$ 9,520	\$ 9,520	-5.55%	\$ 2.12	0.03%
1133	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 114,204	\$ 128,131	\$ 134,210	\$ 134,210	4.74%	\$ 29.72	0.41%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS								
1140	Stipend	\$ 8,982	\$ 3,840	\$ 10,050	\$ 10,050	161.72%	\$ 2.23	0.03%
1141	Expenses	\$ 12,229	\$ 7,170	\$ 12,014	\$ 12,014	67.56%	\$ 2.66	0.04%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 21,211	\$ 11,010	\$ 22,064	\$ 22,064	100.40%	\$ 4.89	0.07%
STREET LISTINGS								
1150	Expenses	\$ 3,252	\$ 5,870	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	-0.34%	\$ 1.30	0.02%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 3,252	\$ 5,870	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	-0.34%	\$ 1.30	0.02%
INSURANCE & BONDING								
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 127,421	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000	0.00%	\$ 31.66	0.42%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ -	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0.00%	\$ 2.66	0.04%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 22,402	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	0.00%	\$ 5.54	0.08%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 149,823	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000	0.00%	\$ 39.86	0.54%
TOWN REPORT								
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,388	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.33	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,388	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.33	0.00%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES							
1180	Expenses	\$ 47,434	\$ 47,960	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000	10.51%	\$ 11.73	0.16%
1181	Telephone Expenses	\$ 38,400	\$ 47,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	0.00%	\$ 11.07	0.15%
1182	Office Supplies	\$ 16,352	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	0.00%	\$ 3.76	0.05%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 102,186	\$ 111,960	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	7.18%	\$ 26.56	0.36%
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 1,406,140	\$ 1,746,272	\$ 1,762,762	\$ 1,762,762	0.94%	\$ 390.30	5.30%
	LAND USE DEPARTMENTS							
	CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
1200	Salary	\$ 61,116	\$ 62,331	\$ 61,384	\$ 61,384	-1.52%	\$ 13.59	0.18%
1201	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1202	Expenses	\$ 5,430	\$ 7,950	\$ 7,950	\$ 7,950	0.00%	\$ 1.76	0.02%
1203	Engineering & Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1204	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 66,546	\$ 70,281	\$ 69,334	\$ 69,334	-1.35%	\$ 15.35	0.20%
	PLANNING BOARD							
1210	Salaries	\$ 73,525	\$ 75,715	\$ 80,788	\$ 80,788	6.70%	\$ 17.89	0.24%
1211	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1212	Expenses	\$ 4,479	\$ 9,100	\$ 8,100	\$ 8,100	-10.99%	\$ 1.79	0.02%
1213	M.R.P.C. Assessment	\$ 3,082	\$ 3,160	\$ 3,160	\$ 3,160	0.00%	\$ 0.70	0.01%
1214	Legal Budget	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 81,086	\$ 87,975	\$ 92,048	\$ 92,048	4.63%	\$ 20.38	0.27%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS							
1220	Wages	\$ 18,967	\$ 20,102	\$ 18,267	\$ 18,267	-9.13%	\$ 4.04	0.05%
1221	Expenses	\$ 819	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	27.27%	\$ 0.31	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 19,786	\$ 21,202	\$ 19,667	\$ 19,667	-7.24%	\$ 4.35	0.06%
	HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION							
1230	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1231	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	BUILDING INSPECTOR							
1240	Salaries	\$ 39,792	\$ 76,195	\$ 79,273	\$ 79,273	4.04%	\$ 17.55	0.24%
1241	Wages	\$ 62,749	\$ 64,507	\$ 62,578	\$ 62,578	-2.99%	\$ 13.87	0.19%
1242	Expenses	\$ 423	\$ 7,900	\$ 7,900	\$ 7,900	0.00%	\$ 1.75	0.02%
1243	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 102,964	\$ 148,602	\$ 149,751	\$ 149,751	0.77%	\$ 33.17	0.45%
	MECHANICAL INSPECTOR							
1250	Fee Salaries	\$ 23,712	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0.00%	\$ 4.43	0.06%
1251	Expenses	\$ 3,204	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	0.00%	\$ 0.77	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 26,916	\$ 23,500	\$ 23,500	\$ 23,500	0.00%	\$ 5.20	0.07%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR								
1260	Stipend	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1261	Expenses	\$ 81	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
1262	Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 82	\$ 101	\$ 101	\$ 101	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
BOARD OF HEALTH								
1270	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1271	Expenses	\$ 663	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,150	15.00%	\$ 0.25	0.01%
1272	Nursing Services	\$ -	\$ 10,021	\$ 10,021	\$ 10,021	0.00%	\$ 2.22	0.03%
1273	Nashoba Health District	\$ 33,103	\$ 22,366	\$ 22,366	\$ 22,366	0.00%	\$ 4.96	0.07%
1274	Herbert Lipton MH	\$ -	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	0.00%	\$ 1.44	0.02%
1275	Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0.00%	\$ 2.21	0.03%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 43,766	\$ 49,887	\$ 50,037	\$ 50,037	0.30%	\$ 11.08	0.16%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES								
1280	Fee Salaries	\$ 2,060	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%
1281	Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,160	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	0.00%	\$ 0.57	0.01%
TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 343,306	\$ 404,148	\$ 407,038	\$ 407,038	0.72%	\$ 90.12	1.22%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</u>							
	POLICE DEPARTMENT							
1300	Salaries	\$ 213,319	\$ 275,140	\$ 284,676	\$ 284,676	3.47%	\$ 63.03	0.86%
1301	Wages	\$ 1,433,487	\$ 1,398,025	\$ 1,492,580	\$ 1,492,580	6.76%	\$ 330.48	4.49%
1302	Expenses	\$ 171,411	\$ 151,171	\$ 176,171	\$ 176,171	16.54%	\$ 39.01	0.53%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	2.56%	\$ 0.89	0.01%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 14,603	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	-33.33%	\$ 2.21	0.03%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,836,720	\$ 1,843,236	\$ 1,967,427	\$ 1,967,427	6.74%	\$ 435.62	5.92%
	FIRE DEPARTMENT							
1310	Salaries	\$ 104,692	\$ 106,781	\$ 108,912	\$ 108,912	2.00%	\$ 24.11	0.33%
1311	Wages	\$ 582,051	\$ 625,315	\$ 651,016	\$ 651,016	4.11%	\$ 144.14	1.96%
1312	Expenses	\$ 128,077	\$ 119,809	\$ 115,059	\$ 115,059	-3.96%	\$ 25.48	0.35%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 814,820	\$ 851,905	\$ 874,987	\$ 874,987	2.71%	\$ 193.73	2.64%
	GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION							
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 1	\$ 1	-99.87%	\$ -	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1	\$ 1	-99.96%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,250	\$ 2	\$ 2	-99.94%	\$ -	0.00%
	ANIMAL INSPECTOR							
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.00%	\$ 0.46	0.01%
1331	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.00%	\$ 0.09	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER							
1340	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.00%	\$ 0.46	0.01%
1341	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.00%	\$ 0.09	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%
	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY							
1350	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1351	Expenses	\$ 4,484	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	0.00%	\$ 2.88	0.04%
1352	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 4,484	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	0.00%	\$ 2.88	0.04%
	DOG OFFICER							
1360	Salary	\$ 13,637	\$ 13,973	\$ 13,973	\$ 13,973	0.00%	\$ 3.09	0.04%
1361	Expenses	\$ 3,917	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,250	\$ 4,250	-11.46%	\$ 0.94	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 17,554	\$ 18,773	\$ 18,223	\$ 18,223	-2.93%	\$ 4.03	0.05%
	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS							
1370	Wages	\$ 136,769	\$ 369,815	\$ 392,082	\$ 392,082	6.02%	\$ 86.81	1.17%
1371	Expenses	\$ 11,650	\$ 13,225	\$ 13,225	\$ 13,225	0.00%	\$ 2.93	0.04%
1372	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 148,419	\$ 383,040	\$ 405,307	\$ 405,307	5.81%	\$ 89.74	1.21%
	TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY	\$ 2,829,411	\$ 3,118,168	\$ 3,283,910	\$ 3,283,910	5.32%	\$ 727.10	9.88%

		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	AVERAGE TAX BILL	PERCENT OF TAX BILL
	<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</u>							
	NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL							
1400	Operating Expenses	\$ 449,967	\$ 468,592	\$ 572,775	\$ 572,775	22.23%	\$ 126.82	1.72%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 449,967	\$ 468,592	\$ 572,775	\$ 572,775	22.23%	\$ 126.82	1.72%
	GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT							
1410	Operating Expenses	\$ 15,963,523	\$ 15,118,999	\$ 16,521,807	\$ 16,521,807	9.28%	\$ 3,658.17	49.71%
1411	Debt Service, Excluded	\$ -	\$ 1,233,324	\$ 1,211,301	\$ 1,211,301	-1.79%	\$ 268.20	3.64%
1412	Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,915	\$ 22,915	0.00%	\$ 5.07	0.07%
1413	Out of District Placement	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 15,963,523	\$ 16,352,324	\$ 17,756,023	\$ 17,756,023	8.58%	\$ 3,931.44	53.42%
	TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$ 16,413,490	\$ 16,820,916	\$ 18,328,798	\$ 18,328,798	8.96%	\$ 4,058.26	55.14%
	<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</u>							
	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT							
1500	Salaries	\$ 84,520	\$ 87,894	\$ 92,809	\$ 92,809	5.59%	\$ 20.55	0.28%
1501	Wages	\$ 574,909	\$ 640,030	\$ 605,341	\$ 605,341	-5.42%	\$ 134.04	1.82%
1502	Expenses	\$ 149,242	\$ 140,300	\$ 127,300	\$ 127,300	-9.27%	\$ 28.19	0.38%
1503	Highway Maintenance	\$ 53,360	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000	0.00%	\$ 19.71	0.27%
1504	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 862,031	\$ 957,224	\$ 914,450	\$ 914,450	-4.47%	\$ 202.49	2.75%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
STREET LIGHTS								
1510	Expenses	\$ 13,350	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0.00%	\$ 5.31	0.07%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 13,350	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0.00%	\$ 5.31	0.07%
SNOW AND ICE								
1520	Expenses	\$ 227,283	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	0.00%	\$ 36.53	0.50%
1521	Overtime	\$ 141,520	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.00%	\$ 31.00	0.42%
1522	Hired Equipment	\$ 69,714	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	0.00%	\$ 7.75	0.11%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 438,517	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	0.00%	\$ 75.28	1.03%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET								
1530	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1531	Expenses	\$ 2,810	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.00%	\$ 0.66	0.01%
1532	Trees	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.33	0.00%
1533	Tree Work	\$ 10,121	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.00%	\$ 3.32	0.05%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 12,931	\$ 19,500	\$ 19,500	\$ 19,500	0.00%	\$ 4.31	0.06%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE								
1540	Wages	\$ 69,297	\$ 75,099	\$ 81,180	\$ 81,180	8.10%	\$ 17.97	0.24%
1541	Expenses	\$ 229,239	\$ 237,350	\$ 272,350	\$ 272,350	14.75%	\$ 60.30	0.82%
1542	Minor Capital	\$ 23,549	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	-33.33%	\$ 4.43	0.06%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 322,085	\$ 342,449	\$ 373,530	\$ 373,530	9.08%	\$ 82.70	1.12%

				FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		FY 2013	FY 2014	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL							
1550	Wages	\$ 84,200	\$ 99,660	\$ 119,820	\$ 119,820	20.23%	\$ 26.53	0.36%
1551	Expenses	\$ 53,768	\$ 54,486	\$ 54,486	\$ 54,486	0.00%	\$ 12.06	0.16%
1552	Tipping Fees	\$ 130,152	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	0.00%	\$ 29.89	0.40%
1553	North Central SW Coop	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	0.00%	\$ 1.30	0.02%
1554	Minor Capital	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	0.00%	\$ 1.11	0.02%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 283,970	\$ 304,996	\$ 320,156	\$ 320,156	4.97%	\$ 70.89	0.96%
	PARKS DEPARTMENT							
1560	Wages	\$ 1,067	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,540	\$ 2,540	1.60%	\$ 0.56	0.01%
1561	Expenses	\$ 40,467	\$ 46,000	\$ 48,608	\$ 48,608	5.67%	\$ 10.76	0.15%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 41,534	\$ 48,500	\$ 51,148	\$ 51,148	5.46%	\$ 11.32	0.16%
	TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 1,974,418	\$ 2,036,669	\$ 2,042,784	\$ 2,042,784	0.30%	\$ 452.30	6.15%
	LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES							
	COUNCIL ON AGING							
1600	Salaries	\$ -	\$ 61,160	\$ 66,586	\$ 66,586	0.00%	\$ 14.74	0.20%
1601	Wages	\$ 112,894	\$ 49,109	\$ 50,122	\$ 50,122	2.06%	\$ 11.10	0.15%
1602	Expenses	\$ 3,889	\$ 8,454	\$ 8,454	\$ 8,454	0.00%	\$ 1.87	0.03%
1603	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.00%	\$ 0.89	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 116,783	\$ 118,723	\$ 129,162	\$ 129,162	8.79%	\$ 28.60	0.39%

		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	AVERAGE TAX BILL	PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SENIOR CENTER VAN								
1610	Wages	\$ 27,409	\$ 37,371	\$ 56,806	\$ 56,806	52.01%	\$ 12.58	0.17%
1611	Expenses	\$ 10,911	\$ 11,166	\$ 17,913	\$ 17,913	60.42%	\$ 3.97	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 38,320	\$ 48,537	\$ 74,719	\$ 74,719	53.94%	\$ 16.55	0.22%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER								
1620	Salary	\$ 3,484	\$ 3,485	\$ 3,485	\$ 3,485	0.00%	\$ 0.77	0.01%
1621	Expenses	\$ 262	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	0.00%	\$ 0.20	0.00%
1622	Veterans' Benefits	\$ 54,092	\$ 48,200	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	3.73%	\$ 11.07	0.15%
1623	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENT TOTAL								
		\$ 57,838	\$ 52,585	\$ 54,385	\$ 54,385	3.42%	\$ 12.04	0.16%
GRAVES REGISTRATION								
1630	Salary/Stipend	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	0.00%	\$ 0.06	0.00%
1631	Expenses	\$ 660	\$ 660	\$ 660	\$ 660	0.00%	\$ 0.15	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 910	\$ 910	\$ 910	\$ 910	0.00%	\$ 0.21	0.00%
CARE OF VETERAN GRAVES								
1640	Contract Expenses	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	-4.62%	\$ 0.34	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 1,625	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	-4.62%	\$ 0.34	0.00%
OLD BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE								
1650	Expenses	\$ 698	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700	0.00%	\$ 0.15	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 698	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700	0.00%	\$ 0.15	0.00%

		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION			BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
LIBRARY								
1660	Salary	\$ 273,543	\$ 277,145	\$ 333,198	\$ 333,198	20.23%	\$ 73.77	1.00%
1661	Wages	\$ 307,549	\$ 318,999	\$ 279,707	\$ 279,707	-12.32%	\$ 61.93	0.84%
1662	Expenses	\$ 169,892	\$ 195,235	\$ 198,335	\$ 198,335	1.59%	\$ 43.84	0.60%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ 13,082	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 750,984	\$ 804,461	\$ 811,240	\$ 811,240	0.84%	\$ 179.54	2.44%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS								
1670	Expenses	\$ 444	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.00%	\$ 0.11	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 444	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.00%	\$ 0.11	0.00%
WATER SAFETY								
1680	Wages	\$ 2,151	\$ 2,640	\$ 2,640	\$ 2,640	0.00%	\$ 0.58	0.01%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ 422	\$ 15,950	\$ 950	\$ 950	-94.04%	\$ 0.21	0.00%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 2,573	\$ 18,590	\$ 3,590	\$ 3,590	-80.69%	\$ 0.79	0.01%
WEED MANAGEMENT								
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 1,615	\$ 7,705	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	-48.09%	\$ 0.89	0.01%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ 300	\$ 2,385	\$ 2,385	\$ 2,385	0.00%	\$ 0.52	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 1,915	\$ 10,090	\$ 6,385	\$ 6,385	-36.72%	\$ 1.41	0.02%

		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
		ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION			BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB								
1700	Salary	\$ 122,450	\$ 126,764	\$ 133,150	\$ 133,150	5.04%	\$ 29.48	0.40%
1701	Wages	\$ 136,391	\$ 156,400	\$ 154,200	\$ 154,200	-1.41%	\$ 34.14	0.46%
1702	Expenses	\$ 284,442	\$ 261,836	\$ 257,650	\$ 257,650	-1.60%	\$ 57.05	0.78%
1703	Minor Capital	\$ 3,857	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	0.00%	\$ 1.11	0.03%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 547,140	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	0.00%	\$ 121.78	1.67%
	TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES	\$ 1,519,230	\$ 1,606,721	\$ 1,633,141	\$ 1,633,141	1.64%	\$ 361.60	4.91%
	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>							
DEBT SERVICE								
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$ 737,964	\$ 651,100	\$ 910,640	\$ 910,640	39.86%	\$ 201.63	2.74%
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 73,268	\$ 72,030	\$ 72,030	0.00%	\$ 15.95	0.22%
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ 206,432	\$ 165,348	\$ 311,450	\$ 311,450	88.36%	\$ 68.96	0.93%
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 15,303	\$ 12,601	\$ 12,601	0.00%	\$ 2.79	0.04%
2006	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town	\$ -	\$ 127,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	0.00%	\$ 24.80	0.34%
2007	Fire Station and Fitch's Bridge Debt	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 944,396	\$ 1,532,019	\$ 1,418,721	\$ 1,418,721	-7.40%	\$ 314.13	4.27%
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$ 944,396	\$ 1,532,019	\$ 1,418,721	\$ 1,418,721	-7.40%	\$ 314.13	4.27%

		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015		FY 2015	FY 2015
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	AVERAGE TAX BILL	PERCENT OF TAX BILL
	<u>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</u>							
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
	GENERAL BENEFITS							
3000	County Retirement	\$ 1,377,437	\$ 1,502,924	\$ 1,591,023	\$ 1,591,023	5.86%	\$ 352.28	4.78%
3001	State Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
3002	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 28,861	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	0.00%	\$ 8.86	0.12%
	INSURANCE							
3010	Health Insurance/Employee Expenses	\$ 1,299,409	\$ 1,447,000	\$ 1,431,201	\$ 1,431,201	-1.09%	\$ 316.89	4.31%
3011	Life Insurance	\$ 2,128	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%
3012	Medicare/Social Security	\$ 85,070	\$ 100,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000	7.00%	\$ 23.69	0.32%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,792,905	\$ 3,092,424	\$ 3,171,724	\$ 3,171,724	2.56%	\$ 702.27	9.54%
	TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 2,792,905	\$ 3,092,424	\$ 3,171,724	\$ 3,171,724	2.56%	\$ 702.27	9.54%
	GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	\$ 28,223,296	\$ 30,357,337	\$ 32,048,878	\$ 32,048,878	5.57%	\$ 7,096	96.41%
	<u>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>							
	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS							
	Capital Budget Request	\$ 942,200	\$ 409,500	\$ 635,190	\$ 635,190	55.11%	\$ 140.64	1.92%
	Overlay Deficit From Prior Years	\$ 293	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.00%	\$ 0.22	0.00%
	Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 13,230	\$ 13,555	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	47.55%	\$ 4.43	0.06%
	Snow and Ice Deficit	\$ -	\$ 98,516	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	103.01%	\$ 44.28	0.60%
	State and County Charges	\$ 81,042	\$ 104,471	\$ 110,776	\$ 110,776	6.04%	\$ 24.53	0.33%
	Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	\$ 221,028	\$ 228,492	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	-1.53%	\$ 49.82	0.68%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,257,793	\$ 854,534	\$ 1,191,966	\$ 1,191,966	210.18%	\$ 263.92	3.59%
	GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	\$ 29,481,089	\$ 31,211,871	\$ 33,240,844	\$ 33,240,844	6.50%	\$ 7,360	100.00%

FY 2015 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS							
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015	
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
WATER DEPARTMENT							
	WD Salaries	\$ 124,776	\$ 131,728	\$ 128,932	\$ 117,061	\$ 117,061	-9.21%
	WD Wages	\$ 132,587	\$ 128,380	\$ 133,541	\$ 146,855	\$ 146,855	9.97%
	WD Expenses	\$ 411,634	\$ 420,926	\$ 384,689	\$ 354,489	\$ 354,489	-7.85%
	WD Debt Service	\$ 362,349	\$ 361,980	\$ 357,606	\$ 361,217	\$ 361,217	1.01%
100	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,031,346	\$ 1,043,014	\$ 1,004,768	\$ 979,622	\$ 979,622	-2.50%
SEWER DEPARTMENT							
	Sewer Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,585	\$ 17,585	0.00%
	Sewer Wages	\$ 19,206	\$ 19,126	\$ 20,882	\$ 30,115	\$ 30,115	44.22%
	Sewer Expense	\$ 588,554	\$ 559,158	\$ 770,305	\$ 582,615	\$ 582,615	-24.37%
	Sewer Debt Service	\$ 121,333	\$ 5,439	\$ 45,500	\$ 42,851	\$ 42,851	-5.82%
200	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 729,093	\$ 583,723	\$ 836,687	\$ 673,166	\$ 673,166	-19.54%
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$ 1,760,439	\$ 1,626,737	\$ 1,841,455	\$ 1,652,788	\$ 1,652,788	-10.25%

						Fiscal Year:	2015		
FY 2015 General Fund Debt Service									
Long Term Bonds									
		Amount Borrowed	Amount Outstanding	Excluded?	Bond Principal	Bond Interest	2015 Total	Excluded Amount	Maturity Date
Issued 7/1999 (ReFi 11/2010)									
*	Senior Center	151,110	25,290	Y	8,600	797	9,397	9,397	7/15/2016
	Library 1 Renovations	1,831,464	366,510	Y	96,560	12,246	108,806	108,806	7/15/2017
	Library 2 Renovations	364,000	74,670	Y	19,360	2,503	21,863	21,863	7/15/2017
	Town Hall	2,500,000	498,530	Y	130,480	16,679	147,159	147,159	7/15/2017
Issued 7/2001 (Refi 7/2011)									
	Shattuck Property	500,000	153,130	N	26,080	5,974	32,054		7/15/2019
	Bernier-Bissell Property	850,000	261,500	Y	44,720	10,190	54,910	54,910	7/15/2019
	Bissell Property	1,075,000	32,810	Y	56,250	12,807	69,057	69,057	7/15/2019
	Norris Property	750,000	232,540	Y	39,670	9,068	48,738	48,738	7/15/2019
Issued 11/2003									
*	Town Share Proj Eval Report	225,628	128,838	N	10,950	3,319	14,269		8/1/2023
	Gibbet Hill Restriction	3,000,000	1,400,000	Y	160,000	53,410	213,410	213,410	11/15/2022
	Lost Lake Fire Station	1,450,000	675,000	Y	75,000	25,838	100,838	100,838	11/15/2022
	Fire Truck	485,000	105,000	N	35,000	3,308	38,308		11/15/2016
Issued 04/18/2013									
	Center Fire Station	7,730,000	7,495,000	Y	280,000	167,913	447,913	447,913	6/30/2035
Adjustments									
	to be voted at Spring Town Mtg on 4/28/2014 for FY2015							0	
								0	
	Total All Long Term Debt	20,912,202	11,448,818		982,670	324,051	1,306,721	1,222,089	
Short Term Debt									
		Amount Borrowed	Amount Outstanding	Excluded?	Bond Principal	Bond Interest	2015 Total	Excluded Amount	
Issued 11/2010									
	Lost Lake W. Groton Sewer Eng II	350,000	110,000	N	110,000	675	110,675		
	Total All Short Term Debt	350,000	110,000		110,000	675	110,675		
TOTAL ALL DEBT SERV:									
		21,262,202	11,558,818		1,092,670	324,726	1,417,396	1,222,089	

		APPENDIX B			FACTOR:	1.0200
		Town of Groton Personnel By-Law				
		Wage and Classification Schedule				
		Fiscal Year 2015 (Effective July 1, 2014)				
Grade	Position Title	Low				High
4	Salary					
		34,534				42,739
	Wages					
		16.61				20.54
5	Salary					
		36,506				45,185
	Wages					
		17.55				21.73
7	Salary					
		42,213				53,469
	Wages					
		20.78				25.70
8	Salary					
		47,921				59,334
	Wages					
		23.04				28.53
9	Salary					
	Executive Assistant to Town Manager	49,076				60,728
	Wages					
		23.59				29.19
10	Salary					
		56,284				69,645
	Wages					
		27.06				33.49
11	Salary					
	Human Resources Director	60,466				74,826
	Wages					
		29.07				35.98
12	Salary					
		60,649				75,088
	Wages					
		29.16				36.10

		APPENDIX B			FACTOR:	1.0200
		Town of Groton Personnel By-Law				
		Wage and Classification Schedule				
		Fiscal Year 2015 (Effective July 1, 2014)				
Grade	Position Title	Low				High
13	Salary					
	Library Director	62,280				77,061
	Town Accountant					
	Wages					
		29.95				37.05
14	Salary					
		62,805				77,719
	Wages					
		30.19				37.36
15	Salary					
	Police Lieutenant	66,226				81,952
	Wages					
		31.83				39.40
16	Salary					
	Police Captain	68,619				84,924
	Wages					
		32.99				40.83
17	Salary					
	IT Manager	76,876				95,103
	Wages					
		36.96				45.73
18	Salary					
	Fire Chief	83,136				102,888
	Police Chief					
	Wages					
		39.97				49.47
19	Salary					
		85,320				105,570
	Wages					
		41.01				50.76
20	Salary					
		91,484				112,513
	Wages					
		43.98				54.09

	APPENDIX B				
	NON-CLASSIFIED, TEMPORARY SEASONAL AND STIPEND POSITIONS				
NON-STEP AND STIPEND POSITIONS					
	FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT			Pool and Golf Center Seasonal Employees	
	Deputy Chief: Fire	23.40		Pro Shop Staff	8.50 - 10.00
	Deputy Chief: EMS	23.00		Snack Bar/Lounge Staff	8.00 - 10.00
	Rescue Advisory	1.00			
	Call Captain: Fire	22.64		Pool Staff	8.00 - 9.75
	Call Captain: EMS	22.64		Lifeguards	
	Call Lieutenant: Fire	22.19			
	Call Lieutenant: EMS	22.19		Camp Staff	8.00 - 10.25
	Call Lieutenant: Rescue	22.19		Counselors	15.00
	Call Firefighter	19.41		Assistant Director	
	Call Emergency Medical Technician	19.41			
	Call Rescue Personnel	19.41		Buildings & Grounds	10.00 - 25.00
	Probationary Firefighter	16.16		Grounds Crew Staff	
	Probationary Emergency Medical Technician	16.16			
	Probationary Rescue Personnel	16.16			
	MISCELLANEOUS				
	Veteran's Agent	1,742			
	Director of Veteran's Services	1,742			
	Earth Removal Inspector	1.00			
	Dog Officer	13,973			
	Animal Inspector	2,082			
	Animal Control Officer	2,082			
	Town Diarist	1.00			
	Keeper of the Town Clock	1.00			
	Conservation Land Manager	14.07			
	Parking Attendant	10.20			
	Graves Registration Officer	250			
	Emergency Management Director	1,270			
	Election Worker: Warden	Minimum Wage			
	Election Worker: Precinct Clerk	Minimum Wage			
	Election Worker: Inspectors (Checker)	Minimum Wage			

CHAPTER 215. WETLANDS

§ 215-1. Purpose and intent.

§ 215-2. Jurisdiction.

§ 215-3. Exceptions.

§ 215-4. Application.

§ 215-5. Permits and conditions.

§ 215-6. Notice and hearing.

§ 215-7. Presumptions.

§ 215-8. Regulations.

§ 215-9. Definitions.

§ 215-10. Security; site inspections.

§ 215-11. Enforcement.

§ 215-12. Burden of proof.

§ 215-13. Appeals.

§ 215-14. Relationship to state statute.

§ 215-15. Severability.

§ 215-1. Purpose and intent.

Groton's extensive and complex wetland systems are fundamental to its landscape, ecology, drinking water supplies and flood protection. The protection of wetlands in Groton is critical to the well-being and character of the community.

Groton's wetlands, natural landscape, and ecosystem are largely byproducts of an unusual concentration of glacial landforms, including extensive areas of ice channel fillings, drumlins, ground moraines and the remnants of Glacial Lake Nashua. In addition, deep bedrock valleys filled with glacial sediments define the courses of the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers. This concentrated and complex set of landforms created intricate and varied topography, soils and hydrology, resulting in an extraordinary array of wetlands, ponds, vernal pools, and streams.

All of Groton's drinking water is derived from municipal or private wells. The groundwater that supplies these wells is intimately connected with these wetland systems, which filter, cleanse, and infiltrate water. The protection of both the wetlands themselves and their surrounding lands is essential to the protection of Groton's drinking water.

Groton's complex hydrological hydrologic systems and associated upland areas are also central to its rich and diverse ecosystem, including concentrations of rare and endangered species. Approximately two thirds of Groton lies within with state designated Estimated and Priority Habitats for Rare and Endangered Species. The Massachusetts BioMap 2 project designates 67% of Groton as Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape. And approximately 88% of Groton has been designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. All of these speak to both the local and the regional importance of Groton's wetlands.

The purpose of this chapter is to protect the wetlands, related water resources, and adjoining land areas in the Town of Groton by controlling activities determined by the Conservation Commission to be likely to have a significant or cumulatively detrimental effect upon any wetland resource area or value protected by this chapter, including but not limited to the following interests and values; protection of public or private water supply, groundwater, flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, water quality, water pollution control, fisheries, wildlife and wildlife habitat, rare plant or animal species and habitat, agriculture and aquaculture, recreation and aesthetic values. To that end, it is the intent of this chapter to protect additional wetland resource areas and interests, and to impose additional standards and procedures stricter than those of the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL C. 131, § 40.

§ 215-2. Jurisdiction.

Except as permitted by the Conservation Commission or as provided in this chapter, no person shall commence to remove, fill, dredge, build upon, degrade, discharge into or otherwise alter any of the following resource areas protected by this chapter (collectively, "wetland resource areas"): any wetland, including, but not limited to, any freshwater wetland, marsh, wet meadow, bog, swamp, vernal pool, creek, beach or bank, reservoir, lake, pond of any size, land under any water body or within 100 feet of any of the aforesaid resource areas; any river or stream, including land within 200 feet of same; or any land subject to flooding or inundation by stormwater, groundwater or surface water.

§ 215-3. Exceptions.

A. This chapter shall not apply to any emergency project or agricultural emergency as defined in the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL C. 131, § 40, or regulations thereunder. No application or permit shall be required for maintaining, repairing or replacing, but not substantially changing or enlarging, an existing and lawfully located structure or facility used in the service of the public to provide electric, gas, sewer, water, telephone, telegraph, or other telecommunications service, provided that written notice has been given to the Commission prior to commencement of work, and provided that all work conforms to performance standards and design specifications in the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

B. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the alteration of any existing residential, business or institutional building or Customary Physical Appurtenance thereto (i.e., in an area that has already been altered) within an adjacent upland resource shall be regulated per the provisions of the Presumptions and standards as defined in Section §215-7.A.(3).

§ 215-4. Application.

A. Permit application (notice of intent, request for determination of applicability, abbreviated notice of resource area delineation).

(1) Written application shall be filed with the Commission to perform activities in or affecting resource areas protected by this chapter. The permit application shall include such information and plans as are deemed necessary by the Commission to describe proposed activities and their effects on the resource areas protected by this chapter. No activities shall commence without receiving and complying with a permit issued pursuant to this chapter.

(2) The Commission may, where it deems it appropriate, accept as the permit application and plans under this chapter the notice of intent, request for determination of applicability, abbreviated notice of resource area delineation and plans required to be filed under the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL C. 131, § 40, and regulations thereunder, at 310 CMR 10.00 et seq.

B. Request for determination of applicability (RDA) Any person desiring to know whether or not a proposed activity or an area is subject to this chapter may, in writing, request a determination of applicability (RDA) from the Commission. Such a request for determination of applicability shall be submitted in such form as is required by regulations adopted hereunder, and may include such information and plans in addition to that required under the Wetlands Protection Act as are deemed necessary by the Commission.

C. Coordination with other boards. Any person filing a permit application with the Commission shall at the same time provide such copies of same in the number and manner provided in the regulations to such Town boards and/or officers as the regulations provide. The Conservation Commission shall transmit notice of the application and plan to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Planning Board, Department of Public Works, Groton Water Department and West Groton Water Supply District, and the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee, for their written recommendations. Failure to respond to the Conservation Commission within 10 days shall indicate no concerns by said agencies.

D. Fees.

(1) Application fee. At the time of a permit application or RDA, or application for certificate of compliance, the applicant shall pay a filing fee specified in regulations hereunder. The fee is in addition to that required by the Wetlands Protection Act. The fee shall be deposited in a special account established pursuant to Chapter 64 of the Acts of 2001, from which the Commission may withdraw funds without further appropriation for use only for wetland protection activities.

(2) Consultant fee. Upon receipt of a permit application or RDA, or at any point during the hearing process, the Commission may require an applicant to pay a fee for the reasonable costs and expenses borne by the Commission for specific expert engineering and other consultant services to assist the Commission in reaching a final decision on the application. The specific consultant services may include, but are not limited to, performing or verifying the accuracy of resource area survey and delineation; analyzing resource area functions and values, including wildlife habitat evaluations, hydrogeological and drainage analysis; and researching environmental or land use law. The Commission may adopt regulations providing for the deposit of such funds in a special account established pursuant to Chapter 64 of the Acts of 2001, which provides for the administration of the consultant fee funds in the same manner as provided in MGL C. 44, § 53G.

(3) The Commission may waive the filing fee, consultant fee, and/or costs and expenses for a permit application or RDA filed by a Town officer or agency.

§ 215-5. Permits and conditions.

A. If the Commission, after a public hearing, determines that the activities which are subject to the permit application, or the land and water use which will result therefrom, are likely to have a significant individual or cumulative effect upon the wetland resource area values and interests protected by this chapter, the Commission shall, within 21 days of the close of said hearing, issue or deny an order of conditions for the activities requested.

B. In any order of conditions it issues, the Commission shall impose conditions which it deems necessary or desirable to protect such values and interests, and all activities shall be done in compliance with those conditions. In imposing conditions, the Commission shall take into account the cumulative adverse effects of loss, degradation, isolation, and replication of protected resource areas throughout the community and the watershed, which have resulted from past activities, permitted and exempt, or which may result from foreseeable future activities.

C. The Conservation Commission may grant an order of conditions for projects within wetland resource areas if it determines that the granting of such an order of conditions will result in a significant public or environmental benefit and that, because of the characteristics of the land, the proposed alterations, and/or proposed mitigation measures, the interests of this chapter will be maintained.

D. The Commission is empowered to deny a permit for the applicant's failure to meet the requirements of this chapter; to submit necessary information and plans requested by the Commission; to meet the design specifications, performance standards, and other requirements in regulations of the Commission; to avoid or prevent unacceptable significant or cumulative effects upon the wetland resource areas or interests protected by this chapter; or where it finds that no conditions are adequate to protect such values and interests.

§ 215-6. Notice and hearing/meeting.

A. Any person filing a permit application (notice of intent or abbreviated notice of resource area delineation) with the Commission at the same time shall give written notice thereof, by certified mail (return receipt requested), by certificates of mailing, or hand-delivered, to all abutters at their mailing addresses as shown on the most recent applicable tax list of the Assessors, including owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or way, and abutters to the abutters within 300 feet of the

property line of the applicant, including any in another municipality or across a body of water. The notice to abutters shall have enclosed a copy of the permit application with plans, or shall state where copies may be examined and obtained by abutters. An affidavit of the person providing such notice, with a copy of the notice mailed or delivered shall be filed with the Commission. A Request for Determination of Applicability does not require a formal public hearing; therefore abutters notifications are not required as part of an RDA filing. However, a legally noticed public meeting is required to review an RDA. When a person requesting a determination of applicability is other than the owner, the notice of the public meeting and the determination itself shall be sent by the Commission to the owner as well as to the person making the request.

B. The Commission shall otherwise commence its public hearing or meeting within 21 days of the receipt of a completed notice of intent, request for determination of applicability or abbreviated notice of resource area delineation, provided that written notice thereof has been provided, at the expense of the person making the request, at least five business days prior to said hearing or meeting by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the town. Said time period may be extended if authorized in writing by the applicant.

C. The Commission may, in the exercise of its reasonable discretion, and with the permission of the Applicant, continue the hearing from time to time to a date certain announced at said hearing for reasons stated, which reasons may include but are not limited to: curing any defect in notice; allowing additional testimony or documents as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the Commission; and/or obtaining comment or recommendation of any municipal board or officer referred to in § 215-4 above. If permission for a continuance is not granted the Commission may deny the permit if it believes that important information is not available.

D. In all other respects, hearings shall be as provided in MGL C. 131, § 40, and regulations thereunder.

§ 215-7. Presumptions.

A. Adjacent upland resource areas are presumed significant to the protection of wetland resources and interests because activities undertaken in close proximity to resource areas have a high likelihood of adverse impact upon the wetland or other resources, either immediately, as a consequence of construction, or over time, as a consequence of daily operations or maintenance of such activities. Such adverse impacts from construction and use include, without limitation, erosion, siltation, loss of groundwater recharge, degradation of water quality and loss of wildlife habitat.

(1) Prohibited activity. For the aforementioned reasons, the adjacent upland areas, within 200 feet of rivers and streams and 100 feet of other wetland resource areas protected by this chapter, are deemed valuable resources under this chapter. Therefore this chapter strictly limits any disturbance within adjacent upland areas by prohibiting the following activities or uses unless approved and done in compliance with the Regulations and standards adopted under this chapter:

- (a) Disturbance of any existing vegetation within 50 feet of any freshwater wetland, except for removal of invasive vegetation only.
- (b) Erection of permanent buildings, including, but not limited to, barns, garages, or attached structures.
- (c) Construction of parking lots or use of land for parking of motor vehicles.
- (d) Construction or installation of any portion of a new sanitary waste disposal system, including the grading required for the primary and reserve systems.
- (e) Placement or maintenance of dumpsters or refuse containers.
- (f) Construction of driveways or retaining walls
- (h) Grading, except for minor grading as defined in the Regulations adopted under this chapter.

(2) Order of conditions. The following activities may be allowed within adjacent upland areas by an order of conditions and subject to such conditions as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate to preserve the wetland resource areas and interests protected by this chapter:

- (a) Planting of native vegetation or habitat management techniques determined by the Conservation Commission to enhance the wetland values protected by this chapter.

- (b) Construction and maintenance of unpaved access paths of not more than four feet in width for nonmotorized usage.
- (c) Maintenance of existing structures, utilities, stormwater management structures and paved roads.
- (d) Pruning for the purpose of vista maintenance, or for removal of diseased or invasive vegetation, if done in compliance with standards provided in the regulations.
- (e) Construction of new utility lines where the Commission determines that the proposed route is the best environmental alternative.
- (f) Sanitary waste disposal system maintenance and, if a system has failed, repair or replacement meeting local and state standards, provided that the maximum feasible buffer is maintained.
- (g) Construction of an accessory structure associated with an existing building where the Commission finds that no practicable alternative site outside the adjacent upland area is available; the size and impact of the proposed structure have been minimized; and the structure is located so as to minimize impact on the resource area.
- (h) Limited project as defined in the Wetlands Protection Act.

(3) Standards for altered areas: Within an adjacent vegetated upland resource with existing residential, business, commercial or institutional buildings or Customary Physical Appurtenances the Commission may issue an Order of Conditions for a project, provided that it finds that the proposed alterations will not have significant adverse impacts on that specific portion of the adjacent upland area or associated wetlands and that there is no reasonable construction alternative that would reduce impacts to the resource area.

B. Seasonal wetlands are presumed to provide essential breeding and rearing habitat functions, which presumption, in the case of any seasonal wetland which has not been certified as a vernal pool by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, may be overcome by demonstration to the Commission by a preponderance of credible evidence that the basin, depression or area does not provide the habitat functions specified in the bylaw and regulations for identification of noncertified vernal pools.

§ 215-8. Regulations.

After public notice and public hearing, the Commission may promulgate regulations to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, and to provide for filing fees and procedures, and for consultant fees as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate. Failure to promulgate such regulations, or the invalidation by a court of law of one or more of such regulations, shall not act to suspend or invalidate any provision of this chapter.

§ 215-9. Definitions.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or regulations of the Commission, the definitions of terms in this chapter shall be as set forth in the Wetlands Protection Act, which terms, as used herein, shall include the provisions of MGL C. 131, § 40, and regulations thereunder at 310 CMR 10.00 et seq (WPA).

B. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF RESOURCE AREA DELINEATION (ANRAD)

This form (WPA Form 4A) provides a procedure for an applicant to confirm the precise boundaries of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) or other resource areas.

ADJACENT UPLAND RESOURCE AREA

Shall include lands within 100 feet of any freshwater wetland; marsh; flat; wet meadow; bog; swamp; vernal pool; bank; reservoir, lake or pond of any size; creek, beach or land under water bodies, and lands within 200 feet of rivers and streams.

ALTER

Shall include, without limitation, the following activities when undertaken to, upon, within or affecting wetland resource areas protected by this chapter:

- (1) Removal, excavation, or dredging of soil, sand, gravel, or earth materials of any kind;
- (2) Changing of preexisting drainage characteristics, flushing characteristics, salinity concentration, sedimentation patterns, flow patterns, or flow retention characteristics;
- (3) Drainage, or other disturbance of water level or water table;
- (4) Dumping, discharging, or filling with any material which may degrade water quality;
- (5) Placing of fill, or removal of material, which would alter elevation;
- (6) Erecting or placing buildings or structures of any kind, including driving of piles;
- (7) Placing of obstructions in water;
- (8) Cutting or destruction of vegetation, including cutting of trees;
- (9) Changing temperature, biochemical oxygen demand, or other physical, biological, or chemical characteristics of any waters;
- (10) Any activities, changes, or work which may cause or tend to contribute to pollution of any body of water or groundwater; and
- (11) Incremental activities that have, or may have, a cumulative adverse impact on the resource areas protected by this chapter.

BANK

Shall include the land area which normally abuts and confines a water body: the lower boundary being the mean annual low flow level, and the upper boundary being the first observable break in the slope or the mean annual flood level, whichever is higher.

BUILDING:

A structure having a roof or cover and forming a shelter for persons, animals or property.

CUSTOMARY PHYSICAL APPURTENANCE

Any structural adjunct to a residential, commercial, business or institutional building including but not limited to septic systems, garages, sheds, decks, porches, driveways, sidewalks, wells and associated piping and pumping equipment, stairways, retaining walls, docks, lawns, gardens, and landscaped and other developed areas.

FRESHWATER WETLAND

Shall include all wetlands whether or not they border on a water body. For the purposes of this chapter, lakes or ponds of any size, all bordering vegetated wetlands, as well as isolated vegetated wetlands shall be protected.

NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)

This form (WPA Form 3) is filed by an applicant who proposes to do work within 100 feet of a wetland resource area or 200 feet of a stream protected by the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act or the Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

PERSON

Shall include any individual, group of individuals, association, partnership, corporation, company, business organization, trust, estate, administrative agency, public or quasi-public corporation or body, including the Town of Groton, and any other legal entity, its legal representatives, agents, or assigns.

RARE SPECIES

Shall include, without limitation, all vertebrate and invertebrate animal and plant species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, regardless of whether the site in which they occur has been previously identified by the Division.

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY (RDA)

This form (WPA Form 1) is filed by a person desiring to know whether or not a proposed activity, or an area, is subject to this chapter. A Request for Determination of Applicability can also be filed by any concerned citizen of Groton who wishes to know if wetlands exist within 100 feet of a site proposed for development. Minor projects within the 100-foot Buffer Zone are also considered under this filing category.

SEASONAL WETLAND

Shall include any confined basin or depression subject to flooding or inundation and which contains temporary bodies of water during periods of high groundwater level, spring runoff, snowmelt, or heavy precipitation, for a minimum of two continuous months during spring or summer in most years and which are capable of supporting populations of obligate vernal pool species, and are therefore presumed to provide essential breeding and rearing habitat functions for amphibian, reptile, or invertebrate species.

STREAM

Shall include all rivers and streams shown on the current U.S.G.S. map.

STRUCTURE

Any construction, erection, assemblage, or other combination of materials upon the land made in such a manner as to indicate a purpose that it remains in position indefinitely.

VERNAL POOL

(1) Shall include any confined basin or depression which, at least in most years, holds water for a minimum of two continuous months during spring and/or summer, and which is free of adult predatory fish populations, as well as the area within 100 feet of the mean annual boundary of such a depression, and presumptively includes seasonal wetlands, regardless of whether the site has been certified as a vernal pool by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

(2) The adjacent upland resource area for vernal pools shall extend 100 feet from the mean annual high-water line defining the depression, or one-half of the distance between the vernal pool and any existing house foundation, whichever is smaller. In either case, the adjacent upland resource area for vernal pools shall not extend over lawns, gardens, and landscaped or developed areas existing as of the effective date of this chapter.

§ 215-10. Security; site inspections.

A. As part of a permit issued under this chapter, in addition to any security required by any other municipal or state board, agency, or official, the Commission may require that the performance and observance of the conditions imposed thereunder, including conditions requiring mitigation work, be secured wholly or in part by one or more of the following methods:

(1) By a proper bond or deposit of money or negotiable securities or other undertaking of financial responsibility sufficient in the opinion of the Commission to insure completion of proposed work or conditions of any permit, said security to be released in whole or in part upon issuance of a certificate of compliance for work performed pursuant to the permit.

(2) By conveyance, with consent of the applicant, of a conservation restriction, easement, or other covenant enforceable in a court of law, executed and duly recorded by the owner of record, running with the land to the benefit of the Town of Groton, acting through the Conservation Commission, and providing that the permit conditions shall be performed and observed before any lot may be conveyed other than by mortgage deed.

B. It shall be a condition of every application for a permit or RDA that the applicant assent to the entry by the Commission or its agent to the subject property at reasonable times for the purpose of conducting site inspections to determine wetland boundaries and the compliance with or violation of this chapter or any permit or determination thereunder.

§ 215-11. Enforcement.

A. No person shall remove, fill, dredge, build upon, degrade, or otherwise alter resource areas protected by this chapter, or cause, suffer, or allow such activity, or leave in place unauthorized fill, or otherwise fail to restore illegally altered land to its original condition, or fail to comply with a permit or an enforcement order issued pursuant to this chapter.

B. The Commission, its agents, officers, and employees shall have authority to enter upon privately owned land for the purpose of performing their duties under this chapter and may make or cause to be made such examinations, surveys, or sampling as the Commission deems necessary, subject to the Constitutions and laws of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Permission to enter land of any applicant shall be granted as a condition of any application and of any permit issued hereunder.

C. The Commission is authorized to enforce this chapter and its regulations, and any orders or permits issued thereunder, by violation notices, administrative orders, and/or civil and criminal court actions. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter may be ordered to restore the property to its original condition, to take such other action as deemed necessary by the Commission to remedy such violation, or may be fined, or any combination of the foregoing.

D. In addition to any other remedy available in law or in equity, any person who violates any provision of this chapter, regulations, permits, or order of the Conservation Commission issued thereunder, may, at the option of the Conservation Commission, be subject to noncriminal prosecution pursuant to MGL C. 40, § 21D, in which case the following penalties shall apply, with each day constituting a separate offense:

- (1) First offense: \$50.
- (2) Second offense: \$100.
- (3) Third and subsequent offense: \$300.

E. The provisions of this chapter and regulations, or of any permit or order issued thereunder, may be enforced by the Conservation Commission, by its agents, by a Commissioner so authorized by vote of the Conservation Commission, or by any police officer of the Town.

§ 215-12. Burden of proof.

The applicant for a permit shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of credible evidence that the work proposed in the permit application will not have unacceptable significant or cumulative effect upon the resource area values protected by this chapter. Failure to provide adequate evidence to the Commission supporting this burden shall be sufficient cause for the Commission to deny a permit or grant a permit with conditions.

§ 215-13. Appeals.

A decision of the Commission shall be reviewable on the record of proceedings in Superior Court in accordance with MGL C. 249, § 4.

§ 215-14. Relationship to state statute.

This chapter is adopted pursuant to the Town of Groton's Home Rule powers and is independent of the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL C. 131, § 40 and/or regulations thereunder (WPA). It is the intent of this chapter to create resource areas, interests, definitions and performance standards that impose more stringent regulation than that imposed by MGL C. 131, § 40.

§ 215-15. Severability.

The invalidity of any section or provision of this chapter shall not invalidate any other section or provision thereof, nor shall it invalidate any permit or determination issued hereunder.

Chapter 205. VEHICLES, UNREGISTERED

GENERAL REFERENCES

The purpose of this chapter is to regulate and control unregistered and disassembled motor vehicles within the Town of Groton, to protect the views along the Town's publicly traveled ways and to keep the visual impact of such vehicles on the adjacent neighborhoods to a minimum. Any motor vehicle which does not have a displayed, valid license plate will be considered unregistered for purposes of administration and enforcement of this chapter.

§ 205-2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

CONCEALED: No visible evidence of the vehicle discernible at boundaries of the property.

MOTOR VEHICLE: Any motor vehicle as that term is defined in Chapter 90, Section 1 of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

JUNK VEHICLE: A motor vehicle which is worn out, cast off or discarded, or which has been collected or stored for salvage or for stripping in order to make use of the parts thereof. Any parts from such a vehicle shall also be considered a "junk vehicle" for purposes of this chapter.

INOPERABLE VEHICLE: any Motor Vehicle or Trailer (as defined in said Chapter 90, section 1), that is not capable of being used as such in its existing condition by reason of being damaged, dismantled or failing to contain parts necessary for operation. Any Unregistered Vehicle, as defined herein, shall be considered an Inoperable Vehicle for the purposes of this chapter.

UNREGISTERED VEHICLE: any motor vehicle or trailer that is not registered in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 2.

§ 205-3. Conditions of permissible storage.

A. In no event shall an unregistered motor vehicle or parts thereof be permitted to remain on a property for more than 30 days without being concealed.

B. The provisions of subsection A shall not apply to motor vehicles designed and used for farming purposes, nor to persons and firms legally operating an automotive or trucking enterprise, nor to persons or firms in lawful exercise of licenses granted under MGL Chapter 140, §§ 58 and 59, as amended.

C. Notwithstanding Subsections A and B above, a permit to store or park any unregistered, junk or inoperable vehicles may be granted by the Board of Selectmen or its appointed designee if it finds that such:

- (1) Is in keeping with and complies with the general purpose and intent of this chapter.
- (2) Will not adversely affect the neighborhood in which the vehicle will be located by reason of unsightliness.
- (3) Will not be a nuisance.

Any such permit will contain an expiration date, not to exceed one year. Permits may be renewed upon application made to the Board of Selectmen prior to the expiration date.

Applications for permits or renewal of permits shall be in accordance with Chapter 273 of the Code of Groton and the provisions of this Chapter.

§ 205-4. Administration.

- A. The Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to adopt and, from time to time as necessary, to amend reasonable rules and regulations for the administration and enforcement of this chapter and to set such (nonrefundable) fees as may be required for the administration thereof, but only after a public hearing.
- B. A copy of this chapter and any rules and regulations pertaining thereto shall be attached to each copy of an application form and made available to all applicants for a permit under the provisions of § 205-3.
- C. The Selectmen shall notify all abutters within 300 feet of the property of a scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen to consider the granting of a permit.
- D. The Selectmen may designate an officer or agent of the Town to inspect the property and vehicles in question, and prepare a report describing the condition of the same.
- E. All permit decisions must be in writing, giving the reasons for approval or disapproval.

§ 205-5. Enforcement

- A. This Bylaw may be enforced by the Police Department, Building Commissioner, or other designee of the Board of Selectmen.
- B. If the enforcing person determines that a violation has occurred, written notice shall be sent to the property owner. Violations shall be subject to the penalties stated in §205-6, starting on the fourteenth day after this notice is sent.

§ 205-6. Violations and penalties.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a penalty as follows:

\$25 per day for each of the first seven days of violation

\$50 per day for each day of violation from the eighth day to the fourteenth day

\$100 per day for each day of violation thereafter.

Each vehicle in violation shall be considered a separate violation.

Noncriminal disposition. As an alternative to criminal prosecution or civil action, the Town may elect to utilize the noncriminal disposition procedure set forth in MGL C. 40, § 21D, which has been adopted by the Town in the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 1, § 1-4, Complaints, in which case the Board of Selectmen or authorized agent shall be the enforcing person.

Town of Groton
Board of Selectmen
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