

MINUTES

TOWN OF GROTON



2021 SPRING TOWN MEETING

**Groton-Dunstable Middle School Track
342 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450**

Beginning Saturday, May 1, 2021 @ 9:00 AM

Rain Date – Sunday, May 2, 2021 @ 1:00 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***

Introduction to Groton Town Meeting

Voters are familiar with casting ballots in local and state elections, but they have another important civic duty in towns, the Town Meeting.

What is Town Meeting?

The Town Meeting is the legislative body in the town form of government in Massachusetts. Town Meeting is a formal gathering of registered voters who propose, debate and vote on measures. Groton holds at least two Town Meetings per year.

What is a warrant?

The warrant is the official notice to voters that a Town Meeting is scheduled. The warrant includes the date, time, location and a description of each subject to be acted on at Town Meeting. In Groton, the warrant must be posted in two public places and mailed to each household 14 days in advance of Town Meeting. “The warrant must contain a sufficient description of what is proposed so as to constitute an adequate warning to all the inhabitants of the town.”¹ “Every action taken at the meeting must be pursuant to some article in the warrant and must be within the scope of such article.”²

How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive a voting card which is required to vote. The meeting typically acts on the articles in the order they are printed in the warrant. For each article, a main motion is made and seconded by voters and placed by the moderator on the floor for debate. Permission of the moderator is required to speak. The moderator presides and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and calls and declares all votes. After debate has ended, the moderator will call for a vote by a show of voter cards. If the vote is too close to call by sight or if seven voters immediately question the moderator’s declaration of the vote, the moderator will order a hand count to confirm the vote.

Who can attend?

Town Meeting is open to the public. Only Groton voters are entitled to attend, speak and vote. Non-voters may be required to sit in a separate section. Non-voters may ask the moderator to speak on the topic of the debate.

How long is town meeting?

¹ *Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law* (page 12) Johnson, Trustman and Wadsworth, Third Edition, 2001.

² *Id.*

Town Meeting concludes when all articles on the warrant have been acted upon. Town Meeting may conclude in one session or adjourn for subsequent sessions.

Pandemic Safety Procedures for Town Meeting

Due to the pandemic, the Spring Town Meeting will be held outdoors on the field behind the Florence Roche Elementary School. Voters and non-voters attending the meeting are asked to follow these procedures:

- Attendees should wear masks, even while speaking, and observe social distancing whenever possible.
- Keep at least 6-feet of distance from others while in the voter check-in line.
- Voters should arrive early, check-in, receive a voter card, and proceed directly to a seat.
- A cart will be available for anyone who needs assistance moving from the parking lot to the field.
- Single and household-pair seating will be six or more feet apart and should not be moved. Attendees may bring their own chairs.
- Children may accompany parents and are asked to bring a seat for the child. Families with two or more children are asked to provide their own chairs.
- Voters will speak from their seats when called on by the moderator. Wireless microphones will be brought by an usher and sanitized between uses.
- Voting will be by raised voter card and not by voice.
- Anyone unable to wear a mask may sit in a reserved section with a dedicated microphone.
- There will not be a break for lunch, but Town Meeting attendees are urged to bring a bagged lunch so that the Town Meeting can be completed in one day, if possible.
- At the end of the meeting, voters are asked to observe social distancing while exiting the field.

Rain Date: In the event of inclement weather, the Town Meeting will be held the following day, May 2nd at 1 p.m. in the same location. If the Town Moderator postpones the meeting, notice will be made on the town website, posted in three public places, and through news and social media.

Please direct questions regarding the meeting procedures to Jason Kauppi, Town Moderator, at moderator@grotonma.gov or call 978-391-4506.

Explanation of a Consent Agenda

A consent agenda is a procedure to group of multiple main motions into a single motion for voting. A consent agenda saves time by eliminating the reading of multiple motions and explanations when there are no objections or questions. In Groton, a consent agenda generally consists of articles unanimously supported by the Select Board and Finance Committee. Articles that change by-laws or introduce new spending are typically not included. In this warrant, the Select Board has grouped articles in consent agendas and labeled them for easy reference.

How Consent Agendas Work

As the first step to act on a consent agenda, the moderator will read the titles of the included articles. A voter who wishes to remove an article from the consent agenda for separate debate and vote should state “hold.” The held article will be set aside and acted on after the vote on the consent agenda. After

the meeting agrees on the contents of the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every motion included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail as a group. Voters should read the warrant and review the proposed consent agendas to identify articles they wish to remove for separate consideration.



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.

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 for this Town Meeting will be provided adjacent to the Florence Roche Elementary School.

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. 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 the Select Board's Office at Town Hall at 978 448-1111 at least one week before the Town Meeting.

2021 SPRING TOWN MEETING OFFICIALS
MEETING DATE : MAY 1, 2021

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator

Michael Bouchard

Board of Selectmen:

Allison Manugian, Chair
Joshua A. Degen, Vice-Chair
Becky Pine
John Giger
John Reilly

Finance Committee:

Colby Doody
Gary Green, Vice-Chair
Scott Whitefield
Mary Linskey
David Manugian
Bud Robertson, Chair
Art Prest

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Town Clerk:

Michael F. Bouchard

PROCEEDINGS:

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM on May 1, 2021 outside at the track behind the Florence Roche School. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided.

There is no quorum requirement for this Annual Town Meeting. 375 voters attended the meeting.

Announcements:

Bob Colman was recognized for his dedicated service to the Town. Bob will be leaving to become a stay-at-home Dad. Ashley Doucette, newly appointed Cable Access Director, was welcomed.

The Town Election will be held on May 25. The ballot will contain all town offices and Ballot Question #1 to authorize borrowing to fund the construction of a new elementary school. Precinct 1 will vote at The Center, 163 West Main Street, and Precincts 2 and 3 will vote at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School (North), 344 Main Street. In-Person Early Voting will take place at Town Hall from May 17 – 20, during normal business hours. Absentee and Early Vote By Mail applications are now available through the Town Clerk's Office.

Candidates Night will be held on Tuesday, May 4 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

John Giger, who is not running for re-election for the Select Board, was recognized for his years of service on the Planning Board, Regional School Committee, Select Board and numerous committees since 2007.

The Moderator wished to thank the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee, the Maintenance Staff and Stasia Twomey, Town of Groton Department Heads and the Groton Police Department for their assistance in holding the meeting at this location.

Kathy Shelp is resigning as Council on Aging Director. Kathy was appreciated for her service to Groton.

Face masks are required. If an individual cannot wear a mask, please maintain social distance.

A moment of silence was observed for Grotonians who have passed since the last meeting.

The Meeting took the Pledge of Allegiance.

Stuart Schulman was recognized for his service as Deputy Moderator, and numerous other service to the Town. Michael Bouchard was appointed by the Meeting as Deputy Moderator for a term of one year. The Moderator administered the oath.

Procedures to be used on May 1 as the coronavirus pandemic is still prevalent:

- There will be no voice votes, only votes by raising voter cards
- Wireless mics will be brought to speakers
- There are 31 articles on the warrant with 57 Motions and 4 Consent Agendas.
- The main proponent and opponent of an article will be allowed 7 minutes in which to present their argument.

MOTION – Limit Debate

MOVER: Michelle Collette

I move that debate be limited to three minutes for each speaker, with the exception of the main proponent and opponent of each article, and at the discretion of the moderator.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3rds Majority

Vote of Motion to Limit Debate: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

The timekeeper will be Dawn Dunbar.

Tellers were sworn: Bob Garside, Megan Foster, Patricia Dufresne, Takashi Tada, Shawn Campbell, and Nik Gualco,

The Moderator determined that the warrant was duly posted. The reading of the warrant was waived by Majority vote.

2021 SPRING TOWN MEETING MINUTES - MAY 1, 2021

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 Track in said Town on Saturday, the first day of May, 2021 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the twenty-fifth day of May, 2021, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., at an adjourned session thereof at the following locations:

Precinct 1	The Groton Center 163 West Main Street	Precincts 2 & 3	Middle School North Gymnasium 346 Main Street
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to give their ballots for:

Vote for One	Board of Assessors	3 Years
Vote for One	Board of Health	3 Years
Vote for One	Select Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for Two	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	2 Years
Vote for Three	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Town Clerk	3 Years
Vote for One	Town Moderator	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Trustees of the Groton Pubic Library	2 Years
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	3 Years

QUESTION 1:

Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued for the purpose of funding the design and construction of a new kindergarten through fourth grade elementary school with an approximate square footage of 109,855 square feet located at 342 Main Street in Groton, Massachusetts, inclusive of abatement and demolition of the existing school structures on said property, new parking lots, relocation and construction of the existing track, various other site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

YES_____ NO_____

ARTICLE LISTINGS

CONSENT MOTION #1 – Articles 1 through 4		Passed
Article 1:	Hear Reports	
Article 2:	Elected Officials Compensation	
Article 3:	Wage and Classification Schedule	
Article 4:	Appropriate FY 2022 Contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund	
CONSENT MOTION #2 – Article 5 Operating Budget		Passed
Article 5:	Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Operating Budget	
Article 6:	Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget	Passed
Article 7:	CPA Project Funding for Replacing Middle School Track	Passed
Article 8:	Florence Roche Elementary School Construction	Passed
Article 9:	Engineering Funds – Whitney Pond Treatment Facility	Passed
Article 10:	Engineering Funds – Whitney Pond Well #3	Passed
Article 11:	Extend Groton Center Sewer District	Passed
Article 12:	Grant Easement for Sewer Connection – 227 Boston Road	Passed
Article 13:	Community Preservation Funding Accounts	Passed
CONSENT MOTION #3 – CPA Funding Recommendations		Passed (1)
Article 14:	Community Preservation Funding Recommendations	
Article 15:	Amend Zoning Bylaw – Clarifications	Passed
Article 16:	Bylaw Prohibiting Polystyrene Containers	Passed
Article 17:	Citizens' Petition – Transfer Control of Land	Did Not Pass
CONSENT MOTION #4 – Articles 18-31		Passed
Article 18:	Current Year Line-Item Transfers	
Article 19:	Appropriate Funding to Offset Snow and Ice Deficit	
Article 20:	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	
Article 21:	Transfer Within the Sewer Enterprise Fund	
Article 22:	Transfer Within Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund	
Article 23:	Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund	
Article 24:	Prior Year Bills	
Article 25:	Authorization to Transfer Money from Free Cash	
Article 26:	Authorization to Transfer Money from Free Cash	
Article 27:	Debt Service for Surrenden Farm	
Article 28:	Assessors' Quinquennial Certification	
Article 29:	Establishing Limits for Various Revolving Funds	
Article 30:	Accept Law Increasing Real Estate Tax Exemptions	
Article 31:	Accept Provisions of M.G.L., c.59, §5, Clause 22F	
	Budget Report of the Town Manager and Finance Committee to Town Meeting	
	Appendix A – Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Operating Budget	
	Appendix B – Fiscal Year 2022 Wage and Classification Schedule	

(1) Some CPA Funding Recommendation Motions “Held” and Voted Separately

CONSENT MOTION #1 – Articles 1 through 4

Mover: John Reilly

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #1) ARTICLE 1: HEAR REPORTS

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

SELECT BOARD

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions and to accept the annual report and other reports that may be presented to Town Meeting.*

MOTION: I move that the Town's 2020 Annual Report be accepted and placed in the permanent records of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #1) ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

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

SELECT BOARD

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager. The Town Clerk is proposed to receive a salary of \$90,853 in FY 2022 and the Moderator is proposed to receive a salary of \$65 in FY 2022.*

MOTION: I move that the following compensation be set for the following elected officials for the ensuing year:

Town Clerk	\$90,853
Town Moderator	\$ 65

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #1) ARTICLE 3: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2022 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD
TOWN MANAGER**

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to set the wage and classification schedule for the three (3) employees (Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, Human Resources Director and IT Director) covered by the Personnel Bylaw. Under the policy of the Select Board, these employees receive the same benefits as contained in the Town Supervisors' Union Contract. These employees will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in Fiscal Year 2022.*

MOTION: I move that the Town of Groton Wage and Classification Schedule be amended and adopted for Fiscal Year 2022 as printed in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2021 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #1) ARTICLE 4: APPROPRIATE FY 2022 CONTRIBUTION TO THE OPEB TRUST

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

SELECT BOARD

TOWN MANAGER

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. The Select Board and Finance Committee have adopted a funding policy for this purpose. One of the funding goals is to commit to an annual appropriation to the Trust that would keep the Net Present Value Liability from growing until such time as the Town can begin to pay down the liability. In Fiscal Year 2022, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$177,094. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$177,094 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

MOTION: I move that the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand and Ninety-Four Dollars (\$177,094), be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

The Moderator read the title of each article in **CONSENT MOTION #1**. No "Holds" were requested.

VOTE on CONSENT MOTION #1: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 5: FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2022), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
SELECT BOARD
TOWN MANAGER**

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *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 the Spring Town Meeting. The budget handout for this Article is contained in Appendix A of this Warrant. Please also see the Finance Committee's and Town Manager's Report which includes the Finance Committee's and Select Board's recommendations.*

CONSENT MOTION #2 – Operating Budget

Mover: Bud Robertson

I move that the town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 14, under Article 5, as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided however that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific budget motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Moved and Seconded

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

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MOTION: I move that Two Million One Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Four Hundred Ten Dollars (\$2,153,410) be hereby appropriated for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$14,035 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) and the sum of \$2,139,375 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 2: LAND USE DEPARTMENTS

MOTION: I move that Four Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$452,856) be hereby appropriated for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$5,167 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) and the sum of \$447,689 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 3: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY

MOTION: I move that Four Million Three Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$4,362,268) be appropriated for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$46,860 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); the sum of \$300,000 be appropriated from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; and the sum of \$4,015,408 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: SCHOOLS

(CONSENT MOTION #2) a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

MOTION: I move that the sum of Eight Hundred Seven Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$807,474) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 in Appendix A of the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION b.A: I move that the sum of Twenty-Four Million, Twenty-Three Thousand, One Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$24,023,134) be hereby raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by lines 1410 through 1413 as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION b.B: I move that the sum of Two Hundred Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Eight (\$217,298) be hereby transferred from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District to pay for the capital assessment from said School District as represented by line 1414 in Appendix A of the Warrant.

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

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 5: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: I move that Two Million Two Hundred Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$2,202,359) be hereby appropriated for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, \$16,645 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) and \$2,185,714 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 6: LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

MOTION: I move that the sum of One Million Six Hundred Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$1,660,560) be hereby appropriated for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1703 as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$15,904 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) and \$1,644,656 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 7: DEBT SERVICE

MOTION: I move that One Million Eight Hundred Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$1,880,887) be hereby appropriated for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2007 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation the sum of \$91,974 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) and the sum of \$1,788,913 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 8: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

MOTION: I move that the sum of Four Million Three Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$4,339,499) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 3000, 3002, 3010, 3011 and 3012 in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 9: WATER ENTERPRISE

MOTION: I move that One Million Four Hundred Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars (\$1,404,564) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Water Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town of the Groton Water Enterprise Fund as represented in the Water Enterprise Budget in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$1,183,579 be appropriated from Water Rates and Fees; the sum of \$50,000 be hereby transferred from Water Enterprise Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$170,985 in the Town's General Fund Operating Budget be raised and appropriated to be allocated to the Water Enterprise for FY 2022.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 10: SEWER ENTERPRISE

MOTION: I move that Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars (\$798,747) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town for the Groton Sewer Enterprise Fund as represented in Appendix A of the Warrant; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$728,061 be appropriated from Sewer Rates and Fees; the sum of \$35,837 be hereby transferred from

Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$34,849 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2022.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 11: LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Five Dollars (\$215,905) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Cable Access Commission to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursements to the Town of the Local Access Cable Enterprise Fund as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant report; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$116,670 be appropriated from Local Access Cable Fees; the sum of \$33,921 be hereby transferred from Local Cable Access Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$65,314 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Local Access Cable Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2022.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 12: FOUR CORNERS SEWER ENTERPRISE

MOTION: I move that Sixty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$68,769) be appropriated for a Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant report; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$42,450 be appropriated from Four Corners Sewer Rates and Fees; and the sum of \$26,319 be hereby transferred from Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 13: STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$209,753) be appropriated for a Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the Stormwater Utility Enterprise as shown in Appendix A of the Warrant report; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$209,753 be hereby transferred from Stormwater Utility Rates and Fees.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #2) MOTION 14: ELECTRIC LIGHT

MOTION: I move that the income from sales of electricity to private customers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings, together with receipts from jobbing accounts, be appropriated for the Groton Electric Light Department, the whole to be expended by the Manager of the Groton Electric Light Department under the direction and control of the Groton Board of Electric Light Commissioners, for expenses of the Department for Fiscal Year 2022,

2021 Spring Town Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2021

as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the Mass. General Laws, and that, if said sum and said income shall exceed said expense for said year, such excess shall be transferred to the construction fund of said plant and appropriated and used for such additions thereto as may thereafter be authorized by the Board of Electric Light Commissioners.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

The Moderator read the title of each article in **CONSENT MOTION #2**. No “Holds” were requested.

VOTE on CONSENT MOTION #2: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 6: FISCAL YEAR 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget, or to take another other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Summary: *The following is the proposed Town Manager’s Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022:*

Item #1 – Engine 1 Refurbishment	\$225,000	Fire/EMS
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Summary: *Engine 1 is a truck that is currently in good condition thus making it a prime candidate for a refurbishment to extend its life. Proactive refurbishment before major issues occur can save significant money on major unexpected repairs and lengthen the life of the Truck. Due to its level of use, the refurbishment of Engine 1 would be best served in FY 2022 to minimize corrosion caused by salt and weather.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #2A – Dump Truck	\$60,000	Highway
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Summary: *In Fiscal Year 2018, Town Meeting approved a bond for \$185,000 to purchase a new Dump Truck for the Highway Department, with the intent to pay it back over five years. The appropriation this year is the fourth of five payments for this truck.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #2B – Dump Truck	\$185,000	Highway
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Summary: *This vehicle is a scheduled replacement of a front-line truck responsible for plowing and sanding as well as normal construction duties. The anticipated cost of replacement of this truck is \$185,000. It is proposed that the Town borrow the funds through State House notes and pay off the debt over five years. The Town will begin repaying the bond on this Truck in Fiscal Year 2023.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #3 – IT Infrastructure

\$40,000

Town Facilities

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established ten years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2022, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: 10 replacement computers; replace aging servers and storage arrays; investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; and network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #4 – Municipal Building Repairs

\$25,000

Town Facilities

Summary: *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in our municipal building infrastructure. In FY 2022, these funds will be used to perform brick pointing on Town Hall by the back door as well at Legion Hall.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #5 – Tractor Trailer Unit

\$20,000

Transfer Station

Summary: *At the 2018 Spring Town Meeting, the Meeting authorized the acquisition of a new Tractor Trailer Unit for the Transfer Station by borrowing the necessary funds (\$140,000) through the Commonwealth's State House Notes method and pay off the debt over four years. This will be the final payment for the Unit.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #6 – Reconstruct Library Parking Lot

\$45,000

Library

Summary: *The parking lot behind the Library has been patched and repaired, but in FY 2022 it will be 23 years old. It is worn, tired, cracking, not draining water properly, and becoming uneven in spots. It will need a full and complete reconstruction.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #7 – Property Improvements \$25,000 Park Department

Summary: *The Park Commission has been working over the past several years developing a strategy to address deficiencies in the various Park Department Properties located throughout Groton. By appropriating \$25,000 each year, the Park Commission can develop a capital improvement program that will allow them to keep our various park locations in good shape and avoid a major construction project.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #8 – Golf Carts \$25,000 Country Club

Summary: *Eight years ago, the Country Club 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 \$25,000. Beginning in FY 2022, the Club will need to replace the Carts. In an effort to support the Town's move to "green" energy, the Club will begin a trial of electric carts by replacing the current fleet with 21 gas powered carts and 4 electric carts. The Club will take the next few years testing out electric carts on the course, while looking to construct the infrastructure necessary to convert to an all-electric cart fleet.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #9 – Cart Path/Tee Box Repairs \$10,000 Country Club

Summary: *This funding will be used to extend the Cart Path from the fourth hole green to the fifth hole forward tee. In addition, it will pay for repairs to the second hole tee box.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #10 – Country Club Roof \$50,000 Town Facilities

Summary: *This is a needed replacement of the roof on the main building. The Tavern Building's roof was repaired four years ago. The back of the main building is in reasonable shape, but the front of the building is need of replacement.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #11 – Police Cruisers

\$100,000

Police Department

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

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

TOWN MANAGER

Mover: Joshua Degen

ARTICLE 6 - MOTION A: I move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000), be appropriated to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase and equip a new Dump Truck for the Highway Department, and for the payment of all costs associated and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$185,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purchase, and, further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Moved and Seconded

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

VOTE on Article 6 – Motion A: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 6 - MOTION B: I move that Six Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$625,000) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the capital items shown below; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$100,000 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); the sum of \$50,000 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town; and, the sum of \$425,000 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Engine 1 Refurbishment	\$225,000	Fire/EMS
Dump Truck	\$ 60,000	Highway
IT Infrastructure	\$ 40,000	Town Facilities
Municipal Building Repairs	\$ 25,000	Town Facilities
Tractor Trailer Unit	\$ 20,000	Transfer Station

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Reconstruct Library Parking Lot	\$ 45,000	Library
Property Improvements	\$ 25,000	Park Department
Golf Carts	\$ 25,000	Country Club
Cart Path/Tee Box Repairs	\$ 10,000	Country Club
Country Club Roof	\$ 50,000	Town Facilities
Police Cruisers	<u>\$100,000</u>	Police Department
Total	\$625,000	

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- **Q: Why is a Dump Truck listed in both Motions A and B?**
 - **R: There are two dump trucks. Motion A is authorization to borrow for one truck. Payments on that truck will begin in FY2023. Motion B is to pay the last payment (previous debt) on a second truck.**
- **Q: Given green energy initiatives, why are only 4 electric golfs carts being purchased?**
 - **R: The cost of new infrastructure to sustain a full fleet of electric golf carts is too expensive at this time. The Town will purchase 4 electric carts now with an option to replace the entire fleet of gas carts (with electric carts) in two years. This will afford time to build the infrastructure to support the electric carts if it is affordable.**
- **Q: Please explain the financial status of the Country Club.**
 - **R: The Country Club is not revenue neutral in FY20 due to the pandemic. In FY19, the Club generated \$60,000 positive cash flow, Negative \$160,000 in FY20, \$80,000 positive in FY21 and is anticipated to have a positive cash flow in FY22.**

VOTE on Article 6 – Motion B: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 7: CPA RECOMMENDATION – MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws, to construct a new Middle School Track, and all costs associated and related thereto, and to implement such recommendation, borrow pursuant to any applicable statute and/or appropriate a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws, said funds to be expended by the Town Manager, or to take other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)

Summary: *The sitework expenses associated with the Florence Roche Elementary School Project campus track relocation are not eligible for reimbursement through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Approval of this Article will authorize the track relocation expenses to be paid for with Community Preservation Funds. These funds include an annual state match to local dollars; construction costs for residents will be reduced by over half a million dollars. Relocation of the track will only occur if the Florence Roche Elementary School Project is approved at Town Meeting and at the Ballot.*

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION: I move to adopt and approve the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee established pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5 of the General Laws, and to appropriate One Million Four Hundred and Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Four Dollars (\$1,405,374) to construct a new Middle School Track, and for the payment of all costs associated and related thereto, and to implement such recommendation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$1,405,374, to be expended by the Town Manager, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purchase, and, further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- **Ms. Gilbert presented on behalf on the Elementary School Building Committee.**
 - **Article 7 is intended to reduce the cost of the new elementary school. As the feasibility study concluded that the present site was the most cost-effective and educationally beneficial site for the new school, the current track will be displaced. Replacing the track using CPA finds will allow the school construction bonding to be lower by \$1,405,374. If Article 7 is not passed, Article 8 will be amended to request the cost of the track.**
 - **It is estimated that using CPA funds to build a new track, along with estimated state CPA reimbursement, will save Groton taxpayers \$600,000.**
- **Q: What happens with Article 7 if Article 8 fails at town meeting or if the ballot question fails?**
 - **R: Article 7 will become moot. Funds will revert back to the CPC.**
- **Q: Is it necessary to have a track at the Middle School?**
 - **R: Yes. There is a big track program here. The track is used by many organized groups and also gets a lot of use by members of the community at large. The alternative for the school programs would be to bus to the high school, which involves significant cost and presents scheduling challenges.**
- **Q: Why isn't this article being presented with the other CPA motions?**

- R: Article 7 is being presented before Article 8 because Article 7's outcome will determine the amount of money requested in Article 8, and needed to be determined before Article 8 was discussed.
- Q: Is the \$1.4m in Article 7 accounted for in the CPC recommendations and allocations?
 - R: The \$1.4m will be bonded with a first payment in FY23. There is no impact to the current (FY22) CPC recommendations or allocations for this town meeting.
- Several comments from attendees that the track is heavily used.

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 7 – Main Motion: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 8: FLORENCE ROCHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of Florence Roche Elementary School Building Committee, for the design and construction of a new kindergarten through fourth grade elementary school, known as the Florence Roche Elementary School, with an approximate square footage of 109,855 square feet located at 342 Main Street in Groton, Massachusetts, inclusive of abatement and demolition of the existing school structures on said property, new parking lots, relocation and construction of the existing track, various other site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto, which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years and for which the Town may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"). The Town acknowledges 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 Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town. Any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-three and thirty-nine hundredths' percent (53.39%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; or to take any other action relative thereto.

FLORENCE ROCHE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *An extensive Feasibility Study of K-4 education of Groton students has determined that the most cost effective and educationally beneficial solution is to rebuild the Florence Roche Elementary School on the current parcel. The relocation of the Middle School Track is an incidental cost to the Florence Roche Elementary School Building Project. As outlined in the GDRSD Regional Agreement, capital expenses are assessed to each member town based on the five-year rolling enrollment average per building. Because no Dunstable students have attended Florence Roche in recent years the cost of the Florence Roche Elementary School construction is the sole responsibility of*

the Town of Groton. Approval of this Article allows for short-term borrowing of funds for construction. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) reimbursements will be made during the construction phase. Approval of this Article allows for long term consolidation of borrowed funds once construction has been completed; which is estimated to be in 2025. As stated in the Article, a Debt Exclusion of Proposition 2½ at the Annual Town Election will also be required.

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriates the amount of Seventy-Six Million Four Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Three Hundred Sixty dollars (\$76,495,360) for the purpose of paying costs of the design and construction of a new kindergarten through fourth grade elementary school with an approximate square footage of 109,855 square feet located at 342 Main Street in Groton, Massachusetts, inclusive of abatement and demolition of the existing school structures on said property, new parking lots, relocation and construction of the existing track, various other site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto (the "Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Florence Roche Elementary School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c. 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town acknowledges 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 Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-three and thirty-nine hundredths percent (53.39%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by G.L. c. 59, §21C (Proposition 2½); and that the 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 Town and the MSBA. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- **Presentation by Marlena Gilbert, Chair of the Elementary School Building Committee**
 - **The 2016 school capital plan included replacement of the Florence Roche building. In 2019, a feasibility study was funded buy town meeting which looked at the condition of the current building, evaluation of all school owned space as an alternative to new building, enrollment projects, alternative locations, adding on the current building, and replacing FloRo.**
 - **The most cost effective plan to is build a new school building at the current location. It is recommended to build it behind the current school (where the track is) because it's cost effective and educationally effective. The Mass**

School Building Association's (MSBA) criteria is met with the design. All square footage is reimbursable, which is not the norm. The school is expected to have a 50 year life. Enrollment is projected to be 645. Students. Groton currently has approximately 125 students attending Swallow Union in Dunstable, and they would return to this school in Groton.

- Why not renovate and leave the 125 student to attend the Swallow Union School in Dunstable?
 - There would be no MSBA reimbursement for a renovation of the current building. The cost of a renovation project is estimated at \$52m. In addition, when Swallow Union is expected to need significant investment is 10-15 years, Groton would be responsible for its share. The net cost of Articles 7 and 8 will be \$54m. Also note that the Swallow Union school really doesn't have adequate space for students. Program space is shared.
- The Project Manager presented an overview of the proposed school's design. Highlights of the design include an off-street location which enhances student safety, a playground accessible without crossing a street, significant greenspace, a tailored design to meet educational needs, energy efficiency, and natural daylight. In addition, the use of the current school during construction reduces costs, and the students get to see the construction I progress.
- The Select Board was unanimous in support of this Article.
- Q: Are there components of the design that are not educationally necessary and could reduce costs if not included?
 - R: The design does not include unnecessary components. The MSBA has approved the design for educational programs and occupant safety and well being. Superintendent Chesson reiterated that the MSBA would not have approved anything "extra" to educational necessity.
- Q: What happens if there is a growth in population or programs?
 - R: MSBA and NESDEC have projected Groton enrollment for the next 20 years. A pre-school program could be added in this space. A mix of ½ day and full day kindergarten programs give flexibility and work well with this space.
- Q: What happens to the Swallow Union school? Will Groton be responsible for repairs if our students don't go there?
 - R: Once Groton students have left Swallow Union, Groton will not be financially responsible for that building.
- Q: Will a reduction in Groton students at Swallow Union allow for the reduction of administrative costs?
 - R: Administrative costs are district wide. There will still be a principal at Swallow Union, even though there are 125 less students. There will be not increase or reduction in operating expenses as a result of the new school building.
- Q: Does the \$76m included Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E)? Does it include contingency?
 - R: The budget includes all costs, including FF&E.
- Q: What is the contingency amount?
 - R: There is a 5% contingency for hard (construction) costs, and a 5% contingency for soft costs. Costs escalators have also been used. Mr. Haddad added that whole \$76m is the requested amount, it will be temporary borrowing. Permanent financing will not be sought until the project is complete and the actual costs are known.

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 8 – Main Motion: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 9: ENGINEERING FUNDS – WHITNEY POND TREATMENT FACILITY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, to pay costs of engineering design services and owners project manager services related to improving the Whitney Pond Water Treatment Facility, commencing in fiscal year 2021, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Water Commissioners: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Board of Water Commissioners to expend the sum of \$722,300, to be raised through water rates, for the Design Engineering Services and the Owners Project Manager Services related to the new Manganese Treatment Facility at the Whitney Pond Well Site.*

Mover: Greg Fishbone

MOTION: I move that Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$722,300) be appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, to pay costs of engineering design services and owners project manager services related to improving the Whitney Pond Water Treatment Facility, commencing in Fiscal Year 2021, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$722,300, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8(4) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purchase, and, further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- Mr. Fishbone explained that this engineering was to design a facility to reduce manganese in the water supply.
- Q: Will this address PFAS or other contaminants?
 - R: No. It is being designed to be modified to address PFAS if it's needed.
- Q: Will this proposed facility have capacity to handle a new well?
 - R: Yes
- Q: If one has a private well, what is the impact?
 - R: This facility will not address private wells. It will be funded by ratepayers, not taxpayers.

VOTE on Article 9 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 10: ENGINEERING FUNDS – WHITNEY POND WELL #3

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, to pay costs of engineering design services and owners project manager services related to developing the new Whitney Pond Well #3, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Water Commissioners: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Board of Water Commissioners to expend the sum of \$300,000, to be raised through water rates, for the Design Engineering Services and the Owners Project Manager Services related to the new source well at the Whitney Pond Well Field (Whitney Pond Well #3).*

Mover: Greg Fishbone

MOTION: I move that Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) be appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, to pay costs of engineering design services and owners project manager services related to developing the new Whitney Pond Well #3, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$300,000, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8(3A) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purchase, and, further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Moved and Seconded

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

VOTE on Article 10 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 11: EXTEND GROTON CENTER SEWER DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to extend the “Groton Center Sewer District” as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, to include the property shown on Assessors’ Map 109, Lot 43-0 (108 Pleasant Street) but only for the exclusive use of 108 Pleasant Street, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner’s proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to expand the Center Sewer District to include 108 Pleasant Street, Groton.*

Mover: Jim Gmeiner

MOTION: I move that the “Groton Center Sewer District” as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, be extended to include the property shown on Assessors’ Map 109, Lot 43-0 (108 Pleasant Street) but only for the exclusive use of 108 Pleasant Street unless otherwise provided by applicable law, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner’s proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, by the assessment of betterments or otherwise.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- **Sewer Commission:** After a public hearing, it voted unanimously to recommend this article to town meeting. One abutter attended the hearing and voiced support. There is sufficient sewer capacity. The applicant’s septic system is in failure. The extension is only for the house known as The Elms.

- There are conservation restrictions on other parcels in this property which prevent new construction.
- Mr. Collins (for the applicant) noted that installing a sewer line preserves the exceptional landscaping on the property and reiterated that no additional construction is possible on the property.
- Q: Can the existing house be expanded?
 - R: There is sewer capacity to accommodate this. However, the applicant intent is to preserve the property and is applying as such.

VOTE on Article11- Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 12: GRANT EASEMENT FOR SEWER CONNECTION – 227 BOSTON ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant an easement to Christine R. and Kevin J. Lindemer, and their successors and assigns, for the purpose of placing and maintaining a subsurface sewage disposal line to service 227 Boston Road below existing grade surface and under the surface of Town owned property under the control of the Select Board located at 94 Lovers Lane, shown on Assessors Map 115, Parcel 34, Recorded Deed Book 20265, Page 302 at the South Middlesex Registry of Deeds, as shown on the plan on file with the Office of the Town Clerk, on terms and conditions deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interest of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

SELECT BOARD

Select Board: No Recommendation (3 In Favor, 2 Opposed – Degen, Manugian)

Finance Committee: Recommended (5 In Favor, 0 Against, 2 Abstain – Green, Doody)

Summary: *The 2018 Fall Town Meeting approved the extension of the Groton Central Sewer District to 227 Boston Rd. The extension will allow for the development of one additional house lot, connection of the existing house, and conversion of the barn to residential use. The extension will be a private connection and will not extend beyond the confines of what is currently 227 Boston Rd. The work will be done using directional drilling from the site of the new house lot and is not expected to result in surface disturbance except for a small area at the point of connection to the town sewer at the edge of the golf course across from Johnson's Restaurant. The owners of 227 Boston Rd. (Kevin and Christine Lindemer) will pay for the cost of construction and connecting to the existing sewer line. It is anticipated there will be no cost to the Town of Groton for the connection and maintenance. In addition, if the work is completed as envisioned, property tax revenue to the Town of Groton will increase in addition to the added town sewerage fees.*

Mover: Rebecca Pine

MOTION: I move that the Select Board be authorized to grant an easement to Christine R. and Kevin J. Lindemer, and their successors and assigns, for the purpose of placing and maintaining a subsurface sewage disposal line to service 227 Boston Road below existing grade surface and under the surface of Town owned property under the control of the Select Board located at 94 Lovers Lane, shown on Assessors Map 115, Parcel 34, Recorded Deed Book 20265, Page 302 at the South

Middlesex Registry of Deeds, as shown on the plan posted on the Town's website, on terms and conditions deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interest of the Town.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- **Mr. Lindemer asked the meeting to support this article. At a previous town meeting, the sewer district had been extended for the purpose of connecting his property. He plans to build a new house on the property, keep the existing house, convert the barn into two dwelling units and decommission the existing septic. This article is to authorize the Select Board to enter into a negotiation to grant an easement to run the private sewer line under a portion of the golf course. Mr. Lindemer will be responsible for all costs of installation, maintenance and repair.**
 - **There are two easements to install the private sewer line; a temporary construction easement and a permanent sewer line easement. The line will be install underground using direction al drilling. There will be minimal disruption to the golf course, and that would be at the standpipe across the street from Johnson's restaurant where a manhole will need to be installed.**
 - **Mr. Lindemer had the value of this easement appraised. The appraisal stated that there would be no damage to the course, and potentially add value to the course should it ever be developed as the sewer would be available 9howeveer a private line). The easement was valued at \$2300 to the town, would result in an additional \$20-\$30k in taxes as a result of the proposed development, and would avoid the installation of two septic systems and decommission the existing septic.**
 - **There are two steps necessary for Mr. Lindemer to complete before he can begin his project: this town meeting vote to authorize the Select Board to negotiate an easement on town land, and successful negotiations.**
 - **Mr. Lindemer stated that the alternative of running the private line under Route 119 was much more expensive and potentially disruptive to the road because of Mass DOT requirements, which are complicated and specifies more engineering requirements than would be necessary with the easement.**
- **Concern was expressed by Select Board members that granting this an easement for private use over (under) town land would set a precedent. Concern was also expressed that the attractiveness of the and could be impacted should alternative use be considered.**
- **Q: Could this be considered a public sewer line, but the cost of installation borne by Mr. Lindemer?**
 - **R: Mr. Gmeiner, Chair of the Sewer Commission, stated that the Commission would prefer the line to be private to avoid potential public costs. There are no plans to extend the public sewer any further down Route 119.**
- **Q; Was the previous vote of town meeting to expand the sewer district to the Lindemer's property for the purpose of accommodating a function hall only, or did the presentation at that time identify the dwelling units.**
 - **R: The previous town meeting presentation did include the construction of a new house, keeping the existing house, and the use of the barn as a seasonal function hall. Mr. Lindemer stated that plans had changed to drop the plan for**

a function hall, but rather convert the barn into two dwelling units. His intent is to preserve the barn for the long term, and it needs a revenue stream.

- Mr. Robertson, Chair of the Finance Committee, commented that he thought the granting of an easement would be a “win-win” for the town and the Lindemers. It would unlock value in the Lindemer property and the town gets additional tax revenue. He commented that he didn’t see “downside” risks.
- A member of the public commented that a 99 year lease would be a preferred option as future technology could allow the town to reclaim the land while still allowing for this sewer service.
- Ms. Pine restated that this article is not granting an easement, only authorizing the Select Board to negotiate an easement.

MOTION to MOVE THE QUESTION:

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE on MOTION to MOVE THE QUESTION: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

VOTE on Article 12-Main Motion: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 13: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION 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:	\$ 20,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 78,490
Unallocated Reserve:	\$528,930

or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Select Board: *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 2022. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting*

Mover: Bruce Easom

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

CPC Operating Expenses: \$ 20,500
Open Space Reserve: \$ 78,490
Historic Resource Reserve: \$ 78,490
Community Housing Reserve: \$ 78,490
Unallocated Reserve: \$528,930

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

VOTE on Article 13- Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 14: 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 2022, 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 Select Board, 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.

Mover: Bruce Easom

CONSENT MOTION #3 - CPA Funding Recommendations

I move that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 11, under Article 14, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided however that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority (as originally moved)

[Town Clerk Note: Mr. Easom stated that he is a member of Squannacook Greenway and the CPC. As such, he stated that he did not participate in any of the CPC project discussions].

The Moderator read the titles of each CPC Proposal. Proposals that were held from Consent Motion #3 by the Meeting were:

Proposal D (Motion 4)	Site Assessment Study
Proposal E (Motion 5)	Squannacook River Rail Trail
Proposal G (Motion 7)	Housing Coordinator
Proposal H (Motion 8)	Groton Dunstable Field Restoration Plan
Proposal I (Motion 9)	Conservation Fund
Proposal J (Motion 10)	Multi-Use Recreational Courts

These proposals were voted separately.

CONSENT MOTION #3 included these CPC Proposals after Proposal were “Held”:

Proposal A (MOTION 1) Maintenance and Mausoleum Restoration
Proposal B (MOTION 2) Field and Recreation Feasibility Study
Proposal C (MOTION 3) Non-Point Sources of Pollution
Proposal F (MOTION 6) Duck Pond Restoration, Phase 2
Proposal K (MOTION 11) Original Interior Skylight Restoration

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote (after Proposals were “Held”): Majority

VOTE on CONSENT MOTION #3 (after Proposals were “Held”): Passed by Unanimous Vote

(CONSENT MOTION #3) CPC Proposal A: Maintenance and Mausoleum Restoration \$65,000

Summary: *The Groton Cemetery Association is requesting \$65,000 in CPA funds to repair and restore both the Maintenance Building and the Mausoleum located at the Groton Cemetery. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)*

MOTION 1: Maintenance and Mausoleum Restoration

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-01 “Maintenance and Mausoleum Restoration”.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #3) CPC Proposal B: Field and Recreation Feasibility Study \$20,000

Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$20,000 in CPA funds to carry out a Feasibility Study that would include Cow Pond Fields, Woitowicz Field, and Cutler Memorial Field, to determine that they are providing maximum and safe playing surfaces on their acreage while correcting the issue of parking and travel on their properties. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (5 In Favor, 1 Against – Svarczkopf, 1 Abstain – Easom)*

MOTION 2: Field and Recreation Feasibility Study

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-02 “Field and Recreation Feasibility Study”.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #3) CPC Proposal C: Non-Point Sources of Pollution \$40,000

Summary: *As part of the continuation of the Lost Lake/Knops Pond Long-Term Lake Management Plan, the Great Pond Advisory Committee and the Groton Lakes Association is seeking \$40,000 in CPA funds to complete a major component of this plan namely the dataset identifying the non-point sources of pollution entering Lost Lake and the development of a mitigation plan to correct these problems. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)

MOTION 3: Non-Point Sources of Pollution

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-03 “Non-Point Sources of Pollution.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(HELD) CPC Proposal D: Site Assessment Study \$75,000

Summary: *The Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) is exploring possible locations for the development of affordable housing. As part of this process, the AHT is seeking \$75,000 in CPA funds to pay for investigatory pre-development and engineering work and/or expert advice in order to assess the costs and feasibility of any potential site for development. Funds may also be used to prepare grant applications to support the creation of affordable housing. Either town-owned or privately-owned parcels may be considered and evaluated. The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board: No Recommendation (3 In Favor, 2 Against – Degen, Manugian)

Finance Committee: Recommended Against (3 In Favor, 4 Against)

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Deferred – Emerson, 1 Abstain – Easom)

MOTION 4: Site Assessment Study

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-04 “Site Assessment Study”.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Select Board voted 3-2 in favor of Motion 4.
- Ms. Pine stated that home prices are escalating. She pointed out that municipal employees, police and teachers can't afford to live in Groton. Senior citizens looking to downsize have limited options in Groton due to the type of new housing stock. This study would be a first step to meet state and federal requirements regarding affordable housing.

MOTION to AMEND MOTION 4. Mover: Josh Degen

I move that the following be inserted at the end of the (Motion 4) Main Motion: "provided the Affordable Housing Trust not expend and of these funds for any purpose until after the Diversity Task Force holds its Affordable Housing Summit and issues an executive summary to the Groton Select Board no later than September 15, 2021."

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

- Mr. Degen stated that he fully supports the goal of creating affordable housing. He stated that there are many groups involved with this issue, and that groups are working in isolation. There will be an Affordable Housing Summit in June, 2021, which is an opportunity to define ways for groups to work together, and with the public to create a cohesive plan.
- Planning Board: Unanimous in support of (Motion 4) Main Motion
- Groton Housing Authority: Unanimous in support of (Motion 4) Main Motion
- Diversity Task Force: 9-0-1 in support of (Motion 4) Main Motion, and 5-4-0 in support of the amendment to Motion 4.
- Ms. Perkins stated that the amendment is inconsistent with the award of funding.
- State Representative Harrington rose to oppose the amendment, stating that the time to act is "now" and not wait 6 months, which could jeopardize access to unprecedented state and federal funding. She related accounts of current real and urgent needs in the community. She urged adoption of the (Motion 4) Main Motion.

MOTION to MOVE the AMENDMENT

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE on MOTION to MOVE the AMENDMENT: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

VOTE on MOTION to AMEND MOTION 4: Defeated

- Q: What is \$75,000 buying? Is there a timeline for the study? Will there be an action plan?
 - R: There are no "checkbook ready" projects. The goal is to get in line for state and federal funds and be able to present property that can be developed.

MOTION to MOVE ARTICLE 14 - MOTION 4:

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE on MOTION to MOVE ARTICLE 14 – Motion 4: Passed by Unanimous Vote

VOTE on Article 14 – Motion 4: Passed by Majority Vote

(HELD) CPC Proposal E: Squannacook River Rail Trail \$30,000

Summary: *Squannacook Greenways is requesting \$30,000 in CPA funds for construction of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) from the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area to the northern Crosswinds Drive crossing for a total distance of .65 miles. The construction of the entire SRRT is being conducted in phases due to environmental requirements which limit construction activity to a period of between November 15th and March 15th. Squannacook Greenways is also relying on DCR Trails grants to underwrite a large portion of construction costs and has been the successful recipient in the last two rounds of grant cycles. Squannacook Greenways will be applying for a DCR MassTrails grant for FY 2022 and will be relying on CPA funds as the local match requirement. If successful, it is their intention to commence construction in November, 2022. The amount of \$2,000 to be paid from the Open Space Reserve and the amount of \$28,000 to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)*

MOTION 5: Squannacook River Rail Trail

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and the sum of Twenty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$30,000, to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-06 “Squannacook River Rail Trail”.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- **Mr. Easom disclosed that he is a member of Squannacook Greenways and did not participate in any of the CPC discussion about Proposal D.**
- **The Conservation Commission issued a letter of support for Proposal D.**
- **The Trails Committee was unanimous in support of Proposal D.**
- **Mr. Cunningham presented that this trail is .65 miles of stone dust covered trail following the railroad along the Squannacook River in Groton.**
- **A resident abutting this section of the rail trail rose to identify significant noise and disruption from motorized vehicles using the rail trail, and road parking that hinders siteway. He found these issues very intrusive to the peaceful enjoyment of his property.**
- **It was stated by other residents living on the Nashua River Rail Trail (a different trail) that these issues were not experienced and that living on the rail trail was a positive experience.**
- **Q: Why is stone dust needed?**
 - **R: The stone dust will stabilize the trail’s surface. It will also make the rail trail accessible.**

- **Q: Will ATVs still be allowed on the rail trail?**
 - **R: No. It will be a non-motorized trail.**
- **Q: Will horse be allowed?**
 - **R: Yes**
- **Q: What is the plan for parking?**
 - **R: Bertozzi Woods has limited parking. There is parking in Townsend for the rail trail. Street parking is regulated by police regulations.**
- **Q: Who enforces keeping motorized vehicles off the rail trail?**
 - **R: the Environmental Police, MBTA Police and local police.**

VOTE on Article 14 – Motion 5 Main Motion: Passed by Majority Vote

(CONSENT MOTION #3) CPC Proposal F: Duck Pond Restoration, Phase 2 \$19,800

Summary: *The Great Pond Advisory Committee is requesting \$19,800 in CPA funds to help with the continuation of the restoration and preservation work completed during Phase 1 of the previously approved Duck Pond Restoration project. Phase 2 of this project will provide three years of funds for electricity to operate the Compressor (8 months / year), three water quality tests per year, periodic muck-depth measurements (“polling”), and a written final report. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)*

MOTION 6: Duck Pond Restoration, Phase 2

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$19,800) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-07 “Duck Pond Restoration, Phase 2”.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(HELD) CPC Proposal G: Housing Coordinator \$51,617

Summary: *This application is requesting \$51,617 in CPA funding from the Community Housing category to fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator position (25-hours/week). The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)*

MOTION 7: Housing Coordinator

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of Fifty-One Thousand Six Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$51,617) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-08 “Affordable Housing Coordinator”.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- **Mr. Haddad stated that this is has been an annual appropriation for the Housing Coordinator since FY2011. The position is for 25 hours per week, and has been very effective for the town.**

VOTE on Article 14 – Motion 7: Passed by Unanimous Vote

(HELD) CPC Proposal H: Groton Dunstable Field Restoration Plan \$230,232

Summary: *The Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee is requesting \$230,232 in CPA funds to use towards the renovations of the GDRHS Stadium Field and GDRHS Softball Field. After assessing the conditions of the 25 acres of athletic fields in the district, these two field restoration projects have been identified as needing to be completed in order for the fields to be considered safe and usable for the student athletes and community usage. This project will include total replacement and restoration of the stadium high school natural turf field and resolve tree overgrowth at the high school softball field to address the wet field preventing the use of the field. The Dunstable Community Preservation Committee is in support of funding Dunstable’s proportionate share of this project at \$74,268. GD@Play generously donated \$100,000 to offset the cost of this initiative. The purchase of equipment not included in the CPC request of a utility tractor, aerator attachments and top dresser will be purchased with this donation with the balance of \$18,500 to be applied to support the cost of the renovation of the stadium field. The amount of \$98,232 to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve and the amount of \$132,000 to be paid through a five-year Bond.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)

MOTION 8: Groton Dunstable Field Restoration Plan

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$230,232) be hereby appropriated to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-09 “Groton Dunstable Field Restoration Plan”; that to meet this appropriation the sum of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$170,232) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Unallocated Reserve; and further, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$50,000, to be expended by the Town Manager, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all

appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purchase, and, further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- **Ms. Gilbert stated that private fundraising has covered the full amount needed to restore the high school field, but that these funds would be used for equipment. The field is used for education purposes and is a community asset.**
- **Dunstable has agreed to make a percentage match to Groton's CPA contribution.**

VOTE on Article 14 – Motion 8: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

(HELD) CPC Proposal I: Conservation Fund FY 2022 \$350,000

Summary: *The Conservation Commission is requesting \$350,000 in CPA funds to be added to the Town's Conservation Fund to help preserve open space, protect water resources and wildlife habitat, and preserve land for agricultural, recreational, and forestry activities. The Conservation Fund allows the Town to move quickly in the event a priority parcel becomes available. In the past, the Conservation Fund has been used to purchase Conservation Restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and fee ownership of conservation land in the Town. The Commission's goal is to maintain an amount between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 in the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund balance is \$320,129. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

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

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)

MOTION 9: Conservation Fund

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-10 "Conservation Fund".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

Q: What will be done with this money?

R: this will increase the Conservation Commission fund balance. These funds can be spent on land and conservation restrictions. Often the Conservation Commission must act in "real time" make purchase decisions for Chapter 61 Agricultural Land,

with 120 day timeframes. This can be outside the window of a town meeting process, so the Commission needs funds to act quickly.

- **Q: What is the current balance for the Conservation Commission?**
 - **R: As stated in the warrant, \$320,000.**

VOTE on Article 14 – Motion 9; Passed by Majority Vote

(HELD) CPC Proposal J: Multi-Use Recreational Courts \$157,480

Summary: *Friends of Groton Pickleball is requesting \$157,480 in CPA funds to help fund the restoration project at the Groton Country Club that will create new multi-use recreational courts, consisting of 8 pickleball courts, 1 tennis court and a half of a basketball court. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)

MOTION 10: Multi-Use Recreational Courts

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$157,480) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-12 “Multi-Use Recreational Courts at the Groton Country Club, Restoration Project”.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- **Friends of Groton Pickleball presented that this proposal is to renovate the 4 dilapidated tennis courts located at the Country Club, and repurpose them to Pickleball courts, one tennis court and ½ basketball court. Private funds have been raised, but need to be supplemented. The operation of the courts will be self funding through lessons, court fees and tournaments, including a plan to resurface the courts in 8-10 years.**
- **The courts will be open to the public. It will cost \$3.00 to play. Reservations will be made through the Pro Shop.**
- **Q: Why not renovate all 4 tennis courts?**
 - **R: There is a plethora of tennis courts in town. Pickleball is very popular. The proposed renovation addresses this new recreation, which is a very fast growing and popular activity.**
- **Q: What are the revenue projections?**
 - **R: \$3,000 from fees and \$10,000 from tournaments, events and lessons, all to be applied to the long term maintenance needs.**
- **Q: Are other tennis courts available to the public?**
 - **R:: Yes**
- **Q: Who will maintain the courts?**
 - **R: The Country Club**

MOTION to MOVE the QUESTION (Article 14- Motion 10)

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rds Majority

VOTE on MOTION to MOVE the Question: Passed by 2/3rds Vote

VOTE on Article 14- Motion 10 Main Motion: Passed by Majority Vote

(CONSENT MOTION #3) CPC Proposal K: Original Interior Skylight Restoration \$3,000

Summary: *The Groton Public Library is requesting \$3,000 in CPA funds to restore and fortify the original piece of the building fabric that is part of the Library's original interior skylight. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Easom)

MOTION 11: Original Interior Skylight Restoration

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2022-13 "Original Interior Skylight Restoration".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 15: AMEND ZONING BYLAW – CLARIFICATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw as follows:

1. Amend Section 218-9.4 Attached Accessory Apartment by deleting the word "Attached" so it reads as follows:

"Section 218-9.4 Accessory Apartment"
2. Amend the Schedule of Use Regulations by deleting Row 103 in its entirety and replacing it with the following

Schedule of Use Regulations								
	R-A	R-B	NB	VB	GB	I	P	O
103. Accessory Apartments as regulated under Section 218-9.4								
A. Attached accessory apartment	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
B. Detached accessory apartment	PB	PB	N	N	N	N	N	N

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to cleanup and clarify various sections of the Zoning Bylaw.*

Mover: Russell Burke

MOTION: I move that the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapters 218-9.4 and 218-13 "Schedule of Use Regulations" be amended as set forth in the Warrant for the 2021 Spring Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority (Interpretation under Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020)

Moderator Statement regarding Quantum of Town Meeting Vote for Article 15: "Chapter 358 of the acts of 2020 reduced the number of votes to enacted certain kinds of zoning ordinances and bylaws from a 2/3s supermajority to a simple majority. Town Counsel has provided a written legal opinion that the quantum of vote needed to pass this motion is a simple majority."

Discussion:

- Planning Board voted on April 8, 2021 unanimously to recommend this article to Town Meeting

VOTE on Article 15 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 16: BYLAW PROHIBITING USE OF POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter 199 of the Code of the Town of Groton, entitled Polystyrene Container Restrictions for Food Service Establishments as follows:

Chapter 199: Polystyrene Container Restriction for Food Service Establishments

§ 199-1. Findings and Intent.

- Whereas, the Town has a duty to protect the health of its citizens and the natural environment.
- Whereas, Polystyrene sometimes known by Dow Chemical Co. brand name of Styrofoam is a synthetic plastic that biodegrades so slowly (hundreds of years) it is considered to be non-biodegradable.
- Whereas, expanded polystyrene containers are not part of the Town's regular recycling program.
- Whereas, styrene, the key ingredient in expanded polystyrene, was recently added to the National Toxicology Program's list of carcinogens (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) and can leach from containers into food and beverages.
- Whereas, polystyrene has become a significant component of plastic debris in the environment, is sometimes mistaken for food by animals including marine life, and thereby transfers toxic chemicals into the food chain.
- Whereas, appropriate alternative products are readily available from vendors and are already being used by many local businesses

§199-2. Effective Date.

This bylaw shall take effect January 1, 2022.

§199-3. Definitions.

Disposable food service container shall mean single-use disposable products for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-consume food or beverages, including, without limitation, take-out foods and/or leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared by a food establishment. This includes, but is not limited to plates, cups, bowls, trays, hinged or lidded containers, cups, lids, straws, and utensils. It does not include single-use disposable packaging for unprepared foods.

Polystyrene shall mean blown polystyrene (polystyrene that has been expanded or blown using a gaseous blowing agent into a solid foam) and expanded and extruded forms, which are thermoplastic petrochemical materials utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited to fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, form molding, and extrusion-blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene).

The term also includes clear or solid polystyrene, which is also known as "oriented," or referenced in this bylaw as "Rigid Polystyrene." Rigid Polystyrene is generally used to make clear clamshell containers, lids, and cutlery.

The term also includes products with a Polystyrene coating.

Fineable Offense is defined as a knowing or common use of item or items restricted by the by-law. Common use refers to item or items that are part of one's daily use.

Food establishment shall mean any food service operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, as further defined in 105 CMR 590.002 located within the Town of Groton. Any establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishment, 105 CMR 590.000, et seq., shall be considered a food establishment for purposes of this bylaw.

PFAS/PFOA shall mean per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals.

Prepared food shall mean any food or beverage prepared on the food establishment's premises using any cooking or food preparation technique. Prepared food does not include any raw uncooked meat, fish or eggs unless provided for consumption without further food preparation. Prepared food may be eaten on or off the food establishment's premises.

Acceptable replacement product shall mean any food container, disposable cutlery, or other limited use item provided with food meeting all functional and safety requirements and not containing Polystyrene or other known or emerging environmental contaminants such as PFAS/PFOA.

Town Facility shall mean any building, structure, land, or recreational area owned, leased, or operated by the Town of Groton.

§199-4. Prohibitions.

1. Except as provided herein, food establishments are prohibited from dispensing prepared food and drink in disposable food service containers made from polystyrene. All food establishments are required to use acceptable replacement products for such purposes. All food establishments are strongly encouraged to use reusable food service containers and cutlery, and when possible biodegradable, compostable alternatives. Compostable materials must meet ASTM (American Society of the International Association for Testing and Materials) Standards for compostability.
2. Town departments or agencies shall not purchase or use disposable food service containers and / or utensils made from polystyrene while in the performance of official Town duties within the Town of Groton.
3. Individuals, contractors, vendors, or other entities shall not use disposable food service containers and / or utensils made from polystyrene in a Town facility or Town property while acting or performing under a Town contract, lease, license, permit, grant, or other agreement.

§199-5. Variance.

1. Any food establishment or Town Department and its agencies may make a written application to the Board of Health for a variance from this bylaw.
2. Every application for a variance is subject to a public hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be posted as part of a public notice of the Board of Health meeting at which the application will be considered. Notice shall be posted no less than two weeks (14 calendar days) before the meeting.

3. By vote of a majority of its full authorized membership, the Board of Health may grant a variance in cases where a suitable biodegradable, compostable, reusable or recyclable alternative does not exist for a specific usage, and/ or enforcement of this bylaw would cause undue hardship to that food establishment or Town Department.
4. A variance may be granted for up to six months and extended for like periods upon submission of a renewal application.
5. Any variance granted by the Board shall be in writing.
6. A copy of the variance granted under this Section shall be available for public inspection on the premises for which it is issued.

§199-6. Enforcement, Penalties and Fines.

1. The Board of Health or its designee shall have primary responsibility for enforcement of this bylaw. This shall include establishment of regulations or administrative procedures, inspections, and issuance of citations for violations.
2. The Board of Health, after a hearing conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in 105 CMR 590.14 and CMR 590.15, may suspend or revoke the license or permit issued by the Board of Health for any establishment failing to comply with this bylaw.
3. A person, individually or by his servant or agent, who violates any provision of this bylaw may be penalized by a noncriminal disposition pursuant to MGL C. 40, § 21D, and the Town's noncriminal disposition bylaw. The following penalties apply:
 1. First offense -- a written warning specifying the violations and appropriate penalties for future violations
 2. Second offense -- \$100
 3. Third Offense -- \$200
 4. Fourth and subsequent Offense -- \$300

Fines for repeated violations in a one-year period are cumulative as provided in Chapter 1, Section 1-4B, of the bylaws.

§199-7. Severability.

If any provision of this bylaw or any application thereof is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity shall be limited to said provision(s) and the remainder of the bylaw shall remain valid and effective.

or take any action relative thereto.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The purpose of this by-law is to establish restrictions on the use of polystyrene in food containers. Polystyrene has been added to the US Department of Health and Human Services list of known carcinogens and may leach from food containers into food. Restricting the use of polystyrene food containers will have an immediate, positive impact on public health. Doing so will also benefit our environment by reducing solid waste because polystyrene cannot be recycled.*

Mover: Jason Weber

MOTION: I move that the Town amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter 199 of the Code of the Town of Groton, entitled “Polystyrene Container Restrictions for Food Service Establishments” as set forth in the Warrant for the 2021 Spring Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- **Jason Weber, Board of Health Chirr presented that:**
 - **Polystyrene is a suspected carcinogen**
 - **Polystyrene cannot be recycled and that it adds to the waste stream**
 - **No objections were made by local businesses during the public hearings**

VOTE on Article 16 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 17: CITIZENS’ PETITION - TRANSFER CONTROL OF LAND

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting that authorized a fee interest in 14 acres, more or less, of land to be owned by the Town and managed and controlled by the Select Board for all uses allowed by statute under the Community Preservation Act, said parcel located in the southwest corner of Lot 7 as shown on a Plan of Land entitled Community Preservation Act Acquisition by the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, prepared by Beals Associates, Inc. and dated April 21, 2006, and transfer said control to the Conservation Commission for open space and recreation purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS’ PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Nathan Shapiro	133 Shirley Road	Melanie O’Leary	21 Old Orchard Road
Mark Martel	10 Whiting Avenue	Dan O’Leary	21 Old Orchard Road
Ken Kolodzies	44 Farmers Row	Joshua Stark	9 Old Orchard Road
John Smigelski	150 Mill Street	Erin Stark	9 Old Orchard Road
Laurie Smigelski	150 Mill Street	Stacey Vow	43 Joy Lane

Select Board: Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Against – Manugian, Pine)
Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *This Article proposes to place the Surrenden Farm Reserve Parcel under the control of the Groton Conservation Commission and to restrict its use to open space or recreation. This will more permanently preserve the land, akin to its surrounding ~345 acres. In 2006 the Town of Groton, Groton School, the Groton Conservation Trust, the Trust for Public Land and others, raised \$19 million to rescue 360 acres of Surrenden Farm from building development. Conservation restrictions were placed on all of Surrenden Farm with the exception of a 14-acre parcel known as the Reserve Parcel. The Reserve Parcel is owned by the Town and is currently open space used for passive recreation. The Reserve Parcel is on the East side of Shirley Road, adjoining the Ayer town line to the South and the General Field to the East and North. Importantly, as part of the 2006 arrangements, the Town of Groton and Groton School entered into an agreement which provides that if the town allows the use of the Reserve Parcel for a use other than undeveloped land, then the Town would give the current Joy Lane to Groton School. To access the Reserve Parcel, the Town would then have to relocate Joy Lane to the General Field and upgrade the existing partially paved and partially dirt and gravel “way” that winds through the General Field into a widened two-lane road that meets Town Subdivision Road Standards, greatly altering the park-like feel and inhibiting the recreational use of the General Field. Since 2006, the General Field has become a much-used public space. The proponents of this Article believe that relocating Joy Lane to the General Field would have a significantly adverse effect on it. The proposed Article would transfer management and control of the Reserve Parcel to the Conservation Commission and restrict its use in order to preserve the Reserve Parcel and to make any use of the land that would trigger the construction of a road across the General Field unlikely.*

Mover: Nate Shapiro

MOTION: I move that the jurisdiction, care, custody, and control of a parcel of land shown on a Plan of Land entitled Community Preservation Act Acquisition by the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, prepared by Beals Associates, Inc. and dated April 21, 2006, be hereby transferred from the Select Board to the Groton Conservation Commission, for open space and recreation purposes.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- The Select Board voted 4-1 to support the article.
- The Nashua River Watershed Association supports the Article
- The Conservation Commission voted 4-2-0 to recommend support the article
- The Planning Board voted unanimously to support the article
- Mr. Shapiro presented that the 365 acre Surrenden Farm was purchased in 2006, of which the Town contributed \$5,000,000. 350 acres were placed into conservation; 15 were not. An agreement with Groton School stipulated that if these acres were ever used for anything other than open space, Joy Lane would be closed. There is public enjoyment of the space. If these 15 acres were placed into conservation, the space would be protected in perpetuity.
- Ms. Pine presented that if Joy Lane were to be closed, another access would be needed. Another access would infringe on conservation land, and be very hard to accomplish.
- Q: If this article passes, does it violate the terms of the purchase in 2006 (and requested an opinion from the Attorney General)?

- R: The terms of the 2006 purchase allows any use allowed by the Community Preservation Act, which this is believed to be. An Attorney General opinion would be sought if this article passes.
- Comment: This article is not necessary. This is not high value conservation land, as determined in 2006. The Joy Lane issue protects development on the land. It would be wiser to not put this 15 acres into conservation at this time, but keep it available should a need for the town to identify conservation land (e.g. a land swap). Why limit options on something that could happen decades from now.

VOTE on Article 17 – Main Motion (Teller count): 50 In Favor; 56 Against.

ARTICLES 18 THROUGH 31 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

CONSENT MOTION #4 – Articles 18 through 31

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

Moved and Seconded

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

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 18:

CURRENT YEAR LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

SELECT BOARD

Select Board: *In agreement with Article's withdrawal*

Finance Committee: *In agreement with Article's withdrawal*

Summary: *To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

MOTION: I move that Article 18 be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 19: APPROPRIATE MONEY TO OFFSET SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2021 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 4 of the 2020 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Select Board: *In agreement with Article's withdrawal*

Finance Committee: *In agreement with Article's withdrawal*

Summary: *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 21.*

MOTION: I move that Article 19 be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 20: TRANSFER WITHIN WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article will request a transfer of funds from Water Surplus to help fund the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Department's Operational Expenses. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$122,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

MOTION: I move that the sum of \$122,000 be transferred from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 21: TRANSFER WITHIN CENTER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

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To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2021 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$210,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

MOTION: I move that the sum of \$210,000 be transferred from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 22: TRANSFER WITHIN FOUR CORNERS SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2021 Four Corners Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$35,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

MOTION: I move that the sum of \$35,000 be transferred from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 23: TRANSFER WITHIN CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND

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To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Cable Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Cable Advisory Committee to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. As of the Printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$10,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

MOTION: I move that the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) be transferred from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2021 Cable Enterprise Department Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 24:

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.

SELECT BOARD

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

MOTION: I move that the sum of Eight Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$862.55) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) for the payment by the Town Manager of the following bills of a prior fiscal year:

Turf Unlimited	\$193.25
Tuft Unlimited	\$219.30
Turf Unlimited	\$200.00
A-1 Odd Jobs	<u>\$250.00</u>

Total \$862.55

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

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 25: AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM FREE CASH

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$71.92 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the FY20, 911 EMD Grant and furthermore, to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$167.16 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the FY20 911 Training Grant. The total to be charged to Free Cash for this purpose is \$239.08, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts routinely awards the Town of Groton grant money to be used for 911 Dispatch operations. These are reimbursable grants; the award is not forwarded to the Town until after the expense has been made. In regards to the 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 to close out these accounts for Fiscal Year 2021-year end.*

MOTION: I move to transfer the sum of \$71.92 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the FY20, 911 EMD Grant and, furthermore, transfer the further sum of \$167.16 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the FY20 911 Training Grant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 26: AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM FREE CASH:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,861.04 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the Fire Details Agency Account, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Town of Groton Firefighters routinely work private details when construction projects in Town involve blasting activities. These officers are compensated for their time through the Town's payroll, and the vendor requesting the detail is billed to recover those funds. Occasionally, one of these vendors is unable to pay for the service provided (for instance in the event of a business failure) and after attempts to work with that vendor prove unsuccessful, the receivable is judged uncollectible and must be written off.*

MOTION: I move to transfer the sum of \$1,861.04 from Free Cash to offset a deficit balance in the Fire Details Agency Account.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 27: 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 2022 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

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

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. This is the final year for paying off the Debt. The anticipated debt service for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$204,150. To fund this \$145,000 would be paid from the Open Space Reserve and \$59,150 would be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

MOTION: I move that, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$145,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and the sum of Fifty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$59,150) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve, for a total of \$204,150 to fund the Surrenden Farm debt service for Fiscal Year 2022.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 28: ASSESSORS QUINQUENNIAL CERTIFICATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Board of Assessors, for the purpose of completing the five-year full certification program necessary to achieve full and fair cash value in accordance with the requirements of G.L. c. 40, § 56 and c. 58, §§1, 1A and 3 and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *Assessors in every city and town are responsible for developing a Revaluation program to completely analyze and revalue all property within its borders every year. Revaluation annually, is required under Massachusetts law and is regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Bureau of Local Assessment (BLA). The rationale for revaluation is to always maintain property at fair market or fair cash value to ensure equity for all classes of property. Every fifth year the Massachusetts Department of Revenue requires a full certification with BLA oversight. The Assessors are seeking \$29,200 to cover the cost for appraisal services of Real Property to be conducted by Vision Government Solutions.*

MOTION: I move that the sum of \$29,200 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Board of Assessors, for the purpose of completing the five-year full certification program necessary to achieve full and fair cash value in accordance with the requirements of G.L. c. 40, § 56 and c. 58, §§1, 1A and 3 and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 29: ESTABLISHING LIMITS FOR THE VARIOUS REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to add or delete any revolving account and/or to set the FY 2022 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2022 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$10,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

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

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MOTION: I move that pursuant to the provisions of G.L. chapter 44 section 53E ½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, the FY 2022 spending limits for the various revolving funds be set as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2022 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$10,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 30: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTIONS

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, §5C1/2, inserted by Section 14 of Chapter 62 of the Acts of 2014, for the purpose of increasing the real estate tax exemptions by 100 percent to all persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Clauses 17, 17C, 17C1/2, 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F, 22G, 37, 37A, 41, 41B, 41C, 41C½, 42, 43, 56 or 57 of G.L. c. 59, §5, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article is geared toward 70+ seniors, surviving spouses (widows/widowers), legally blind persons and veterans with service-connected disabilities. It would increase the exemption under state statute up to 100% of the exemption. These state exemption programs all have different eligibility requirements (inquire within the Assessor's office for specific eligibility requirements) in order to receive the specific exemption and are designed to help the neediest within our community to continue to remain in their homes by helping to relieve some of the property tax burden.*

MOTION: I move that the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, §5C1/2, inserted by Section 14 of Chapter 62 of the Acts of 2014, be hereby accepted for the purpose of increasing the real estate tax exemptions by 100 percent to all persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Clauses 17, 17C, 17C1/2, 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F, 22G, 37, 37A, 41, 41B, 41C, 41C½, 42, 43, 56 or 57 of G.L. c. 59, §5.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 31: ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF M.G.L., CHAPTER 59, §5, CLAUSE 22F

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, §5, clause 22F last paragraph, which, for clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F of section 5, allows the Town to reduce from five consecutive years to one year the residency requirement for, making certain veterans and their surviving spouses or parents, to be eligible for the property tax exemptions of said clauses 22 through 22F under Massachusetts General Laws, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *M.G.L.Ch. 59, s.5, clause Twenty-Second F, Last Paragraph. Notwithstanding this section, in any city or town which accepts this clause, the exemptions available pursuant to clauses Twenty-second, Twenty-second A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second D, Twenty-second E and Twenty-second F may be granted to otherwise eligible persons who have resided in the commonwealth for 1 year prior to the date of filing for exemptions pursuant to the applicable clause.*

(CONSENT MOTION #4) ARTICLE 31: ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF M.G.L., CHAPTER 59, §5, CLAUSE 22F

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, §5, last paragraph/sub-clause of clause 23 be accepted, which clause, for clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F of section 5, allows the Town to reduce from five consecutive years to one year the residency requirement for, making certain veterans and their surviving spouses or parents, eligible for the property tax exemptions of said clauses 22 through 22F under Mass. General Laws.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

The Moderator read the title of each article in CONSENT MOTION #4. No articles were held.

VOTE on CONSENT AGENDA #4 (Articles 18 Through 31): Passed by Unanimous Vote

MOTION TO DISSOLVE THE 2021 SPRING TOWN MEETING

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

VOTE on Motion to Dissolve: Passed by Majority Vote

The 2021 Spring Town Meeting was dissolved at 1:14 PM on May 1, 2021.

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 12th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One.

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Chair

Joshua A. Degen

Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Clerk

John R. Giger

John R. Giger, Member

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, 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
AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2022**

Pursuant to Article 6 “Finance and Fiscal Procedure”, Section 6.4 “The Budget”, of the Charter of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Manager are pleased to submit for your consideration the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Town has had to take extraordinary action to provide a Balanced Budget to the 2021 Spring Town Meeting that continues to provide the same level of services with a Budget that has seen its revenues significantly impacted by the Pandemic. Receipts and Other Revenue Sources were reduced for Fiscal Year 2021, resulting in these revenues for Fiscal Year 2021 being budgeted below Fiscal Year 2020 by \$30,235. While it is expected that the Town will see a slight rebound and have increased them for Fiscal Year 2022, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Manager are concerned that if the COVID-19 Pandemic does not continue to improve, these increases may not materialize.

In accordance with the Groton Charter and the Town’s Financial Policies, in October, 2020, the Finance Committee and Select Board issued the following guidance to the Town Manager prior to the development of the initial Proposed Operating Budget:

1. The Town Manager shall prepare a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2022 with no proposed Override of Proposition 2½.
2. There shall be no increase in the Municipal Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.
3. It shall be level funded at the Fiscal Year 2021 level of \$15,175,486 without In-Levy Debt Service and \$15,521,525 including In-Levy Debt Service.
4. The Town Manager shall work with representatives of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and Nashoba Valley Technical School District to balance the budget.
5. There shall be no new benefited positions proposed in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget as the hiring freeze shall remain in effect.

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6. Depending on how the budget is balanced, the Select Board and Finance Committee have acknowledged that Free Cash may have to be used to maintain services.

As stated above, the COVID-19 Pandemic has made the process of developing estimated revenues for Fiscal Year 2022 the most difficult the Town has faced. Based on sound financial policies and a complete review of revenues over the last ten years, the Finance Committee and Town Manager have developed the following estimated revenues for Fiscal Year 2022:

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Budgeted FY 2021</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2022</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Property Tax**	\$ 32,985,370	\$ 34,074,005	\$ 1,088,635	3.30%
State Aid	\$ 950,546	\$ 1,002,840	\$ 52,294	5.50%
Local Receipts - Excluding Country Club	\$ 3,599,341	\$ 3,890,312	\$ 290,971	8.08%
Country Club Revenue	\$ 491,939	\$ 600,000	\$ 108,061	21.97%
Enterprise Fund Reimbursement for Benefits	\$ 256,264	\$ 271,148	\$ 14,884	5.81%
Free Cash	\$ 341,505	\$ 367,679	\$ 26,174	7.66%
Other Available Funds	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL	\$ 38,924,965	\$ 40,505,984	\$ 1,581,019	4.06%

**Includes 2½ percent increase allowed by law and \$15 million in new growth.

In developing the level funded budget pursuant to the guidance, the Town Manager and Finance Team conducted a thorough review of all submitted budgets. The Town's Department Heads continue to do an amazing job creating and presenting their budgets. While some increases in the budget are considered discretionary, there are two line items in the budget that the Town had no choice but to fund. Due to the decision to provide full-time 24-hour coverage at the Fire Department, the Town added four (4) new Group 4 Employees. This has required the Pension Budget to increase by 14.11%, or \$294,966. Ordinarily, this budget increases by approximately 5.6% annually. Fiscal Year 2022 is the worst possible year to absorb such an increase, but the Town has no choice but to fund it at the required level. Health Insurance is another budget that requires the Town to fund at the required level. Based on a four (4%) percent increase in rates, this Budget has increased by \$83,064, or 4.82%. These two accounts alone have required an increase in spending of \$378,030. Therefore, in order to meet the Budget Guidance, this amount needed to be reduced from the Fiscal Year 2021 approved Budget.

In addition to the Pension and Health Insurance Budgets, there are some areas of the budget that the Finance Committee and Town Manager would like to call to your attention as you review the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget. First, the Town has seven (7) Collective Bargaining Units. All Contracts were up for renegotiation in Fiscal Year 2022. In order to meet the Guidance and deal with the mandatory increases, the Town needed to level fund all salary and wage line items that would require tax revenues to fund. Over the last several years, the Town and the Unions have formed a strong partnership. The Unions have always worked cooperatively with the Town to meet the Town's financial challenges. This year was no different. All seven (7) Unions agreed to freeze their salaries in Fiscal Year 2022 in exchange for a one-time cash bonus of 1.5% that can be paid for from the Town's Excess and Deficiency Fund ("Free Cash"). This amounted to a transfer of \$98,611 from Free Cash to

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meet this obligation. The Finance Committee and Town Manager would like to take this opportunity to thank our employees and the individual Unions for their continued cooperation and willingness to work with the Town. Without this partnership and cooperation, balancing the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget would have been even more challenging.

Second, the Town experienced a significant increase in Excluded Debt in Fiscal Year 2021 as it was the first full year on the new DPW Facility and the Library Roof. For Fiscal Year 2022, Municipal Excluded Debt will increase from \$1,473,787 to \$1,541,752, an increase of \$67,965 or 4.6%. Excluded Debt from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District will decrease by \$163,071, or 25% from \$648,497 to \$485,426. Overall, Excluded Debt will decrease in Fiscal Year 2022 by \$95,106, or 4.5% from \$2,122,284 to \$2,027,178. In addition, the Town is continuing with its practice to stabilize debt service within the Levy Limit at approximately \$250,000 annually. In Fiscal Year 2022, the Town continues to follow the plan by using the Excess and Deficiency (“Free Cash”) Account to pay down the Principal and Interest on the Police and Fire Radio Project with the intent of paying that off in FY 2025. Last year, the Budget called for a transfer from Free Cash of \$91,574 for this purpose and committed \$254,465 from taxation to cover non-excluded Debt Service. In Fiscal Year 2022, the Town will continue to use Free Cash for the Police and Fire Radio Project (\$91,974). The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2021 and FY 2022:

	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>
Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ 159,394	\$ 159,154
Long Term Debt - Interest Non-Excluded	\$ 95,071	\$ 88,007
Short Term Debt - Principal	\$ 85,174	\$ 85,174
Short Term Debt - Interest	<u>\$ 6,400</u>	<u>\$ 6,800</u>
Total	\$ 346,039	\$ 339,135
Less Free Cash Offset	\$ 91,574	\$ 91,974
Total Taxation for Debt Service	\$ 254,465	\$ 247,161

Third and final, the collaboration between the Town of Groton and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District continues to be strong. The relationship between the Finance Committee, Select Board, Town Manager and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District is one of strong collaboration and respect. This collaboration was very important in balancing the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget. In an effort to assist both Groton and Dunstable in meeting budgetary challenges, for the third year in a row, the District School Committee voted to use their Excess and Deficiency Fund to offset increases in their operational assessment for Fiscal Year 2022. This has allowed the Town of Groton to fund the proposed Operating Assessment without either a further reduction in the Municipal Budget or an override of Proposition 2½. The proposed Operating Assessment from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$23,481,350, an increase of \$1,460,755, or 6.63%.

With regard to the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, the Town has been informed that the number of Groton students attending the School has increased from 38 to 46. This is a substantial increase that will require a significant increase in the Nashoba Tech Assessment. The proposed Assessment for Nashoba Tech is \$807,474, an increase of \$119,201, or 17.32%.

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Section 6-5 of the Groton Charter requires the Finance Committee to provide a report that details the differences between the Town Manager's Proposed Budget and their final Proposed Budget. The primary adjustments to the original budget submitted by the Town Manager were for collective bargaining (as discussed above), restoring funding for a Police Officer position in the Police Budget and an increase in the Liability Insurance Budget to reflect a high number of claims over the past three years. The following Chart shows the differences between the budget received by the Finance Committee from the Town Manager on December 31, 2020 and the budget that will be proposed to the 2021 Spring Town Meeting:

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<u>Line</u>	<u>Department/Description</u>	<u>Original Proposed</u>	<u>Committee Approved</u>
1030	Town Manager Salaries	\$ 226,111	\$ 227,220
1031	Town Manager Wages	\$ 112,786	\$ 115,172
1050	Town Accountant Salaries	\$ 95,021	\$ 96,408
1051	Town Accountant Wages	\$ 49,873	\$ 50,865
1060	Board of Assessors Salaries	\$ 78,581	\$ 80,000
1061	Board of Assessors Wages	\$ 64,728	\$ 61,763
1071	Treasurer/Tax Collector Wages	\$ 114,246	\$ 115,693
1090	Human Resources Salary	\$ 81,598	\$ 82,822
1100	Information Technology Salary	\$ 113,491	\$ 115,193
1101	Information Technology Wages	\$ 61,095	\$ 62,317
1130	Town Clerk Salaries	\$ 89,510	\$ 90,853
1131	Town Clerk Wages	\$ 63,982	\$ 65,205
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 250,000	\$ 290,000
1200	Conservation Commission Salary	\$ 68,454	\$ 69,481
1210	Planning Board Salaries	\$ 82,774	\$ 84,016
1220	Zoning Board of Appeals Wages	\$ 20,607	\$ 21,017
1240	Building Inspector Salaries	\$ 92,000	\$ 93,380
1241	Building Inspector Wages	\$ 55,395	\$ 56,503
1300	Police Department Salaries	\$ 265,916	\$ 269,791
1301	Police Department Wages	\$ 1,891,089	\$ 1,981,381
1310	Fire Department Salaries	\$ 235,403	\$ 238,928
1311	Fire Department Wages	\$ 988,064	\$ 997,893
1370	Police & Fire Communications Wages	\$ 408,978	\$ 423,552
1400	Nashoba Tech Operating Assessment	\$ 828,273	\$ 807,474
1410	GDRSD Operating Expenses	\$ 23,440,050	\$ 23,481,350
1414	GDRSD Capital Assessment	\$ 519,078	\$ 217,298
1500	Highway Department Salaries	\$ 112,216	\$ 113,877
1501	Highway Department Wages	\$ 636,449	\$ 656,364
1540	Municipal Buildings Wages	\$ 147,363	\$ 149,751
1600	Council on Aging Salaries	\$ 79,554	\$ 80,747
1601	Council on Aging Wages	\$ 70,819	\$ 72,429
1610	Senior Center Wages	\$ 52,091	\$ 52,530
1660	Library Salary	\$ 408,050	\$ 412,593
1661	Library Wages	\$ 276,295	\$ 279,389
1700	Groton Country Club Salary	\$ 159,524	\$ 162,214
3010	Employee Benefits Health Insurance	\$ 1,850,268	\$ 1,805,544

The following is a breakdown of the Finance Committee's Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget by function:

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<u>Category</u>		<u>FY 2021</u>		<u>FY 2022</u>		<u>Dollar Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
General Government	\$	2,197,833	\$	2,153,410	\$	(44,423)	-2.02%
Land Use	\$	448,055	\$	452,856	\$	4,801	1.07%
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,395,632	\$	4,362,268	\$	(33,364)	-0.76%
Department of Public Works	\$	2,294,853	\$	2,202,359	\$	(92,494)	-4.03%
Library and Citizen Services	\$	1,695,650	\$	1,660,560	\$	(35,090)	-2.07%
Sub-Total - Wages and Expenses	\$	11,032,023	\$	10,831,453	\$	(200,570)	-1.82%
Debt Service	\$	1,819,826	\$	1,880,887	\$	61,061	3.36%
Employee Benefits	\$	4,143,463	\$	4,516,593	\$	373,130	9.01%
Sub-Total - All Municipal	\$	16,995,312	\$	17,228,933	\$	233,621	1.37%
Nashoba Tech	\$	688,273	\$	807,474	\$	119,201	17.32%
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$	22,020,595	\$	23,481,350	\$	1,460,755	6.63%
Groton-Dunstable Excluded Debt	\$	648,497	\$	485,426	\$	(163,071)	-25.15%
Groton-Dunstable Debt	\$	58,147	\$	56,358	\$	(1,789)	-3.08%
Groton Dunstable Capital	\$	265,172	\$	217,298	\$	(47,874)	-18.05%
Sub-Total - Education	\$	23,680,684	\$	25,047,906	\$	1,367,222	5.77%
Grand Total - Town Budget		\$ 40,675,996		\$ 42,276,839		\$ 1,600,843	3.94%

The total Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Operating Budget, including Regional School Assessments and excluded debt, is \$42,276,839 or an increase of 3.94%. This proposed balanced budget is slightly under the anticipated FY 2022 Proposition 2½ Levy Limit. When you take into consideration the proposed Capital Budget, Enterprise Fund Budgets and additional appropriations raised on the recap sheet, the total proposed balanced budget is \$45,747,197. The Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Rate has been certified at \$17.60. Based on the Proposed Balanced Budget, the estimated Tax Rate in Fiscal Year 2022 is \$18.09, or an increase of \$0.49. In Fiscal Year 2021, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at \$507,000) is \$8,923. Under this proposed balanced budget, that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$9,172 or an increase of \$249. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2021 and FY 2022:

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	<u>Actual FY 2021</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2022</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used*	\$ 32,727,034	\$ 34,074,005	\$ 1,346,971	4.12%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 16.53	\$ 17.07	\$ 0.54	3.27%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 8,381	\$ 8,654	\$ 274	3.27%
Excluded Debt	\$ 2,122,284	\$ 2,025,303	\$ (96,981)	-4.57%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.07	\$ 1.02	\$ (0.05)	-4.67%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 542	\$ 517	\$ (25)	-4.67%
Final Levy Used	\$ 34,849,318	\$ 36,099,308	\$ 1,249,990	3.59%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 17.60	\$ 18.09	\$ 0.49	2.78%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 8,923	\$ 9,172	\$ 249	2.80%

*The FY 2022 Levy Limit includes FY 2021 unexpended tax capacity of \$280,997 and \$15 million in New Growth.

The Town Manager and Finance Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Select Board, Town Accountant Patricia DuFresne, Town Treasurer/Collector Michael Hartnett, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Hannah Moller, Principal Assistant Assessor Megan Foster, Human Resources Director Melisa Doig, Executive Assistant Dawn Dunbar 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 Dr. Laura Chesson, Business Manager Sherry Kersey and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee was extremely important in developing this budget.

The Finance Committee encourages the public to attend its meetings and contribute through asking questions, providing comments, and listening to others debate the many important financial issues before the Town today.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad

Groton Town Manager

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Robertson, Chair

Gary Green, Vice Chair

Colby Doody

Mary Linskey

David Manugian

Arthur Prest

Scott Whitefield

Town of Groton Finance Committee

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**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2022
REVENUE ESTIMATES**

	BUDGETED FY 2021	ESTIMATED FY 2022	CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	\$ 32,985,370	\$ 34,074,005	\$ 1,088,634
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	\$ 2,070,421	\$ 2,025,303	\$ (45,118)
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID	\$ 950,546	\$ 1,002,840	\$ 52,294
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY	\$ 280,997	\$ -	\$ (280,997)
LOCAL RECEIPTS:			
General Revenue:			
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$ 1,555,341	\$ 1,665,312	\$ 109,971
Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Tax	\$ 150,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 100,000
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	\$ 110,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 10,000
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 265,000	\$ 265,000	\$ -
Other Charges for Services	\$ 82,000	\$ 82,000	\$ -
Fees	\$ 300,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 40,000
Rentals	\$ 40,000	\$ 28,000	\$ (12,000)
Library Revenues	\$ 12,000	\$ 5,000	\$ (7,000)
Other Departmental Revenue	\$ 725,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 50,000
Licenses and Permits	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -
Recreation Revenues	\$ 491,939	\$ 600,000	\$ 108,061
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-total - General Revenue	\$ 4,091,280	\$ 4,490,312	\$ 399,032
Other Revenue:			
Free Cash	\$ 297,090	\$ 467,679	\$ 170,589
Capital Stabilization Fund for GDRSD	\$ 265,172	\$ 217,298	\$ (47,874)
Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Asset Stabilization Fund	\$ 125,100	\$ 475,000	\$ 349,900
EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve	\$ 625,000	\$ 300,000	\$ (325,000)
Community Preservation Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Water Department Surplus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer Department Surplus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-total - Other Revenue	\$ 1,312,362	\$ 1,459,977	\$ 147,615
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 1,388,916	\$ 1,404,564	\$ 15,648
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 763,301	\$ 798,747	\$ 35,446
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE	\$ 214,804	\$ 215,905	\$ 1,101
FOUR CORNER SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 32,805	\$ 68,769	\$ 35,964
STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE	\$ 188,800	\$ 209,753	\$ 20,953
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 44,090,804	\$ 45,750,175	\$ 1,659,372

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TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2022 TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS

FY 2022 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

TOWN MANAGER - Proposed Budget

General Government	\$	2,153,410
Land Use Departments	\$	452,856
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,362,268
Regional School Districts	\$	25,047,906
Department of Public Works	\$	2,202,359
Library and Citizen Services	\$	1,660,560
Debt Service	\$	1,880,887
Employee Benefits	\$	4,516,593

Sub-Total - Operating Budget \$ 42,276,839

A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	42,276,839
B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	625,000
C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS	\$	2,426,591
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	\$	-
5. Total cherry sheet offsets	\$	21,691
6. Revenue deficits	\$	-
7. Offset Receipts	\$	-
8. Authorized deferral of Teachers' Pay	\$	-
9. Snow and Ice deficit	\$	100,000
10. Other		

E. TOTAL OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED	\$	121,691
F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES	\$	97,077
G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS	\$	200,000

TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES \$ **45,747,197**

FY 2022 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

Levy Limit	\$	34,074,005
Debt Exclusion	\$	2,025,303

A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY	\$	36,099,308
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$	1,002,840
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED	\$	4,490,312
D. OFFSET RECEIPTS	\$	-
E. ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$	2,697,739
F. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS	\$	-
G. FREE CASH	\$	467,679

OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS

1. Stabilization Fund		
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	475,000
3. GDRSD Capital Asset Fund	\$	217,298
4. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	300,000

H. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS \$ 992,298

TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS \$ **45,750,175**

FY 2022 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) \$ **2,978**

APPENDIX A**TOWN OF GROTON****FISCAL YEAR 2022**

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>								
MODERATOR								
1000	Salaries	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	0.00%	\$ 0.01	0.00%
1001	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 65	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 145	0.00%	\$ 0.03	0.00%
BOARD OF SELECTMEN								
1020	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1021	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1022	Expenses	\$ 1,802	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	0.00%	\$ 0.70	0.01%
1023	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1024	Minor Capital	\$ 25,633	\$ 25,683	\$ 25,683	\$ 25,683	0.00%	\$ 5.44	0.06%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 27,435	\$ 28,983	\$ 28,983	\$ 28,983	0.00%	\$ 6.14	0.07%
TOWN MANAGER								
1030	Salaries	\$ 227,980	\$ 233,050	\$ 227,220	\$ 227,220	-2.50%	\$ 48.11	0.52%
1031	Wages	\$ 120,450	\$ 125,336	\$ 115,172	\$ 115,172	-8.11%	\$ 24.38	0.27%
1032	Expenses	\$ 9,784	\$ 14,600	\$ 14,600	\$ 14,600	0.00%	\$ 3.09	0.03%
1033	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1034	Performance Evaluations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 358,214	\$ 372,986	\$ 356,992	\$ 356,992	-4.29%	\$ 75.58	0.82%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
FINANCE COMMITTEE								
1040	Expenses	\$ 210	\$ 215	\$ 215	\$ 215	0.00%	\$ 0.05	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ 49,400	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	0.00%	\$ 31.76	0.35%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 49,610	\$ 150,215	\$ 150,215	\$ 150,215	0.00%	\$ 31.80	0.35%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT								
1050	Salaries	\$ 95,155	\$ 97,083	\$ 96,408	\$ 96,408	-0.70%	\$ 20.41	0.22%
1051	Wages	\$ 47,776	\$ 49,627	\$ 50,865	\$ 50,865	2.49%	\$ 10.77	0.12%
1052	Expenses	\$ 41,815	\$ 37,595	\$ 37,706	\$ 37,706	0.30%	\$ 7.98	0.09%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 184,746	\$ 184,305	\$ 184,979	\$ 184,979	0.37%	\$ 39.16	0.43%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS								
1060	Salaries	\$ 78,580	\$ 80,528	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	-0.66%	\$ 16.94	0.18%
1061	Wages	\$ 62,550	\$ 64,728	\$ 61,763	\$ 61,763	-4.58%	\$ 13.08	0.14%
1062	Expenses	\$ 20,743	\$ 45,858	\$ 45,215	\$ 45,215	-1.40%	\$ 9.57	0.10%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 161,873	\$ 191,114	\$ 186,978	\$ 186,978	-2.16%	\$ 39.59	0.43%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR								
1070	Salaries	\$ 88,286	\$ 93,975	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	-9.55%	\$ 18.00	0.20%
1071	Wages	\$ 112,007	\$ 119,037	\$ 115,693	\$ 115,693	-2.81%	\$ 24.49	0.27%
1072	Expenses	\$ 18,752	\$ 20,945	\$ 20,945	\$ 20,945	0.00%	\$ 4.43	0.05%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 2,048	\$ 5,725	\$ 5,725	\$ 5,725	0.00%	\$ 1.21	0.01%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 2,550	\$ 4,900	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	-32.65%	\$ 0.70	0.01%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 223,643	\$ 244,582	\$ 230,663	\$ 230,663	-5.69%	\$ 48.84	0.53%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
TOWN COUNSEL								
1080	Expenses	\$ 77,338	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	0.00%	\$ 19.06	0.21%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 77,338	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	0.00%	\$ 19.06	0.21%
HUMAN RESOURCES								
1090	Salary	\$ 82,673	\$ 84,313	\$ 82,822	\$ 82,822	-1.77%	\$ 17.54	0.19%
1091	Expenses	\$ 9,547	\$ 11,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	-9.09%	\$ 2.12	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 92,220	\$ 95,313	\$ 92,822	\$ 92,822	-2.61%	\$ 19.65	0.21%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY								
1100	Salary	\$ 114,722	\$ 117,004	\$ 115,193	\$ 115,193	-1.55%	\$ 24.39	0.27%
1101	Wages	\$ 59,031	\$ 61,095	\$ 62,317	\$ 62,317	2.00%	\$ 13.19	0.14%
1102	Expenses	\$ 20,552	\$ 24,800	\$ 22,800	\$ 22,800	-8.06%	\$ 4.83	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 194,305	\$ 202,899	\$ 200,310	\$ 200,310	-1.28%	\$ 42.41	0.46%
GIS STEERING COMMITTEE								
1120	Expenses	\$ 14,675	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800	0.00%	\$ 2.29	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,675	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800	0.00%	\$ 2.29	0.02%
TOWN CLERK								
1130	Salaries	\$ 88,080	\$ 92,073	\$ 90,853	\$ 90,853	-1.33%	\$ 19.24	0.21%
1131	Wages	\$ 61,051	\$ 67,751	\$ 65,205	\$ 65,205	-3.76%	\$ 13.81	0.15%
1132	Expenses	\$ 10,458	\$ 9,867	\$ 9,867	\$ 9,867	0.00%	\$ 2.09	0.02%
1135	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 159,589	\$ 169,691	\$ 165,925	\$ 165,925	-2.22%	\$ 35.13	0.38%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS								
1140	Stipend	\$ 6,082	\$ 19,115	\$ 6,336	\$ 6,336	-66.85%	\$ 1.34	0.01%
1141	Expenses	\$ 8,692	\$ 22,185	\$ 7,912	\$ 7,912	-64.34%	\$ 1.68	0.02%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 14,774	\$ 41,300	\$ 14,248	\$ 14,248	-65.50%	\$ 3.02	0.03%
STREET LISTINGS								
1150	Expenses	\$ 3,900	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,850	\$ 4,850	-3.00%	\$ 1.03	0.01%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 3,900	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,850	\$ 4,850	-3.00%	\$ 1.03	0.01%
INSURANCE & BONDING								
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 226,650	\$ 250,000	\$ 290,000	\$ 290,000	16.00%	\$ 61.40	0.67%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ 3,220	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0.00%	\$ 2.54	0.03%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 6,416	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	0.00%	\$ 5.29	0.06%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 236,286	\$ 287,000	\$ 327,000	\$ 327,000	13.94%	\$ 69.23	0.75%
TOWN REPORT								
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,464	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.32	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,464	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.32	0.00%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES								
1180	Expenses	\$ 44,276	\$ 70,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	-14.29%	\$ 12.70	0.14%
1181	Telephone Expenses	\$ 25,244	\$ 35,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	-14.29%	\$ 6.35	0.07%
1182	Office Supplies	\$ 12,048	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	0.00%	\$ 3.60	0.04%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 81,568	\$ 122,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000	-12.30%	\$ 22.65	0.25%
<hr/>								
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 1,881,705	\$ 2,197,833	\$ 2,153,410	\$ 2,153,410	-2.02%	\$ 455.93	4.97%
 <u>LAND USE DEPARTMENTS</u>								
CONSERVATION COMMISSION								
1200	Salary	\$ 66,686	\$ 71,545	\$ 69,481	\$ 69,481	-2.88%	\$ 14.71	0.16%
1201	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1202	Expenses	\$ 8,556	\$ 7,350	\$ 7,350	\$ 7,350	0.00%	\$ 1.56	0.02%
1203	Engineering & Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1204	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 75,242	\$ 78,895	\$ 76,831	\$ 76,831	-2.62%	\$ 16.27	0.18%
<hr/>								
PLANNING BOARD								
1210	Salaries	\$ 83,043	\$ 85,518	\$ 84,016	\$ 84,016	-1.76%	\$ 17.79	0.19%
1211	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1212	Expenses	\$ 11,159	\$ 8,650	\$ 8,650	\$ 8,650	0.00%	\$ 1.83	0.02%
1215	M.R.P.C. Assessment	\$ 3,664	\$ 3,756	\$ 3,850	\$ 3,850	2.50%	\$ 0.82	0.01%
1216	Legal Budget	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 97,866	\$ 97,924	\$ 96,516	\$ 96,516	-1.44%	\$ 20.43	0.22%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS								
1220	Wages	\$ 20,798	\$ 21,375	\$ 21,017	\$ 21,017	-1.67%	\$ 4.45	0.05%
1221	Expenses	\$ 920	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.32	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 21,718	\$ 22,875	\$ 22,517	\$ 22,517	-1.57%	\$ 4.77	0.05%
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION								
1230	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1231	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
BUILDING INSPECTOR								
1240	Salaries	\$ 115,869	\$ 93,975	\$ 93,380	\$ 93,380	-0.63%	\$ 19.77	0.22%
1241	Wages	\$ 52,486	\$ 56,970	\$ 56,503	\$ 56,503	-0.82%	\$ 11.96	0.13%
1242	Expenses	\$ 936	\$ 3,100	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	12.90%	\$ 0.74	0.01%
1243	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 169,291	\$ 154,045	\$ 153,383	\$ 153,383	-0.43%	\$ 32.47	0.35%
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR								
1250	Fee Salaries	\$ 28,890	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	0.00%	\$ 6.35	0.07%
1251	Expenses	\$ 3,207	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	-20.00%	\$ 0.85	0.01%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 32,097	\$ 35,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	-2.86%	\$ 7.20	0.08%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR								
1260	Stipend	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%	\$ 0.53	0.01%
1261	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
1262	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%
BOARD OF HEALTH								
1270	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1271	Expenses	\$ 465	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	0.00%	\$ 0.33	0.00%
1272	Nursing Services	\$ -	\$ 13,111	\$ 13,767	\$ 13,767	5.00%	\$ 2.91	0.03%
1273	Nashoba Health District	\$ 47,849	\$ 28,730	\$ 30,167	\$ 30,167	5.00%	\$ 6.39	0.07%
1274	Herbert Lipton MH	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	0.00%	\$ 1.69	0.02%
1275	Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring	\$ 6,713	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,200	\$ 10,200	2.00%	\$ 2.16	0.02%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 63,026	\$ 53,416	\$ 63,709	\$ 63,709	19.27%	\$ 13.49	0.15%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES								
1280	Fee Salaries	\$ 2,260	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	0.00%	\$ 0.68	0.01%
1281	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,260	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	0.00%	\$ 0.70	0.01%
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TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 463,000	\$ 448,055	\$ 452,856	\$ 452,856	1.07%	\$ 95.88	1.05%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</u>								
POLICE DEPARTMENT								
1300	Salaries	\$ 343,223	\$ 268,334	\$ 269,791	\$ 269,791	0.54%	\$ 57.12	0.62%
1301	Wages	\$ 1,833,948	\$ 1,968,864	\$ 1,981,381	\$ 1,981,381	0.64%	\$ 419.51	4.57%
1302	Expenses	\$ 142,069	\$ 217,200	\$ 212,200	\$ 212,200	-2.30%	\$ 44.93	0.49%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 3,960	\$ 4,920	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	1.63%	\$ 1.06	0.01%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 7,150	\$ 20,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	-45.00%	\$ 2.33	0.03%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,330,350	\$ 2,479,318	\$ 2,479,372	\$ 2,479,372	0.00%	\$ 524.94	5.72%
FIRE DEPARTMENT								
1310	Salaries	\$ 184,836	\$ 235,000	\$ 238,928	\$ 238,928	1.67%	\$ 50.59	0.55%
1311	Wages	\$ 903,135	\$ 999,244	\$ 997,893	\$ 997,893	-0.14%	\$ 211.28	2.30%
1312	Expenses	\$ 168,346	\$ 200,905	\$ 161,682	\$ 161,682	-19.52%	\$ 34.23	0.37%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,256,317	\$ 1,435,149	\$ 1,398,503	\$ 1,398,503	-2.55%	\$ 296.10	3.23%
GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION								
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	0.00%	\$ 0.00	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	0.00%	\$ 0.00	0.00%
<hr/>								
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 2	0.00%	\$ 0.00	0.00%
ANIMAL INSPECTOR								
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.00%	\$ 0.44	0.00%
1331	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.00%	\$ 0.08	0.00%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,082	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.00%	\$ 0.53	0.01%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER								
1340	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.00%	\$ 0.44	0.00%
1341	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.00%	\$ 0.08	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,082	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.00%	\$ 0.53	0.01%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY								
1350	Salary	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.00%	\$ 0.85	0.01%
1351	Expenses	\$ 6,068	\$ 12,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	-20.00%	\$ 2.12	0.02%
1352	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 10,068	\$ 16,500	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	-15.15%	\$ 2.96	0.03%
DOG OFFICER								
1360	Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.00%	\$ 3.18	0.03%
1361	Expenses	\$ 2,597	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	-25.00%	\$ 0.64	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 17,597	\$ 19,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	-5.26%	\$ 3.81	0.04%
POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS								
1370	Wages	\$ 337,559	\$ 416,824	\$ 423,552	\$ 423,552	1.61%	\$ 89.68	0.98%
1371	Expenses	\$ 2,706	\$ 23,875	\$ 23,875	\$ 23,875	0.00%	\$ 5.05	0.06%
1372	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 340,265	\$ 440,699	\$ 447,427	\$ 447,427	1.53%	\$ 94.73	1.03%
TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY		\$ 3,958,761	\$ 4,395,632	\$ 4,362,268	\$ 4,362,268	-0.76%	\$ 923.60	10.07%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</u>								
NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL								
1400	Operating Expenses	\$ 728,802	\$ 688,273	\$ 807,474	\$ 807,474	17.32%	\$ 170.96	1.86%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 728,802	\$ 688,273	\$ 807,474	\$ 807,474	17.32%	\$ 170.96	1.86%
GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT								
1410	Operating Expenses	\$ 22,063,256	\$ 22,020,595	\$ 23,481,350	\$ 23,481,350	6.63%	\$ 4,971.56	54.20%
1411	Debt Service, Excluded	\$ -	\$ 648,497	\$ 485,426	\$ 485,426	-25.15%	\$ 102.78	1.12%
1412	Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$ -	\$ 58,147	\$ 56,358	\$ 56,358	-3.08%	\$ 11.93	0.13%
1413	Out of District Placement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1414	Capital Assessment	\$ 459,647	\$ 265,172	\$ 217,298	\$ 217,298	-18.05%	\$ 46.01	0.50%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 22,522,903	\$ 22,992,411	\$ 24,240,432	\$ 24,240,432	5.43%	\$ 5,132.27	55.96%
TOTAL SCHOOLS		\$ 23,251,705	\$ 23,680,684	\$ 25,047,906	\$ 25,047,906	5.77%	\$ 5,303.24	57.82%
<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</u>								
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT								
1500	Salaries	\$ 112,891	\$ 115,659	\$ 113,877	\$ 113,877	-1.54%	\$ 24.11	0.26%
1501	Wages	\$ 684,021	\$ 708,055	\$ 656,364	\$ 656,364	-7.30%	\$ 138.97	1.52%
1502	Expenses	\$ 132,550	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	0.00%	\$ 28.98	0.32%
1503	Highway Maintenance	\$ 56,304	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	0.00%	\$ 19.06	0.21%
1504	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 985,766	\$ 1,050,614	\$ 997,141	\$ 997,141	-5.09%	\$ 211.12	2.30%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
STREET LIGHTS								
1510	Expenses	\$ 12,165	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.00%	\$ 3.18	0.03%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 12,165	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.00%	\$ 3.18	0.03%
SNOW AND ICE								
1520	Expenses	\$ 148,927	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	0.00%	\$ 34.93	0.38%
1521	Overtime	\$ 220,790	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.00%	\$ 29.64	0.32%
1522	Hired Equipment	\$ 75,071	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	0.00%	\$ 7.41	0.08%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 444,788	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	0.00%	\$ 71.99	0.78%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET								
1530	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1531	Expenses	\$ 374	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.00%	\$ 0.64	0.01%
1532	Trees	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.32	0.00%
1533	Tree Work	\$ 11,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0.00%	\$ 2.12	0.02%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 11,874	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	0.00%	\$ 3.07	0.03%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE								
1540	Wages	\$ 144,189	\$ 149,451	\$ 149,751	\$ 149,751	0.20%	\$ 31.71	0.35%
1541	Expenses	\$ 256,829	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	0.00%	\$ 57.37	0.63%
1542	Minor Capital	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	-50.00%	\$ 2.12	0.02%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 421,018	\$ 440,401	\$ 430,701	\$ 430,701	-2.20%	\$ 91.19	0.99%

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LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL								
1550	Wages	\$ 134,303	\$ 143,243	\$ 142,722	\$ 142,722	-0.36%	\$ 30.22	0.33%
1551	Expenses	\$ 38,726	\$ 44,486	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	2.70%	\$ 9.67	0.11%
1552	Tipping Fees	\$ 135,159	\$ 175,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	-14.29%	\$ 31.76	0.35%
1553	North Central SW Coop	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	0.00%	\$ 1.24	0.01%
1554	Minor Capital	\$ 4,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	-50.00%	\$ 1.06	0.01%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 318,538	\$ 378,579	\$ 349,258	\$ 349,258	-7.75%	\$ 73.95	0.81%
PARKS DEPARTMENT								
1560	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1561	Expenses	\$ 30,452	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	0.00%	\$ 11.81	0.13%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 30,452	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	0.00%	\$ 11.81	0.13%
	TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 2,224,601	\$ 2,294,853	\$ 2,202,359	\$ 2,202,359	-4.03%	\$ 466.29	5.08%
 <u>LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES</u>								
COUNCIL ON AGING								
1600	Salaries	\$ 77,802	\$ 81,868	\$ 80,747	\$ 80,747	-1.37%	\$ 17.10	0.19%
1601	Wages	\$ 67,975	\$ 81,026	\$ 72,429	\$ 72,429	-10.61%	\$ 15.33	0.17%
1602	Expenses	\$ 5,701	\$ 8,454	\$ 8,454	\$ 8,454	0.00%	\$ 1.79	0.02%
1603	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 151,478	\$ 171,348	\$ 161,630	\$ 161,630	-5.67%	\$ 34.22	0.37%

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SENIOR CENTER VAN								
1610	Wages	\$ 43,631	\$ 52,091	\$ 52,530	\$ 52,530	0.84%	\$ 11.12	0.12%
1611	Expenses	\$ 6,723	\$ 17,673	\$ 12,673	\$ 12,673	-28.29%	\$ 2.68	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 50,354	\$ 69,764	\$ 65,203	\$ 65,203	-6.54%	\$ 13.80	0.15%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER								
1620	Salary	\$ 4,615	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	20.00%	\$ 1.27	0.01%
1621	Expenses	\$ 69	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	0.00%	\$ 0.23	0.00%
1622	Veterans' Benefits	\$ 38,137	\$ 42,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000	-11.90%	\$ 7.83	0.09%
1623	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$ 42,821	\$ 48,100	\$ 44,100	\$ 44,100	-8.32%	\$ 9.34	0.10%
GRAVES REGISTRATION								
1630	Salary/Stipend	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	0.00%	\$ 0.05	0.00%
1631	Expenses	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	0.00%	\$ 0.16	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	0.00%	\$ 0.21	0.00%
CARE OF VETERAN GRAVES								
1640	Contract Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	-3.23%	\$ 0.32	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	-3.23%	\$ 0.32	0.00%
OLD BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE								
1650	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.00%	\$ 0.17	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.00%	\$ 0.17	0.00%

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LIBRARY								
1660	Salary	\$ 396,760	\$ 407,364	\$ 412,593	\$ 412,593	1.28%	\$ 87.36	0.95%
1661	Wages	\$ 275,513	\$ 331,959	\$ 279,389	\$ 279,389	-15.84%	\$ 59.15	0.64%
1662	Expenses	\$ 153,507	\$ 205,304	\$ 205,304	\$ 205,304	0.00%	\$ 43.47	0.47%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>								
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 825,780	\$ 944,627	\$ 897,286	\$ 897,286	-5.01%	\$ 189.98	2.07%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS								
1670	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.00%	\$ 0.11	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>								
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.00%	\$ 0.11	0.00%
WATER SAFETY								
1680	Wages	\$ 1,900	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	0.00%	\$ 0.89	0.01%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ 17,520	\$ 2,732	\$ 2,732	\$ 2,732	0.00%	\$ 0.58	0.01%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	0.00%	\$ 1.91	0.02%
<hr/>								
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 19,420	\$ 15,932	\$ 15,932	\$ 15,932	0.00%	\$ 3.37	0.04%
WEED MANAGEMENT								
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 2,497	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	0.00%	\$ 4.66	0.05%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ -	\$ 2,385	\$ 2,385	\$ 2,385	0.00%	\$ 0.50	0.01%
<hr/>								
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,497	\$ 24,385	\$ 24,385	\$ 24,385	0.00%	\$ 5.16	0.06%

2021 Spring Town Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2021

		FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2022		FY 2022	FY 2022
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	AVERAGE TAX BILL	PERCENT OF TAX BILL
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB								
1700	Salary	\$ 157,092	\$ 161,634	\$ 162,214	\$ 162,214	0.36%	\$ 34.34	0.37%
1701	Wages	\$ 119,626	\$ 129,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	16.28%	\$ 31.76	0.35%
1702	Expenses	\$ 150,837	\$ 127,000	\$ 136,000	\$ 136,000	7.09%	\$ 28.79	0.31%
1703	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 427,555	\$ 417,634	\$ 448,214	\$ 448,214	7.32%	\$ 94.90	1.03%
TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES		\$ 1,520,915	\$ 1,695,650	\$ 1,660,560	\$ 1,660,560	-2.07%	\$ 351.58	3.83%
DEBT SERVICE								
DEBT SERVICE								
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$ 1,054,090	\$ 970,030	\$ 1,070,000	\$ 1,070,000	10.31%	\$ 226.54	2.47%
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Exclud	\$ -	\$ 159,394	\$ 159,154	\$ 159,154	-0.15%	\$ 33.70	0.37%
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ 454,453	\$ 503,757	\$ 471,752	\$ 471,752	-6.35%	\$ 99.88	1.09%
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Exclud	\$ -	\$ 95,071	\$ 88,007	\$ 88,007	-7.43%	\$ 18.63	0.20%
2006	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town	\$ -	\$ 85,174	\$ 85,174	\$ 85,174	0.00%	\$ 18.03	0.20%
2007	Short Term Debt - Interest - Town	\$ 95,648	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	6.25%	\$ 1.44	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 1,604,191	\$ 1,819,826	\$ 1,880,887	\$ 1,880,887	3.36%	\$ 398.23	4.34%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		\$ 1,604,191	\$ 1,819,826	\$ 1,880,887	\$ 1,880,887	3.36%	\$ 398.23	4.34%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS								
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS								
GENERAL BENEFITS								
3000	County Retirement	\$ 1,973,053	\$ 2,090,289	\$ 2,385,255	\$ 2,385,255	14.11%	\$ 505.02	5.51%
3001	Other Post Employment Benefits	\$ 169,000	\$ 177,094	\$ 177,094	\$ 177,094	0.00%	\$ 37.50	0.41%
3002	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 1,960	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	-33.33%	\$ 2.12	0.02%
INSURANCE								
3010	Health Insurance/Employee Expenses	\$ 1,578,803	\$ 1,722,480	\$ 1,805,544	\$ 1,805,544	4.82%	\$ 382.28	4.17%
3011	Life Insurance	\$ 3,629	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,700	\$ 3,700	2.78%	\$ 0.78	0.01%
3012	Medicare/Social Security	\$ 130,034	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	0.00%	\$ 28.58	0.31%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL								
		\$ 3,856,479	\$ 4,143,463	\$ 4,516,593	\$ 4,516,593	9.01%	\$ 956.27	10.43%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		\$ 3,856,479	\$ 4,143,463	\$ 4,516,593	\$ 4,516,593	9.01%	\$ 956.27	10.43%

2021 Spring Town Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2021

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2022 FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2022 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2022 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>								
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS								
	Capital Budget Request	\$ 705,820	\$ 450,100	\$ 625,000	\$ 625,000	38.86%	\$ 132.33	1.44%
	Offset Reciepts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 18,527	\$ 18,527	\$ 21,691	\$ 21,691	17.08%	\$ 4.59	0.05%
	Snow and Ice Deficit	\$ -	\$ 103,816	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	-3.68%	\$ 21.17	0.23%
	State and County Charges	\$ 93,392	\$ 93,392	\$ 97,077	\$ 97,077	3.95%	\$ 20.55	0.22%
	Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	\$ 202,272	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	33.33%	\$ 42.34	0.46%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,020,011	\$ 815,835	\$ 1,043,768	\$ 1,043,768	27.94%	\$ 220.99	2.41%
	GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	\$ 39,781,368	\$ 41,491,831	\$ 43,320,607	\$ 43,320,607	4.41%	\$ 9,172	100.00%

2021 Spring Town Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2021

FY 2022 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2018 ACTUAL	FY 2019 ACTUAL	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 APPROPRIATED	FY 2022 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2022 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
WATER DEPARTMENT								
	WD Salaries	\$ 122,759	\$ 134,036	\$ 145,271	\$ 154,549	\$ 154,449	\$ 154,449	-0.06%
	WD Wages	\$ 193,076	\$ 246,235	\$ 167,539	\$ 176,927	\$ 179,675	\$ 179,675	1.55%
	WD Expenses	\$ 510,616	\$ 526,539	\$ 547,269	\$ 655,300	\$ 668,300	\$ 668,300	1.98%
	WD Debt Service	\$ 398,045	\$ 362,548	\$ 402,140	\$ 402,140	\$ 402,140	\$ 402,140	0.00%
100	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,224,496	\$ 1,269,358	\$ 1,262,219	\$ 1,388,916	\$ 1,404,564	\$ 1,404,564	1.13%
SEWER DEPARTMENT								
	Sewer Salaries	\$ 18,200	\$ 19,212	\$ 19,440	\$ 20,179	\$ 20,583	\$ 20,583	2.00%
	Sewer Wages	\$ 39,119	\$ 37,432	\$ 36,540	\$ 50,695	\$ 51,709	\$ 51,709	2.00%
	Sewer Expense	\$ 595,119	\$ 642,205	\$ 633,821	\$ 656,032	\$ 691,295	\$ 691,295	5.38%
	Sewer Debt Service	\$ 4,050	\$ 5,873	\$ 38,338	\$ 36,395	\$ 35,160	\$ 35,160	-3.39%
200	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 656,488	\$ 704,722	\$ 728,139	\$ 763,301	\$ 798,747	\$ 798,747	4.64%
FOUR CORNERS SEWER DEPARTMENT								
	Four Corners Sewer Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	Four Corners Sewer Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	Four Corners Sewer Expense	\$ -	\$ 22,466	\$ 20,619	\$ 32,805	\$ 68,769	\$ 68,769	109.63%
	Four Corners Sewer Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
300	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 22,466	\$ 20,619	\$ 32,805	\$ 68,769	\$ 68,769	109.63%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT								
	Cable Salaries	\$ 70,921	\$ 74,004	\$ 77,180	\$ 78,695	\$ 77,941	\$ 77,941	-0.96%
	Cable Wages	\$ 50,079	\$ 51,556	\$ 53,999	\$ 56,454	\$ 57,575	\$ 57,575	1.99%
	Cable Expenses	\$ 64,174	\$ 64,552	\$ 61,355	\$ 74,655	\$ 75,389	\$ 75,389	0.98%
	Cable Minor Capital	\$ 6,462	\$ 5,091	\$ 803	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	0.00%
400	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 191,636	\$ 195,203	\$ 193,337	\$ 214,804	\$ 215,905	\$ 215,905	0.51%
STORMWATER UTILITY								
	Stormwater Wages/Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,800	\$ 69,753	\$ 69,753	59.25%
	Stormwater Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	-33.33%
	Stormwater Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	104.00%
	Stormwater Compliance Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	-38.75%
	Stormwater Disposal/Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	100.00%
500	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 188,800	\$ 209,753	\$ 209,753	11.10%
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$ 2,072,620	\$ 2,191,749	\$ 2,204,314	\$ 2,588,627	\$ 2,697,739	\$ 2,697,739	4.22%

APPENDIX B

FACTOR: 1.0000

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2022 (Effective July 1, 2021)**

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
4	Salary		
	Wages	39,655 19.09	49,074 23.58
5	Salary		
	Wages	41,919 20.18	51,883 24.95
7	Salary		
	Wages	48,470 23.86	61,396 29.51
8	Salary		
	Wages	55,025 26.46	68,131 32.75
9	Salary		
	Wages	56,351 27.09	69,731 33.53
10	Salary Executive Assistant to Town Manager		
	Wages	64,627 31.08	81,568 41.76
11	Salary Human Resources Director		
	Wages	69,430 33.38	85,919 41.31
12	Salary		
	Wages	69,639 33.50	86,219 41.46

2021 Spring Town Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2021

APPENDIX B

FACTOR: 1.0000

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2022 (Effective July 1, 2021)**

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
13	Salary	72,126	91,544
	Wages	34.38	42.55
14	Salary	72,115	89,239
	Wages	34.68	42.90
15	Salary	76,045	94,101
	Wages	36.55	45.24
16	Salary	78,792	97,558
	Wages	37.88	46.88
17	Salary	88,272	109,201
	Wages	42.44	52.51
18	Salary	95,461	118,140
	Wages	45.90	56.80
19	Salary	97,968	121,220
	Wages	47.09	58.30
20	Salary	105,046	129,192
	Wages	50.51	62.12

APPENDIX B				
NON-CLASSIFIED, TEMPORARY SEASONAL AND STIPEND POSITIONS				
NON-STEP AND STIPEND POSITIONS				
FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT			Country Club Seasonal Employees	
Call Captain: Fire	25.00		Pro Shop Staff	MW *- 17.00
Call Lieutenant: Fire	24.50		Pool Staff	MW - 17.00
Call Firefighter	21.43		Lifeguards	MW - 18.00
Call Emergency Medical Technician	21.43		Swim Coaches	MW - 23.00
Probationary Firefighter	17.85		Camp Staff	MW - 17.00
Probationary Emergency Medical Technician	17.85		Counselors	MW - 18.00
Call Fire Mechanic	60.00		Buildings & Grounds	MW - 27.00
			Library Shelves	13.50 - 18.00
MISCELLANEOUS				
Veteran's Agent	6,000		* - Minimum Wage	
Earth Removal Inspector	2,500			
Dog Officer	15,000			
Animal Inspector	2,082			
Animal Control Officer	2,082			
Town Diarist	1.00			
Keeper of the Town Clock	1.00			
Per Diem Van Driver	18.66 - 21.00			
Park Ranger	13.50			
Graves Registration Officer	250			
Emergency Management Director	4,000			
Election Worker: Warden	Minimum Wage			
Election Worker: Precinct Clerk	Minimum Wage			
Election Worker: Inspectors (Checker)	Minimum Wage			

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