

## **Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations**

# **TOWN OF GROTON**



## **2025 FALL TOWN MEETING**

**Marion Stoddart Building Auditorium  
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450**

**Beginning Saturday, October 18, 2025 @ 9:00 AM**

---

Attention Voters  
**Please bring this Document to Town Meeting**

# 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.”<sup>1</sup> “Every action taken at the meeting must be pursuant to some article in the warrant and must be within the scope of such article.”<sup>2</sup>

## How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive an electronic voting handset 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 use of the electronic voting handset.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law* (page 19) Massachusetts Moderators Association, Fourth Edition, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

## **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?**

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.

## **Explanation of a Consent Agenda**

A consent agenda is a procedure to group 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.

# Electronic Voting at Town Meeting

Voting at Town Meeting will be conducted using an electronic voting system purchased by the Town of Groton as authorized by Town Meeting in October, 2022. Instead of using placards to be raised and counted, voters will use wireless handsets to cast their vote quickly, accurately and privately.



## Voter Check-In

At check-in, voters will be given a handset. No record is made of which voter receives which handset. All handsets will be tested prior to the meeting. Voters physically unable to use a handset will be seated in a manual-count section and their votes will be counted by tellers. For those with visual impairments, large handsets with braille are available.

## Test Vote

At the beginning of the meeting, the Moderator will conduct a test vote to get everyone comfortable with the voting procedures.

### Proxy Voting Prohibited

The handset given to a voter at check-in is for the exclusive use of that voter. Voting with a handset that has been issued to another individual is strictly forbidden.

## Voting

When the Moderator announces it is time to vote:

- Press 1A (green button) for YES →
- Press 2B (red button) for No →
- If you wish to not vote, press no buttons



## Handset Display

The display on the handset:

- OK means the system receiver has received your vote
- A "1" for Yes or "2" for No shows the vote the system received.
- The small "R" at the top of the screen indicates the handset is communicating with the receiver
- The icons in the top left indicate the WiFi signal strength.

## Help Desk

A Help Desk will be able to assist voters who have trouble with using the handset. If a handset malfunctions, a voter will receive a new handset.

## Handset Return

If you leave the meeting temporarily, please keep the handset with you. If the meeting ends or you leave, return the handset to the check-in table.



## **Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities**

**Parking** – Universally accessible parking spaces are available in the parking lot in front of the Groton Dunstable Marion Stoddart Building. There is a ramp providing access from the parking lot to the front door of the Building.

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

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

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

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

**Transportation to Town Meeting** - The Council on Aging van will be available to Groton residents attending Town Meetings at no charge. All riders will be at the meeting prior to the start. 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.

**FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
OCTOBER 18, 2025**

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 Marion Stoddart Building Auditorium, 344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts in said Town on Saturday, the eighteenth day of October, 2025 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider the following:

**ARTICLE LISTINGS**

<b>Article 1*</b>	Prior Year Bills	6
<b>Article 2*</b>	Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Town Operating Budget	6
<b>Article 3*</b>	Transfer Money Into Capital Stabilization Fund	6
<b>Article 4*</b>	Transfer Money Into Stabilization Fund	7
<b>Article 5*</b>	Transfer Money Into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund	7
<b>Article 6*</b>	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	8
<b>Article 7*</b>	Transfer Within the Sewer Enterprise Fund	8
<b>Article 8*</b>	Transfer Within the Stormwater Enterprise Fund	8
<b>Article 9*</b>	Cable Department Equipment Grant	9
<b>Article 10*</b>	Assessors Quinquennial Certification	9
<b>Article 11*</b>	Repair Fitch's Bridge Head Wall	10
<b>Article 12*</b>	Provide Funding to Maintain the Former Nod Road Landfill	10
<b>Article 13*</b>	Repair Fire Alarm - Function Hall and Restaurant at the Country Club	11
<b>Article 14*</b>	Engineering Funds for Complete Streets Grant Work	11
<b>Article 15*</b>	Debt Service for Middle School Track	12
<b>Article 16*</b>	Amend FY 2026 Spending Limit for Various Revolving Funds	12
<b>Article 17</b>	Proposed Amendments to the Groton Charter	13
<b>Article 18</b>	Purchase Self Containing Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department	13
<b>Article 19</b>	Chapter 202 of the General Bylaws - "Door-to-Door Solicitation"	14
<b>Article 20</b>	Amend Chapter 161 – Licenses and Permits of the Groton Code	19
<b>Article 21</b>	Special Legislation - Prohibit Use Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides	21
<b>Article 22</b>	Accept Bluebird Lane as a Town Way	22
<b>Article 23</b>	Citizens' Petition – Authorization for Advisory Committee	23
	Report of the Town Manager to the 2025 Fall Town Meeting	25
	Appendix A – Proposed Amendments to the Groton Charter	

\*Will be presented as one motion as a Consent Agenda

**Article 1: 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:**

**Finance Committee:**

**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. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 2: Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Town Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget as adopted under Article 5 of the April 26, 2025 Spring Town Meeting and amended under Article 1 of the June 23, 2025 Special Town Meeting, and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2026, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Finance Committee**

**Select Board**

**Town Manager**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The Fiscal Year 2026 Town Operating Budget was approved at the April 26, 2025 Special Town Meeting and amended at the June 23, 2025 Special Town Meeting. Any changes to this Budget would have to be made prior to setting the tax rate. The purpose of this article is to make any necessary changes to balance the FY 2026 Operating Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 3: Transfer Money Into the Capital Stabilization Fund**

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 added to the sum already on deposit in the Capital Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *As of the printing of this Warrant, the Fund has a balance of \$\_\_\_\_. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Capital Stabilization Fund equal to 1.5% of the total annual budget. The target amount for the Capital Stabilization Fund will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 4:      *Transfer Money into the Stabilization Fund***

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 added to the sum already on deposit in the Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Select Board***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *As of the printing of this Warrant, the balance in this fund is \$\_\_\_\_. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Fund equal to 5% of the total annual budget. The target amount for the Fund will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 5:      *Transfer Money into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund***

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 added to the sum already on deposit in the Town of Groton Capital Stabilization Fund for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *As of the printing of the Warrant, the balance in this fund is \$\_\_\_\_. This fund covers the Town of Groton's share of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee's long-range Capital Plan to address its capital needs. The target amount will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 6:      *Transfer Within the 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 2026 Water Enterprise Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Board of Water Commissioners***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**      *This Article will seek a transfer from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2026 Water Department's General Expense Budget to cover unanticipated expenses. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 7:      *Transfer Within the 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 2026 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Board of Sewer Commissioners***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**      *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Four Corners Sewer Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 8:      *Transfer Within the Stormwater Enterprise Fund***

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

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**      *This article allows the Stormwater Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Stormwater Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 9: Cable Department Equipment Grant**

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 creating a Cable Department Equipment Grant Fund for the Local Access Cable Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Town Manager**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The Town's Cable Television License agreements with Verizon New England Inc. and Spectrum Northeast, LLC include Public, Educational, and Government Grants to be used for capital funding (equipment) purposes. The Town currently collects all cable revenue in the "Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund" that was established at the 2024 Special Town Meeting. This Article will create a new fund for these Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Grant payments so that they can be separated from the general PEG Access Support fees that both entities provide on a quarterly basis. When the Town closed the Cable Enterprise last year, funding designated for this equipment grant was returned to the General Fund and certified as Free Cash. It should have been set aside for equipment. This Article will transfer funds from Free Cash to the Equipment Grant Fund.*

---

**Article 10: 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 Town Manager, 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 Chapter 40, Section 56, and Chapter 58, Sections 1, 1A, and 3, of the Massachusetts General Laws, and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**oard of Assessors**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**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 \$30,000 to cover the cost for appraisal services of Real Property to be conducted by Vision Government Solutions.*

---

**Article 11:     *Repairs to Fitch’s Bridge Head Wall***

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 repair the head wall at Fitch’s Bridge, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**     *The head wall that supports the bridge abutment for Fitch’s Bridge is collapsing and needs to be repaired. The Department of Public Works will oversee the repairs of this head wall in compliance with Massachusetts State Law with regards to procurement. This Article will authorize the funding for this repair. Please see the Town Manager’s Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 12:     *Provide Funding to Maintain the Former Nod Road Landfill***

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 maintain the former Nod Road Landfill in compliance with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection requirements, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

***Department of Public Works Director***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**     *Recently the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) inspected the former Nod Road Landfill and has required the Town to begin mowing the Landfill. DEP is requesting that the Town conduct a third party inspection to ensure the Landfill was “capped” properly. The DPW Director has requested funds be put aside for maintenance, mowing, inspections and monitoring well installation, along with engineering and survey work. The purpose of this Article is to provide the necessary funding. Please see the Town Manager’s Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 13:     *Repair Fire Alarm - Function Hall and Restaurant at the Country Club***

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 repair and/or replace the Fire Alarm System at the Function Hall and Restaurant at the Groton Country Club, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**     *During a recent inspection, it was determined that the current Fire Alarm System at the Functional Hall and Restaurant at the Groton Country Club needs to be replaced to provide proper fire protection at these facilities. The purpose of this Article is to provide the necessary funding for this purpose. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page \_\_ for additional information related to this Article.*

---

**Article 14:     *Engineering Funds for Complete Streets Grant Work***

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 paying engineering costs, and other related costs, for work associated with successfully receiving grant funding from the Commonwealth under the Complete Streets Grant Program, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Complete Streets Committee***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**     *The Complete Streets Committee has successfully received over \$750,000 in grant funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under their Complete Streets Program. Some of the projects covered by the funding have been sidewalks on West Main Street and Lowell Road, along with Pedestrian Crossing Devices along Main Street. The Committee is in the process of preparing another Grant Application this Fall. One of the requirements for this program is that the Town has to cover engineering costs for any approved project. The Committee is seeking \$30,000 for this purpose.*

---

**Article 15: Debt Service for Middle School Track**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for debt service for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Community Preservation Committee**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *This Article appropriates the debt service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 7 of the May 21, 2021 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$1,405,374 for the project. The Community Preservation Committee will pay an additional \$\_\_\_\_\_ in debt service (\$\_\_\_\_\_ in principal payment and \$\_\_\_\_\_ in interest payment). The entire amount will come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

---

**Article 16: Establishing Limits for Various Revolving Funds**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53E½, of the Massachusetts General Laws and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to increase the FY 2026 Spending limit of the Home Recycling Equipment Revolving Fund and the Senior Center Fitness Equipment Revolving Fund from \$10,000 to \$25,000 each, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Town Manager**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *This Article authorizes increasing the FY 2026 Spending Limit of the Home Recycling Equipment Revolving Fund and SR. Center Fitness Equipment to \$25,000.*

---

**Article 17:     *Proposed Amendments to the Groton Charter***

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act to amend the Town Charter as set forth in Appendix A of this Warrant, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Charter Review Committee***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Charter Review Committee:**

**Summary:**     *This Article seeks reconsideration of proposed amendments to the Town of Groton Charter that were previously brought before the Spring 2025 Town Meeting and narrowly defeated by a margin of three votes. The proposed amendments were developed through a public process and are intended to improve clarity, efficiency, and governance within the Charter. Due to the close vote and continued public interest, these amendments are being presented again for further discussion and vote at this Town Meeting, with some slight changes. Approval of the article would authorize the submission of the revised Charter to the Legislature for enactment. The proposed changes are shown in Appendix A of this Warrant beginning on page \_\_\_\_.*

---

**Article 18:     *Replace Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department***

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 purchase and replace the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus of the Fire Department and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**     *Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is a critical component of the safety gear utilized by Fire Department personnel. The ability to breathe clean air and operate in hazardous atmospheres where smoke, heat, and toxic gases are present and may be the difference between life or death during emergency incidents. The Groton Fire Department has policies and procedures in place requiring SCBA's to be worn by personnel on structure fires, vehicle fires, hazardous materials incidents, and other incidents deemed necessary by company officers. The Town had hoped that this purchase would be covered by a Federal Grant, but the Grant Funding has not been received and the SCBA equipment has reached its useful life and needs to be replaced immediately. The cost of this replacement is approximately \$500,000. The Town Manager is recommending that these funds be borrowed and paid off over five (5) years.*

---

**Article 19: Chapter 202 of the General Bylaws - “Door-to-Door Solicitation”**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Groton by adding a new Chapter 202 entitled “ Door-to-Door Solicitation” as follows:

**Chapter 202  
Door-to-Door Solicitation**

**§ 202 - 1 Purpose**

The purpose of this Chapter 202 is to provide for the regulation of door-to-door solicitation for commercial purposes in the Town of Groton, to promote public safety and consumer protection.

**§ 202-2 Definitions**

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated below:

PEDDLER/HAWKER — Any person who sells and makes immediate delivery of, or offers for sale and immediate delivery of, any goods, wares or merchandise, in possession of the seller, at any place within the Town of Groton other than from a fixed place of business.

PERSON — Includes the singular and the plural and shall also mean and include any person, firm or corporation, association, club, partnership or society, or any other organization.

SOLICITOR — Any person who sells or takes orders or offers to sell or take orders for goods, wares, or merchandise for future delivery, or for services to be performed, at any place within the Town of Groton other than a fixed place of business.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION — The transaction of any temporary business within the Town by moving from one place to another by foot, vehicle, or other conveyance, and selling or buying goods, wares, merchandise, foods, or services, or soliciting for orders, sales, subscriptions, or business of any kind, or soliciting for information or donations, including such conduct by peddlers, hawkers, and solicitors.

**§ 202-3 License Required**

No person may engage in door-to-door solicitation in the Town of Groton without a license issued by the Chief of Police, unless otherwise exempted under this Chapter 202.

**§ 202-4 Exemptions**

This Chapter shall not apply to:

- A. Persons, firms or corporations selling services, goods, wares, merchandise or materials at wholesale to dealers in such articles.
- B. Newspaper delivery.

- C. Persons vending and delivering goods, wares, or merchandise to regular customers on established routes in the regular course of business.
- D. Deliveries of products previously ordered or purchased.
- E. Sales on private property of the owner's or occupant's household goods and belongings.
- F. Any activity for religious, political, or public policy purposes or other noncommercial purposes, such as non-profit organizations and youth groups, regardless of whether such activity includes acts that would otherwise constitute door-to-door solicitation.
- G. Governmental officers or employees of the Town, county, state or federal government, or any subdivision thereof, when on official business.
- H. Insurance companies authorized to do business in Massachusetts.
- I. Persons under the age of 18 except in connection with a for-profit organization, newspaper carriers excepted.

#### **§ 202-5 Application for License**

- A. Each person seeking to conduct door-to-door solicitation shall obtain from and file with the Police Department an application for a license and accompany said application with an investigation fee to cover the cost of investigating the applicant in an amount set from time to time by the Town Manager.
- B. The written application shall contain the required information:
  - (1) Name, permanent address and telephone number, and temporary address if any, of the person seeking to conduct door-to-door solicitation.
  - (2) Applicant date of birth.
  - (3) Applicant height, weight, color of hair and eyes.
  - (4) Make, model and registration number and owner of any vehicle to be used by the applicant while conducting door-to-door solicitation.
  - (5) Period of time for which the license is needed.
  - (6) Brief description of nature of business and goods to be sold.
  - (7) Name, address and telephone number of the person or organization whom the applicant represents and the length of time the applicant has been associated with or employed by that person or organization.
- C. The applicant shall permit the Police Department to photograph said applicant for identification purposes.
- D. A license fee structure shall be issued for one day, one week, one month, or one year. The fees for each duration shall be set from time to time by the Town Manager. One-year duration licenses will be prorated from the set fee if not obtained in the month of January.

## **§ 202-6 Investigation of Applicant; Issuance or Denial of License**

- A. Upon receipt of each such application, the Police Department shall initiate an investigation of the applicant as the Department deems necessary for the protection of the public good, subject to all applicable legal requirements, including authorized criminal history background checks.
- B. Not later than 10 calendar days after the filing of such application, the Chief of Police, or their designee, shall issue the applicant a license [in the form of a photo license card] showing the name and address of the licensee and authorizing them to solicit for the purposes described in their application subject to this Chapter and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Failure by the Chief of Police to act on an application within 10 calendar days shall constitute approval of said application.
- C. Grounds for disapproval of an application shall be:
  - (1) Applicant has a conviction in any state or federal court of the United States or any court of a territory of the United States for any of the following named offenses committed within the last seven years: murder/manslaughter, rape, arson, burglary, breaking and entering, larceny, robbery, receiving stolen property, assault, fraud, sexual misconduct as specified in M.G.L. c. 265, §§ 13B and 22 through 24, and M.G.L. c. 272, § 53A, unlawfully carrying weapons, or the attempt of any such offense, as such persons pose a substantial degree of danger to minors and other persons vulnerable to becoming victims of the violent crimes so listed;
  - (2) Applicant is a person who is a sex offender required to register with the Sex Offenders Registry Board and who is finally classified as a Level 2 or Level 3 Sex Offender, as such person has been found to have a moderate to high risk of re-offense and pose a substantial degree of dangerousness to minors and other persons vulnerable to becoming victims of sex crimes;
  - (3) Applicant has had a license revoked for violation of this Chapter within the previous two-year period; or
  - (4) The failure to include any of the information requested in the application.

## **§ 202-7 License Requirements**

- A. Licenses shall be issued, or denied, by the Chief no later than 10 business days after the application therefor is made in writing to the Police Department.
- B. All [licenses / photo license cards] shall clearly indicate the dates of issuance and expiration and the name and address of the licensee.
- C. All licenses issued under this Chapter are personal to the licensee and shall not be transferable. It shall be a violation of this Chapter for a licensee to allow a license to be used by any other person.

- D. Licensees under this Chapter shall carry their [license / photo license card] with them while engaged in authorized activities and must have such [license / photo license card] clearly visible while soliciting in the Town of Groton.
- E. Annual licenses shall expire on December 31 of the year issued.
- F. Ice creams trucks are required to print and post an 8 1/2 x 11 color copy of the [license / photo license card] in the window of vehicle, clearly visible to patrons.
- G. If while the application is pending or during the term of any license granted thereon there is a change in fact, policy, or method that would alter the information given in the application, the applicant or licensee, as the case may be, shall notify the Police Department in writing within 24 hours of such change.
- H. A license issued under this Chapter 202 does not constitute an endorsement by the Town of Groton nor by any of its departments or officers of the purpose or of the person conducting the solicitation.

#### **§ 202-8 Time Limit for Operation**

No licensee under this Chapter shall conduct door-to-door solicitation between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. or on Sundays and legal holidays, unless invited to do so by the owner or occupant of any private residence in the Town.

#### **§ 202-9 No Solicitation List**

A No Solicitation List shall be established and maintained by the Groton Police Department to prohibit door-to-door solicitation at certain premises. Owners or occupants may submit their property for inclusion on the list without charge. Upon approval of the issuance of a license as provided herein, each such licensed entity or individual shall be provided with a copy of the No Solicitation List and may not conduct door-to-door solicitation at such property.

#### **§ 202-10 Posted Premises**

No person shall engage in door-to-door solicitation upon any premises without a prior invitation from the occupant if such premises is posted against such solicitation by means of a notice prominently displayed near the main entrance to the premises or on or near the main door bearing the phrase "no solicitors" or words of similar effect.

#### **§ 202-11 Revocation of License; Appeals**

- A. Licenses issued under this Chapter may be revoked by the Chief of Police for any of the following causes:
  - (1) Fraud, misrepresentation, or false statements contained in the application for a license.
  - (2) Fraud, misrepresentation, or false statements in the course of carrying on door-to-door solicitation.
  - (3) Any violation of this Chapter.

- (4) Commission or conviction of a felony.
  - (5) Commission or conviction of any crime or misdemeanor of moral turpitude.
  - (6) Conducting the business of door-to-door solicitation in a threatening, abusive or illegal fashion so as to constitute a menace to the health, safety, or general welfare of the public.
- B. Notice of the revocation of the license shall be given in writing, setting forth the grounds of complaint and the opportunity to appeal the decision of revocation. Such notice shall be made in person or mailed to the licensee at their last known address, or at an address contained in the application for a license.
- C. Any person who is denied a license or whose license has been revoked may appeal by filing a written notice of appeal with the Town Manager. Such appeal must be filed within five days after receipt of the notice of denial or revocation. The Town Manager shall hear the appeal within one week of the written notice of appeal, provided, however, that if the Town Manager fails to make a determination within 30 days after the filing of the appeal, the license shall be deemed granted or reinstated as the case may be.

#### **§ 202-12      Violations and Penalties**

- A. Any person violating any provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to a fine of \$300 for each offense, except as otherwise provided herein; and a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.
- B. Noncriminal disposition. As an alternative to criminal prosecution or civil action, the Town may elect to utilize the noncriminal disposition procedure set forth in M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D, which has been adopted by the Town in the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 1, § 1-4, Complaints, in which case the Police Department or authorized agent shall be the enforcing person.

#### **§ 202-13      Severability**

Invalidity of any individual provision of this Chapter shall not affect the validity of the Chapter as a whole.

And further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make any numbering or formatting edits necessary to conform to the publication conventions of the Town Bylaws;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Manager***  
***Police Chief***

**Select Board:**  
**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The Door-to-Door Solicitation Bylaw will establish a process for Solicitors and other Transient Vendors to obtain a license from the town. The application process will include the following: a review of the background of the vendor and suitability of the applicant. This license will establish working hours for vendors to solicit door to door and will prohibit door to door solicitation from 7PM - 9AM, and exclude soliciting on Sunday and holidays. The bylaw will also establish a “No Solicitation List.” This will prohibit soliciting for any properties that are on the list, and solicitors will not be allowed to go in or on the private property or residence of such person(s) who are on the list. Residents may request to be placed on the “No Solicitation List” at any time. The bylaw establishes penalties for those who solicit in violation of the bylaw.*

---

**Article 20: Amend Chapter 161 – Licenses and Permits of the Groton Code**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 161 “Licenses and Permits” of the of the General Bylaws of the Town by adding a New Article 2 entitled “Criminal History Background Checks” as follows:

**Chapter 161  
Licenses and Permits**

**Article 2. Criminal History Background Checks**

**§161-2 Purpose and Authority**

- A. In order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Groton, and as authorized by M.G.L. c. 6, § 172B 1/2, this Chapter shall require:
  - (1) Applicants for a license listed in §161-3 below to submit to fingerprinting by the Groton Police Department; and
  - (2) The Police Department to arrange for the conduct of fingerprint-based criminal record background checks.
- B. The Town authorizes the Massachusetts State Police, the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Systems (DCJIS), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), as may be applicable, to conduct on the behalf of the Town and its Police Department fingerprint-based state and national criminal history records checks, including FBI records, consistent with this Chapter. The Town authorizes the Police Department to receive and utilize state and FBI records in connection with such background checks, consistent with this Chapter. The Town shall not disseminate criminal record information received from the state or FBI to unauthorized persons or entities.

**§161-3 Licenses Subject to Fingerprinting**

Any applicant for a license to engage in any of the following occupational activities shall have a full set of fingerprints taken by the Police Department for the purpose of conducting a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history records check:

- A. Manager of alcoholic beverage license.
- B. Hawkers, peddlers, and solicitors (door-to-door solicitation license).
- C. Ice cream truck vendor.
- D. Junk dealers.
- E. Owner or operator of a public conveyance.

**§161-4 Police Department Procedure**

- A. The Police Department will forward the full set of fingerprints obtained pursuant to this Chapter either electronically or manually to the State Identification Section of the Massachusetts State Police.
- B. The Police Department shall provide the applicant with a copy of the results of his or her fingerprint based criminal background check and supply the applicant with opportunity to complete, or challenge the accuracy of, the information contained in it, including the state and FBI identification record. Any applicant that wishes to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the record shall be advised that the procedures to change, correct, or update the record are set forth in 28 CFR 16.34 and any applicable DCJIS policy.
- C. The Police Department shall communicate the results of fingerprint-based criminal history records check to the applicable Town licensing authority (the "licensing authority"). The Police Department shall in addition render to the licensing authority its evaluation of the applicant's suitability for the proposed occupational activity based on the results of the criminal records background check and any other relevant information known to it. In rendering its evaluation, the Police Department shall indicate whether the applicant has been convicted of, or is under pending indictment for, a crime that bears upon his or her suitability for the proposed occupational activity, or any felony or misdemeanor that involved force or threat of force, controlled substances, or a sex-related offense.

**§161-5 Reliance by Licensing Authority on Results of Background Check.**

- A. The licensing authority may utilize the results of any fingerprint-based criminal records background check performed pursuant to this Chapter for the sole purpose of determining the applicant's suitability for the proposed occupational activity. The licensing authority may deny an application for any license specified herein, including renewals and transfers thereof, if it determines that the results of the fingerprint-based criminal records background check render the applicant unsuitable for the proposed occupational activity.
- B. No application shall be denied on the basis of information contained in a criminal record until the applicant has been afforded a reasonable time, as determined by the licensing authority, to correct or complete the information, or has declined to do so.

**§161-6 Policies and Procedures**

The Police Department, subject to the approval of the Town Manager, will develop and maintain written policies and procedures for its licensing-related criminal record background check system.

**§161-7 Fees**

Each applicant for a license listed in §161-3 shall pay a fee as set from time to time by the Town Manager.

And further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make any numbering or formatting edits necessary to conform to the publication conventions of the Town Bylaws;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Town Manager  
Police Chief**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The amendment will authorize the Town to require a fingerprint- based criminal background check of applicants of certain licenses to protect the safety of the inhabitants of the Town of Groton. The amendment will require those who apply the following licenses: Manager of alcoholic beverage license; Hawkers, peddlers, and solicitors; ice cream truck vendor; owner or operator of a public conveyance. The licensing authority shall utilize the results of any fingerprint-based criminal records background check for the sole purpose of determining applicant's suitability for the proposed occupational activity.*

---

**Article 21: Special Legislation - Prohibit Use Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act as set forth below, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**An Act Authorizing the Town of Groton To Prohibit the Use of Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides**

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 132B of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the town of Groton may regulate through local bylaw or board of health regulation the use of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides within the town of Groton, including prohibiting the use of such pesticides by licensed commercial applicators as defined in 333 C.M.R. 10.00.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

### **Select Board**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *The passage of legislation - whether state-wide or local - authorizing the prohibition or restriction of so-called “second generation anticoagulant rodenticides”, commonly referred to as “SGARs”, is necessary for the following reasons: Despite the use of rodent poisons for generations, rodents continue to proliferate in communities that support their feeding habits; Trash control, rather than poison, is the most effective means of reducing rodent populations; SGARs have caused, and continue to cause, immense, prolonged suffering and death among natural rodent predators such as bald eagles, owls, hawks, coyotes, foxes, and in some cases, domestic pets; In May 2025, the Select Board adopted a policy prohibiting the use of SGARs on Town property; In order to prohibit or restrict the application of SGARs on private property in Groton, state-wide or local legislation is necessary; Many other communities, including Newton, Arlington, Billerica, Brookline and Newbury, have filed petitions in the General Court seeking similar special legislation; The extreme, unnecessary, and avoidable suffering of non-targeted species must be curtailed by adherence to a community-wide integrated pest management (“IPM”) program that requires public education, enhanced trash management measures and that either prohibits or greatly restricts the use of SGARs; If enacted, the petitioned special legislation would permit the Town to determine the extent to which SGARs should be prohibited or restricted in Groton under a future bylaw approved by Town Meeting.*

---

### **Article 22: Accept Bluebird Lane as a Town Way**

To see if the Town will vote to accept Bluebird Lane as a public way, as recommended by the Planning Board and laid out by the Select Board and as shown on a plan entitled “Bluebird Lane Street Acceptance Plan, Groton, Massachusetts” Owned by R.D. Kanniard Homes, Ayer, MA, prepared by Dillis & Roy, Civil Design Group, dated May 15, 2025, and on file with the Town Clerk; to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain such land and easements for the creation, maintenance and operation of a public way, including but not limited to easements for access, grading, drainage, sloping, construction and utilities, in all or any portions of such way and the parcels on such way, or to take any other action relative thereto.

### **Select Board**

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:** *To accept Bluebird Lane as a public way.*

**Article 23:      *Citizens’ Petition – Authorization to Create an Advisory Committee***

To see if the Town will vote to require the creation of an Advisory Committee to develop and recommend a process for delivering Major Initiative Cost - Benefit Reports to Town Meeting.

***Citizens’ Petition***

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
John Petropoulos	18 Kemp Street	Mary A. Jennings	62 Blossom Lane
Kevin Lindemer	201 Boston Road	Diane Hewitt	57 Long Hill Road
Stephen Lane	86 Ridgewood Road	Deborah Busser	17 Broadmeadow Road
Bruce H. Easom	435 Martins Pond Road	Jonathan Strauss	38 Westview Street
Jay Prager	28 Star House Lane	Mark R. Presti	230 Fieldstone Drive

**Select Board:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Summary:**    **The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article:** *Town Meeting would benefit from the provision of rigorous and independently created cost-benefit reports to Town Meeting for articles projected to add significant cost to taxpayers. Phase one (this article) authorizes the creation of a five (5) person Advisory Committee charged with developing the structure, protocols and membership for creating Major Initiative Cost - Benefit Reports. The Committee will present its recommendations to a future Town Meeting for consideration and adoption. The Advisory Committee would be appointed by an affirmative vote of this Town Meeting and would consist of the first five signatories of this Citizen's Petition. The Committee will engage members of the Select Board, Fin Com, School Committee and other subject matter experts in its work.*

---

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 29<sup>th</sup> Day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

Matthew F. Pisani

Matthew F. Pisani, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Clerk

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, Member

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, 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