

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING JUNE 30, 2014

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

Beginning Monday, June 30, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
JUNE 30, 2014**

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

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the thirtieth day of June, 2014 at Seven O'Clock in the evening, to consider the following:

ARTICLE 1: NON-BINDING RESOLUTION

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following non-binding resolution opposing the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts:

Resolution Opposing the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts

WHEREAS, a proposed High-Pressure Pipeline carrying natural gas may come through Groton and our neighboring communities, en route to Dracut, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, a high-pressure gas pipeline, by its nature, carries the potential for leak, rupture or devastating explosion causing untold damage to property and lives; and

WHEREAS, said pipeline may potentially destroy forests, wetlands, conservation land and farmland, and would pass beneath the Nashua River, and require maintenance in perpetuity of a 50 foot right- of-way through the possible use of herbicides; and

WHEREAS, said pipeline may adversely affect property values, adversely affect residents' livelihood and otherwise may negatively impact the integrity of the town's bucolic character; and

WHEREAS, the cost of said pipeline may require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility bill tariff, as well as environmental costs not required by law for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("TGP", a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.), potentially making ratepayers bear financial risk for the endeavors of a private corporation; and

WHEREAS, our energy challenges are better addressed through investments in energy conservation measures as well as green and renewable energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed pipeline route was chosen in a private, closed process so that there has been no chance for open, public discussion or debate of alternate routing possibilities and tradeoffs; and

WHEREAS, federal eminent domain powers will be used to forcibly take pipeline easements from unwilling landowners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline route crosses the grounds of the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and threatens the safety of students, faculty and facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the people of Groton, Massachusetts:

1. Hereby call on our Selectmen to stand in opposition to Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.'s Northeast Expansion pipeline and not allow it within town borders;
2. Oppose any pipeline that potentially threatens the safety of any Groton students, faculty or school facilities; and
3. Hereby request that our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials to enact legislation and take any such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well-being and our bodily safety, and, instead, to legislate more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of and subsidies for renewable energy sources.

or take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

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 9th Day of June in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen.

Joshua A. Degen

Joshua A. Degen, Chairman

Anna Eliot

Anna Eliot, Vice Chairman

Stuart M. Schulman

Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Member

John G. Petropoulos

John G. Petropoulos, Member

OFFICERS RETURN

Groton, Middlesex

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

Constable

Date Duly Posted