

Town of Groton



2015
Annual
Town Report



GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLESEX COUNTY

www.townofgroton.org

“At A Glance”

Settled: May 23, 1655

Type of Government: Open Town Meeting; Town Manager

Location: Northwestern part of Middlesex County

Population from 2015 Annual Town Census: 10,793

Registered Voters as of December 31, 2015: 7,792

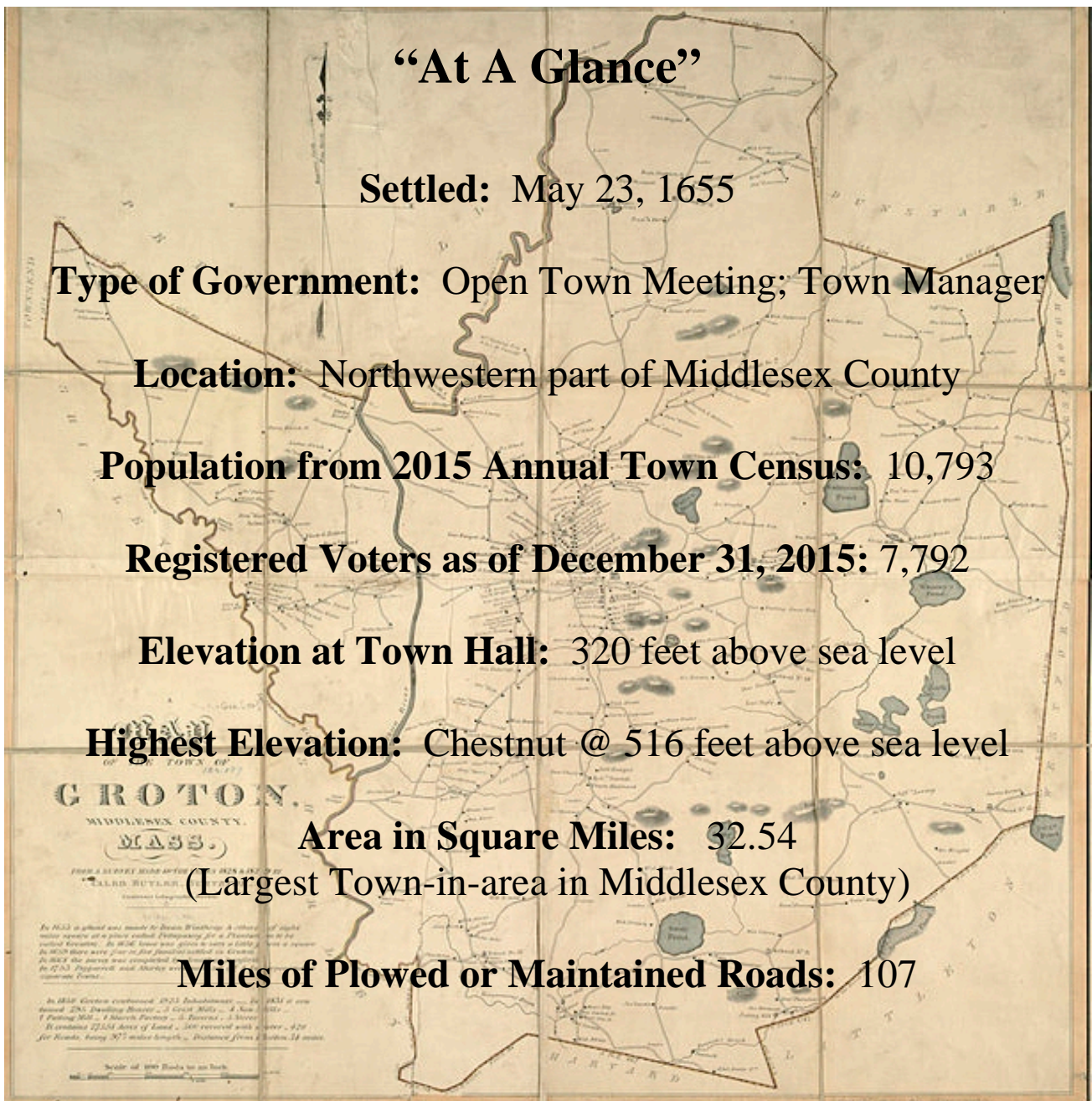
Elevation at Town Hall: 320 feet above sea level

Highest Elevation: Chestnut @ 516 feet above sea level

Area in Square Miles: 32.54

(Largest Town-in-area in Middlesex County)

Miles of Plowed or Maintained Roads: 107



In Memoriam 2015

Let the residents of Groton pause and reflect for a moment on those who served.

Arthur Blackman

Allen Friedrich

Irene Collette

Bennett Black

Aldo Luca

Peter Moller

Elizabeth Stone

Carol Chalmers



Photo by Karen Riggert

2015 Proclamations

*On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Groton, the Board of Selectmen issued proclamations and set aside an **“APPRECIATION DAY”** for the following citizens and organizations who have made significant contributions to the community:*

COMMUNITY

Hannah Tellier	March 8, 2015
Arbor Day	May 17, 2015
Bob “Main Street” Wright	October 23, 2015
Art Campbell	November 30, 2015

EAGLE SCOUTS

Aaron Jeffrey Hendershot	January 4, 2015
Daniel B. Evans	May 15, 2015
Scott Peter Henriques	September 18, 2015
Ian William Henriques	September 18, 2015



Board of Selectmen

John G. Petropoulos, Chair
John G. Petropoulos, Chair

Peter S. Cunningham, Member
Peter S. Cunningham, Member

Anna Eliot, Vice Chair
Anna Eliot, Vice Chair

Joshua A. Degen, Member
Joshua A. Degen, Member

Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk
Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk

Michael Bouchard, Town Clerk
Michael Bouchard, Town Clerk

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FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT

Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111
Visitors Office: 202-456-2121

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Edward J. Markey
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2742

975 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
Phone: (617) 565-8519

Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4543

2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 565-3710

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Niki Tsongas
1607 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3411

126 John Street, Suite 112
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 459-0101
www.tsongas.house.gov

GOVERNOR

Charlie Baker
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 725-4005
www.mass.gov

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Maura Healy
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108-1518
Consumer Hotline (617) 727-8400
(617) 727-2200

DISTRICT ATTORNEY MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Marian Ryan
15 Commonwealth Avenue
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 897-8300
www.middlesexda.com

SECRETARY OF STATE

William Galvin
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-7030
sec.state.ma.us/index.htm

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Eileen Donoghue
First Middlesex District
State House, Room 112
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-1630
Eileen.Donoghue@masenate.gov

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Sheila C. Harrington
First Middlesex District
State House, Room 237
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-2305
Sheila.Harrington@mahouse.gov

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Maria Curtatone
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 679-6300
middlesexsouth@sec.state.ma.us

REGISTER OF PROBATE

Tara DeCristofaro
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800

SHERIFF

Peter J. Koutoujian
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office
400 Mystic Avenue
Medford, MA 02155
(781) 960-2800

Town Departments Directory

Accountant.....	978-448-1107
Board of Selectmen.....	978-448-1111
Board of Assessors.....	978-448-1127
Board of Health	978-448-1120
Building & Zoning Department...	978-448-1109
Commissioners of Trust Funds...	978-448-1173
Conservation Commission.....	978-448-1106
Council on Aging.....	978-448-1170
Department of Public Works.....	978-448-1162
Electric Light Department.....	978-448-1150
Fire Department.....	978-448-6333
Groton-Dunstable Regional School District.....	978-448-5505
Groton Country Club.....	978-448-3996
Groton Public Library.....	978-448-1167
Historic Districts Commission.....	978-448-1109
Housing Authority.....	978-732-1913
Human Resources/Personnel.....	978-448-1145
Information Technology.....	978-732-1889
Inspector of Animals.....	978-448-1111
Park Commission.....	978-732-1913
Planning Board.....	978-448-1105
Police Department.....	978-448-5555
Sewer Commission.....	978-448-1117
Tax Collector/Treasurer.....	978-448-1103
Town Clerk.....	978-448-1100
Water Department.....	978-448-1122
Veterans' Service Officer.....	978-448-1175
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	978-448-1121



ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS (in alphabetical order)

ASSESSORS, BOARD OF

Donald Black	2016
Garrett Boles	2017
Jenifer Evans	2018
*Rena Swezey	

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS

Rodney R. Hersh	2016
Bruce Easom	2017
Kevin J. Lindemer	2018

GDRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Jon Sjoberg	2016
Leslie Lathrop	2016
Jeffrey Kubick	2017
Peter Cronin	2018
Alison Manugian	2018

HEALTH, BOARD OF

Robert Fleischer	2016
Jason Weber	2017
Susan H. Horowitz	2018

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Leslie Colt	2017
Deidre Slavin-Mitchell	2018
Brooks T. Lyman	2019
Ellen G. Todd	2020
Daniel C. Emerson	State appt'd

MODERATOR

Jason Kauppi	2018
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PARK COMMISSIONERS

Kenneth Bushnell	2016
Robert Flynn	2016
Matthew Frary	2017
Gineane Haberlin	2017
1 Vacancy	

PLANNING BOARD

John Giger	2016
George E. Barringer, Jr.	2016
Scott O. Wilson	2017
Michael Vega	2017
Timothy Svarczkopf	2018
Russell Burke	2018
Carolyn A. Perkins	2018

SELECTMEN, BOARD OF

Joshua A. Degen	2016
Stuart M. Schulman	2016
Anna Eliot	2017
Peter S. Cunningham	2017
John G. Petropoulos	2018

SEWER COMMISSIONERS

James L. Gmeiner	2016
Thomas Orcutt	2017
Thomas D. Hartnett	2018

TOWN CLERK

Michael Bouchard	2018
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TRUST FUNDS, COMMISSIONERS OF

Leslie Wickfield	2016
Thomas D. Hartnett	2017
Joseph E. Twomey	2018

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mark Gerath	2016
Nancy Wilder	2016
Barbara Lamont	2017
David Zeiler	2017
Kristen Von Campe	2018
Jane R. Allen	2018

WATER COMMISSIONERS

David Crocker	2016
James L. Gmeiner	2017
John McCarthy, Jr.	2018

*Resigned

** Deceased

**OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY
THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

TOWN MANAGER	
Mark W. Haddad	2016
TOWN COUNSEL	
David J. Doneski, Esq.	2017
POLICE CHIEF	
Donald L. Palma, Jr.	2016
FIRE CHIEF	
Steele McCurdy	2017

**OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY
THE
TOWN MANAGER**

ADA COORDINATOR	
Michelle Collette	2016
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
George Moore	2016
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	
George Moore	2016
BUILDING COMMISSIONER	
Edward Cataldo	2016
BUILDING INSPECTOR	
Daniel Britko	2016
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS	
Sarah E. Power	2016
Darlene A. Touchette	2016
Warren Gibson	2016
Jonathan Shattuck	2016
Catherine Myers	2016
Samuel Welch	2016
Edward J. Bushnoe (Part time)	2016
Justin Zink (Relief)	2016
Ian Brown (Relief)	2016
Beverly Jeddrey (Relief)	2016

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR	
Takashi Tada	2016

CONSTABLES	
Brian O. Downes	2016
George Moore	2016
Frederick Correia	2017
Jack Balonis	2017
George Rider	2018

COUNCIL ON AGING DIRECTOR	
Kathy Shelp	2016

DATABASE COORDINATOR	
April Moulton	2016

DOG OFFICER	
George Moore	2016
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016

EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR	
Michelle Collette	2016

ELECTION WORKERS	
Florine Bakke	2016
Jack Balonis	2016
Maureen Beal	2016
Marcia Birmingham	2016
Nadine Bishop	2016
Laurie Bonnett	2016
Audrey Bryce	2016
Marvin Caldwell	2016
Carol Chalmers	2016
Gail Chalmers	2016
Carole Clark	2016
Margaret Connolly	2016
Anthony Corsetti	2016
Irene Corsetti	2016
Joan Croteau	2016
Jean Cummings	2016
Carol Daigle	2016
Charlene Dapolito	2016
Dorothy Davis	2016
Dawn Dunbar	2016
Alberta Erickson	2016
George Faircloth	2016
Carl Flowers	2016
Norma Garvin	2016
Louise Gaskins	2016

Joan Guimond	2016
Margot Hammer	2016
Ellen Hargraves	2016
Richard Hewitt	2016
April Iannacone	2016
Marlene Kenney	2016
Stephen Legge	2016
Lorraine Leonard	2016
Cindy Martell	2016
Paula Martin	2016
Mary McGrath	2016
Violetta O'Donnell	2016
Lisa O'Neil	2016
John Ott	2016
Geraldine Perry	2016
Nancy Pierce	2016
Peg Russell	2016
Suzanne Sanders	2016
Connie Sartini	2016
Stuart Shuman	2016
Fran Stanley	2016
Arestothea Staub	2016
Alberta Steed	2016
Lori Sullivan	2016
Rena Swezey	2016
Janet Thompson	2016
Ramona Tolles	2016
Richard Van Doren	2016
Bronwen Wallens	2016
Ann Walsh	2016
Margaret Wheatley	2016

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Edward Doucette	2016
John Dee III (Alternate)	2016

FENCE VIEWER

George Moore	2016
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FIELD DRIVER

George Moore	2016
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GROTON COUNTRY CLUB

GENERAL MANAGER / HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Shawn Campbell	2016
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GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER

Deborah Beal Normandin	2016
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HARBOR MASTER

Donald L. Palma, Jr.	2016
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HAZ-MAT COORDINATOR

Steele McCurdy	2016
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HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY & ACCOUNTIBILITY OFFICER

Melisa Doig	2016
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HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Melisa Doig	2016
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IT DIRECTOR

Michael Chiasson	2016
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KEEPER OF THE TOWN CLOCK

Paul Matisse	2016
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LAND USE DIRECTOR

TOWN PLANNER

Michelle Collette	2016
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LOCAL LICENSING AGENT

Donald L. Palma, Jr.	2016
James Cullen	2016

MEASURER OF WOOD AND BARK

Evan C. Owen	2016
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MOTH SUPERINTENDENT

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
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NIMS COORDINATOR

Donald L. Palma, Jr.	2016
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PARKING CLERK

Dawn Dunbar	2016
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PLUMBING AND GAS INSPECTOR

John Murphy	2016
John Templeton (Alternate)	2016

PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

Rena Swezey	2016
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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Chief

James Cullen	2016
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Matrons

Beverly Jeddrey	2016
April Moulton	2016
Kathleen Newell	2016
Sarah E. Power	2016
Darlene A. Touchette	2016

Officers

Nicholas Beltz	2016
Robert Breault	2016
Peter Breslin	2016
Gordon Candow	2016
Paul R. Connell	2016
Omar Conner	2016
Timothy Cooper	2016
Derrick Gemos	2016
Jason Goodwin	2016
Kevin Henehan	2016
Michael Lynn	2016
Rachel Mead	2016
Dale Rose	2016
Edward P. Sheridan	2016
Corey Waite	2016
Gregory Steward	2016
Patrick Timmins	2016

Reserve Officers

George Aggott	2016
Edward Bushnoe	2016
Bethany Evans-Bonczar	2016
Stephen McAndrew	2016
Kathleen Newell	2016
Michael Ratte	2016
Victor Sawyer	2016

Groton Special Officers

Irmin Pierce	2016
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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
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ROAD KILL OFFICER

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
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SEALER WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Eric Aaltonen	2016
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SURVEYOR OF WOOD/LUMBER

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
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TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Patricia Dufresne	2016
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TOWN DIARIST

M. Constance Sartini	2016
Robert L. Collins	2016

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Michael Hartnett	2016
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TREE WARDEN

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
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VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

Robert C. Johnson	2016
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WATER SUPERINTENDENT

Thomas Orcutt	2016
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**COMMITTEES &
COMMISSIONS
APPOINTED BY THE BOARD
OF SELECTMEN**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST
FUND**

Frederick Dunn	2016
Stuart M. Schulman	2016
Sheila Julien	2017
Joshua A. Degen	2017
David Wilder	2017

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Michael Bouchard – Town Clerk	2016
Sally Hensley	2016
Jennifer Miethe	2017
Dale A. Martin	2018

**BY-LAW REVIEW & STUDY
COMMITTEE**

Michael Bouchard	2016
Peter S. Cunningham	2016
Mark W. Haddad	2016
Jay Prager	2016
Vacancy	2016

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Jane Allen	2016
Robert L. Collins	2016
John Giger	2016
Michael Manugian	2016
Michael McCoy	2016
Norman “Bud” Robertson	2016
Stuart M. Schulman	2016

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Russell Burke (Planning)	2016
Daniel Emerson (Housing Auth.)	2016
Robert DeGroot (Historical)	2016
Bruce Easom (Conservation)	2016
Matthew Frary (Parks)	2016
Michael Roberts (BOS)	2018
Richard Hewitt (BOS)	2018

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Peter A. Morrison	2016
Susan Black	2016
Eileen McHugh	2017
Bruce H. Easom	2017
Marshall E. Giguere	2018
Jon Smigelski	2018
1 Vacancy	2018
*Mary Metzger & Rena Swezey	

COUNCIL ON AGING

Charlotte Carkin	2016
Maydelle Gamester	2016
Marie Melican	2016
Gail Chalmers	2017
Vera Strickland	2017
Ellen Baxendale	2017
Edward Wenzell	2018
George Faircloth	2018
Richard Marton	2018

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Russell Burke	2016
Anna Eliot	2016
Michael Rasmussen	2016
Gregory Troughton	2016
Arthur Prest	2016
Jason Parent	2016
1 Vacancy	

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Manugian	2016
Art Prest	2016
Robert Hargraves	2017
Barry Pease	2017
Gary Green	2018
Mark Bacon	2018
Norman “Bud” Robertson	2018

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Peter S. Cunningham	2016
Carolyn A. Perkins	2016
3 Vacancies	

LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCIL

Pat Hartvigsen	2016
Joni Parker-Roach	2016
Gretchen Hummon	2018
Mary Jennings	2019
Dina Mordeno	2019
Susan Randazzo-Schulman	2019
Monica Hinojos	2019
Karen Riggert	2021
Pat Lawrence	2021
John Weidner	2021

LOST LAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mark Deuger	2016
Susan Horowitz	2016
Thomas Orcutt	2016
John G. Petropoulos	2016
Art Prest	2016
Michael Rosa	2016
Alex Woodle	2016

LOWELL REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Joshua A. Degen	2016
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MBTA ADVISORY BOARD

Joshua A. Degen	2016
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MILITARY COMMUNITY COVENANT

Peter Braudis	2016
Peter S. Cunningham	2016
Anna Eliot	2016
Robert Johnson	2016

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**
David Manugian 2016
1 Vacancy

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE**
David Manugian 2016
Mark W. Haddad 2016

**NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL
TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**
Kristian Gentile 2016

PERSONNEL BOARD
Norman “Bud” Robertson 2016
Dolores Alberghini 2017
Mary Jennings 2018

SARGISSON BEACH COMMITTEE
Cheney Harper 2016
Andrew Davis 2016
Joshua Degen 2017
John Giger 2018
Rena Swezey 2018

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Brian LeBlanc 2016
Robinson C. Moore 2017
Kate Dennison 2017
Barbara P. Ritz 2017
Alberta Erickson 2018
Jeannie Erickson 2018

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Carl Canner 2016
Bruce Easom 2016
Carl Flowers 2016
Leo Laverdure 2016
Alison Peterson 2016
Michael Roberts 2016
Patricia Karohl 2016
2 Vacancies

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Jay Prager 2016
Alison S. Manugian 2016
Cynthia A. Maxwell 2017
Robert C. Cadle 2017

Mark E. Mulligan 2018
Bruce Easom (Alternate) 2016
Alberta Erickson 2016
2 Vacancies (Alternate)

COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Meredith Scarlet 2016
George Moore 2016
John Smigelski 2017
Susan Colt Wilcox 2017
Sean O’Neill III 2018
Gineane Haberlin 2018

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
Michael Bouchard 2016
Carl Flowers 2016
5 Vacancies

BOARD OF SURVEY
Edward Cataldo – Bldg. Insp. 2016
Steele McCurdy – Fire Chief 2016
Evan C. Owen 2016

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Jane Bouvier 2016
Neil Colicchio 2016
David Melpignano 2016
Robert Piche 2016
Janet Sheffield 2016

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
Ellen Baxendale 2016
Robert Fleischer 2016
Scott Harker 2016
Emil Reschsteiner 2016
Mark Shack 2016
Alan Taylor 2016
Anna Vega 2016

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
RESPONSE COORDINATOR**
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2016

Steele McCurdy	2016
Donald L. Palma, Jr.	2016
William Shute	2016

CONDUCTORLAB COMMITTEE

Michelle Collette	2016
Mark Deuger	2016
Robert Hanninen	2016
Susan Horowitz	2016
Stuart M. Schulman	2016

EARTH REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ray Capes	2016
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
Robert Hanninen	2016
Edward A. Perkins	2016
Rena Swezey	2016

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Pat Arel	2016
Stephen Byrne	2016
Bob Colman	2016
Peter Cunningham	2016
Francis Cusak	2016
Daniel Daigneault	2016
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
Edward Doucette	2016
Heather Emslie	2016
Carl Flowers	2016
Norma Garvin	2016
Mark Haddad	2016
Penny Hommeyer	2016
Susan Horowitz	2016
Holly Jarek	2016
Elaine Johnson	2016
Leroy Johnson	2016
Robert Johnson	2016
Kevin Kelly	2016
Stephen Legge	2016
Catherine Lincoln	2016
Mark Miller	2016
George Moore	2016
Stephen Moulton	2016
Steele McCurdy	2016
Alvin Neff	2016
Kathy Newell	2016
Thomas Orcutt	2016
Christine Packard	2016

Donald L. Palma, Jr.	2016
Benjamin Podsiadlo	2016
Kathy Puff	2016
Karen Reif	2016
Connie Sartini	2016
Kathy Shelp	2016
William Shute	2016
Bill VanSchwalkwyk	2016

GREAT POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Francoise D. Forbes	2016
Susan H. Horowitz	2016
James Luening	2016
Art Prest	2016
William Strickland	2016
Alexander Woodle	2016
3 Vacancies	

GREENWAY COMMITTEE

Adam Burnett	2016
Carol Coutrier	2016
Matthew McCracken	2016
David Pitkin	2016
Marion R. Stoddart	2016

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

George Wheatley	2016
Robert G. DeGroot	2016
Michael Danti	2016
Allen King	2017
Richard C. Dabrowski	2017
Tracy Heighton Noone	2017
Michael LaTerz, II	2018

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Gina Perini	2016
Richard P. Chilcoat	2016
Maureen C. Giattino	2017
Daniel J. Barton	2017
Sanford Johnson	2017
Laura R. Moore	2018
1 Vacancy	

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jack E. Balonis	2016
George Brackett	2016
Gordon Candow	2016
Michelle Collette	2016
Barbara Cronin	2016

Melisa Doig	2016
Derrick Gemos	2016
Warren Gibson	2016
Hannah Moller	2016
Paul McBrearty	2016
Ann F. Walsh	2016

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE
FOR PRESCOTT SCHOOL**

Bruce Easom	2016
Anna Eliot	2016
Gary Green	2016
Annika Nilsson Ripps	2016
Rebecca Pine	2016
Halsey Platt	2016
Lynwood Prest	2016
Gregory Sheldon	2016

OLD BURYING GROUND COMMISSION

Marcia Beal-Brazer	2016
Amanda Gavazzi	2016
Ellen T. Hargraves	2016
Kenneth A. LeFebvre	2016
Deborah Beal Normandin	2016

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Michael D. Brady	2016
Tessa David	2016
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2016
Jamie E. King	2016
1 Vacancy	

**REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

Donald L. Palma, Jr.	2016
Steele McCurdy	2016
William Shute	2016

SIGN COMMITTEE

Gineane Haberlin	2016
Mark W. Haddad	2016
Carloyn Perkins	2016

TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE

John Sheedy	2016
Stephen L. Babin	2017
Carter Branigan	2018

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Paul Barstow	2016
David Burnham	2016
Chris Bussiere	2016
Paul G. Funch	2016
Wendy A. Good	2016
Stephen Henderson	2016
Olin Lathrop	2016
Stephen A. Legge	2016
David H. Minott	2016
David Pitkin	2016
Jason Remillard	2016

WEED HARVESTER COMMITTEE

John Crowell	2016
Gerrett Durling	2016
Erich Garger	2016
Bradley D. Harper	2016
James Luening	2016
William Strickland	2016
1 Vacancy	

WILLIAMS BARN COMMITTEE

Bruce Easom	2016
Robert Kniffen	2016
Bradbury B. Smith	2016
Kathy Stone	2016
Joseph Twomey	2016
Sandra Tobies	2016
Alfred L. Wyatt	2016
Leo R. Wyatt	2016
1 Vacancy	

GROTON'S ELECTED OFFICIALS



Board of Selectmen

Board of Assessors

Board of Health

Nashoba Associated Board of Health

Commissioners of Trust Funds

Electric Light Department

Groton-Dunstable Regional School District

Report from Superintendent

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Human Resources

Business Department

Pupil Personnel Services

Technology Department

Peter Twomey Youth Center-Extended Day &

Community Services

Regional High School

Regional Middle School

Florence Roche Elementary School

Swallow Union Elementary School

Boutwell Early Childhood Center

Groton Public Library

Housing Authority

Park Commission

Planning Board

Sewer Commission

Town Clerk

Water Department

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager

Office Hours: Mon. 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Meetings Every Monday

(978) 448-1111 Fax: (978) 448-1115

selectmen@townofgroton.org



Photo by Karen Riggert

For the Groton Board of Selectmen 2015 began with an inauspicious start. There was an extraordinary level of rancor between members of the Board and with the Town Manager. Evidence of this was seen in the press, legal maneuvering, recall petitions for all five Board members and a divisive 2015 Town Election. The Board and Town Manager got the message that it was time to focus on our obligations as Town officials, and collectively as a team, we set to work putting things right. That commitment was evidenced in many ways, from a Town Manager who has clearly worked hard to improve relations with the entire Board, to Board members who unanimously elected a new Chair and have gone on to a far more productive second half of the year.

The benefit of this change can be seen in the work that has been accomplished in 2015. We:

- Passed and installed fire protection systems for a considerable portion of Lost Lake neighborhoods.
- Sold or came to agreement on the sale of a large portion of surplus Town property (former Center Fire Station, Squannacook Hall, Tarbell School).
- Took the first step in bringing sewerage to the 4 Corners Business District in order to spur economic development.
- Addressed citizen concerns about over-taxation of the Lost Lake area, demonstrating that assessments, and therefore taxation, were on par with the rest of the town.
- Improved citizen access to information and public input by making far more information available, and instituting an open forum at every Board of Selectmen meeting.

- Utilized the expertise of the Personnel Board in helping to bring best practices to many of our personnel management activities.
- Launched an initiative to bring the town's sizable non-profit community together to leverage the assets that collaboration between the town and that community can offer.
- Initiated the first review of our Charter since its implementation in 2008.
- Joined a Statewide Municipal Management Best Practices initiative that will expose us to leading management practices from around the state, particularly in the areas of Budget Reporting and Cyber Security.
- For the first time ever, came together with the Finance Committee to provide budget direction to the Town Manager as part of a move to a more fiscally involved executive leadership.

Still there are significant challenges ahead:

Our schools are demonstrating a tremendous need for resources, and the major drivers of our municipal budget are growing more quickly than our revenues. Addressing these concerns has a price tag; one which, at current projections, will undoubtedly have a considerable impact on taxes, services and employees. Yet even in this area, impressive work has begun as we appoint a highly qualified committee to understand the issue and recommend solutions. We still need to resolve the use of the Prescott School, but this too is nearing completion. Our 2015 application for state funds to complete the 4 Corners sewerage project was unsuccessful, and we will need to redouble our efforts to secure that funding in 2016.

The net is that the work is not done, but the Board of Selectmen is recognizing the issues and demonstrating an ability to address them. We will see at least one new Selectman elected to the Board this year, as Selectman Schulman completes his final term. We thank him for the disarming smile that he brought to his 9 years of service on the Board, all the while providing a balance and a perspective that we will be certain to appreciate even more in its absence.

Jack Petropoulos
Chair, Groton Board of Selectmen



2015 Community Compact Signing
From Left to Right: Town Manager, Mark W. Haddad;
Lt. Governor, Karen Polito; Town Moderator, Jason Kauppi

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Rena Swezey, Principal Assessor

Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Meetings as Posted

(978) 448-1127 Fax: (978) 448-1115

assessors@townofgroton.org

The Board of Assessors is the local government responsible for establishing the value of property for tax purposes. The assessors are responsible for valuing all taxable property both real and personal for the town. Assessed values are subject to triennial review and interim year adjustments for certification by the Department of Revenue. The Assessors grant all statutory exemptions and all applications for the Senior Work off Program. They act on all abatement applications. The Assessors are responsible for defending all appeals made to the Appellate Tax Board. The Assessors administer all special assessments qualifying farm and forest management programs. Assessments in Massachusetts are based on full and fair cash value as of January 1st.

The assessors' office completed its interim year certification revaluation for fiscal year 2016. The sales analysis of sales occurring in calendar year 2014 was used to set the valuations for FY 16.

The assessors' analyzed all land sales and land residuals to set the Site Index Adjustments for land. Market value has seen slight increases, but for FY 2016 there were no valuations changes other than new growth. The valuations are reflecting an overall stable market in town.

The next tri-annual certification will be for FY 2017 and the Board of Assessors will be starting the process of revaluation in February of 2016. The sales of houses are strong and the town may experience some adjustments in valuations for FY 2017.

Each property in the town has a property record card on file with all the components that go into the valuation of the parcel, such as land size, building description, sales information etc. We recommend that the tax payers each year obtain a copy of their field card to ensure all the information is up to date and correct. The field cards are available in our office or on line through the Assessor's Data on the Town Web Site.

The Department of Revenue certified the results of this assessment data to be within their statistical requirements and the tax bills went out on time. The tax rate went from \$18.27 to \$18.78 for FY 2016.

The office continues the process of mandated cyclical inspection of all properties throughout the town. This is achieved by inspections visiting the properties by means of Sales Verification, Building Permits, Occupancy Permits, and Abatement Inspections. The Board of Assessors is a working board doing all the statistical analysis needed to do In- House Valuations each year to maintain the Fair and Full Cash Value of all properties in the Town of Groton. The Board of Assessors strives to maintain accuracy in Assessment to Sales Ratio as well as Assessment uniformity.

The office staff strives to continue to give the good service that the Groton taxpayers have come to expect.

Respectfully submitted,
Garrett Boles
Jenifer Evans
Rena Swezey

Office of the Assessors' Staff
Rena Swezey, Principal Assessor
Jonathan Greeno, Assistant Assessor
Rebecca Babcock, Office Assistant

Fiscal Year 2016 Assessments & Revenue by Major Classess						
Property Class		Levy Percent	Valuation by Class		Tax Rate	Tax Levy
Residential		93.986	1,453,989,840		18.78	27,320,469.06
Open Space		0	0		18.78	0
Commerical		3.6942	57,104,478		18.78	1,072,993.14
Industrial		0.8809	13,627,400		18.78	256,058.85
Personal Property		1.4419	22,306,730		18.78	419,143.46
Totals		100	1,547,028,448			29,068,664.54
Fiscal Year 2016 Abstract of Assessments						
Property Class Code/ Discription				Accounts	Class Valuation	
101 Residential Single Family				3,178	1,275,523,750	
102 Condominiums				230	52,123,000	
104 Residnetial Two Family				132	47,719,600	
105 Residential Three Family				12	4,818,400	
Misc, Residential 103,109				35	13,014,800	
111-125 Apartments				14	11,543,100	
130-132 106 Vacant Land				603	38,696,500	
300-393 Commerical				86	46,541,700	
400-499 Industrial				15	13,097,900	
501-508 Personal Property				68	22,306,730	
600-821 Chapter 61, 61A, 61B				57	946,030	
012-043 Mixed Use Properties				37	21,085,100	
900 Tax Exempt Properties				560	392,386,672	
Total				5,027	1,939,803,282	

Assessors Account for Exemptions and Abatements						
Description		FY2015	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2011
Assessors Overlay		216,292.50	228,491.06	221,028.10	220,731.02	217,892.69
Overlay Deficts		1,145.18	0	292.51	0	0
Charges to Overlay		139,213.94	128,108.89	160,386.51	192,699.74	199,146.08
Balance		77,078.56	100,372.17	60,641.59	28,031.28	18,746.61
New Growth Revenue						
Fiscal Year		Added Valuation		Tax Rate	New Revenue	
2016		20,635,887		18.27	\$377,018	
2015		27,916,030		17.38	\$485,180	
2014		22,324,655		16.85	\$376,171	
2013		17,623,167		16.08	\$283,380	
2012		17,514,585		16.38	\$286,889	
2011		17,703,438		15.78	\$279,359	
2010		17,079,577		14.32	\$244,580	
Valuation and Tax History						
Fiscal Year	Tax Rate	Accounts	Tax Levy			
2016	18.78	4470	29,053,194.26			
2015	18.27	4463	27,971,460.04			
2014	17.38	4438	26,309,961.40			
2013	16.85	4424	24,440,158.61	decrease in parcels combined for tax purposes		
2012	16.08	4436	24,450,247.02			
2011	16.38	4,417	24,659,636.69			
2010	15.78	4,326	24,215,079.78			

BOARD OF HEALTH

Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month

(978) 448-1120 Fax: 978-448-1113

health@townofgroton.org

The Board of Health continued to serve the Town's residents and businesses in meeting the challenges of environmental and public health needs. The three-member elected Board meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

The Board of Health administers state and local laws, regulations, and policies in conformance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 11, sections 26-32. The Board is committed to the protection of public health and the environment through enforcement of state statutes, local by-laws and regulations, regular inspections, and responses to Townspeople's concerns.

The Board of Health reviewed/granted the following permits:

Subsurface sewage disposal system permits:	67
Subsurface sewage disposal system variances:	16
Well permits	14
Well variances	2
Tobacco control permits	9
Trash hauler permits	5
Stable licenses	23

During 2015, the Board of Health and Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, sponsored a number of clinics for influenza vaccinations.

The Board of Health would like to thank Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Director James Garreff, Health Agent Ira Grossman and the Land Use Department staff at Town Hall for their continued support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Fleischer, Chair
Susan Horowitz
Jason Weber

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nashoba Associated Board of Health

Ira Grossmam, Environmental Administrator

NABH Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-4:30pm

Groton Office Hours: Mon. 8:00am-9:00am, Wed. 11:00am-12:00pm

(978) 772-3335 Fax: (978) 772-4947

www.nashoba.org

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health continues to serve the local Board of Health in meeting the challenges of environmental and public health needs in Groton. In 2015 particular efforts were made to respond to a series of new service demands in the Environmental Division while adjusting to changes in the Nursing Division created by national trends in health care. Some of the new service demands included:

- Maintaining Nashoba's internet web site to provide information for the public. (See www.nashoba.org)
- Through our involvement in the Bioterrorism Regional Coalition we are keeping the Groton Board of Health up-to date on matters of emergency preparedness planning
- Nashoba assisted the Board with provided a school-located seasonal flu clinic at Groton-Dunstable Regional High School.
- Response to health related impacts of beavers through coordination with the local Board of Health in the issuance of the necessary permits.
- Response to state mandated changes in regulations requiring more frequent beach sampling through sample collection, submittal for analysis, and follow-up when results were obtained.

We look forward to continuing our work with Groton's Board of Health. Included in highlights of 2015 are the following:

- Through membership in the Association, Groton benefited from the services of Nashoba staff including: Registered Sanitarians, Certified Health Officers, Registered Nurses, Registered Physical & Occupational Therapists, Licensed Social Workers, Nutritionists, Certified Home Health Aides, and Registered Dental Hygienists.
- Reviewed **121** Title 5 state mandated private Septic System Inspections for Groton Board of Health. Received, reviewed, and filed these state mandated (but unfunded) Title 5 inspections. Corresponded with inspectors regarding deficiencies; referred deficient inspections to Groton Board of Health for enforcement action.

By the Groton Board of Health's continued participation in the Association you can shape your future local public health programs and share in the benefits of quality service at a reasonable cost!

TOWN OF GROTON

Environmental Health Department

Environmental Information Responses

Groton Office (days)

90

The Nashoba sanitarian is available for the public twice a week at the Groton Board of Health Office. (Groton residents can also reach their Sanitarian by calling the Nashoba office in Ayer, Monday - Friday 8:00AM -4:30PM)

Food Service Licenses & Inspections**43**

Nashoba annually mails out and receives applications from both restaurants and retail food businesses. Licenses are renewed for existing facilities. Plans are submitted and reviewed prior to initial licensing. All licensees are inspected at a minimum twice a year. Where deficiencies are found, a re-inspection is scheduled to insure compliance. When a complaint from the public is received an inspection is also conducted. During this inspection health factors of food handlers is also investigated, and where appropriate medical consultation and laboratory testing may be required.

Beach/Camp Inspections**18**

Camps are inspected at least annually at opening for compliance with State Sanitary Code, Chapter IV, 105CMR430.00. Public swimming beaches are sampled for water quality every week during the summer and more often if a problem is suspected.

Housing & Nuisance Investigations**39**

Nashoba, as agent for the Groton Board of Health, inspects dwellings for conformance with State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.00, issues orders for correction, and re-inspect for compliance. Similarly, complaints from residents concerning unsanitary conditions or pollution events are investigated.

Septic System Test Applications**46**

Applications from residents proposing to build or upgrade a septic system are accepted, a file created, and testing dates are coordinated with the applicants engineer.

Septic System Lot Tests**120**

Nashoba sanitarian witnesses soil evaluations, deep hole tests, and, usually on a separate date, percolation tests conducted by the applicant's engineer which serve as the basis of the design of the septic system.

Septic System Plan Applications**68**

Detailed plans created by engineers hired by residents proposing to build or upgrade a septic system are received, filed, and routed to the Nashoba sanitarian for review.

Septic System Plan Reviews**60**

Engineered plans are reviewed according to state code, Title 5, and local Board of Health regulations and review forms are created and sent to engineer for revision. Subsequent re-submittals by the engineer are also reviewed.

Septic System Permit Applications (new lots)**18****Septic System Permit Applications (upgrades)****23**

Applicants' approved plan submittals and Board of Health requirements are incorporated into a permit to construct the septic system.

Septic System Inspections**90**

Nashoba Sanitarian is called to construction sites at various phases of construction to witness & verify that system is built according to plans.

Septic System Consultations**12**

During all phases of application, design, and construction the Nashoba Sanitarian is called upon for legal details and interpretation.

Well Permits**18****Water Quality/Well Consultations****10**

Private wells are regulated solely by local Board of Health regulations. The Nashoba Sanitarian assist the BOH by reviewing well plans, securing well water samples, and interpreting water quality test results.

Rabies Clinics - Animals Immunized

18

Nashoba arranges for local clinics with cooperating veterinarians, arranging for dates and location, placing ads in local newspapers, and sending home flyers through local schools.

Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice, Home Health

Nursing Visits

2211

Nashoba's Certified Home Health Registered Nurses visits provide skilled services to patients in their home under physician's orders. These services include assessment of physical, psychological, and nutritional needs. Skills include teaching/supervision of medications, wound care, ostomy care, IV therapy on a 24 hour basis, catheter care, case management and referral to other services as needed.

Home Health Aide Visits

455

Nashoba's Certified Home Care Aides provide assistance with daily activities of daily living including bathing dressing, exercises and meal preparation.

Rehabilitative Therapy Visit

1009

Nashoba Therapists provide skilled physical, occupational, speech, and dietary therapeutic interventions through assessment, treatment and education. Their integration of client, caregiver, and medical outcomes aims at attaining maximum functional dependence.

Medical Social Service Visits

141

Nashoba Social Workers provide short-term assistance to patients at home for counseling and referral to community resources.

Hospice Volunteer and Spiritual Care Visits

174

Nashoba's Volunteers and Clergy provide patients with emotional and spiritual support, companionship and guidance.

Community Health Nursing

Nashoba's Community Health Nursing program provides an essential public health service to its member communities guided by the American Nurses Association (ANA) 16 Standards of Public Nursing Practice.

Our staff serves as a resource to the community, addressing questions and concerns from the public on a variety of health and safety issues (immunizations, head lice, chronic disease management, safe drug/sharps disposal etc.) in a variety of ways.

- We conduct regular well-being clinics for health assessment, screenings and education to all, especially the underserved and at-risk populations.
- We report and investigate communicable diseases to formulate and implement control guidelines and strategies that protect the health of individual and the community at large (mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health).
- We make well-being visits to assess needs, coordinate appropriate care and services and provide case management as needed (health promotion).

- We provide public health education.
- We address psych-social issues that may impact general health and safety (i.e. hoarding).
- We are available to collaborate with all municipal staff to address public health nursing questions, work closely with Councils on Aging to assist elders in the communities and are available for consultation with school nurses caring for children and families. The nursing staff also works with the Sanitarian for your community, as needed, to address issues of unhealthy living conditions.

Listed below is summary of the activities of the Community Health Nursing program.

- Nashoba conducted **13** public clinics in your community; those clinics offered your citizens: blood pressure screening, annual sugar and eye screenings, flu shots and an opportunity to consult with the nurse to address questions.
- Our staff conducted **55** health promotion/well-being visits in your communities.
- We administered **186** flu shots through our annual clinics.
- Nashoba reviewed, investigated and reported on the following cases of communicable diseases from your community. Though the daily reporting and investigating work is not always visible it is vital to protect the public from the spread of disease.

Number of Communicable Disease cases:

Investigated	78
Confirmed	34

Communicable Disease Number of Cases

Anaplasmosis	5
Calicivirus/norovirus	1
Campylobacter	2
Cryptosporidiosis	1
Hepatitis C	4
Influenza	13
Lyme disease	5
Pertussis	1
Salmonella	1
Viral Meningitis	1

Dental Health Department

Examination, Cleaning & Fluoride - Grades K, 2 & 4

Nashoba's Registered Dental Hygienists, operating out of the school nurse's office and records, provide these services to those children whose parents have given written consent.

Students Eligible	313
Students Participating	195
Referred to Dentist	15

Instruction - Grades K, 1 & 5

Nashoba's Registered Dental Hygienists also provide classroom instruction of cleaning and maintaining health teeth to all children in these grades.

Number of Programs	10
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COMMISSIONERS OF TRUST FUNDS

Karen Tuomi, Executive Director
Meetings by Appointment
Legion Hall, 75 Hollis Street, Groton, MA
(978) 448-1173
trustfunds@townofgroton.org

TRUST FUND	7/1/14 Balance	6/30/15 Balance	Fiscal Year Disbursements
BARR EYE	\$4,339	\$4,180	\$207
MARIA BELITSKY SCHOLARSHIP	\$17,636	\$18,433	\$500
PETER BERTOZZI SCHOLARSHIP	\$162,189	\$163,505	\$1,150
BLOOD CEMETERY	\$5,740	\$5,768	\$0
BUTLER SCHOOL REUNION	\$17,509	\$17,734	\$0
CHAMPNEY CEMETERY	\$3,614	\$3,637	\$0
DALRYMPLE EYE	\$30,596	\$32,246	\$0
GANSER/VAN HOOGEN	\$73,970	\$82,224	\$0
GREEN CHARITY	\$909,704	\$919,246	\$14,766
GROTON COMMONS	\$13,778	\$13,965	\$0
LAWRENCE LIBRARY	\$60,184	\$61,103	\$0
LECTURE	\$4,742,102	\$4,761,514	\$66,753
LIBRARY BOOK	\$193,879	\$198,393	\$0
JOHN ROBBINS LIBRARY	\$3,425,268	\$3,418,008	\$70,501
JOHN ROBBINS SCHOLARSHIP	\$20,470	\$20,777	\$0
ROBERTSON/ONNERS	\$41,605	\$44,205	\$0
MARY SAWYER	\$5,979	\$6,075	\$0
SHEPLEY CHARITY	\$595,221	\$599,439	\$10,823
SHEPLEY FOUNTAIN	\$6,350	\$6,402	\$275
SPAULDING	\$1,292	\$1,310	\$0
PETER TWOMEY SCHOLARSHIP	\$34,732	\$37,848	\$500
WATERS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	\$6,116,687	\$6,135,359	\$119,715
TOTAL	\$16,482,844	\$16,551,371	\$285,190

Trust fund balances consist of two categories, Non-Expendable (Principal) and Expendable (Accumulated Earnings). Only the Expendable portion may be disbursed. The total balance of \$16,551,371 consists of \$13,486,618 which is Non-Expendable and \$3,064,754 which is Expendable.

The Trust Fund Commissioners constantly monitor the market and are in communications with our expert financial advisors. These two things coupled with conservative "Legal" list of investments, lead us to anticipate a stabilization of the trust funds in the future.

TRUST FUNDS

Maria Belitsky Trust and Scholarship Fund

The Belitsky Trust and Scholarship Fund was established by the Belitsky Family to honor their wife and mother and promote an interest in horticulture and environmental studies. The 2015 recipient of the Maria Belitsky Scholarship was Ryan Flanagan.

Peter E. Bertozzi Trust and Scholarship Fund

The Bertozzi Trust and Scholarship Fund was established by the Squannacook Sportsmen's Club to promote an interest in conservation and environmental studies. Monies may also be used to support conservation activities in Groton. The 2015 recipients of the Peter E. Bertozzi Scholarship were Arianna Barker and Philip Kendall.

Blood-Bigelow-Shepley-Ames Free Lecture Fund

The Lecture Fund received 78 applications from organizations and groups to provide a variety of lectures, concerts, and performances, free to Groton residents. Of those received, 63 requests were granted at the either full or partial funding.

Community Children's Fund

The Community Children's Fund continued to work year round. Along with the 14 families and 32 children who received aid in December, the Fund continues to provide school supplies, sports and camp programs and after school activities year round.

Peter M. Twomey Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund

The recipients of this Trust Fund are chosen based on an essay they write responding the question, "As Peter Twomey had been a "Crusader Who Promised to Excel", how will you use your special abilities to make a positive contribution to our world?" The 2015 recipients of this award were Patrick O'Malley and Abigail Pezanowski.

Frank F. Waters Vocational Education Scholarship Trust Fund

Thirteen students received scholarships of \$4500 toward their first year at a vocational education institution, eleven applicants were granted an award of \$3500 toward their second year and 3 adults were granted awards. The Groton-Dunstable Regional High School was also granted a request for Google Chromebooks and mobile cart.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Hartnett, Commissioner
Joseph Twomey, Commissioner
Leslie Wickfield, Commissioner

ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Kevin Kelly, Manager

Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Meeting 2nd Monday 7:30pm

(978) 448-1150 Fax: (978) 448-1159

commission@grotonelectric.org www.grotonelectric.org



At one hundred and six years old, the Groton Electric Light Department is settled in and comfortable in our new office and garage facilities. It was a long, demanding process but in the end, well worth it!

Construction of our new office and garage facilities began in the spring of 2014 and was completed in the early part of spring 2015! We began moving in over a period of a few weeks and were settled in by May 1. Revenues were up slightly .89% in 2015 due to an increase in sales in the summer months. However, low sales in the fourth quarter affected the bottom line. Below is a summary of our 2015 operations. Our complete report, including audited financial statements, will be available for the annual spring Town Meeting.

Operations

Completion of our new 15,500 square foot office and garage facilities became GELD's major capital project for 2015. We upgraded Mill Street from the oldest primary lines in our system to state of the art Hendrix construction which allows for a more reliable distribution system. We also continued our aggressive tree-trimming and old pole and equipment replacement. Regular and attentive maintenance is important to ensuring long-term dependability for our customers.

Power Supply

GELD began 2015 facing high energy prices in the winter months caused by natural gas supply constraints. However, due to the crash in oil prices and a Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (PCA) which was added to our bills in January through April, GELD was able to cover the higher energy costs. Fortunately, the management team closely monitors the power markets to ensure the best hedging strategy possible. The Berkshire Wind Power Project had its fourth full year of operation producing power at 37.6% of its capacity. GELD will be increasing its carbon-free footprint in the near future by adding a 2 megawatt (MW) solar farm on the closed town landfill on Cow Pond Brook Road and participating in another wind project in Hancock, Maine. Investing in Wind and Solar energy projects helps to lower our carbon footprint, helps to diversify GELD's power supply portfolio and also helps to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Rates

The components of GELD rates in 2015 remained unchanged. A Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) was added as a line item on the bills beginning in September 2014 through April 2015 to help Groton Electric to recoup the increased generation costs associated with high natural gas prices in the winter. We continue to offer an approximate 10% discount to customers who pay their bill by the 12th of the month and doubled the discount to celebrate the holidays for the bill received December 1. We ended 2015 with the fifth lowest rates out of 42 Massachusetts utilities for the 12-month average 750 kWh electric user; the two investor-owned utilities that service the surrounding towns, National Grid and Unitil, have rates that are 70% & 97% higher than Groton Electric respectively.

We're settled in to the new office and garage facilities and we will remain diligent in our mission: to provide our customers reliable power and excellent service at affordable prices. It's what we do...BEST.

Thanks to our Groton ratepayers for their support and thanks to our employees for their hard work and dedication to Groton's locally owned and operated Light Department!

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin P. Kelly, Manager
Rodney R. Hersh, Chairman

Bruce Easom, Clerk
Kevin J. Lindemer, Member

GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices: Prescott School Building, 145 Main Street, P.O. Box 729, Groton, MA 01450

(978) 448-5505 Fax: (978) 448-9402

Dr. Kristan Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools

School Committee Meetings ~ 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm

Groton-Dunstable Regional High School Library

Superintendent's Office

Submitted by Dr. Kristan Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District's end of year report. As the returning superintendent of schools, I am so grateful to have worked with such a supportive community, staff, and students this past year. We have a strong school system with many amazing things happening in our district each day.

District improvements were made this past year including the development of a new website for the district, the purchase of a state endorsed student management system, the development of a new local access television show about the schools, the introduction of after school foreign language clubs for elementary students, and a grant sponsored Mandarin program. We have also expanded our global scholars program with many of our students taking trips internationally and growing our foreign exchange program in district. Through cost saving measures, we also worked to restore some vital positions in the district that were previously eliminated such as a portion of an English teacher, a reading specialist, and a technology support staff member. In addition, we developed two additional in-house special education programs and hired staff to support those.

Throughout the year, we have utilized data to determine goals and needs for our district. Data from my report of entry findings identified the following district improvement goals for the 2015-2016 school year. We are actively working to meet these goals.

- As measured by a completed plan in the spring of 2016, the district will create a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) GD model inclusive of standards-based instruction and assessment, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and growth mindset.
- As measured by a completed ELA PK-12 scope and sequence in the spring of 2016, the district will align the curriculum in all grades to the *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks* to ensure a strong structure for ELA instruction.
- By June 2016, the district will research the PBIS structure and develop initial programming to support social/emotional learning.
- By the spring of 2016, the district will create a long-range district strategy with corresponding annual district improvement plans, and develop multi-year district technology and capital plans, as evidenced by the publication and public sharing of these plans.
- By the spring of 2016, the district will provide a series of ten community outreach efforts surrounding the district strategy and budget, inclusive of, but not limited to, multi-board meetings and regional agreement meetings, as evidenced by meeting artifacts.
- By the spring of 2016, school district representatives will increase their exposure/visibility/involvement in the community by attending at least five community events/meetings for local businesses/organizations, as evidenced by a list of these meetings.
- By June of 2016, the district will implement a new website, student data management system, and create direct community messages regarding district strategy work, as measured by summaries of said work in emails and blog entries.
- By spring of 2016, the district will provide high quality professional development that is consistently evaluated by participant feedback, with results shared with teachers, para-educators and administrators, and utilized to drive professional development offerings for the following year.

- By December of 2015, power elements will be presented to staff to focus observations, professional development, and evidence submission in our educator evaluation framework, as measured by the elements section of the new GD educator evaluation website.

Every organization has areas that can be improved upon and our district is no exception. The information presented below as key findings is current as of November 2015. Major technology and capital needs are not addressed in the Needs Assessment. Technology and capital plans will be completed by Spring 2016.

Five key findings emerged as needs to be addressed:

1. **We need to reverse declining student performance in core areas** (*English, math, science, social studies and HS foreign language*) *caused by the loss of essential staffing and resources.*
2. **We need to restore and improve programs to meet the needs of students in the areas of the arts, library science, physical/behavioral health, technology and engineering, and foreign language.**
3. **We need to provide comprehensive social and emotional support to our students.**
4. **We need to improve performance of students with disabilities while meeting the needs of all learners.**
5. **We need to provide essential support services** *including kindergarten assistants, technology support staff, nursing staff, custodial and maintenance staff, business office staff, and administrative assistants.*

Academically and operationally, there were a number of identified root causes for these needs including large class sizes, lack of curriculum alignment and support, previous staffing reductions, new state and federal mandates, previous program eliminations, and growing social and emotional needs of students in our communities. These root causes have been compounded by student to staff ratios well above recommended levels. Many members in our community may not realize that overall student performance has declined, that our students with special needs are falling further behind their general population peers, and that a loss of programs has eliminated opportunities for students such as elementary foreign language, marching band, and theater. The district as a whole is simply not able to offer what was offered to previous students. We will continue to work with the towns to review these needs and discuss ways we can work together to address them. To learn more about our needs assessment, please feel free to visit the following sites:

- Report <http://gdrsd.org/wp-content/uploads/GDRSD-Needs-Assessment-12.10.15.pdf>
- Summary <http://gdrsd.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Needs-Assessment-Summary-12-18.pdf>
- Crosswalk <http://gdrsd.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Crosswalk-12-18.pdf>

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Submitted by Dr. Katie Novak, Assistant Superintendent

The curriculum department focused on a number of main initiatives from January to December 2015, including beginning to align our curriculum to current *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks*, transitioning to PARCC testing in grades 3-8, and improving the quality of professional development (PD).

In January 2015, a group of teachers, administrators, coaches, and instructional technology staff met as a PARCC Action Team to prepare all stakeholders for the transition from MCAS to PARCC. The MCAS was not fully aligned to the current *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks*, so in addition to transitioning to an online, timed test, we had to develop a long term plan to align our curriculum. The *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks* for ELA and math came out in December 2011 but attempts to align actual curriculum materials in our district only began in earnest in Fall 2015 and will not be completely phased in and implemented with expertise for the next three to five years.

Given our gaps in curriculum alignment, the increased rigor of the PARCC, and the technological skills required to access the test, we anticipated a decrease in scores. As expected, both GD and the state saw a decrease in PARCC scores, however GDRSD saw greater declines than the state in some areas (see 2015 District Data Presentation: <http://gdrsd.org/wp-content/uploads/GDRSD-2014-2015-Data-Analysis.pdf>). One variable that affected our scores in relationship to the state was that other districts likely aligned curriculum to the current frameworks more readily than Groton-Dunstable.

Our lack of curriculum alignment, reductions in curriculum leadership, and inadequate staffing have affected the outcomes of our students. Our district accountability levels would have been affected, if not for the fact that we were “held harmless” in 2015 because we chose to take the PARCC test.

All Massachusetts schools and districts are classified into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. Level 1 schools meet improvement targets for all students and all student subgroups. In 2014, our middle school was our only school identified as Level 2. In 2015, although we were “held harmless,” Florence-Roche did not meet their target for increasing the outcomes for students with disabilities and Swallow Union did not meet their target for the outcomes for all students. Without the “held harmless” distinction, three of our schools are performing as Level 2 schools. The high school is still classified as Level 1, but they still take the MCAS, which is not aligned to current *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks*.

As a district, we need to continue to align our curriculum to current frameworks, provide professional development for our teachers, and build systemic supports for all students as they access a rigorous and engaging education.

To increase student outcomes, we have been focusing on curriculum alignment and building content knowledge in our PD offerings. Throughout 2015, the PD committee met quarterly to improve the professional development offerings to our educators. Last year, we introduced our multi-part series, which offered over twenty mini-courses in a wide variety of professional development areas to all educators, eighteen self-paced book club offerings, and four in-service courses. These options enable employees to earn Professional Development Points (PDPs), which are required for re-licensure and to achieve highly qualified teacher (HQT) status.

During the summer of 2015, we offered two graduate courses endorsed by Fitchburg State University, *Introduction to Universal Design for Learning (UDL)*, and *Mastering the Art of Writing using Universal Design for Learning (UDL)* to our educators. In order to offer these graduate courses through Fitchburg State (which pay \$1000/per credit), I taught both these courses at no cost to the district (\$6000 savings) so teachers would have additional PD opportunities. We cannot expect future instructors to offer this service free of charge.

In December 2015, we had three additional graduate courses designed by GDRSD teachers approved by Fitchburg State University. We will pay these instructors \$1000/per credit. These courses will be delivered during the spring 2016 semester. These courses, *Teaching ELL Students*, *Teaching K-12 Mathematics in the 21st Century*, and *Integrating Google Apps for Educators*, will be offered in addition to our popular multi-part series, book clubs and inservice courses and will allow our educators to learn best practices in rigorous courses delivered by their colleagues. In order to fund all these offerings, I have presented, and continue to present, in other districts, so I can donate the honorarium to Groton-Dunstable. In 2015, these donations exceeded \$5,000. This amount will increase in 2016. This is also not a sustainable model. Providing professional development to other districts requires me to be out of Groton-Dunstable, and as mentioned previously, there are many important initiatives here to support.

Human Resources

Submitted by Dr. Katie Novak, Assistant Superintendent

In spring 2015, all returning staff members received appointment letters to ensure correct step and lane placement, current license information, and position. This allowed us to update all HR databases to ensure accuracy moving into the 15-16 school year.

Our human resources department welcomed an HR clerk in the summer of 2015 to help to manage substitute hiring and onboarding, fingerprinting and CORI reporting requirements, and benefits administration.

As a frame of reference, Massachusetts law now provides for state and federal criminal background checks for individuals working in public and private schools. (Massachusetts General Laws chapter 71, section 38R). Previously, all districts were required to use CORI checks, which do not show if an employee has a criminal record in another state. Also, CORI checks rely on a name-based search whereas the background checks use fingerprint data.

We have 373 employees who will need to be fingerprinted, as well as all substitutes, bus drivers, and other contracted staff who work with our students. After the fingerprint reports are processed, they are sent to the district and must be reviewed. Under state regulations, the grounds for revocation of an educator's license include if the teacher has pleaded guilty to, been convicted of, or received a deferred sentence for "a crime involving moral turpitude" or one that "discredits the profession, brings the license into disrepute or lacks good moral character."

Lastly, the HR department was thrilled to welcome and onboard 45 new hires in 2015. Many of these employees were hired for positions left vacant by resignations and retirements, so in addition to onboarding new staff, our office completed exit procedures for our former colleagues. New hires in 2015 included 16 Unit A staff, 20 paraeducators, 2 cafeteria and maintenance staff, 1 custodian, 4 administrators, and a new HR clerk and Assistant to the Director of Business and Finance.

Business Department

Submitted by Mr. Jared Stanton, Director of Business and Finance

Unlike Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014, we experienced financial stability in FY2015. Due to the extraordinary efforts of every district employee and great cooperation from the two towns, FY2015 ended with a positive unexpended balance of \$213,059 in the general fund and actual revenue received exceeded budgeted revenue by \$232,897. This happened in spite of the 9C cuts to our Chapter 71 (Regional Transportation) which resulted in a loss \$116,755.

We worked with the staff this year to identify staffing, supply, and professional development cuts from past fiscal years and the impact this has had on our district. This information is available in our Needs Assessment document.

As a school district, we must continue to monitor those aspects of the budget that are not controlled by simple budgeting. The variability in state aid, the unexpected special education costs that occur throughout any school year, the conditions and costs of our utilities, and the growing costs of benefits for our employees are just some of these less controlled costs.

At this time, we project our FY2015 excess and deficiency (E&D) account will be certified by the Department of Revenue (DOR) at \$808,000; representing 2% of the FY2016 general fund budget. By law the district is permitted to maintain a fund balance of up to 5% of the budget in order to pay for unanticipated expenses, particularly in areas of private school special education tuitions and building infrastructure repairs (heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC), plumbing, electrical, etc...). This amount of E&D is still low, but we were able to increase it \$433,737 which is a significant amount in one year. With good budgeting and continued communication and transparency, effective strategic and technology and capital planning, and a continued partnership with the two towns, we feel we can increase E&D to the recommended level of 4% over the next few fiscal years.

At this time, the FY2016 general budget is in very good shape from both a revenue and an expenditure perspective. Although, we continue to be concerned with state aid particularly with Chapter 70 (state aid to support school operations), Chapter 71 (Regional Transportation Reimbursement) and Special Education Circuit Breaker.

The Business Office continues to hone our procedures and payroll practices to omit errors. Our staff continues to receive training on Tyler Technologies, the operating software that was implemented in January 2013. We also continue to consult with the Department of Revenue (DOR), Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Melanson Heath (our district accountants) on a number of fiscal procedures.

As I carry on in my third year as Director of Business and Finance, and my third budget cycle, I continue to find it invaluable to visit schools and classrooms to better understand the fiscal requests. In addition, bi-weekly meetings with all principals and assistant principals, weekly meetings with central office departments, regular meetings with school committee, the budget and finance-subcommittee, and the two towns have made the FY2017 budget preparation a smooth process. The district will continue to work tirelessly with both towns to achieve long term fiscal stability.

Pupil Personnel Services

Submitted by Diane Pelletier, Interim Director

The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District provides a constellation of support services for students with special education needs. The primary goal is to ensure that students are offered a continuum of services in order to make effective progress in all areas within the least restrictive environment. The array of services that students may receive can include specialized academic instruction, instructional support, related therapy services (speech and language, occupational and physical therapy), counseling services (guidance, adjustment, psychological and vocational), consultation services (educational, behavioral and related services), supplemental services (behavioral support, assistive technology, transition planning, extended year services and specialized transportation), nursing/health services (medical, vision/hearing services, orientation and mobility), early childhood education and individualized assessment and evaluation.

All schools are supported by a registered nurse, guidance counselor(s), a special education team chairperson, licensed special education teachers and instructional support staff. In addition, the district is also supported by licensed school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, licensed reading specialists, board certified behavior analysts (BCBA's), and a physical therapist.

In addition to providing special education instructional support and co-teaching models within the general education classrooms throughout the district, language-based classrooms have been developed and implemented at the middle and high school to support students with language-based learning disabilities that impact their ability to access curriculum in the general education environment. The district currently has therapeutic learning centers at all levels (elementary, middle, and high) that provide support to students with emotional disabilities that interfere with successful independent learning in the mainstream.

The following areas of focus and priority were identified as focus areas for the department:

- Reducing the dependence on services provided by outside agencies and increasing the utilization of in district personnel in order to provide better consistency, oversight and supervision.
- Developing long-term and sustainable professional development opportunities based on themes that emerged as a result of the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) department needs assessment.
- Building the capacity of building staff and providing opportunities for educators to serve as a support and resource for colleagues.
- Strengthening the existing in-district programs (therapeutic, language-based) and eliminating programmatic gaps that result in out of district placements, with the goal of providing

comprehensive and well-developed programs that are articulated to meet the needs of students across all grade spans.

- Developing transition practices that are structured in a sequential and consistent manner across the various school levels (PK to Kindergarten, 4th to 5th, 8th to 9th) in order to ensure continuity.

The continuing goal of the Pupil Personnel Services department is to build the capacity of programming within the district in order to support the majority of students with disabilities within their community to allow for access to general education when and where appropriate. As we continue to address the aforementioned priorities, the department will continue to develop and implement initiatives in order to best meet the needs of our students.

The district needs assessment outlines areas that we as a district have identified for staffing needs in the Pupil Personnel Services department. These include, but are not limited to a guidance counselor and adjustment counselor, a part time psychologist, a part time speech teacher, additional special education teachers and additional nursing support.

Technology Department

Submitted by Mr. Luke Callahan, M.Ed., Director of Technology, Information, and Media Relations

Over the past year, the educational technology department spearheaded improvements across the district aimed at enhancing communications, data management and continued support of the district's technology infrastructure.

With feedback from parents and staff, the technology department developed a capable website, which along with our television show "Back to School," acts as a showcase of the amazing things taking place within the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District. In addition, the technology department developed a custom, online platform to showcase student work through a customized, digital portfolio tool, which is available for all students.

Over the summer, the district transitioned to a new student information system, allowing data to be managed more efficiently as well as expediting necessary reporting to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Our asset inventory system, developed during FY15, was used to identify and replace worn out technology equipment in FY16 and the maintenance of our existing hardware remains a top-priority. With FY16 funds, the department introduced technology in locations, with the support of building administration, thought to have the most impact on staff and students. In particular, library spaces at both elementaries and at the middle school received a needed refresh of technology resources, which included the installation of Google Chromeboxes.

With their simple-to-use, easy-to-manage approach, Google Chromebooks continue to be in high-demand. Additional Chromebooks were purchased at the classroom level from kindergarten through eighth grade. The selection of this equipment ties in well with existing Google software and affords our students not only an opportunity to collaborate, curate and create digital materials, but also remain current with digital activities that are expected in the 21st century and included in the *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks*.

District and building servers received substantial upgrades, allowing for speedier Internet connections, better security and greater access for Internet-capable devices. With support from the business department, the district signed a service contract for 50 district printers, with a cost savings from prior fiscal years.

Technology integration continues to evolve and is becoming an essential tool for our staff, enhancing and supporting the delivery of our PreK through twelfth grade curriculum. At the macro-level, technology integration has shown marked improvement, however the district has identified a need to bolster instructional resources at the elementary level as well as increasing media and research skills at the middle school. The educational technology department continues to focus on the integration of technology into the curriculum and strives to ensure that resources are available for all students to become technologically literate and achieve their full academic potential. Additional staffing additions to the technology department will bolster both support and instruction for staff and students. These staffing positions, outlined in our Needs Assessment, include technicians to support our increasing devices so that our staff to device ratios are closer to state recommended levels and a technology integration specialist at the elementary level to support technology integration in the classroom.

Although not officially released until May 2016, the five-year technology strategic planning committee began its work identifying goals and recommendations for the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District. The underlying theme of the committee's work is that educational technology and a solid infrastructure will improve student academic achievement through the use of technology.

Extended Day and Community Services **Submitted by Ms. Karen Tuomi, Director**

The Peter Twomey Youth Center (PTYC) is the base for our extended day programs (FR/SU/MS), community education programs (adult and children's enrichment), coordination of district security, and scheduling for all district facilities including the Performing Arts Center, the Black Box Theater, classrooms, gyms and fields. It is self-supporting and funded by tuitions, community donations and fundraisers. It is located on the main campus of schools in Groton.

This year, the Extended Day Program continues to see an increase in registrations with over 200 students attending one of the program sites. Extended Day provides students in the district before school care from 7am to 9am and then after school care from 3pm to 6pm. The Extended Day program provides safe, nurturing, supervised care along with homework support, age appropriate activities and peer socialization.

Community Education continues to offer residents in our area fun and informative adult classes ranging from Pilates to Sewing to Electrical Repair. At the middle school level, Community Education was very proud to sponsor the middle school play, *Shrek, The Musical*. Over 60 middle school students rehearsed several times a week to bring this play to family and friends. We are also offering several new classes for Middle School students including Makerspace and Pre-Robotics! These along with old favorites like Flag Football and Chess Club help give our students many options for after school fun.

The 2014-2015 school year saw more of a concentrated effort in coordinating district security which included making sure all site crisis plans were up to date as well as the training and education for our staff. These trainings included presentations given by the Groton Police Department and safety drills. These plans and trainings, along with some additional physical changes in the buildings, have strengthened our commitment to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff.

All of our facilities continue to be utilized after school and on weekends by residents of the two towns. Meetings, sporting events, practices, dance recitals and concerts are just some of the community events that are being scheduled on a daily basis.



Groton-Dunstable Regional High School
Submitted by Mr. Michael Mastrullo, Principal

By many measures, Groton-Dunstable Regional High School is a high performing school. The students arrive willing to learn and eager to succeed. At the core of the school's success is our staff, who must be commended for their dedication to students, and their willingness to work hard, adapt, and remain flexible as changes in education continue.

For better or worse, schools are largely judged, particularly by individuals outside of the educational establishment, by standardized test scores. Using these as a barometer, GDRHS is a successful high school. For example, while our school enrollment remained static, we have experienced considerable growth in our Advanced Placement (AP) program over the course of the last five years. In fact, the number of students in our AP program has grown by 68%, and notably, scores have remained consistent with more than 86% achieving a three or better. Math scores have been consistently exceptional; specifically, 100% of the 34 students taking the AP Calculus exam in 2015 scored a four or better.

Of the nearly four hundred schools in the state, GDRHS has consistently fared well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). The ambitious objective set by the state is for 100% of students to score proficient or advanced in the three major subject areas of English, math, and science. The state average is 91%, 78% and 71% respectively. I am happy to report that in 2015 GDRHS students exceeded state averages with 100% (English), 98% (Math), and 92% (Science) of our students scoring proficient or advanced on this assessment. Furthermore, we achieved at an all-time high in the advanced category in ELA, and an all-time high in the proficient category in math. Lastly, we made large gains in proficiency scores for students with disabilities. While we have great success on this measure, we are aware that the state is phasing this assessment out. Specifically, the MCAS will be replaced with a new assessment after the graduating class of 2019.

Academic achievement is certainly not the only measure of student success. The amount of team and individual accomplishments is too great to list, but GDRHS students continue to excel in a broad range of areas including music, the arts, and athletics.

As with all successful institutions, it is important that we understand the root causes of our successes and reflect and celebrate these achievements. It is also imperative that we remain steadfast in the relentless pursuit of improvement. The GDRHS School Improvement Plan provides a glimpse into some areas where we will strive for improvement. A committee has been formed to review our current school schedule to make sure it is meeting the needs of our students. In conjunction with local colleges, we are offering an on-site dual enrollment program with the ambition of scaling the program to allow students to attain an associate's degree prior to high school graduation. In addition, we plan to continue the necessary curriculum work to meet the demands of the *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks*, and overhaul our Advisory Program in an effort to capitalize on the immense power of 900 students and 100 staff members to provide meaningful, local community service projects.

Additional staffing to counteract large class sizes in math and ELA is needed. We have also been cited by our accrediting agency for not having adequate curriculum leadership, and so moving forward, we need additional staff to allow our coordinators release time to do this curriculum work. We need to address lost programs such as theater and marching band, and obtain staff to support programs that surrounding districts offer (such as 3D art), but we do not have. This year we were awarded a grant through the U.S Department of State's Teachers of Critical Languages Program (TCLP) that afforded us the opportunity to fund a Mandarin Chinese Program for one year. Funding to make that position permanent is critical. Lastly, with more than 90% of our nearly 900 students attending college, an additional guidance counselor to help students with transitions entering and exiting high school would be beneficial. These budgeting requests, if provided, will assist GDRHS in our noble ambition of being the very best high school in the state.

Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School
Submitted by Mr. James Lin, Principal

The year of 2015 was a year of exciting changes at Groton-Dunstable Middle School. At the end of the 2014-2015 school year, we bid farewell to Mr. Silverman, former Principal of GDRMS, who retired after leading the school for eight years. This summer, I took over the position and have enjoyed getting to know our staff, our students, and our community. We also welcomed Mr. Michael Lubawski as an Assistant Principal, as Ms. Dina Mancini left to accept a position in Lowell.

This year, we maintained many successful programs, piloted some new initiatives, and continued to self-assess to make necessary adjustments and ensure we deliver a high quality education to all students. One of the new initiatives we are piloting is the Master Schedule. This new schedule format includes two important elements – the rotating class schedule and the long block. The rotating schedule provides all students with the opportunity to take their core academic classes at different times during the school day. This format prevents students from having to consistently take a core academic class during a time in the school day when they are not functioning at their very best. The new schedule also includes a period every day that is extended by thirty minutes. This time was built in so staff could provide support to students who need extra academic help or to extend and enrich lessons. The schedule will be reviewed and potential suggestions will be made next school year.

During the 2015-2016 school year, we also started the implementation of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. This initiative has allowed teachers to broaden their abilities to integrate technology into their curricula. In the fall, fifth graders in their ELA classes used Green Screen Tools to enhance their book reviews. In the sixth grade, students used ThingLink, a Google App, during their science classes to make interactive posters on various topics on the Earth System. Seventh graders also had the opportunity to present the books they have read by making Green Screen movies or creating Prezi presentations. In the eighth grade science classes, students used applications such as WeVideo and Explain Everything to present information they had learned about climate change.

During this past summer, the school formed a Growth Mindset Committee lead by Assistant Principal Ann Russo. The Committee explored the growth mindset work performed by Carol Dweck and designed activities to be implemented throughout the school year to reinforce important habits of mind critical to learning, such as resiliency and tenacity. GDRMS staff members are beginning to incorporate these concepts into their daily interactions with students to help better prepare them for the challenging work we are asking them to do.

In the area of curriculum, we are responding to the results of the root cause analysis work that was performed at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. During that protocol, GDRMS faculty articulated that professional development and other resources were needed so that they could better evaluate their current curricula and align it to the existing *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks*. Under the leadership of Mr. Lubawski, Assistant Principal, Ms. Blydenburgh, ELA Curriculum Coordinator, and Mr. Snodgrass, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, both ELA and Social Studies teachers are using department meeting time and curriculum half days to work on enhancing the middle school writing curriculum and other literacy programs. This year the Mathematics Department, under the leadership of Ms. Gartland, Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator, adopted a new math program in all four grade levels, to align to existing curriculum frameworks.

In December, GDRMS students participated in a holiday fundraiser called Project Mitten. Each grade level engaged in their own fundraising activities to raise money for Groton and Dunstable families who are experiencing financial hardship. This year GDRMS students raised over \$8,000, which is quite an accomplishment. Later in the winter, the Student Council will organize the “SOUPER Bowl” activity to collect non-perishable food items for Loaves and Fishes.

This year, GDRMS continues their involvement in the Project 351 program. Project 351 is a youth congress created to celebrate service and civic leadership. This year eighth graders Abigail Eisenklam and Ari Navetta were selected by the eighth grade teachers to represent Dunstable and Groton, respectively. During the Martin Luther King weekend, Abigail and Ari traveled to Boston and joined Governor Baker along with the other students around the Commonwealth to participate in a day of community service. We are very proud of these two students!

GDRMS administration and faculty will continue to work on improving the ways we meet the needs of both struggling and high-performing students. We will keep examining and evaluating both our general education and special education intervention programs and establish a functioning Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) inclusive of standard-based instruction and assessment, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), co-teaching classrooms, and growth mindset models. Based on the results of the needs assessment, we are requesting additional staff and resources to accomplish the aforementioned objectives. Specifically, we are requesting an additional special education teacher, a part-time reading teacher, a literacy teacher, a math teacher and a librarian.

Florence Roche

Submitted by Ms. Liz Garden, Principal

The Florence Roche Elementary School had a year of growth during 2015. In fact, growth, in particular, growth mindset, has been a topic of discussion among the students and staff. After using the logic model and working with Dr. Novak to conduct a root cause analysis of why the gap between special education and general education students has not decreased, a common theme emerged: as a staff, we needed to shift from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset. As a result, we have been discussing what it means to have a growth mindset and how we can continue to model and teach students how to persevere and learn from mistakes. As a school, we challenged ourselves to come up with 100 examples of growth mindset and posted our chart in the main lobby for people to add to it. Some of our special education teachers created a bulletin board in the front lobby that demonstrated how changing the way we say things could change our mindset. For example, instead of saying, “This is too hard,” we encourage students to say, “I’ll use some of the strategies I’ve learned.”

As a school, we have been making adjustments to our teaching by implementing a new math curriculum, preparing to implement new units of study in Writer’s Workshop during the 2016-2017 school year, and continuing to enhance our Reader’s Workshop model in all classrooms. Our 3rd and 4th graders successfully participated in the PARCC assessment on Chromebooks in the spring. We have also continued to implement a new crisis management protocol for evacuations and lockdowns. We have continued to encourage our students to be involved in various community service projects, such as collecting supplies for The Transition House and delivering supplies to local senior citizens.

During 2015, we focused on the specialized instruction we provide for students who require special education. We have been developing a program for students who require a sub-separate environment, where students are able to learn foundational academic and social skills. During the 2014-2015 school year, we piloted a co-taught 4th grade classroom, and as a result of the program’s success, we have added a co-taught 2nd grade classroom and are planning for a 3rd grade co-taught classroom next year.

Florence Roche has developed a school improvement plan that includes four goals. Our first goal is to collaborate in grade level teams and plan implementation of Writer’s Workshop for the 2016-2017 school year. Our second goal is to reflect on our new math program in order to enhance, change or modify new lessons. Our third goal is to improve and streamline our communication at the classroom/grade level to caretaker level by regularly providing two-way communication with families about student performance and learning. Our fourth goal is to create an elementary technology integration plan.

After completing a needs assessment this past fall, we identified critical staffing needs that would help us better meet all students’ needs. This assessment determined the need for positions such as the following:

A special education co-teacher, a part time math specialist, a reading specialist, a shared adjustment counselor, a literacy coordinator, nursing support, a certified librarian, and an additional specialist area teacher.

We would like to express our gratitude to the communities of Groton and Dunstable for supporting our efforts in shaping our children's future.

Swallow Union

Submitted by Mr. Peter Myerson, Principal

Swallow Union is located in the center of Dunstable. The Union building was dedicated in December 1895, with less than 60 students, K-9. The Swallow building opened its doors in 1963 and the connector was added in 1978. The last major renovation was completed in September, 1995. Currently we house grades K-4 and educate 275 students.

In 2015, our staff of well-trained professionals continued to be eager to learn new teaching strategies to enhance their daily instruction. We are proud of the many accomplishments throughout our 2015 school year. They include a continued commitment to enhance our Reader's Workshop model, the implementation of the new math program, our third and fourth graders partaking in the PARCC assessment, ongoing implementation of a new crisis management protocol for evacuations and lockdowns, and continuation of teaching and carrying out the importance of community service through our food and clothes drives.

Swallow Union now houses the elementary level Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC) program and the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program. These two programs meet the needs for students with intensive special needs and has been a wonderful asset for all our students.

Currently, we have developed a school improvement plan, which focuses on three 1-year goals. Our first goal is to continue to review our implementation of the Reader's Workshop model in all of our classrooms. Our second goal is to reflect on our new math modules in order to enhance, change, or modify future lessons. Lastly, we will increase our communication methods, such as our e-mail blasts, website, and the use of Twitter. All of these goals include measurable data. At the end of this year, we will use this data to determine our strengths and weaknesses.

During the fall of 2015, the district conducted a needs assessment of each school. The findings included critical staffing needs that would greatly enhance our delivery of instruction academically and socially. This assessment determined the need for positions such as the following: A special education co-teacher, a part time math specialist, a part time reading specialist, a shared adjustment counselor, a literacy coordinator, a certified librarian, and an additional specialist area teacher.

Boutwell Early Childhood Center

Submitted by Mr. Russell Hoyt, Early Childhood Director

The Boutwell Early Childhood Center provided an integrated, language-based early childhood education program that offered stimulating programming for 68 children aged 3-5 over the past year. Along with daily discoveries in our subject areas, we encountered some moments worth highlighting along the way.

Our well-trained professionals continued to work on the alignment of specific preschool curriculum by reviewing the *Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics* and the *Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences*, and focusing on social and emotional learning through our social skills curriculum. We are proud of the many accomplishments achieved during 2015, specifically the improvements in the preschool mathematics curriculum provided through the first year of our new math program. In addition, the staff are participating in a multi-part training to help students learn, practice and then independently

demonstrate appropriate behavior throughout each child's day. The program the staff is learning to implement is called Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports or PBIS.

Our teachers and parents continued to partner together during the ninth year of the School Council for the Boutwell School. The council is now focused on helping with the development of the PBIS program implementation, as the success of a social and emotional program that supports young children requires buy in from administrators, parents and the community.

Looking forward, our goals for 2016 are both rigorous and designed to support the district's youngest learners. We will complete the work on the alignment of our mathematics curriculum to the *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks* and the *Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences*. Staff will be supporting students' social and emotional learning as we develop and implement features of PBIS. The social and emotional learning piece has become important in supporting children in an inclusive setting.

With the continued focus on mathematics, Boutwell students are working hard to achieve an understanding of numeracy concepts that will improve their ability to learn throughout their lives. Thanks to the efforts of our teachers and specialists, students are learning to listen to and say names of numbers in meaningful contexts, use positional and ordinal language (first, second, third) in everyday activities and use concrete objects to solve simple addition and subtraction problems using comparative language (more than, fewer than, same number of). This groundwork will certainly prepare our students for success well into their future in Groton-Dunstable.



GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vanessa Abraham, Director

Hours: Tue-Thu 10am-9pm • Fri 10am-6pm • Sat 10am-5pm • Sun 1pm-5pm (Jan-Apr) • Mon Closed

Trustees Meeting Held Monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm • gpl.org • info@gpl.org

Main: 978-448-1167 • Children's: 978-448-1168 • Reference: 978-448-8000 • Fax: 978-448-1169

The Groton Public Library conducts a community-wide survey every 5 years as part of its long range planning process. In 2015, we mailed surveys to every household in Groton and 600 people responded.



SUMMARY OF 2015 SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **98% of respondents** rated GPL as 'Excellent' (72%) or 'Good' (26%) for a score of 3.71 out of 4
- **Why Residents Use GPL:** Borrow print materials (86%); Borrow non-print materials (66%); Use museum passes (65%); Friendly staff (56%); Browse collections (55%); Attend a program (53%)
- **Why Residents Don't Use GPL:** Too busy/No time (48%)
- **Most Valued Newer Services:** Joined a library network (86%); Added weekly hours (Wed 5-9, Fri 5-6, & Sat 3-5) (85%); Piloted Sundays 1-5 pm, Sept-Dec (84%); Downloadable e-books (71%)
- **Most Desired Potential New Services:** More copies of bestsellers (43%); Drive-up book return (39%); 'Bookstore-like' browsing (38%); Larger teen space (28%); Downloadable video (26%)
- **Top-Rated Service Areas:** Facility cleanliness (95%); Facility (overall) (93%); Customer service (92%); Children's collections (88%); Ease of use (87%); Children's programs (86%)
- **Areas to Improve:** Expand digital collections; Return adult non-fiction to call # order
- **Hours Most Wanted:** Sundays, Sept-Dec (76%); Sundays, May-Aug (71%); Mondays 1-5 (71%)

NEW SERVICES

- **YA Robotics Club.** The new biweekly Robotics Club for teens has been a big success.
- **Download on Demand.** Is the bestselling title you want checked out? We'll download it to a nook for immediate check out. (E-reader borrowing increased 475% over 2014.)
- **New Technology:** Added a 3D printer, Scan & Fax station, and wireless printing
- **New E-Resources:** *Pronunciator* language learning; 3 hours free live music streaming on *Freegal*
- **Space Planning.** We worked with an architect this year to redesign use of library space to better serve our patrons. A larger, dedicated teen space, more open floor plan, and additional seating options are changes we will be implementing in 2016.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **195,065** items borrowed by the **102,078** people who visited
- **18,235** digital items downloaded (books, audio, video), an 11% increase over 2014
- Delighted **6,728** kids and teens at **391** library programs
- Taught **402** students, or **17** Elementary School classes, about using GPL and its resources
- Provided outreach and promoted Summer Reading to **1,585** kids & teens through the schools
- Registered **591** children for the Summer Reading Program
- **246** teens signed up for the Summer Reading Program and read **1,642** books
- **114** adults participated in the Summer Reading Program and read **881** books
- **168** kids & teens signed up for Winter Reading and read over **600** books
- **2,888** adults attended **281** adult programs, a **22%** increase in attendance over 2014
- **14 Groton READS** events celebrating *Following Atticus* by Tom Ryan brought **822** people in
- Library Staff answered **5,354** reference, reading, homework, and technology questions
- Users connected **9,303** times to GPL's wireless internet
- Users searched the library's databases (Ancestry, etc.) **30,979** times, a **70% increase** over 2014

Respectfully submitted by the Trustees of the Groton Public Library: Jane Allen, Chair; Mark Gerath, Vice-Chair; David Zeiler, Secretary; Barbara Lamont; Kristen von Campe; and Nancy Wilder

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Lisa Larrabee, Executive Director

Office Hours: Mon & Tues 8:00am – 12:30pm & Wed & Thurs 11:30am – 4:00pm

Meetings at 7:00pm (on 2nd Wednesday of every month) at 19 Lowell Road, Groton

(978) 448-3962 Fax: (978) 448-5845

grotonhousing@verizon.net

The Groton Housing Authority (GHA) is the local body responsible for the expenditure of State and Federal housing grants. We currently own and manage 20 units of State-subsidized rental housing for the elderly and disabled and eight units of rental housing for families. In addition to our State public housing inventory we also own nine units of rental housing for moderate-income families located on Sandy Pond Road. Our housing programs are subsidized and regulated by the Commonwealth and require no financial contribution from the Town.

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority is made up of four Commissioners who are elected by town residents to five-year terms and one who is appointed by the Governor. At the regular meeting of the Commissioners held in August 2015, members were elected to the following positions: Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell, Chairman; Ellen Todd, Vice Chairman; Daniel Emerson, Treasurer; Leslie Colt, Asst. Treasurer; Brooks Lyman, Secretary. The Board meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 19 Lowell Road, 7pm.

Board member Daniel Emerson represents the Housing Authority on the Community Preservation Committee.

Lisa Larrabee serves as the Housing Authority's Executive Director. Lisa has established regular office hours at the 19 Lowell Road office. They are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Lisa may also be reached by calling 978-448-3962, or emailing to office@grotonha.org.

The Groton Senior Center Staff hosted the annual summer cookout get-together for our elderly, disabled tenants. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Residents of Elderly/Handicapped programs meet occasionally on a social basis in our community room. They also meet occasionally with the Executive Director to discuss items of interest or other important information they need to know regarding the building they live in.

The Housing Authority continues to explore possibilities to expand the town's housing stock for low and moderate-income seniors, families and those with disabilities. CPA funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 were appropriated for pre-development studies which were conducted on a parcel of land owned by the Authority on Nashua Road. At this time the Groton Housing Authority is exploring the idea of sending out a Request for Proposal to local nonprofits for ideas on developing this land with affordable rental homes on it.

The Authority continues to work cooperatively with the Town on various affordable housing issues. The Authority also serves as the long-term monitoring agent for several affordable units, assuring that these units will remain affordable in perpetuity as stated in the deed restrictions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell, Chairman

Ellen Todd, Vice Chairman

Daniel Emerson, Treasurer

Leslie Colt, Asst. Treasurer

Brooks Lyman, Secretary

PARK COMMISSION

Fran Stanley, Assistant
Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the Month
Legion Hall, 75 Hollis Street
(978) 732-1893; fstanley@townofgroton.org

The Town of Groton's Park Commission continues to maintain and schedule use for all parks, commons, and playing fields under its jurisdiction. Residents are encouraged to visit and enjoy the diverse properties under the Park Commission's jurisdiction.

Fields

- Cow Pond Brook
- Cutler
- Town Field
- Sgt. William Woitowicz

Commons

- Badger
- Firemens
- Legion
- Minuteman
- Prescott
- Sawyer

Other

- Carol Wheeler Memorial Park
- Christine Hanson Memorial Playground
- Cutler Field Playground
- Haze Grove/Groton Fairgrounds (managed by Hazel Grove Agricultural Association)
- Old Burying Ground (managed by Old Burying Ground Commission)
- Smith Social Pavilion

Field use permit requests can be submitted via the Park Commission's webpage.

The Park Commission relies upon and greatly appreciates the Department of Public Work's care of the Town's fields, playgrounds, gardens and commons. The Park Commission thanks the many groups and individuals who volunteer their efforts to maintain, clean and beautify Park Commission properties.

Respectfully submitted,

Gineane Haberlin, Chair
Kenneth Bushnell
Matthew Frary
Robert Flynn

PLANNING BOARD

Michelle Collette, Land Use Director/Town Planner
Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm
Meeting Every Thursday @ 7:30pm
(978) 448-1105 Fax: (978) 448-1113
planning@townofgroton.org

The Planning Board's jurisdiction is established in two state statutes, the Zoning Act, Chapter 40A, and the Subdivision Control Law, Chapter 41, Sections 81A-81GG. At the local level, the Planning Board's authority is defined in the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, and Chapter 381 Planning Board Regulations. Zoning amendments must be adopted by a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting. The Subdivision Regulations, Site Plan Review Regulations, Shared Driveway Regulations, Scenic Roads Regulations, and Town Center Overlay District Design Guidelines are adopted and revised by a majority vote of the Planning Board after a duly advertised public hearing. The Zoning By-Law, Subdivision Regulations, Zoning Map, Town Center Overlay District Map, and Water Resource Protection District Map are available on the Town's web site and may be purchased at the Land Use Department in the Town Hall.

During 2015, the Planning Board reviewed the following applications:

Approval Not Required Plans (ANR)	11
Preliminary Subdivision Plans	0
Definitive Subdivision Plans	0
Definitive Plan Modifications	1
Expedited Permit (Chapter 43D)	0
Special Permits	12
Site Plan Review	8
Planned Multifamily Concept Plans	0
Major Project Concept Plans	0
Rezoning Petitions	2

The Planning Board continued to work on the Phase II Implementation of the Comprehensive Master Plan. The 2015 Spring Town Meeting adopted new Site Plan Review provisions allowing minor project review by Land Use Departments and by-right permitting of temporary construction trailers. The 2015 Fall Town Meeting adopted new parking provisions establishing minimum and maximum parking spaces and clarification of Flexible Development provisions.

The Board appreciates the Town Departments, especially the public safety officials, for their assistance and guidance throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Perkins, Chairman
Russell Burke
Timothy Svarczkopf
Scott Wilson

George Barringer
John Giger
Michael Vega
Michelle Collette, Land Use Director/Town Planner

SEWER COMMISSION

April Iannacone, Business Manager

Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Meeting 1st & 3rd Wednesday 3:00pm

(978) 448-1117 Fax: (978) 448-1123

sewer@townofgroton.org

The Sewer Commission is pleased to make the following report for the calendar year ending December 31, 2015 to the sewer rate payers and the citizens of the Town of Groton.

2015 Review

Our flows to the Pepperell Treatment Plant continue to be consistent. This is in relationship to a major initiative by the Sewer Commissioners to reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) of groundwater into the sewer collection system. The I & I Remediation Program for 2015 continued on a smaller scale than in years past, however there continues to be less to remediate in a cost effective manner. At this time an increase in preventative maintenance of manholes continues in order to maintain the reduced I & I flows we have already achieved. We continue to maintain a watchful eye on all new requests for sewer capacity.

Our major capital projects have been completed and we are realizing those efficiencies in our energy consumption. The Sewer Commission continues to keep a watchful eye on its reserve fund so that we have the available funds for future E.P.A. and/or E.P.A. mandates.

Groton wastewater treated at the Pepperell Wastewater Treatment Plant:

2009	44,160,457	gallons	or	120,988	avg. gpd
2010	43,264,894	gallons	or	117,537	avg. gpd
2011	46,895,258	gallons	or	128,413	avg. gpd
2012	39,682,200	gallons	or	108,719	avg. gpd
2013	43,457,500	gallons	or	119,100	avg. gpd
2014	43,038,621	gallons	or	117,914	avg. gpd
2015	41,565,434	gallons	or	113,878	avg. gpd

As always, we extend our thanks to the Pepperell DPW and its employees for their continuing cooperation and support and also to the Groton Water Department for its help during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sewer Department Staff:

April R. Iannacone, Business Manager

Ruth M. Stevens, Sewer Assistant

Board of Sewer Commissioners:

James L. Gmeiner, Chairman

Thomas D. Orcutt, Vice-Chairman

Thomas D. Hartnett, Clerk

TOWN CLERK

Michael Bouchard, Town Clerk

Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

(978) 448-1100 Fax: (978) 448-2030

townclerk@townofgroton.org

In 2015, the Town Clerk's office conducted only one election, the Annual Town Election. Turnout was 18%. The Groton Country Club was used as the polling location for Precincts 2 and 3. Our experience with voting at the Country Club is improving, with more work to fine tune the setup still required. The Senior Center as the polling location for Precinct 1 still continues to work very well.

Two Annual Town Meetings were held in 2015– Spring (April 27) and Fall (October 19). Important issues before the Town Meetings included establishment of a funding mechanism for OPEB, town security and public safety upgrades, implementation of the Lost Lake fire protection system, an agreement with local merchants to build a municipal parking lot off Main Street, the establishment of the Four Corners Sewer District, the sale of the old center fire station and Tarbell School buildings, the purchase of new voting machines and the acceptance of an MGL allowing “official summaries” to be provided for local ballot questions. Additionally, as provided by the town's charter, a Charter Review Committee was appointed. A charter review is required every seven to ten years. The Charter review Committee will report its recommendations to town meeting.

The office administered the town census to 4218 households (utilizing the Commonwealth's Voter Registration Information System (VRIS)), with an 83% citizen response. The information provided by the Town Census is statistically important, as well as being the basis for updating the Voter List, which, of course, enables voting. The population in Groton as of December 31, 2015 is 10,793 with 7,792 registered voters, both increasing approximately 1% from 2014.

In 2015, the office qualified 41 public commissioners, processed 3 Fuel Assistance applications for non-senior residents, administered the oath of office to all of our appointed and elected officials, performed 533 notarial services, registered 1135 dogs, and processed 1001 transactions on behalf of the Department of Public Works. Acting as the Town's Register of Vital Records, the office recorded 63 Births, 64 Deaths and 45 Marriages in 2015. 66 new or renewed “Doing Business As” business registrations and processed approximately 35 formal public information requests.

The Clerk's office continued to define and implement procedures to help the Town comply with the evolving requirements of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting, Conflict of Interest, Campaign Finance and Public Records Laws. Transition to these new procedures has had some challenges due to the complexities of the laws. The Clerk's office continues to enjoy using implement a web-based meeting posting system, a “Doing Business As” Registration program and a new dog registration system. These systems keep accurate records and have improved the reliability of record keeping.

In 2015, the Clerk's office processed 2844 financial transactions, in addition to the many requests for information, notarization and other non-financial interactions. The Clerk's office turned over the following amounts to the Town Treasury:

Various Certificates and Fines	\$	10,723
Dog License Revenue	\$	12,203
Transfer Station Transactions	\$	20,802
Total:	\$	43,728

The Office of the Town Clerk wishes to thank our many volunteers, partners, election workers, committee members, and town department staffs for cooperation and assistance in 2015. Special thanks goes to our hardworking and very effective Assistant Town Clerks Nancy Pierce and Marlene Kenney. It's been our privilege to serve the people of Groton during 2015, and we look forward to an exciting, busy and productive 2016.

Respectfully submitted, Michael F. Bouchard, Town Clerk

WATER DEPARTMENT

Thomas D. Orcutt, Water Superintendent

Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Meeting 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:30pm

(978) 448-1122 Fax: (978) 448-1123

water@townofgroton.org



The Board of Water Commissioners is pleased to make the following report for the calendar year ending December 31, 2015 to the water rate payers and citizens of the Town of Groton.

The winter of 2015 is hopefully a faint memory to us all on how extremely harsh New England winters can be. The staff of the Water Department assisted the Highway Department plowing the town streets by night and shoveling out our 375 fire hydrants by day. This past winter was a daunting task by way of the multiple back to back snow storms we received as well as the record setting snowfall. I commend them for their tireless efforts in keeping our town safe – thank you.

The Water Department's Water Conservation Program, or more importantly our outside irrigation program, will continue to play a significant role in our day to day operations. This past summer, despite the record setting snowfall we received, very little of it was able to re-charge our groundwater resources in a beneficial manner. Conforming to the Department's Mandatory Odd/Even Water Conservation Program is paramount by all of our customers. Our registered and permitted water withdrawals are very closely monitored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for compliance. We respectfully request folks to carefully monitor their own irrigation systems every day. Be sure your moisture sensor is working properly and make the required adjustments in order to comply with our Water Conservation Program. Please help us conserve water whenever possible so we can continue to be recognized as leaders in the Commonwealth in this effort.

In September the Water Department had to take the Whitney Pond Well No. 1 off line for emergency cleaning. This is partially due to the heavy demands we placed on the water supply system the past two summers. The cleaning of the well screen was required in order to break-up and remove excess iron and manganese from the source that had been deposited over time. The well is scheduled for a more aggressive chemical cleaning in late December of 2015 in an effort to further improve its efficiency for the next few years.

The water department staff remained committed to assisting the efforts of the Lost Lake Fire Protection Project undertaken by the Town of Groton. This capital project, approved by Town Meeting, provided much needed fire protection to the Lost Lake Area of Town. The project included water main extensions that added nine new fire hydrants to the Lost Lake Area as well as two 50,000 gallon cisterns strategically placed and one dry fire hydrant. The Staff, when called upon, was there to provide additional support and we are grateful for their commitment.

Groton's water quality and testing regime continues to play a large role in what we deliver every day to you, our valued customers. Groton consistently remains in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection's regulations. The Groton Water Department staff collected and analyzed more than five hundred water samples in 2015. Groton remains very proactive and committed in protecting the drinking resources we have under our management and control.

Statistical Information - Period ending December 31, 2015:

Total Gallons of water pumped	160,921,400 Gal. per Year
Ave. Daily Consumption	0.440 Million Gal. per Day
Max. Daily Consumption – July 1 st	0.979 Million Gallons
Accounts	1,952
New Accounts	41
Water Mains	52.3 Miles
New/Replaced Water Mains	1.1 Miles
Total Hydrants (Public and Private)	383 Hydrants
Hydrants added to the system	9 Hydrants

The Water Department wishes to thank the following departments for their continued cooperation and assistance in the daily operations of the water supply system: Office of the Town Manager, Electric Light Department, Highway Department, Land Use Departments and the Police & Fire Departments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Water Department Staff:

Thomas D. Orcutt, Water Superintendent
April R. Iannaccone, Business Manager
Ruth M. Stevens, Assistant
George E. Brackett, Senior Water Technician
Stephen B. Knox, Senior Water Technician

Board of Water Commissioners:

David P. Crocker, Chairman
James L. Gmeiner, Vice Chairman
John J. McCaffrey, Member

GROTON'S MUNICIPAL OFFICES



Accountant
Building & Zoning Department
Conservation Commission
Council on Aging
Department of Public Works
Fire Department
Groton Country Club
Historic Districts Commission
Human Resources
Information Technology
Inspector of Animals
Police Department
Tax Collector/Treasurer
 Total Principal 2015
 Tax Receivables
Veteran's Service Officer
Zoning Board of Appeals

ACCOUNTANT

Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant

Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

(978) 448-1107 FAX (978) 448-1115

accountant@townofgroton.org

The following financial report summarizes Fiscal Year 2015 (period ending 6-30-2015).

General Fund: The General Fund ended the year with a favorable fund balance, generating \$1,009,092 of “free cash” or a 3% excess when compared to the final FY2015 General Fund operating budget of \$32,190,600. The Fall Town Meeting committed \$743,500 of that free cash amount to replenishing the Stabilization Funds (\$457,000), to adjusting the FY16 budget (\$86,500) and to offset the tax rate (\$200,000). The Town continues to reap the benefit of significant State grant receipts most notably those awarded for Police and Fire Dispatch services. These grants provided funding for Public Safety operations in excess of \$275,000 in FY15. As was the case in FY14, local receipts remained strong, with building permits coming in at almost 200% of budget, and motor vehicle excises finishing at 114% of budget. This, of course, played a part in the Town’s favorable year end position.

Other Funds: The Town’s other funds – Gift, Grant, Revolving, Receipts Reserved, Capital Projects and Trusts – all closed the year with positive balances, with the exception of the unavoidable deficits in 911 reimbursable grants. We expect that revenue sufficient to cover most of these deficits will be received from the State in FY2016. State grant review procedures often result in reimbursement delays; in most cases, this has no significant effect on free cash. As was expected, the Center Fire Station construction project finished with a significant budgetary surplus. This enabled Town Meeting to transfer \$165,000 from that project to offset General Fund capital needs in FY16. The Lost Lake Fire Protection design phase completed successfully, setting the stage for the construction portion of that capital project to begin in FY16.

Community Preservation Fund: The State continues to match local CPA surcharges. The match received in FY2015 was healthy at \$244,907 or about 41% of local surcharge receipts (although the State continues to mandate that the Town budget conservatively for that match). Collection of CPA surcharge revenue continues to be excellent; with approximately 98% of committed receipts actually collected. The CPA Fund is still paying debt service for the Surrenden Farms land acquisition (\$486,475 in FY15) and will continue to do so until that debt matures in 2021. The Community Preservation Fund makes up a significant portion of the Town’s “non-general fund” section of the balance sheets.

Enterprise Funds: Water and Sewer Funds both ended the year with favorable balances. The Water Department closed the year with \$350,318 in free cash, which amounts to just over 32% of the final FY2015 budget of \$1,086,083. The Water Commissioners have prudently built up this balance in order to maintain a sufficient free cash position to support unexpected infrastructure repairs or other needs of an emergency nature. The Sewer Department’s free cash was certified at \$568,068 or an excess of 77% compared to the FY2015 budget of \$737,354. This number is down compared with that of the prior year, and is largely reflective of the Sewer Department’s commitment to maintain user rates through judicious use of E&D funds.

Reserves: The Town’s Stabilization Fund closed the year at \$1.646 million and the Capital Stabilization Fund at \$533,711 (although \$404,145 of the Capital Stabilization balance was reserved for expenditures in FY2016). Town of Groton Financial Policies suggest that the level of reserves in these accounts be maintained at 6.5% of the annual budget (exclusive of the Enterprises and CPC). At the end of FY2015, these reserve balances did in fact meet that goal. The Conservation Fund closed the year with a balance of \$523,467 which is short of the suggested reserve for this Fund of 2% of the Town’s annual budget. This circumstance was corrected at the start of Fiscal 2016 when an additional \$200,000 was added to the fund.

Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant

SEE APPENDIX FOR ACCOUNTANT’S REPORT

BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Edward M. Cataldo, Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Office Hours: Mon. 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

(978) 448-1109 Fax: (978) 448-1113

building@townofgroton.org



Photo by Karen Riggert

The Building Department is charged with enforcing the State Building Codes and the Town of Groton Zoning By-Laws. Our goal is always to ensure the safety and quality of life for the residents, businesses and visitors of Groton. We are resident and contractor friendly and are available to answer your questions or concerns.

Please feel free to call us or stop in on the 2nd floor at Town Hall.

The Department personnel consist of:

- Edward M. Cataldo, Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer
- Daniel A. Britko, Local Inspector
- Paula D. Martin, Land Use Administrative Assistant
- Edward Doucette, Electrical Inspector
- John Murphy, Gas / Plumbing Inspector
- Louise Gaskins, Lindsey Goranson & Janet Thompson, Senior Work Credit Program Volunteers

The Department is open Monday 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Tuesday through Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. All building, electric, gas and plumbing permit applications may be submitted during those times.

Building / electric inspections may be requested throughout the business day via the office telephone number: 978-448-1109. Messages that do not require immediate attention or appointment confirmation may be left at any time. Gas / plumbing inspections are requested directly via the inspector at 978-448-5000, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM.

As always, the Building Department would like to thank all the Town officials and Town Hall staff that we have worked with during the past year.

An updated report of the Department's activities, including the year 2015, follows.

<u>Building & Zoning</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Value of Construction	\$26,954,785	\$33,025,740	\$23,813,475
Permit Fees Collected	\$193,263	\$310,844	\$254,037
Permits Issued	351	349	418
Inspections Performed	654	682	688
<u>RESIDENTIAL</u>			
Single Family Homes	26	23	28
Two Family Homes	1	1	0
Multi-Family	0	1	2
Additions	18	13	13
Renovations	220	200	274
Accessory Buildings	23	25	21
Demolitions	3	7	2
<u>COMMERCIAL</u>			
New	1	5	2
Additions	0	6	1
Renovations	18	11	26
Accessory Buildings	2	0	0
Demolitions	0	3	5
Communication Towers	0	0	0
Annual Inspect. Certif.	79	79	79
Farm Labor Certif.	1	1	1
Home Occupation Certif.	25	19	24
Wood Stove Permits	23	32	14
<u>Electric</u>			
Permit Fees Collected	\$27,467	\$37,467	\$34,622
Permits Issued	306	334	312
Inspections Performed	466	541	522
<u>Gas</u>			
Permit Fees Collected	\$11,149	\$10,741	\$13,241
Permits Issued	202	174	190
Inspections Performed	239	212	201
<u>Plumbing</u>			
Permit Fees Collected	\$15,731	\$17,781	\$25,276
Permits Issued	192	173	209
Inspections Performed	247	261	254

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Takashi Tada, Conservation Administrator

Office Hours: Mon. 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Meetings 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:00pm

(978) 448-1106 Fax (978) 448-1113

conservation@townofgroton.org

The Groton Conservation Commission was established in 1962 by Town Meeting “for the promotion and development of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources” in the Town of Groton, as enabled by the 1957 Massachusetts Conservation Commission Act (M.G.L. Ch. 40, §8c). The Conservation Commission presently controls 2,086 acres of Town-owned conservation land, and we hold permanent restrictions on 1,934 acres of privately owned land. Since 1972 the Commission also has been responsible for administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, §40) in Groton. The Groton Wetlands Bylaw was adopted by Town Meeting in 2001.

In 2015 the Commission held 25 open meetings and conducted 75 public hearing/meetings. The Commission reviewed 12 Notices of Intent and 29 Requests for Determination of Applicability; and issued numerous Certificates of Compliance, Extension Permits, Enforcement Orders, and Violation Notices. Members of the Commission also conducted over 70 site walks. Municipal projects reviewed this year include the proposed herbicide treatment in Baddacook Pond, the Four Corners Sewer Project, and tee box repairs at Groton Country Club. Four Eagle Scout projects on Town-owned conservation land were also approved.

In 2015, the Commission continued updating its inventory of Town-owned conservation lands to identify management priorities. One of the Commission’s primary management goals is to preserve Groton’s agricultural heritage. The Commission continued its effort to restore the former agricultural fields at Baddacook Field/Shattuck Homestead. The Commission also renewed agricultural license agreements with local farmers at Surrenden Farm, Pacer Way, and Walnut Run. An update to the Resource Management Plan for Surrenden Farm is in progress.

The spread of invasive plants is perhaps the biggest land management challenge we face. The Commission is working to enlist volunteer help with small-to-moderate invasive removal projects on town property. We are also providing information on invasive plants and animals to the public. A native plants list for buffer zone plantings, and a list of vendors who supply them, is available for homeowners and landscapers.

The Commission gratefully accepted donations of conservation land in 2015 from the following: Clifford & Barbara Robison, North Woodlot Nominee Trust (12.75 acres off Graniteville Road); Groton School (7.44 acres along the Nashua River); Beverly Gustin (0.25 acres on Lost Lake). The balance of the Conservation Fund for land protection ended the year at \$723,659.

The Commission was sorry to bid farewell to members Mary Metzger and Rena Swezey, who resigned in 2015. We thank them for their dedicated service and invaluable contributions.

The Commission was pleased to welcome new member Eileen McHugh.

Respectfully submitted,

John Smigelski, Chairman (appointed in 2012)

Peter Morrison, Vice Chairman (appointed in 1991)

Susan Black, Clerk (appointed in 2014)

Bruce Easom (appointed in 2003)

Marshall Giguere (appointed in 2004)

Eileen McHugh (appointed in 2015)

Takashi Tada, Conservation Administrator

COUNCIL ON AGING

Kathy Shelp, Certified Director

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am – 3:00pm

Council on Aging Board Meetings 1st Monday 9:30am

Location: Senior Center, 163 West Main Street (Rt. 225)

Main: (978) 448-1170 ~ Fax: (978) 448-3660 ~ councilonaging@townofgroton.org

The Groton COA represents an important entry point into the aging system and into the continuum of Long Term Care. In a continuum of care that ranges from the least intensive to the most intensive, Senior Centers are often the first support service sought by an individual, his/her family or friends. ***The effect and role of the Senior Center is to reverse or delay the need for more intensive services.*** The Groton COA *is preventive social service in action.* We work with a wide variety of organizations and through these linkages provide our users with access to a wide variety of services.

During 2015 we offered 72 programs and services, serving 873 seniors 13,483 times. The COA Van transported 97 individuals 1935 times. The number of seniors who can currently be reached through the preventive social services provided by the COA compels us to insure that we are fiscally sound, diverse in our programs, need-responsive and well administered. We continue to strive to meet all of these goals.

Staff:

Director	Kathy Shelp
Outreach Coordinator	Stacey Shepard Jones
Activities/Volunteer Coordinator	Kathy Santiago
Van Drivers	Hal Burnett
	Alan Sinclair
	John Marriner (per diem)
	Herb Peterson (per diem)
Maintenance	Tryna Walsh

Directors:

Chairman	Maydelle Gamester
Vice-Chairman	Marie Melican
Treasurer	George Faircloth
Secretary	Gail Chalmers
Members	Charlotte Carkin
	Ellen Baxendale
	Mildred Wells
	Vera Strickland
	Eddie Wenzell



Lifelong Groton resident Toni Bond, age 89, participates in COA sponsored Art with a Splash program.

Accreditation: We are proud to announce we have achieved national accreditation from the National Council on Aging's Institute of Senior Centers which offers the nation's only National Senior Center Accreditation Program. Nationally, only 120 of the over 5000 senior centers meet the high standards of accreditation. It provides official recognition that our senior center meets the nine standards of senior center operations.

Needs Assessment: COA Planning Committee was established to consider the future needs of senior citizens of Groton. Utilizing the mandates of strategic planning, the committee will establish a strategic roll out plan for the next 5-7 years with an estimated completion date of February 2016. The Planning Committee consists of Mihran Keoseian, Chair; Gail Chalmers, Co-Chair; Marie Melican, George Faircloth, Norma Garvin and Bob Lotz.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr., DPW Director
500 Cow Pond Brook Road; P.O. Box 1111
(978) 448-1162 Fax: (978) 448-1174
highway@townofgroton.org

DPW

This is the sixth annual report of the Department of Public Works since the consolidation of departments. The divisions under the DPW are Highway, Transfer Station, Tree and the Building Maintenance Departments. All of these are run By the Director of Public Works. The Success of these departments is due to the hard working employees who are the backbone of the DPW. The hours that the employees put in winter and summer, keep the roads safe and passable, and or parks and commons up kept and enjoyable. I cannot say enough to the dedication and hard work that these men and women provide to the Town.



Photo by Karen Riggert

Highway Division

The Highway Department is the backbone of the DPW and is the ones to call when there is something that needs to be done. We do it all from the paving of our streets and sidewalks and everything above and below them, to mowing and caring for our parks commons and trees. Plowing is one of our primary functions and we work all year preparing for it. This year seems to be another historic winter and many are hoping for an early spring. The hours this year have been exhausting but our group of dedicated people has performed to a level beyond all most people's expectations.

In 2014 we completed a great deal of paving as well as other projects through the construction season. As long as the Town continues to receive state funding for roadwork and other projects we will continue to keep up with maintaining our road system. Roads resurfaced last year included Old Dunstable Road, Nashua Road, Townsend Road, Riverbend Drive, Maple Ave, Hill road and a couple of other smaller repairs on many others. Other items of interest are drainage repairs and improvements, intersection improvements, as well as other preventive measures for increasing pavement life. General maintenance of the Town also continues to be a priority with beautification efforts continuing on our numerous parks, commons and ball fields.

Tree Warden

It was a good year in the tree department with plantings, trimming and removals. We planted over 20+ trees in many areas of town with our kick of being Arbor Day on legion common to replace a elm tree damaged by a previous storm.

Season Accomplishments

Tree planting on Arbor Day was done on legion Common. With an additional 20 new trees planted this year, we will continue replacement and enhancement of our town.

Normal business of the Tree Warden in conjunction with the DPW was carried out through the year. These tasks include, trimming and pruning as well as aerial bucket work and the removal of dead and hazard trees.

The local Light Department has expanded their aerial trimming program. By doing this work they limit their outages as well as helping us deal with our hazard trees.

Road side mowing is a constant and aids in the removal of sucker trees and invasive species. Arbor Day was celebrated At Legion Common. Brush and hazard tree trimming, inspection and removal in various locations on over 25miles of roads. Assistance by the local light department with pruning, hazard tree removal and brush clearing helps us tremendously throughout the year. Continued use of a roadside mower to remove brush and invasive species saves us time and money. We also continue to compost chips and leaves picked up by the town for composting and eventual use by Town residents as well as being used in the planting of new trees. **One request for public tree removal was held and denied on Maple Ave.**

Transfer Station

With a steady recycling rate above average for the area we continue to bring our revenues up and our disposal costs down. With the joining of the NRRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association), the Regionalized Recycling Center continues to be a benefit to our town as well as others in this program because of expanded markets and reduced disposal costs. We still continue to process more material in less time and increasing or revenue which gives us an advantage in these markets.

Building Maintenance

Duties of this department are mostly routine, with inspections, cleaning and normal wear and tear issues consisting of the majority of the work load. Below are some of the basic duties of the department. The new Fire Station is now online and is quite a jewel to be added to our town's infrastructure.

- All mandatory annual testing, inspections and preventive maintenance completed on emergency generators, alarm systems, fire suppression sprinklers, fire extinguishers and elevators for this year.
- All annual preventive maintenance on HVAC systems, both gas and oil operations at the Public Safety Building, Town hall, Senior Center, Legion Hall and Fire Stations #1, #2, and #3.
- Maintained the exterior and interior of the P.S.B., Town Hall, Legion Hall and the Senior Center.
- Janitorial duties are completed at the sites above, as well as the public area at the Lost Lake Fire Station and Highway Department.

Respectfully submitted

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.
DPW Director

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Steele McCurdy, Fire Chief
45 Farmers Row (Center Station)
General Calls: (978) 448-6333
Emergency: 911 fire@townofgroton.org
Cell Phone Emergency: (978) 448-5555

The Groton Fire Department is a 24 hour per day operation providing emergency services to the residents of Groton. Over the years the term Fire Service has come to mean much more than the name implies. The fire service across America has transformed from a primarily fire suppression organization to a multi-disciplinary rescue organization. Each year the members of the department respond to a wide variety of calls involving the following:

- Fires
- Medical Emergencies
- Motor Vehicle Crashes
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Service Calls (e.g. water leaks and house lock outs)
- Severe Weather Emergencies
- Alarms (e.g. fire alarms, carbon monoxide and medical alert)



In 2015 the Groton Fire Department responded to 1144 call or an approximate 7% decrease in emergency calls. A closer look at emergency responses reveals that a single year decrease in calls is seen every 2-4 years and is not out of the ordinary. The 10 year average still sees an approximate 2% increase in call volume from year to year. As the community continues to grow, calls for service will continue to increase taxing our resources.

Inspectional services remained very busy in 2015 with 637 inspections performed along with 55 senior safe visits. The Fire Department works closely with the building department to ensure that new and existing buildings are safe to be occupied meeting necessary safety code requirements.

As the community grows we will be faced with choices of how to best provide fire and EMS to the town. With a focus on reducing risk in the town, we need to look towards systems to provide for early warning and early confinement of fires. By making efforts to include sprinklers in 1 and 2 family homes, we can greatly reduce the risk to the community. Unfortunately the concept of sprinklers is not supported by current regulations. We as a community must continue to encourage our representatives in the State House and Senate to support bills that would include sprinklers in all new homes as a well as other life safety systems.

The staff at the Groton Fire Department continues to engage the children of Groton with the delivery of the Student Awareness of Fire Education program. This program puts trained firefighter-educators in classrooms to conduct fire safety education in grades Pre-K through 12. The primary mission of S.A.F.E. is to enable students to recognize the dangers of fire and the fire hazards of tobacco products. This year the firefighters spent over 120 hours delivering the program to children in both public and private schools and daycares.

I would like to thank the women and men of the Groton Fire Department for their dedication and hard work. The Town of Groton is very lucky to have such a great group of people watching over them day and night.

Respectively submitted,

Steele McCurdy
Fire Chief

GROTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2015 Officers



Chief Steele McCurdy

Administrative Assistant Diane Aiello

Capt. James Emslie

Lt. James Crocker

Lt. Michael Culley

Lt. William VanSchalkwyk

Capt. Susan Daly

Lt. Tony Hawgood

Lt. Tyler Shute

Firefighters & EMTS

Geri Armstrong
Evan Boucher
Christopher Braun
Brad Cain
Arthur Cheeks
Daniel Coelho
Timothy Cunningham
Christopher Curtis
David Dubey
Jonathan Duffy
Kevin Dutile
Heather Emslie
Christopher Fischer
Travis Gray
Jason Grennell
Stephanie Hamelin
Michael Heinser
Shawn Hunter
Mark Imbimbo
Heidi Januskiewicz

Jeremy Januskiewicz
Patrick Kiley
Cathy Lincoln
Chase Lundgren
Michael MacGregor
Andrew Mahoney
Frank Mastrangelo
James Mazzola
Paul McBrearty
Gibson McCullagh
Lisa O'Donnell
Matthew Pisani
Betsey Reeves
John Reilly
Heather Rhodes
Ryan Roy
Robert VanSchalkwyk
Joseph Walter
Timothy Wilson

GROTON COUNTRY CLUB

Shawn Campbell, General Manager/Head Golf Professional

94 Lovers Lane

Telephone: (978) 448-3996

www.grotoncountryclub.com



The Groton Country Club is a public, affordable, community recreational resource open to all residents of Groton and the surrounding communities. The property includes a nine hole links style golf course, driving range, a heated swimming pool, and the Blackbird Tavern Restaurant.

Season pass memberships for either or both the pool and golf offerings allow patrons the unlimited use of these facilities while daily activity fees allow for the use of either on a single day

basis. Groton residents are afforded favorable price discounts on both season pass memberships and pool passes. Our goal is to be financially self-reliant using revenues from season pass membership sales, daily activity and summer program fees.

We offer a variety of fun summer programs including a Swim Team, Group and Private Lessons, Junior Golf Camp, PGA Junior League, and a Summer Day Camp Program. Our Summer Day Camp Program continues to be well received with more than 200 campers enjoying swimming and golf lessons during weekly sessions throughout the summer. The Gators, our swim team, won the Minuteman Summer Swim League Championship for the fifth consecutive year. Our Groton PGA Junior League finished second in our conference during our first season on play.

We are looking forward to opening both the pool and golf course on a complimentary basis to Groton residents on Groton Family Days to recognize and demonstrate our appreciation for the continued town support of needed infrastructure improvements. Last season many improvements were implemented at the Country Club including, the retaining wall behind the clubhouse, a new pool entrance, renovations to the locker rooms, netting for the driving range, new hitting stations for the range, installed a set of junior friendly tees on the course, and the repairs to the tee boxes on holes 2, 7 and 8.

The Groton Country Club appreciates and thanks' our many supporters who have again given generously to their time, counsel and resources to help sustain and energize our programs this year. We invite you to join your friends and neighbors and make use of your community recreation center.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Campbell

General Manger/Head Golf Professional

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Paula Martin, Land Use Administrative Assistant

Meetings 3rd Tuesday of Month 7:30pm

(978) 448-1109 Fax (978) 448-1113

building@townofgroton.org

For 2015, the Historic Districts Commission (HDC) operated with six members and a part-time assistant. The Commission received and processed applications for proposed construction, renovations or signage, and continued to provide active assistance for notable large construction projects, such as: the Boynton Meadows development and Groton School's academic complex. Applications for new or ongoing projects were reviewed by the Commission relative to their appropriateness within Groton's historic context, and public hearings were held for substantive work, as required.

On-going maintenance projects were the main focus this year. Additionally, the HDC was pleased to support projects being considered at local civic properties, for example: an Eagle Scout project for maintenance work and an accessible ramp at the Smith Social Pavilion located on Town Field, retaining wall repair and an additional book drop at the Library.

In the coming year, the HDC looks forward to seeing significant construction activity at the Groton Inn property, as well as the creation of a new main entrance to Lawrence Academy to be located at Route 119. The Commission also looks forward to adding new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Barton, Chairman

Richard P. Chilcoat, Vice Chair

Sanford Johnson

Laura R. Moore

Gina Perini

Maureen Giattino

Paula Martin, Land Use Administrative Assistant



HUMAN RESOURCES

Melisa Doig, Human Resources Director

Office Hours: Mon 8am – 7pm; Tues-Thurs 8am – 4pm; Fri, 8am - 1pm

Telephone: (978) 448-1145 Fax: (978) 448-1115

humanresources@townofgroton.org

The Human Resources Department manages the personnel and benefits for full-time/part-time employees, retirees, temporary/seasonal employees, department heads, and Town officials. The department also assists with employee relations; support for collective bargaining and contract administration; managing recruitment; coordinating orientation, training, and employee activities; providing administrative services for workers compensation and administering employee benefit programs and maintaining all the personnel files.

POLICY AND TRAINING

Over the past year, the Town adopted a few new policies which include Standards of Conduct Policy and Domestic Violence Policy. These policies will give guidance to all employees and Town officials. I have held several trainings that employees have participated in through MIIA that have been beneficial. MIIA provides a newsletter with tips and additional trainings and available grants that the department have utilized.

BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

This year, I created an Employee Portal. This is a great resource for employees to understand all Human Resource information.

I have worked on enhancing some of the employee benefits with an upgrade to voluntary life insurance and the implementation of a Flexible Spending account.

Over the past several months this office has worked closely with the Town Treasurer and Town Accountant with implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This will be ongoing and will require us to be current on information to meet all reporting requirements.

RECRUITMENT

This has been a very successful year for recruitment. The review and hiring process has been collaborative with the Town Manager and the Department Heads. The Town of Groton departments are staffed with talented and committed people who provide excellent and professional service, to the residents of Groton. For those who are moving on or retiring we have implemented a separation of employment package to ensure we get feedback from our exiting employees as well as informing them of their final benefits and pay.

WELLNESS

I continue to work with our Wellness Coordinator through the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group to keep our employees healthy and informed. This past year we had several programs that employees participated in. It is important to promote good health, but it also has been great team building for the employees.

I look forward to another successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Melisa Doig
HR Director

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Michael Chiasson, Information Technology Director

Office Hours: Mon 8am – 6pm; Tues-Thurs 8am – 4:30pm; Fri, 8am - 12:30pm

Telephone: (978) 732-1889 Fax: (978) 448-1115

itdept@townofgroton.org

The Information Technology (I.T.) Department facilitates the use of technology (servers, systems, software, etc) within the Town and serves to simplify and automate processes for other departments to bring new and better services to residents and Town employees. Far from existing only to fix broken computers, the I.T. Department comes up with new solutions to old problems: the need for more streamlined and automated workflows for Town departments and enterprises. To this end, the I.T. department has developed software solutions, implemented pre-developed software and made recommendations to increase efficiency and reduce waste and redundancy in many areas.

The I.T. Department has grown from the former Web and I.T. Committees, which were comprised of dedicated volunteers who have built the Town's current website and upgraded and maintained the systems and servers at no cost to the residents of Groton. Their service and dedication should be appreciated by all in Town.

In 2015 the department has focused on many new initiatives throughout the year and will continue to build out on solutions to help make the Town operate more efficiently. In April, the department welcomed Mike Chiasson as the new I.T. Director for the Town. Phase II of our town security system was implemented with Cameras and Door Security Locks throughout the Police Station and Town Hall. A new HR portal was completed for the Human Resource Department to help disseminate the large amounts of private information to employees and retirees. Our Transfer Station is now running a more secure check-out station and can successfully process credit card payments. Our Fire Department now has a custom Burn Permit web portal (<http://burnpermit.grotonfd.org>) that allows residents to purchase their annual Burn Permit online as well as activate it when used without needing to call or visit the Fire Station.

“Our department is busy working on newer technologies with an increased mobile device centric view. The Town is going to be well served with additional technology solutions that allow you to get more done without having to leave your house. We're working with other departments to try to provide the transparency that residents desire to make informed decisions. We're excited about cloud based software becoming more affordable as it opens up the door to add to our redundancies & reliabilities without having to invest heavily in physical infrastructure.”

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Chiasson
Information Technology Director

ANIMAL CONTROL / INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

George Moore, Inspector
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr., Inspector
(978) 448-1111 Fax (978) 448-1115



-Photo by Karen Riggert

Animal Control:

Groton Animal Control Officers responded to 188 incidents in 2015, ranging from barking dogs/dogs running loose, snapping turtles, livestock and horses escaped, and many wildlife calls. In addition, many calls, such as questions on wildlife behavior and black bear sightings, were handled by phone.

This year Animal Control was given the use of the former K-9 vehicle. This has been very useful in transporting dogs to the Groton Animal shelter.

There were 19 dogs put into the shelter. The majority of these were returned to their owners after being picked up running loose.

The position of Animal Control is at times difficult, other times somewhat comical, but always interesting.

Animal Inspections:

As Animal Inspector I conducted 51 barn/animal inspections. As well I performed 3 welfare checks on livestock. All appeared to be in good condition. Groton has a wide variety of animals ranging from backyard chickens to beef cattle.

During our heavy snow last winter, several checks were made on older barns and shelters, all survived the weather.

There were 13 ten-day orders of quarantine issued and 2 orders for 45-day quarantines. All were issued for possible exposure to rabies. All were negative. Several wild animals were tested for rabies, some were positive for the disease. I urge all pet owners to have them vaccinated against this disease.

Respectfully submitted,

George Moore & R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.
Groton Animal Control and Animal Inspection

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Donald L. Palma, Jr., Chief of Police
99 Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 310, Groton, MA 01450
General Calls: (978) 448-5555
Emergency: 911 police@townofgroton.org



2015 Memorial Day Parade

Greetings,

Another year passes and we have been busy and had some exciting changes in the Groton Police Department. The position of Deputy Chief was created to better define the role of the second in command. Lieutenant James A. Cullen, III was appointed as Groton's first Deputy Chief of Police. Detective Rachael Mead was assigned as School Resource Officer, a position that has been vacant for 10 years. Reserve Officer Gregory Steward was promoted to the rank of Patrolman to fill the vacancy created by Officer Pierce's retirement. Reserve Officer Patrick Timmins was promoted to the rank of Patrolman to fill the opening approved at Town Meeting.

With the continued support of the townspeople, the Groton Police Department was able to maintain a proactive approach to Patrol, active participation in Community Policing, and continuing Officer training. The advances and accessibility in technology create an ever-changing landscape in law enforcement with untold opportunities for positive and negative impact on society. We find that we are dealing with a larger number of cybercrime and fraudulent claims each year. It is our goal to maintain our proficiencies and look to the future to continue to provide quality professional police services.

I want to extend a personal thank you to the residents of Groton for your generous support as we continue to put "Community First".

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Donald L. Palma, Jr.

2015 GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police:	Donald L. Palma, Jr. Emergency Management Agency Director
Deputy Chief:	James A. Cullen, III
Sergeants:	Derrick Gemos, Paul Connell, Edward Sheridan, Jason Goodwin
Detectives:	Cory Waite, Michael Lynn
School Resource Officer:	Rachael Mead, Juvenile Detective
Patrolmen:	Peter Breslin, Dale Rose, Robert Breault, Gordon Candow, Kevin Henehan, Nicholas Beltz, Omar Connor, Timothy Cooper, Gregory Steward, Patrick Timmins
Reserve Officers:	George Aggott, Edward Bushnoe, Stephen McAndrew, Victor Sawyer, Kathy Newell, Michael Ratte
Special Officer:	Irmin L. Pierce, III
K-9:	Lola
Administrative:	Kathy Newell, Executive Assistant and Joan Tallent, Administrative Assistant
Communications:	Darlene Touchette, Sarah Power, Warren Gibson, Edward Bushnoe, Jonathan Shattuck, Samuel Welch, Catherine Myers, Ian Brown
Police Matrons:	April Moulton, Darlene Touchette, Beverly Jeddrey, Sarah Power, Kathy Newell
Auxiliary:	Mark Miller

TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER DEPARTMENT

Michael Hartnett, CPA, CMMT- Treasurer/Collector

Hannah Moller, Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Barbara Tierney, PR Coordinator/Assistant to Treasurer

Rebecca Babcock, Office Assistant

Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Main: (978) 448-1103 Fax: (978) 448-1115

treasurer@townofgroton.org

<u>Cash & Fund Balances</u>						Year-End Balance
						<u>June 30, 2015</u>
<u>Fund Description:</u>						
<u>General Fund</u>						\$ 6,031,633
<u>Other Funds</u>						
Trust Funds (a)						\$ 16,551,372
Affordable Housing Trust						\$ 60,313
Regional Scholarship Committee						\$ 5,195
Arts & Flags Agency						\$ 7,272
Capital Stabilization						\$ 533,711
Stabilization						\$ 1,645,585
Conservation						\$ 523,467
Performance Bonds & 593's						\$ 463,583
Turtle Study & Maintenance						\$ 53,546
						\$ 19,844,043
<u>Enterprise Designated Funds</u>						
Sewer Enterprise						\$ 381,491
Water Enterprise						\$ 64,786
<u>Groton Electric Light Designated Funds</u>						
Depreciation						\$ 235,133
Consumer Deposits						\$ 247,734
Insurance Reserve						\$ 128,830
						\$ 611,697
<u>Total Cash & Fund Balance, June 30, 2015</u>						\$ 26,933,649

Note: All accounts are independently audited each year by a certified public accounting firm, without exception.

(a) All trust fund balances are inclusive of required GASB-31 Fair Market Value adjustments, and are under the overall custodianship of the Town Treasurer with the guidance and collaboration of the Trust Fund Commission.

Debt & Debt Service

During FY 2015, the Town borrowed \$3,860,000 in a long-term bond issue for two purposes; \$2,000,000 was designated toward the Groton Electric Light Department's (GELD) new Station Avenue headquarters. This debt service will be paid by GELD and not Town of Groton general funds. In addition, \$1,860,000 was borrowed to refinance the remaining 10 years of three previous bond issues. The combined bond was issued at 2.41% and will save the Town over \$100,000 in future interest costs.

During FY 2015, the Town's \$350,000 short-term borrowing for the cost of preparing an Environmental Impact Report required to seek grant funds for the Lost Lake Sewer Project was paid down by \$110,000, ending the short-term note.

In FY 2015 the general fund of the Town paid \$532,544 in non-exempt debt service (principal and interest). The Town's portion of debt for the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District was \$1,234,216, which is excluded debt and becomes an addition to the tax rate. The Town's portion of debt for the Nashoba Valley Technical High School was \$35,999, which is not excluded debt. Of the Town's combined total debt service, including school debt, \$1,985,478 was excluded from the limits of Proposition 2-1/2. The excluded debt added \$1.30 to the tax rate. The cost for this excluded debt for a home assessed at \$400,000 was \$520 for the year.

(The following page shows the FY 2015 debt service payments by Department and purpose.)

Credit Rating Increase from Standard & Poor - AAA

As part of the Town's bond issue in Fiscal 2015, a comprehensive review by the credit rating agency Standard & Poor was required. This review included an overall analysis of the Town comprising financial strength and stability, financial policies, demographic characteristics, and financial planning and projections.

The Town was awarded the highest credit rating of AAA from Standard & Poor's in July 2014. One of the benefits of a municipality obtaining the highest municipal credit rating is the ability to borrow in the long-term bond market at more favorable interest rates. The Town's 2.41% interest rate for the new fire station bond is indicative of this credit strength, and will save the Town thousands of dollars in debt service over the life of the bond.

Respectfully,

Michael L Hartnett, CPA, CMMT
Treasurer-Collector

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE AND DEBT BALANCES

General Fund								
ID	Name	Issued	Matures	Orig Amt	Exempt/ Non-Exempt	Principal	Interest	Total
2988	Bernier Bissell	7/15/2001	7/15/2019	\$850,000	Exempt	\$44,720.00	\$10,190.00	\$54,910.00
2989	Bissell Property	7/15/2001	7/15/2019	\$1,075,000	Exempt	\$56,250.00	\$12,806.65	\$69,056.65
2992	Gibbet Hill	11/15/2003	11/15/2022	\$3,000,000	Exempt	\$160,000.00	\$53,410.00	\$213,410.00
2972	Library #1	7/15/1999	7/15/2017	\$1,831,464	Exempt	\$96,560.00	\$12,246.40	\$108,806.40
2973	Library #2	7/15/1999	7/15/2017	\$364,000	Exempt	\$19,360.00	\$2,502.80	\$21,862.80
2991	Lost Lake Fire	11/15/2003	11/15/2022	\$1,450,000	Exempt	\$75,000.00	\$25,837.50	\$100,837.50
2987	Norris Property	7/15/2001	7/15/2019	\$750,000	Exempt	\$39,670.00	\$9,067.85	\$48,737.85
2981	Senior Center	7/15/1999	7/15/2016	\$151,110	Exempt	\$8,600.00	\$796.60	\$9,396.60
2983	Town Hall	7/15/1999	7/15/2017	\$2,500,000	Exempt	\$130,480.00	\$16,679.20	\$147,159.20
					Total Exempt	\$630,640.00	\$143,537.00	\$774,177.00
2990	Fire Truck	11/15/2003	11/15/2016	\$485,000	Non-Exempt	\$35,000.00	\$3,307.50	\$38,307.50
2994	Project Eval	11/1/2003	2/1/2024	\$330,000	Non-Exempt	\$10,950.00	\$3,319.47	\$14,269.47
2986	Shattuck Property	7/15/2001	7/15/2019	\$500,000	Non-Exempt	\$26,080.00	\$5,974.10	\$32,054.10
2912	Center Fire Station	4/18/2013	6/30/2035	\$7,730,000	Non-Exempt	\$280,000.00	\$167,912.52	\$447,912.52
					Total Non-Exempt	\$352,030.00	\$180,513.59	\$532,543.59
Summary	for General Fund				Total for General Fund	\$982,670.00	\$324,050.59	\$1,306,720.59
GELD								
2995	GELD	7/15/2001	7/15/2019	\$750,000	Non-Exempt	\$38,280.00	\$8,736.40	\$47,016.40
Summary	for GELD				Total Non-Exempt for GELD	\$38,280.00	\$8,736.40	\$47,016.40
CPC								
012	Surrenden Farm	7/6/2007	12/15/2021	\$5,015,000	Non-Exempt	\$355,000.00	\$131,475.00	\$486,475.00
Summary	for CPC				Total Non-Exempt for CPC	\$355,000.00	\$131,475.00	\$486,475.00
Sewer								
ID	Name	Issued	Matures	Orig Amt	Exempt/ Non-Exempt	Principal	Interest	Total
2910	Boston Road	10/26/2007	10/1/2025	\$310,940	Non-Exempt	\$16,647.50	\$7,532.99	\$24,180.49
2911	Old Ayer Rd	10/26/2007	10/1/2025	\$155,960	Non-Exempt	\$8,352.50	\$3,779.51	\$12,132.01
9994	Project Eval	11/1/2003	2/1/2024	\$330,000	Non-Exempt	\$4,050.00	\$1,055.46	\$5,105.46
Summary	for Sewer				Total Non-Exempt for Sewer	\$29,050.00	\$12,367.96	\$41,417.96
Title V								
2993	Title Five	8/1/2002	8/1/2023	\$197,403	Non-Exempt	\$10,400.00	\$0.00	\$10,400.00
Summary	for TitleV				Total Non-Exempt for TitleV	\$10,400.00	\$0.00	\$10,400.00
Water								
2997	Water SRF Loan 2	12/14/2006	7/15/2026	\$1,234,434	Non-Exempt	\$59,602.00	\$16,565.80	\$76,167.80
2909	Water System	11/23/2004	8/1/2024	\$4,417,366	Non-Exempt	\$215,000.00	\$67,682.27	\$282,682.27
Summary	for Water				Total for Water	\$274,602.00	\$84,248.07	\$358,850.07
					FY15 Totals	1,684,337.00	\$560,878.02	2,245,215.02

**Report of the Tax Collector
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

	<u>Collected</u> <u>During FY</u>	<u>Uncollected</u> <u>June 30, 2015</u>
<u>2015</u>		
Real Estate	26,921,417	375,402
Community Preservation Act	602,118	6,617
Water District	104,810	3,515
Personal Property	435,547	3,499
Motor Vehicle Excise	1,328,752	114,459
<u>2014</u>		
Real Estate	233,549	8,896
Community Preservation Act	4,334	97
Water District	3,279	403
Personal Property	2,425	355
Motor Vehicle Excise	231,742	11,283
<u>2013</u>		
Real Estate	7,247	799
Community Preservation Act	148	-
Water District	-	168
Personal Property	2,928	-
Motor Vehicle Excise	3,667	6,681
<u>2012</u>		
Real Estate	-	787
Community Preservation Act	11	-
Water District	-	-
Motor Vehicle Excise	1,332	4,975
<u>2011</u>		
Real Estate	-	-
Motor Vehicle Excise	451	3,109
<u>2006-2010</u>		
Motor Vehicle Excise	<u>850</u>	<u>17,141</u>
TOTALS	29,884,607	558,186
<u>Selected Tax Collector Data:</u>		
Payments In Lieu of Taxes Collected	226,027	
Demands, Interest, Fees Collected	87,887	
Scholarship Donations Collected	3,065	
Tax Title Account Balances	399,012	
Tax Title Payments Collected	58,827	
Taxes in Deferral	123,990	
Deferral Collections	46,106	
Tax Foreclosures Uncollected	44,258	

Note: All tax receivable accounts are reconciled with the Town Accountant and the general ledger on a monthly basis. All accounts are audited on an annual basis by an independent certified public accounting firm, without exception.

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

Robert Johnson, Veterans' Service Officer

Office Hours: Mon. 9am-12pm, Wed. 6pm-9pm & Fri. 10am-12pm or by Appointment

Legion Hall, 75 Hollis Street, Groton, MA

(978) 448-1175 veteran@townofgroton.org



The Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) function continues to support the Town's veterans and their families and this was my busiest year since I started as your VSO in 2007. My regular office hours are from 9 AM to Noon on Monday's, 6 to 9 PM on Wednesday's, and 10 AM to Noon on Friday's in my office in Legion Hall at 75 Hollis Street. I continue to offer to meet at other times on an appointment basis if my regular hours will not work for a veteran and/or their family members.

In addition to regular office hours, I continue to work on outreach to Groton's veteran community. I regularly attend the Veterans' Breakfast held at the Groton Senior Center the first Thursday of every month at 10 AM [September through

May]. This provides an opportunity for me to meet with individual veterans who attend the breakfast and also to present information to all attendees.

I typically serve ten to fifteen people a week through phone calls, e-mails, and face-to-face meetings, but many weeks are much busier. One area that is formally tracked is Chapter 115 benefits cases and I started the year with seven open cases with benefits being paid to veterans and widows. This was the same number of cases last year, but several cases closed as the year progressed so I had only three open cases by year's end. I continue to see a significant increase in the number of Viet Nam era veterans contacting me to ask about benefits that may be available to them as they approach and/or begin their retirement. I am also dealing with more widows of veterans than in the past, but the area that is growing the fastest is responding to requests for assistance from the adult children of senior veterans. The majority of my time is now spent helping residents with claims to the Veterans' Administration (VA) for disability compensation, VA pensions for senior veterans and their widows, and requests for military grave markers.

I am here to serve the veterans of Groton and their dependent family members, including widows and widowers as well as children and dependent parents of veterans. Anyone who needs advice and/or assistance, or knows of someone who may need advice and/or assistance, is invited to stop by my office during my regular office hours, e-mail me at veteran@townofgroton.org, or call me at (978)448-1175. I encourage all veterans to contact me for benefits information, regardless of when you served and whether or not you think you need benefits at this time.

Respectively submitted,

Robert Johnson
Veterans' Services Officer

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Margot Hammer, ZBA Office Assistant

Wednesday Meetings as posted

Tues – Thurs 10am -3pm

(978) 448-1121 Fax: (978) 448-1113

zoning@townofgroton.org

The Zoning Board of Appeals' jurisdiction falls under MA General Laws Chapters 40A and 40B, as well as under Chapter 218 of the Groton Zoning Bylaw and Chapter 338 of the Charter of the Town of Groton. The Board consists of five regular members and four associate members. There is a vacancy of two associate members, which the Board hopes to fill this year.

The Zoning Board of Appeals met 14 times to consider 19 applications in 2015. There were 16 special permit applications, one of which was a revisit, two are pending, and 14 were granted/renewed. The special permit applications consisted of alterations of non-conforming structures, temporary construction trailers and accessory apartments. The variances requests were from setback and height. There was one request for zoning enforcement action, which is pending.

- Variances – 2
- Special Permits – 16
- Request for Zoning Enforcement - 1

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Maxwell, Chairman

Robert Cadle, Clerk

Mark Mulligan

Jay Prager

Alison Manugian

Bruce Easom, Associate

Alberta Erickson, Associate

Margot Hammer, Assistant

GROTON'S APPOINTED COMMITTEES



Affordable Housing Trust

Cable Advisory Committee

Commission on Accessibility

Community Preservation Committee

Conductorlab Oversight Committee

Graves Registration Officer

Greenway Committee

Historical Commission

Local Cultural Council

Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School

Old Burying Ground Commission

Sustainability Commission

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Working Group

Town Forest Committee

Trails Committee

Williams Barn Committee

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

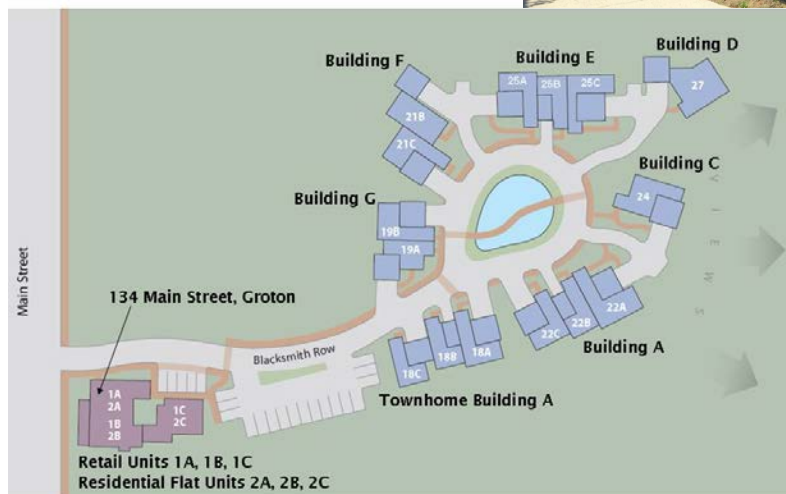
The Town of Groton accepted M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 55C, Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund to the Town Bylaws at the 2008 Fall Special Town Meeting. The purpose of the Trust is to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in the Town of Groton for the benefit of low and moderate income households earning up to 125% of area median income as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Town of Groton Affordable Housing Trust was created on November 17, 2010. The five Trust members are appointed and by design, the structure of the Trust requires that a member of the Board of Selectmen fill at least one of these positions.

In 2015, the Trust continued to monitor its investment in Boynton Meadows, a mixed use development project at 134 Main Street. The Kilbridge Building facing Main Street has been fully restored and the developer is building and selling townhouses located toward the rear of the parcel on Blacksmith Row. To date, one affordable condominium is for sale and the two additional affordable condominiums will be created in the future.

The Trust consults with other local boards and groups in Groton and regionally, seeking ways to create and maintain affordable housing. The Trust stands ready to investigate and pursue new opportunities to create affordable housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Degen, Chair
Stuart M. Schulman, Vice Chair
Fredrick J. Dunn, Treasurer
Sheila Julien, Secretary
David A. Wilder, Member



CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bob Colman, Cable Supervisor
(978) 448-3796
info@thegrotonchannel.org

The Groton Cable Advisory Committee is responsible for negotiating and maintaining the cable television license(s) within the town of Groton as well as overseeing the operation of Groton's cable access stations. The two cable access stations in town are The Groton Channel (Charter 191 and Verizon 40) and Groton's Government Channel (Charter 192 and Verizon 41).

Thank you to everyone who filled out our survey this year. We received over 1,200 responses! We appreciate the continued support from the community and look forward to meeting the changing world of community media in the future! You can find the survey results at our website: thegrotonchannel.org.

In 2015 the Groton Channel and the Groton Government Channel aired over 600 unique, locally produced, shows. These include our weekly news program, "The Groton Channel News," as well as talk shows, sporting events, lectures, concerts, cooking shows, music shows, and many others. We have many ongoing shows being made by Groton residents just like you! These include: "Around Town," "GD 911," "History on Tap," "House Happenings," "Life Matters," "Storytelling for Adults," "Silverwolf Entertainment Presents," and "Tymelines!" The Government Channel covers all Selectmen's meetings, Town meetings, Planning Board meetings, and other meetings of interest.

The Groton Channel offers many of its programs online. People can find these on Vimeo and Facebook, or through the website, thegrotonchannel.org. We also have a Twitter account so please follow us, @GrotonChannel on Twitter! Last year we accumulated over 8,000 online views of our programs! We are continuing to expand our online, on-demand offerings so please check in on our website often.

The Groton Channel continues to offer free workshops in Video Production. We are available to help any Groton resident produce their own television program or series, and we could always use more volunteers to help with the programming we already produce. If you have any questions, please send an email to info@thegrotonchannel.org, or call (978) 448-3796.

Cable Advisory Committee:

Jane Bouvier
Neil Colicchio – Vice Chair
Dave Melpignano
Robert Piche
Janet Sheffield – Chair

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY

Michelle Collette, ADA Coordinator
Meetings 1st Monday of the month 3:00pm
(978) 448-1111 Fax: (978) 448-1115
mcollette@townofgroton.org

The Commission on Accessibility was established in 1985 when the Town voted to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 40C, Sections 8J and 22G. As required by State Statute, the Commission must include a majority of people with disabilities, an immediate family member of a disabled person, and an elected or appointed official. The Commission views its function as ensuring that residents with disabilities are welcome and able to participate in Groton's community life to the fullest extent practical.

In 2015, the Commission worked with the Northeast Independent Living Program to complete the Parks, Playgrounds, and Open Space Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan. Commission members and others visited more than 25 sites during the project. The project was funded by Community Preservation funds. The Commission held a public hearing in December and voted unanimously to adopt the plan. The report contains recommendations on improving universal accessibility at various locations and programs. The Commission thanks the Board of Selectmen, the Park Commission, the Conservation Commission, the Trails Committee, the Greenway Committee, and the Groton Conservation Trust for participating in the project.

The Commission continues to consider and resolve accessibility issues in response to resident's complaints in accordance with the Town's ADA Policy. Concerns on accessibility matters may be directed to ADA Coordinator Michelle Collette by contacting the Town Manager's office.

The Commission appreciates the support of the Board of Selectmen, the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, the Town Moderator, the Town Clerk, the DPW Director, and other public officials throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Fleischer, Chairman
Scott Harker
Mark Shack
Anna Vega

Ellen Baxendale
Emil Rechsteiner
Alan Taylor
Michelle Collette, ADA Coordinator

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the Month
(978) 448-1140 Fax: (978) 448-1113
communitypreservation@townofgroton.org

The CPA allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. Community Preservation monies are raised through a 3% surcharge on real estate tax. The Department of Revenue distributes a state match each November from the statewide Community Preservation Fund to the Communities that have adopted the CPA.

Each CPA community establishes a local Community Preservation Committee (CPC) that makes recommendations on CPA projects that are voted on at Town Meeting. The Town of Groton has a seven member Committee with a representative from the Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Parks Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and two members at large, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The CPC is responsible for the general oversight of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and the selection and recommendation of the Groton CPA proposals, and to ensure selected projects are managed on behalf of the Town of Groton to successful completion.

This year the CPC revised the latest edition of the Community Preservation Plan (CPP). This is a detailed document that provides information on the community preservation act as well as a guide to the complete application process (see CPC page at <http://www.townofgroton.org/>). The CPC is continuously looking for opportunities to increase awareness around the CPA and its beneficial impact on the community. The Town of Groton collected \$852,988 funds from the local surcharge, state fund match, and interest during FY 2015. We expect \$805,000 including the state match of \$253,946 in FY 2016.

Ongoing CPC Projects

- Surrenden Farm Land Purchase – Town of Groton purchase funds acquired by CPC bonding with annual debt service through FY 2021 -- 2016 CPC request: \$480,000.
- Old Groton Meetinghouse – To make structural repairs and restorations to historic building – CPC Request \$203,333.
- Conservation Fund – To acquire conservation land outright, purchase conservation restrictions and agricultural preservation restrictions -- CPC Request: \$200,000.
- Sargisson Beach – To restore and stabilize – CPC Request: \$184,590.
- Town Basketball Courts – To repair basketball courts at Town Field and Cutler Field – CPC Request \$109,000.
- Groton Housing Coordinator Salary – To create and retain affordable housing – CPC Request: \$49,509.
- Driving Range – To repair and replace the netting at the golf driving range at the Groton Country Club – CPC Request: \$47,000.
- Accessible Trail Project – To construct accessible trail in the J. Harry Rich State Forest. CPC Request: \$24,932.
- Milestone Restoration –To repair twenty (20) historic granite mile markers throughout the Town – CPC Request: \$23,000.
- Milestone Engraving – To continue historic mile marker restoration with resetting, etching and cleaning. -- CPC Request: \$17,000.
- ADA Compliant Park and Open Space Study – To identify reasonable improvements for accessibility at twenty-eight (28) park and open space properties in the Town of Groton – CPC Request: \$6,000.

Respectfully submitted:

Representing Conservation Commission: Bruce Easom,
Representing Park Commission: Matthew Frary,
Representing Historic Commission: Bob DeGroot,

Representing Housing Authority: Dan Emerson,
Representing Planning Board: Russ Burke,
Members at Large: Michael Roberts and Richard Hewitt

CONDUCTORLAB OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Current Members: Michelle Collette, Mark Deuger, Robert Hanninen, Susan Horowitz, Stuart Schulman

Background: The Conductorlab facility operated between 1958 and 1985 and is located at 430 Main Street just east of the railroad bridge. In 1985, the town learned that the facility operator had discharged toxic or hazardous chemicals on the property. In the following months, private wells located down-gradient from the site on Main, Arlington and Mill Streets, and on Gratuity Road were shut down and town water was extended throughout the area. By this time the original company had been sold and passed through several different companies. The previous owners are by law “Responsible Parties” and are subject to state regulatory liability as interpreted and enforced by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The current owner/Responsible Party is Honeywell International, Inc.

In 1996, a Class C Response Action Outcome (RAO) documenting a “Temporary Solution” was implemented at the site in accordance with the state regulation known as the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). Under the MCP, a “Permanent Solution” can only be achieved when a condition of “No Significant Risk” of harm to human health and the environment can be demonstrated for all current and future receptors (individuals who may visit, live or work at the site). Only a Temporary Solution has been implemented, presently, because a condition of No Significant Risk has not yet been demonstrated for all receptors, specifically contractors who might come into contact with soil and/or groundwater at the site. However, more importantly, a condition of No Significant Risk has been demonstrated for down-gradient neighbors in off-property areas and for site trespassers. Honeywell continues remedial activities to achieve a Permanent Solution and Regulatory Site Closure and a Permanent Solution will include land use restrictions that shall be described in a permanent Activity and Use Limitations (AUL) document.

Activities in 2015: In 2009, Honeywell and AMEC Foster Wheeler, its Licensed Site Professional (LSP), implemented *in situ* chemical oxidation (ISCO) peroxide treatment for trichloroethylene (TCE), the primary Contaminant of Concern (COC), into groundwater at the site. The ISCO treatment chemicals break down the TCE and related chlorinated compounds. Following the September 2009 ISCO injection event, groundwater monitoring data indicated an increase in hexavalent chromium (Cr+6) concentrations as a result of the ISCO treatment. To control migration of hexavalent chromium (Cr+6) impacted groundwater at the site, the groundwater recovery and treatment system was reactivated and treated groundwater was recirculated into the ISCO system infiltration trenches at the rear of the site, as approved by MassDEP. Operation of the recirculation system concluded March 2012. The hexavalent chromium was also treated *in situ* by injection of a sodium metabisulfite solution, a reducing agent. ISCO injections initiated in 2009 concluded in January 2013. In order to demonstrate that groundwater poses no significant risk of harm to human health and the environment, the MCP requires four consecutive quarterly rounds of sampling where TCE and hexavalent chromium (Cr+6) concentrations are lower than the applicable regulatory standards. Quarterly groundwater monitoring data obtained throughout 2014-2015 indicates that average TCE and hexavalent chromium (Cr+6) concentrations were lower than applicable Upper Concentration Limits (UCLs) described in the MCP; however, some on-site monitoring wells and some surface water samples still exceed applicable GW-3 standards. (GW-3 regulatory standards are 50ppm TCE and 3ppm Cr+6.) An additional reduction treatment for Cr+6 was proposed for early 2016 using calcium polysulfide in place of bisulfite. Honeywell representatives believe that polysulfide treatment step will complete remediation once quarterly groundwater monitoring confirms that both on and off site COC concentrations will remain below applicable standards. COC concentrations must be below applicable UCLs for four consecutive quarters before a condition of No Significant Risk can be demonstrated. Honeywell then will complete a Method III Risk Characterization and a Stage II Ecological Risk Assessment to show that a condition of No Significant Risk has been achieved to support an RAO. Land use limitations will be implemented through an AUL, which will be recorded on the property deed. The Committee will continue to meet with Honeywell and AMEC representatives to review ongoing monitoring data and site closure documents. The Committee will request of the Town Manager and Selectmen procedures for review of all closure related documents. Honeywell anticipates achieving site closure in early 2017 and expects to sell the property subject to conditions of the AUL.

GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER

Each year I am responsible for placing American flags on the graves of all Veterans buried within the Old Burying Ground, Groton Cemetery, and also on the Memorial Commons. These flags are placed in time for Memorial Day and remain until after Veterans' Day. The flags are visually beautiful and enhance a patriotic nature which is important when we honor our Veterans.

The following Veterans were interred within the Groton Cemetery in 2015:

- Alfred L. Carlin Sr. Navy WWII
- Thomas T. Conley Army 1983-1987
- Bennet R. Black Army Air Corps WWII
- Arthur F. Blackman Army Air Force WWII
- Charles Butler Army WWII
- Myron E. Hartwell Army WWII
- Aldo F. Luca Army Air Corps WWII
- Henry S. Miller Jr. Army 1957-1959
- John C. Vaillancourt Army 1956-1958

If you have any photos of our veterans that you would like to share please mail them to me at P.O. Box 212, Groton, MA. 01450.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Beal Normandin



GREENWAY COMMITTEE

The Groton Greenway Committee is an advisory committee created in 1989 to protect river and stream frontage in Groton, particularly along the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers for water quality, natural flood control, wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors and recreational trail connections. We seek to raise awareness, educate and invite townspeople to use and enjoy our rivers.

Groton Greenway Mission

- Continue to increase the protection of the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers.
- Educate, raise awareness and invite townspeople to use and enjoy the river.
- Promote usage and provide stewardship for the greenways.



Fitch's Bridge

Activities During the Past Year

- Held the 2015 Nashua River Festival which included acts such as the Pebble Bottom River Kids, Native American dancing and the crowd favorite cardboard canoe races.
- Participated in the annual spring water chestnut hand pull with the NRWA and Nashoba Paddler on the Nashua River.
- Helped plant milkweed at NEFF property Groton Place to restore threatened Monarch butterfly habitat.
- Wished past member Craig Gemmell luck in his new endeavors at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.
- Welcomed new member to the Greenway Committee, Matt McCracken

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Hold 2016 River Festival on June 19 at the Petapawag Boat Launch
- Continue dialog with landowners on protecting riverfront property
- Determine the best usage of funding to improve equestrian access at Fitch's Bridge
- Investigate management opportunities for the Nod Road parcel along the Nashua River

Respectfully,

The Groton Greenway Committee
Adam Burnett
Carol Coutrier
Matt McCracken
David Pitkin, Chair
Marion Stoddart

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Historical Commission in 2015 was chaired by Bob DeGroot with Michael LaTerz as Secretary. Members include Allen King, George Wheatley, and Michael Danti. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month. We have two open positions at this time.

*The Demolition Delay Bylaw continues to be reviewed by the committee. Amendments are currently being considered.

*A CPA application was approved at Annual Town Meeting for the continued restoration of the 27 Mile Markers and 5 Colonial Mile Markers. These 27 mile markers were originally installed throughout Groton in 1902/1903. The colonial mile markers were installed in the late 1700's and early 1800's. This project was successfully planned and executed by Michael Roberts. A project for the 2016 CPA application cycle focused on the restoration of Groton Monuments is planned.

*Initial efforts are under way for the development of a National Historic Register nomination for Groton Town Center. HistComm and Historic District Commission are working together with Mass Historic Commission to begin public outreach programs as the first step in determining the amount of public support this project will have.

*Groton Inn: The committee successfully developed a process/protocol with Omni Properties which will allow for the identification and preservation of any historic artifacts discovered during the excavation and rebuilding of the Inn.

2015 was a busy year for the Historic Commission. The committee continues to work with the Town to implement and enhance policies and procedures to ensure the rich heritage and culture of Groton is documented and preserved. Looking ahead to 2016, there will be no shortage of opportunities for the committee to continue its efforts to preserve the historic assets of Groton.



LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCIL

For the year 2015, the State of Massachusetts awarded \$5125 in funds to the Groton Local Cultural Council for distribution through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Twenty-four applications totaling \$9145 in grant requests were reviewed, and fourteen applications were granted all or a portion of the amount requested. These individuals/groups include:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Arts Nashoba	\$500
First Parish Church of Groton	\$500
Groton Greenway	\$500
Groton Historical Society	\$500
Nashua River Watershed Association	\$500
Nashoba Valley Chorale	\$500
Indian Hill Music Center	\$500
Fruitlands Museum	\$300
United Native American Cultural Center	\$300
The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden	\$300
Nashoba Valley Concert Band	\$250
Groton Public Library	\$225
Fitchburg Art Museum	\$150
Old Frog Pond	\$100

The Groton Cultural Council based its decisions for approval of grants using the following criteria:

1. Sponsorship of grant by a local organization
2. Broad appeal
3. Benefit to Groton
4. Administrative costs
5. Local artist

2015 saw a change in membership and leadership of the Council. Lili Ott, Ann Wilson and Frank Conahan retired from the council. Karen Riggert, Pat Lawrence and John Weidner were appointed as new members this year. Current membership include:

Chair: Mary Jennings
Secretary: Pat Hartvigsen
Treasurer: Gretchen Hummon
Monica Hinojos
Pat Lawrence
Dina Mordeno
Joni Parker-Roach
Susan Randazzo
Karen Riggert
John Weidner

The Council met October 22, 2015 to decide on grants for the 2016 year. At that time the Council also decided to request the Town of Groton provide matching funds for the 2017 grant year and will request that from the Town as part of the 2017-2018-budget process. The annual report was filed with the Massachusetts Cultural Council on November 23, 2015 and can be found at www.mass-culture.org.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Athey Jennings
Chair

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR PRESCOTT SCHOOL

Appointed by the Town Manager and ratified by the Board of Selectmen, this Committee has been charged with providing a “vision” for the future use of Prescott School along with a short term (5 year) Plan and a long term (20 year) Plan that maximizes the best uses of the building and site.

The Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School puts forth the following “vision” for the future use of the facility based on our public engagement and on our internal research, analysis, and deliberation.



A Vision for Prescott: To stabilize, preserve, maintain and invest in the Prescott School, using a sustainable financial operating model, as a unique and historic municipal asset for the purpose of serving the citizens of Groton as a mixed-use public building. The Prescott Building shall be geared towards three important purposes: a home for the central offices of the Groton Dunstable School District, a place for community engagement and learning, and as a space to house local businesses to support economic development in the town center. Prescott School will thereby add meaningful vibrancy to our town center and add an additional dimension to what the Town of Groton currently offers to the community.

- Voted on 11/18/15, 6-0 in favor (1 abstention and 1 absent)

The Committee expects to release its final report in March, 2016.

Committee Membership:

Greg Sheldon, Chair
Anna Eliot, Vice Chair
Halsey Platt, Clerk
Bruce Easom, Member
Gary Green, Member
Annika Nilsson-Ripps, Member
Becky Pine, Member
Lynwood V. Prest, Member

OLD BURYING GROUND COMMISSION

In January, 2015 the Commissioners made assessments of the headstones which were in most need of straightening or repair.

On May 14, 2015, the Mrs. Betsy Davis (d.1843) headstone and Captain Job Shattuck headstone (d.1819) were reset by Garside Monument Company. Deborah Beal Normandin placed flags upon the graves of the soldiers buried within the Old Burying Ground in honor of Memorial Day. In early June, past Commissioner Eleanor Gavazzi presented tours for the fifth grade classes from the Groton Dunstable Middle School. The students were eager to learn that the O.B.G. is the final resting place of many soldiers and patriots who lived during the Revolutionary War era. The students were excited to see the Jonas Cutler headstone as well. Jonas Cutler is best remembered for being loyalist during the American Revolution.

On July 20, 2015 Garside Monument Company reinstalled the headstone of “The infant son of Joseph and Sarah Hall.” (d.1810) as there were no other Halls buried in the O.B.G. This headstone was a mystery for many years. Eleanor Gavazzi researched the Hall family ancestry and discovered this infant was a member of the Moor family. The infant’s headstone was reset near the Moor family plot.

On September 18, 2015 we sadly report that our dear friend Alfred Garside passed away. Al was a wonderful asset, an expert on repair, and resetting of slate headstones. We have many good memories of Al and his grandson J.T. Smith working within the O.B.G. It is very fitting that the last headstone Al Garside reset in the Old Burying Ground was Captain Job Shattuck’s. Al will be missed but his work will continue through his grandson J.T. Smith and the Garside Monument Company.



Al Garside

The Old Burying Ground Commission has other projects under consideration, and hopefully we can report more about them next year. The Old Burying Ground Commissioners look forward to another productive year ahead with more opportunities to share our wonderfully historic and beautiful Old Burying Ground. Report compiled by Deborah Beal Normandin and Eleanor Gavazzi.

Respectfully submitted by the Old Burying Ground Commissioners:

Ellen Hargraves
Marcia Beal Brazer
Deborah Beal Normandin
Amanda Gavazzi
Ken Lefabvre

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

”Community Sustainability is the commitment to adopt practices that support and balance the social, economic and environmental aspects of our region, now and into our future.”

Groton Sustainability Commission, winter 2010

In 2008 the Board of Selectmen established a Sustainability Commission and appointed nine members. In 2012 the Commission continued its role in information gathering and developing connections with other boards, commissions and organizations in town. In addition we have continued the process of establishing a baseline measurement of the town’s current level of sustainability in each of the three areas of economy, environment and society/community.

2015 saw our town web site designed to be a better communicator to the town and to be the place where it’s citizens can take the Happiness Initiative survey and learn their individual happiness score (and compared to over 40,000 other respondents) and the town can learn the aggregate overall scores for the town which will be useful in Community “Satisfaction with Life” planning or “what can we do to help our citizens increase their satisfaction with life. We will also begin the development of the “Groton Community Sustainability and Well Being Plan” designed to complement the goals of the Master Plan and help guide the way to a self-sufficient and happy community with a strong and beneficial satisfaction with life.

A further challenge is to meet the demands of some of our commissioners that tangible progress be made in community education and action on becoming a more sustainable community. These initiatives are:

1 Pollinator Protection Initiative

The Groton Pollinator Project was developed by the Groton Sustainability Commission to foster an awareness and appreciation for the important roles that pollinators play in the health and wellbeing of our shared, local and regional, community, economy, and environment, with a focus on restoring and sustaining pollinators through education, outreach, and restoration action.

2 Climate Change Adaptation Initiative

The Climate Action Working Group of the Sustainability Commission is conducting a formal inquiry into Groton’s vulnerabilities to changing weather patterns and other climate-related changes. Our short-term goal is to inform the selectmen of the need for this work and to ask their support for engaging other town departments, boards, and commissions. Our longer-term goal is to work with the rest of the town government to prepare a report that advises the town about the vulnerabilities and what it should do to address them, and then to take the lead in bringing about the needed adaptations.

3 River and Stream Infrastructure and Bank Erosion Initiative

The Groton Sustainability Commission is concerned about the ongoing erosion to the Squannacook and Nashua Rivers banks along the course of these rivers in Groton.

Global warming predicts that as the atmosphere warms up the skies will be able to hold greater



Nashua River Bank Erosion in Groton

concentrations of moisture. This in turn will lead to more violent and more frequent storms with greater precipitation in any one storm. These storms will result in greater run off to the rivers and subsequently greater flooding and more frequent flooding of the rivers.

4 Community Well-being (Happiness) Initiative

In order to inform community leaders and help shape the development of public policy toward a community whose citizens are “satisfied with life”, the Sustainability Commission is beginning to introduce the nationally acclaimed Happiness Initiative derived from the notion that Gross National Happiness is more relevant to community well-being than Gross National Product.

“Measuring more of what matters rather than just more.”

The initiative represents a paradigm shift in the language and practice of sustainability. In other words it represents a whole new language of sustainability. The Commission plans to hold a series of public information meetings to provide information regarding the initiative and how citizens can be heard through an on-line national survey whose data will be accumulated for Groton to help us understand what components of happiness can be improved for our citizens and support recommendations for such improvement.

5 Support for Agriculture Initiative

A new initiative was introduced in 2015, the Support for Agriculture Initiative. This initiative recognizes the importance of local agriculture to the resilience/sustainability of our communities. The Commission will offer support to the Groton Agriculture Commission.

To view an expanded view of this report, please visit our page on the Town’s web site at www.townofgroton.org.

Commissioners include: Carl Canner, Bruce Easom, Carl Flowers, Patricia Karohl, Leo Laverdure and Alison Peterson.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Roberts, Chair

TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE WORKING GROUP

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Working Group Committee was appointed as an advisory committee by the Board of Selectmen to gather and analyze information regarding Kinder-Morgan's Northeast Direct (NED) project and its implications for Groton. The Committee itself reflected a wide spectrum of community opinion on numerous aspects of the proposal ranging from the need for the pipeline to the ultimate use of the product it would transfer. Given this dynamic, the group attempted to limit its focus on NED's direct impact to Groton and advise the Selectmen on how best to have input on the regulatory and permitting process. To this end, the Committee organized its tasks along the following three focus areas: evaluate, mitigate and educate.

The announcement by Kinder Morgan that the preferred path of the pipeline has shifted and will now avoid Groton has affected the Committee's focus. While Groton is still listed as one of Kinder Morgan's alternative path options, the Committee is now focused on following the FERC regulatory process and alternative path community options while watching for signs that the new preferred path is not advancing.

In late September 2015, the Committee petitioned the Board of Selectmen to suspend regular meetings so long as the Kinder Morgan preferred path avoids the Town of Groton.

TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE

The Groton Town Forest is an approximately 513 acre parcel located in West Groton on the banks of the Nashua River, designated as such on April 7, 1922 and one of the first in the state. This land is a managed forest and different areas are harvested periodically. The most recent harvest was in 2012 along either side of Town Forest Road. New growth of hardwood saplings consisting of Oak, Maple and American Chestnut is evident.

The 18th Annual Town Forest Trails Race was held in the Town Forest this year and The Northbridge Hounds held a few mock fox hunts.

Fire roads within the forest were kept clear of downed trees, and trails were maintained with the assistance of the Trails Committee.

The Forest provides an area for multiple passive recreational uses. Please note that much of the forested land abutting the Town Forest is private property and not Town land. Please do not abuse Town land or the land of our neighbors.

Motor vehicle use of all types is prohibited.

The cutting of trails, building bridges and jumps is prohibited as is the raking or leaf blowing of existing trails.

Please report any suspicious activity to the Police Department or any member of the Town Forest Committee.

Hunting is allowed and anyone using the Forest should be aware of the season and take necessary precautions.

PLEASE---NO DUMPING

CARRY-IN, CARRY-OUT

Stephen L. Babin, Chairman

John P. Sheedy, Vice Chairman

Carter Branigan, Clerk

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Thirty seven volunteers joined regular GTC members in trail maintenance projects. A total of 379 person-hours of effort was expended, with 43 % of this by the supervised volunteers.

The **Nashua River Accessible Trail** in the Harry Rich State Forest on Nod Road is now open! It is **fully accessible to those with any mobility impairments** (e.g., wheelchairs, baby strollers, walkers, canes), it has three rest/viewing areas with benches, and there is a parking area off Nod Rd. at the trailhead. It provides great views of the river as well as a peaceful forest experience. There will be a formal opening ceremony in the spring after a few more things are added (signs, a handicap picnic table) and additional trimming of the trees around the scenic rest areas is performed. This trail was funded by grants from Massachusetts's Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and Groton's Community Preservation Act funds; by matching funds provided by Groton Trails Network volunteers' labor; by materials, labor, and equipment donated by DCR's Willard Brook Headquarters in West Townsend; and labor and equipment donated by Groton's Department of Public Works. It has truly been a community effort and we thank the many volunteers who have made it possible.

A multi-faceted **"Gifts of the Glaciers" program** was presented to the public in Groton, and to many from other towns, on May 31st as part of the "Connecting Communities" program offered by the **Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition (MRTC)**. A keynote presentation was made and guided hikes and bike rides were offered throughout the day. The MRTC represents a group of 16 participating towns in north central Massachusetts. Many other Groton historical and conservation-oriented organizations participated and contributed to the program.



Groton School Pond West of the Rail Trail

The GTC led **15 public hikes and two hike/bike rides** during the year, involving a total of 275 participants. Many of these events were co-sponsored with the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Groton Conservation Trust. The number of participants in these public events has been increasing steadily for the last several years.

This was a landmark year for **Eagle Scout Projects**, supervised by the Trails Committee. Ben Hauk built two bridges over creek beds, improving existing trails in McLain's Woods. Alex Platt designed and built a raised observation deck in the Hawtree Conservation Area providing dramatic views of a wetland habitat. Will Premru constructed a ¼-mile trail beginning on Paugus Trail (residential street), called Off-Paugus Trail, connecting neighborhoods to the Groton Woods Conservation Area.

Many trails were **mowed and cleared** of storm damage debris during the year.

The committee participated in the annual **River Festival** celebration at the Petapawag site on the Nashua River in early June and manned a booth; it manned a booth at **Grotonfest** in September, meeting with many interested members of the public; it also assisted the Squannacook River Runners in their operation of the **18th Annual Groton Town Forest Trail Races** in October, in which many of the Groton citizenry participate.

Jim Molaskey, Scott Stathis and John Wiesner resigned from the committee this year. All contributed greatly and will be missed. Three new members were appointed to the committee, Paul Barstow, Chris Bussiere and Steve Henderson.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Funch, Chair
Paul Barstow
David Burnham
Chris Bussiere

Wendy Good
Steve Henderson
Olin Lathrop, Vice Chair
Stephen Legge

David Minott
David Pitkin
Jason Remillard



The old barn at Brooks Orchard



Trailhead on Reedy Meadow Road

WILLIAMS BARN COMMITTEE

The Mission of the Williams Barn Committee is:

- to preserve and maintain the integrity of the Williams Barn as provided in the agreement with Massachusetts Historical Commission;
- to establish a learning center for education in the areas of conservation, environmental studies, agricultural history, barn architecture and local history;
- to encourage such other uses of the Barn as may be of benefit to the community, including fund raising and,
- to cooperate with the conservation Commission with respect to the use of the surrounding conservation land and trails.

In 2015, the Williams Barn Committee hosted:

Third Grade Field Trips In Conjunction with the Groton Women's Club, all third graders from Prescott School and Swallow Union enjoyed a field trip on June 2 and 3 to explore childhood on a farm in Groton in earlier times. Students churned butter, designed a quilt, played 19th century children's games and learned from craftsmen Uwe Tobies about timber- framing and from Johnathan Snaith barrel making (cooper). Also, Celia Silinonte and the women's club made possible, a visit to the little Chicopee/Sawtelle school house, it was a huge hit.

Farmers Market at the Williams Barn was on Fridays from 3-7pm from July 10 - October 9 which were held at the back of the Barn area. The Market offered live music supported by the Town of Groton Lecture Funds on most of the afternoons including Kenny Selcer, Dick Baummer Nancy Beaudette and John Niemoller. We hosted a Thanksgiving Market on Saturday, Nov. 21, with drawings for local food and restaurants. It was a huge success.

GDHS Drama Club The Groton Dunstable High School drama club held a photo shoot in full costume for their play Romeo and Juliette

Social Media Internship Alexis Mottram, a Junior at GDHS was awarded a grant from the Pete Bertozzi trust to help us with our Facebook, website and promote the GFM.

Winter Greens Sale at Williams Barn was Saturday December 5. It was another huge success for the Groton Woman's Club!

The Nashua River Watershed Association demonstrated how to make maple syrup in March.

Williams Barn Committee:

Leo Wyatt, Al Wyatt, Kathy Stone, Brad Smith, Sandra Tobies, Joe Twomey, Bob Kniffin and Bruce Easom

APPENDIX



Spring Town Meeting Warrant/Minutes

Fall Town Meeting Warrant/Minutes

Election Results

Town Accountant Financials

Minutes

TOWN OF GROTON



2015 SPRING TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Monday, April 27, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

***THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 8 IS AVAILABLE
IN THE BACK OF THE WARRANT***



Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT AND MINUTES

BEGINNING APRIL 27, 2015

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator

Robert L. Gosselin, Sr.

Board of Selectmen:

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

Finance Committee:

Mark Bacon
Gary Green, Chairman
Barry Pease
Robert Hargraves, Vice-Chair
David Manugian
Bud Robertson
Art Prest

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Town Clerk:

Michael F. Bouchard

Middlesex, ss.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of April, 2015 at Seven O'clock in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the nineteenth day of May, 2015 at an adjourned session thereof to give their ballots for:

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

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM on April 27, 2015 at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided.

There is no quorum requirement for this Annual Town Meeting. 385 voters attended the meeting on April 27..

Announcement: Candidates Night will be held May 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Groton Senior Center, 163 West Main Street. Candidates Night is sponsored by the Democratic and Republican Town Committees.

The Annual Town election will be held May 19, 2015. Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The Precinct 1 polling location is the Groton Senior Center. Precincts 2 and 3 will vote at the Groton Country Club, 94 Lovers Lane.

The Memorial Day Parade will be held May 25.

Robert Johnson led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Robert Gosselin, Sr. was appointed as Deputy Moderator by unanimous consent. Mr. Gosselin was administered his oath of office by the Town Clerk.

MOTION – Limit Debate

MOVER: Rena Swezey

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 Edward Cataldo.

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

ARTICLE 1: HEAR REPORTS

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

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

Mover: Joshua Degen

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

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Scheduled to Give Reports:

**Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School
Electronic Voting Study Committee**

**Greg Sheldon
Michael Manugian**

Vote – Article 1 Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

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

Selectman (four)	\$ 760	Town Clerk	\$ 74,544
Board of Selectmen, Chairman	\$ 910	Town Moderator	\$ 65
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$ 910	Assessor (two)	\$ 760

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

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

Mover: Joshua Degen

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

Selectman (four)	\$ 760	Town Clerk	\$ 74,544
Board of Selectmen, Chairman	\$ 910	Town Moderator	\$ 65
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$ 910	Assessor (two)	\$ 760

for the ensuing year.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote – Article 2 Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 3: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2016 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

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

Summary: *This article proposes a wage adjustment of two (2%) percent for FY 2016 for the three (3) employees covered by the Personnel Bylaw. This follows the Supervisors' Union Contract which calls for a two (2%) percent wage adjustment in FY 2016 as well.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2016 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2015 Spring Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote: Article 2 Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 4: CITIZENS' PETITION – TOWN MANAGER'S CONTRACT RENEWAL

On June 30, 2016, the Groton Town Manager's contract will expire. We, citizens of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, ask that our Selectmen not renew the contract of the existing Town Manager.

A Yes Vote: Would inform the Selectmen that Town Meeting objects to the renewal of the current Town Manager contract upon its expiration on June 30, 2016.

A No Vote: Would inform the Selectmen that Town Meeting has no objection to a renewal of the current Town Manager contract upon its expiration on June 30, 2016.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Robert T. Flynn	425 Nashua Road	Scott T. Eggimann	547 Martins Pond Road
Kathleen M. Harrington	310 Chicopee Row	Jeffrey D. Casale	64 Hollis Street
Shane W. Grant	247 Main Street	Bruce E. Dubey	80 Ames Road
Shawn Hunter	173 Wintergreen Lane	Michael E. Bushnell	105 Northwoods Road
Kimberley J. Burrill	478 Main Street	Emmett B. Risdon	65 West Main Street

Board of Selectmen: *(2 Against, 1 In Favor - Degen, 2 Deferred – Eliot, Petropoulos)*
Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *This Article has been submitted as a Citizens' Petition by the above ten (10) registered voters of the Town of Groton for Town Meeting consideration.*

Mover: Robert Flynn

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to adopt a resolution requesting the Board of Selectmen to not renew the contract of the Town Manager which expires June 30, 2016.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Moderator's Discussion:

- The Moderator reminded the meeting that this article presents a non-binding resolution to advise the Board of Selectmen. Debate is expected to be calm, courteous and dignified.

Mover: Rob Flynn

MOTION: I move that the method of voting be by secret ballot.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion – Method of voting

- Mr. Kauppi reviewed the procedures involved with voting by secret ballot.
- Mr. Flynn is requesting the secret ballot so that voting would be fair for everyone, including town employees, who he thinks might feel awkward in voting or pressured.
- Mr. Harker asked how one could abstain from voting without being identified as such.
- Mr. Rasmussen argued that secret voting would take too much time and recommended that a voice vote be conducted.
- Mr. Grant suggested that some town employees are afraid to vote on this article.
- Mr. Harker asked how handicapped people would be able to vote.
- Ms. Scarlet offered that Town meeting is a legislative body whose job it is to take votes on issues. It shouldn't have to do votes in secret.
- Ms. Sullivan suggested that a secret ballot would give people who were uncomfortable to vote a chance to be comfortable.
- Ms. Evans state that if people were feeling intimidated that it should be a secret ballot.
- (Unknown) A secret ballot is the most rigorous way to vote.
- Mr. T. Hartnett argued that this should be a voice vote and that Mr. Haddad has a right to know.
- (Unknown) The town manager has rights but the voters have a right to privacy. The voter's rights must take precedence.

Tellers were sworn: Constance Sartini, Michael Manugian, Robert Johnson, Timothy Leonard, Linda DeCiccio Fanning, Dennis Eklof

Vote – Motion to vote by secret ballot:

Motion defeated with 179 affirmative votes and 195 negative votes.

Mover: Rob Flynn

MOTION: I move that the main motion under Article 4 be indefinitely postponed.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion – Indefinite Postponement

- Ms. Swezey read a statement composed by the town department heads in support of Mr. Haddad. A copy of the statement is available in the meeting's supporting documents.
- The Moderator interjected that, prior to town meeting and for any controversial article, he will attempt to identify a principal proponent and opponent for the purpose of allowing statements. Ms. Swezey was identified as a principal opponent of this article.
- Mr. Jackson thought that "something was going on here" and advised the Selectmen to look into Mr. Haddad's people skills.
- Mr. Easom asked if the Motion to Postpone Indefinitely met the standard of "new information" for the purpose of reconsidering the vote on method of voting. The Moderator ruled that this was procedural and not "new information".

MOTION to Move the Question (of Indefinite Postponement):

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting vote: 2/3rds Majority

Vote on Motion to Indefinitely Postpone: Passed by 2/3rds Majority. 7 voters did not contest the ruling of the Chair.

Vote on Article 4 Motion to Indefinitely Postpone: Passed with 221 Affirmative votes and 145 Negative votes.

Article 4 was indefinitely postponed.

Ed Note: Articles 5 and 6 were moved for consideration until after Article 8. Article 7 was considered after the vote on Article 4.

ARTICLE 5: OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS LIABILITY TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 32B, §20 of the General Laws to establish a separate trust fund, to be known as the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against - Degen)

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *In 2008, the federal Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which promulgates ongoing accounting standards for governmental entities, required that all governmental entities disclose on their financial statements the costs and liabilities associated*

with Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). OPEB are non-pension benefits provided to retirees, primarily consisting of health insurance. The Town of Groton has a current OPEB liability of \$7.2 million. In an effort to continue receiving a AAA Bond Rating from the rating agencies, the Town of Groton needs to start addressing this Liability. The first step in the process is to establish a dedicated Trust Fund for this purpose. MGL, c. 32B, §20 authorizes the creation of the OPEB Trust Fund. Not only does this Fund allow the Town to address the Liability, it allows the Town to pay for retirees' health insurance out of the Trust funds. It is the Town's intention to begin to pay one portion of this Liability, the current cost of retiree health insurance, out of the Fund. The purpose of this Article is to accept MGL, c32B, §20 so that the Town can create the OPEB Trust Fund.

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 32B, §20 of the General Laws to establish a separate trust fund, to be known as the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Degen is opposed to the article. This trust fund mechanism is an artifact of GASB 45. It is only a GASB 45 recommendation and not a requirement. The town has paid its bills in the past and will continue to do so.
- Mr. Robertson explained that this trust fund was a mechanism to move money into the fund and pay the OPEB obligations from the fund. It has no effect on the amount of money the town is liable for. In the future, the town could opt to put more money in the fund than needed as a reserve to pay OPEB in future years. However the town is not required to over-fund the account, unless dictated by the state to do so. If money is deposited into this account, that money can only be spent on OPEB obligations. The benefit of establishing this account is to respond to a Standard and Poor's recommendation in line with the town maintaining a AAA bond rating. The AAA bond rating is worth money in lower borrowing interest rates. The account does earn interest.

Vote- Article 5 Main Motion: Passed by Majority vote

ARTICLE 6: APPROPRIATE FY 2016 CONTRIBUTION TO THE OPEB TRUST

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 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.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against - Degen)
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to begin to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. To start out, the Town will be appropriating the amount necessary to cover retirees' health insurance in Fiscal Year 2016. That expense will be paid directly out of the Trust. It is estimated that the FY 2016 cost is approximately \$200,000. This is money that would otherwise be funded in the Health Insurance Line Item of the FY 2016 Operating Budget. There will be no additional tax increase in FY 2016 for this purpose.*

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$200,000 from Line Item 3010 "Health Insurance/Employee Expenses" of the Fiscal Year 2016 Town Operating Budget to be adopted under Article 8 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, 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.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote- Article 6 Main Motion: Passed by Majority vote

Ed. Note: Article 5 and 6 were considered after Article 8. Article 9 was considered after the vote on Article 6.

ARTICLE 7: CREATE ENTERPRISE FUND FOR LOCAL ACCESS CABLE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53F½, to create an Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Local Access Cable Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *Recently, the Massachusetts State Legislature amended Chapter 44, §53F½, allowing communities that accept this Section of the Law to create an Enterprise Fund for the operation of Local Access Cable Departments. The Cable Advisory Committee recommended to the Town Manager that such a fund be created to manage the finances of the Department. All costs associated with the management of this Department will be paid from revenues received from the two (2) cable providers in the Town of Groton.*

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53F½, to create an Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Local Access Cable Department.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

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

ARTICLE 8: FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next fiscal year (2016), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Against – Degen, Petropoulos)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously (Pease Abstained from General Government Vote)*

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

MOTION 1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mover: Gary Green

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,926,434 for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Green presented an overview of the budget process and of the budget being presented.
- Mr. Lindemer presented an analysis of the growth in the budget over the last several years, cautioning future unsustainable growth and recommending future budget scrutiny for high growth areas including personnel costs.

Vote- Article 8 Motion 1: Passed by Majority Vote

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MOTION 2: LAND USE DEPARTMENTS

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$422,912 for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote- Article 8 Motion 2: Passed by Majority Vote

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MOTION 3: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY Mover: Robert Hargraves

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved the sum of \$200,000 to Fire & Emergency Medical Services and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,361,983 for a total of \$3,561,983 for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote- Article 8 Motion 3: Passed by Majority Vote

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MOTION 4: SCHOOLS Mover: Bud Robertson

a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$596,609 for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 in the Budget.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote- Article Motion 4-a: Passed by Majority Vote

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b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,266,196 for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by Lines 1410 through 1413 in the Budget.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Ms. Manugian, Chair of the GDRS Committee, Superintendent Dr. Rodriguez and Business Manager Mr. Stanton presented in favor of the school budget, outlining accomplishments, goals and strategies of the District.

Vote- Article 8 Motion 4-b: Passed by Majority Vote
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MOTION 5: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,094,007 for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote- Article 8 Motion 5: Passed by Unanimous Vote

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MOTION 6: LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

Mover: Barry Pease

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,539,710 for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1703 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote- Article 8 Motion 6: Passed by Majority Vote

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MOTION 7: DEBT SERVICE

Mover: Gary Green

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,383,590 for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2007 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote – Article 8 Motion 7: Passed by Unanimous Vote

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MOTION 8: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,507,389 for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 3000 through 3012 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote- Article 8 Motion 8: Passed by Majority Vote

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MOTION 9: WATER ENTERPRISE

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Rates and Fees the sum of \$997,545 to the Water Enterprise Fund for FY 2016 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote- Article 8 Motion 9: Passed by Unanimous Vote

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MOTION 10: SEWER ENTERPRISE

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency the sum of \$48,459 and to appropriate from Sewer Rates and Fees the sum of \$613,695 for a total of \$662,154 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY 2016 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Moved nad Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote- Article 8 Motion 10: Passed by Unanimous Vote

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MOTION 11: LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Local Access Cable Fees the sum of \$265,458 to the Local Access Cable Enterprise Fund for FY 2016 to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursement to the Town.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote – Article 8 Motion 11: Passed by Unanimous Vote

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MOTION 12: ELECTRIC LIGHT

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings or from municipal power and from the sale of jobbing during Fiscal 2016 for the Groton Electric Light Department; the whole to be expended by the Manager of that department under the direction and control of the Board of Electric Light Commissioners for the expenses of the ensuing fiscal year as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth. The total fund to be appropriated is -0-.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote – Article 8 Motion 12: Passed by Unanimous Vote

Ed. Note: Articles 5 and 6 were considered after Article 8. Article 9 was considered after Article 6

ARTICLE 9: FISCAL YEAR 2016 CAPITAL BUDGET

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, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget as follows:

Item #1 – Swap Loader \$105,000 Fire/EMS

Summary: *Utilizing the \$50,000 that was allocated in the FY 2015 budget for the building of a brush truck, the Fire Department is requesting additional funds for a swap loader unit. This swap loader would allow for quick changes to the body in the rear of the truck to make a change from the role of a brush truck to a lighting plant or a flatbed truck. The switch out process takes approximately 3-4 minutes and gives a tremendous multi-role capability. One module will be the brush unit. This will allow the truck to act as a brush truck in the dry season, thus taking out of service a 1985 brush truck currently in use. In cooperation with the Police Department, a lighting unit will be purchased to allow the vehicle to go to incidents or events and provide a significant power and light source. A flat bed will also be purchased so that the vehicle can be used to move equipment such as the UTV, boats or other loose equipment to incident scenes or for maintenance.*

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

Item #2 – Fire Chief's Vehicle \$46,900 Fire/EMS

Summary: *The current Chief's vehicle (a 2008 Ford Expedition) is in line for replacement in FY 2016. The new vehicle will most likely be a Chevy Tahoe, which is similar to what was purchased by the Police Chief and Lieutenant and will allow for the reuse of the current vehicle in the apparatus replacement program. The Expedition will be traded in with any money received used to offset the cost of the new vehicle.*

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

Item #3 – Dump Truck \$180,000 Highway Department

Summary: *This is a scheduled replacement. The vehicle to be replaced is a front line truck responsible for plowing and sanding as well as normal construction duties.*

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

Item #4 – IT Infrastructure \$50,000 Town Facilities

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established six years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2016, the following items are proposed to be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: Sixteen (16) Replacement Desk Top Computers; Four (4) Replacement Lap Top Computers; Three (3) Replacement Servers; Disk Storage Array; Two (2) Cisco Switches; Sixteen (16) Hours of Technical Support.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #5 – HVAC Upgrade – Town Hall \$90,000 Town Facilities

Summary: *The original system was installed in 1998 and will be almost 20 years old in FY 2016. The system will be in need of updating in FY 2016. This will be put out to a formal bid.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #6 – Building Security \$30,000 Town Facilities

Summary: *This is the second year appropriation of a three (3) year plan to upgrade and update the alarms in all Town buildings. It will include video, and swipe cards as well as other entry protective measures to enhance the safety of our employees and the public. This measure is a recommendation of the Police Chief.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #7 – Bobcat/Utility Loader \$35,000 Transfer Station

Summary: *The Utility Loader at the Transfer Station is used to move recyclables at the Transfer Station as well as snow removal and other maintenance issues. Due to the increase in recyclables, a larger loader is needed to accommodate the work required. It is a real workhorse at the Transfer Station. An alternative piece of equipment that was considered was a forklift, however, it is more expensive and cannot be used for snow removal and other uses that a Utility Loader can perform.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #8 – Carpet Replacement \$22,645 Library

Summary: *The 1999 carpeting on the second and third floors of the library needs replacing. There is much wear in the heavy traffic areas. The Children's Room, Stairs, Lobby, Sibley Hall, and Community Meeting Room were redone 5-7 years ago. This replacement will be phased over two (2) years. In FY 2017, a request of \$20,000 will be made to complete the replacement program.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #9 – Field Improvements \$45,000 Parks

Summary: *This request is to install lights & fencing at the Cow Pond Brook Fields to allow for safety and greater utilization of existing field space. Currently portable lights are used for certain events. The new Baseball Field had lights installed when it was constructed four (4) years ago. The fields require additional seeding, fertilization and irrigation.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #10 – Playground Improvements \$50,000 Parks

Summary: Cutler Field will be utilizing the existing playground equipment from the Prescott School. The playgrounds are in need of resurfacing with CSPC standard safety products (poured rubber and engineered wood fiber chips). Additionally a shade canopy will be provided for sun protection at the Christine Hansen Memorial Playground.

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

Item #11 – Police Cruisers **\$85,000** **Police Department**

Summary: This request is to purchase two (2) police cruisers and related equipment to replace two (2) cruisers that are no longer cost effective to maintain. Maintaining six (6) marked cruisers allows for less mileage per year, better maintenance scheduling, assignment of cars to officers and for a programmed replacement schedule that ensures that line cars are rotated out at reasonable mileage and wear, and also that un-marked cars are rotated in the same fashion.

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

Item #12 – Rough Mower **\$10,000** **Groton Country Club**

Summary: This essential mower is used to regularly cut the “rough” adjacent to the fairways. Four (4) years ago, the Town replaced a very old mower that was inoperable and not repairable with a new Jacobsen rough mower. The Town purchase of the mower is on an installment basis, with an annual lease to buy cost of approximately \$10,000 for each of five (5) years. This item is for the final installment payment.

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

Item #13 – Golf Carts **\$20,000** **Groton Country Club**

Summary: In FY 2013, the Groton Country Club replaced the fleet of twenty-five (25) golf carts with new 2012 Club Car DS gas powered carts using a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of approximately \$20,000. This article seeks funding for the fourth of five (5) installment payments.

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

Item #14 – Boom Sprayer Unit **\$6,500** **Groton Country Club**

Summary: In FY 2014, the Groton Country Club replaced this essential sprayer that is needed to regularly distribute fertilizer and pesticides over the golf course throughout the entire golf season. This machine enables the Club to use concentrated liquid chemicals which are both much more efficient and cost effective than granular chemicals. The cost of this Unit is \$32,500. The Town financed this purchase with a five (5) year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$6,500. This item is for appropriation of the third of five installments.

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

or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$404,145 from the Capital Stabilization Fund; transfer the sum of \$96,900 from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; transfer the sum of \$60,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); transfer the sum of \$50,000 – an unexpended portion of the appropriation voted under Article 6 of the 2014 Spring Town Meeting “Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Budget; and transfer the sum of \$165,000 – an unexpended portion of the appropriation voted under Article 1 of the January 26, 2013 Special Town Meeting; for a total of \$776,045, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the capital items as listed in the warrant:

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- Mr. Degen: The purpose of capital budgeting is to fund planned expenditures on a programmatic basis.
- Mr. Roberts: the Sustainability Commission is concerned with the use of a boom sprayer and spreading pesticides into the environment.

Vote – Article 9 Main Motion: Passed by 2/3rds Majority Vote

MOTION to Adjourn to Monday, May 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Performing Arts Center

Vote on Motion to Adjourn: Passed by Unanimous Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

The First Adjourned Session of the Spring Town Meeting 2015 was called to order at 7:03 PM on May 4.

The Moderator reminded the audience that the vote to impose a 3 minute speaking limit for other than the principal proponent and opponent of an article was still in effect.

204 people attended the First Adjourned Session.

ARTICLE 10: JOINT RADIO PROJECT

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 purchase, equip, replace and upgrade all radio systems utilized by the Public Safety Departments of the

Town of Groton, including the Police, Fire, Highway and Water Departments, and for all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Police Chief and Fire Chief have proposed a joint radio project to upgrade the departments' radio systems. This is a major upgrade. Currently the Police and Fire Department radio systems are inadequate for a community the size of Groton. This issue creates major "dead" areas that are unacceptable and place personnel needlessly at risk. One of the most common contributing factors in firefighter and police officer injuries and deaths is communications issues. Approximately \$650,000 will be required to complete the project. While the Town at this point appears to be the bearer of the entire project cost, some relief through competitive grants is currently being pursued.*

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate \$650,000, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase, equip, replace and upgrade all radio systems utilized by the Public Safety Departments of the Town of Groton, including the Police, Fire, Highway and Water Departments, and for all costs associated and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$650,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and that the Town Manager is authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriate funds and any funds received from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts or other sources for such project.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- Fire Chief McCurdy explained that the radio equipment currently in use with the fire department, police department, water department, sewer department, Groton Electric Light and regional entities was not compatible. The equipment is from 2 to 20 years old. There are a number of significant "dead spots" in town where radio communication is not possible. The proposed radio project will address these issues.
- Mr. Hersh asked what evidence supported this need. Was a technical analysis done? What are the alternatives?
- Fire Chief McCurdy explained that the radio service contractor was consulted. The incompatibility of the system is an artifact of the fact that the system was built in a piecemeal approach over a long period of time.
- Mr. A. Prest stated that he had experience on 9-11 in New York City. The inability to communicate due to the lack of radio frequency compatibility was a major factor in many NYPD and NYFD deaths. This is an important project.
- Mr. Braun stated that there is a mile long dead spot on Longley Road. The suggestion of using mobile phones to address the shortcoming is not efficient. A mobile

communication is a one-on-one experience, where as a radio communication notifies the entire department.

- Mr. Harker asked if there will be formal RFP issued for this project.
- Mr. Haddad responded that this equipment will be purchased off the state bid list and that an RFP was not necessary.

Tellers were sworn: Constance Sartini, Michael Manugian, Robert Johnson, Linda DeCiccio Fanning, Jason Weber, Greg Sheldon

Vote on Article 10 Main Motion:

132 in favor; 41 against. Motion passes by 2/3rds Majority.

ARTICLE 11: LOST LAKE FIRE PROTECTION

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 construct water main extensions on Lost Lake Drive, Pine Trail, Boston Road, Lakeside Drive and Summit Drive, two (2) 50,000 gallon underground fire cisterns and one (1) “dry” fire hydrant for Fire Protection Purposes in the Lost Lake Area of Groton, and all costs associated and related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: (4 In Favor, 1 Against –Petropoulos)

Finance Committee: Recommended (5 In Favor, 1 Against - Green)

Summary: *This article seeks to extend a 12” ductile iron water main approximately 2,700 linear feet on Lost Lake Drive and Pine Trail, a 12” ductile iron water main approximately 1,600 linear feet on Boston Road, 800 linear feet of 8” ductile iron water main on Summit Drive and 1,000 linear feet of 8” ductile iron water mains on Lakeside Drive. In addition, two (2) 50,000 gallon underground cisterns will be installed, with one (1) installed on Weymissit Road and one (1) installed on Off Prescott Street. Finally, one (1) “dry” fire hydrant for fire protection purposes will be installed. The Fire Protection deficiencies have been identified in the report from the Lost Lake Fire Protection Study Committee in August of 2013. The total cost of said improvements is \$1,836,238.*

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate \$1,837,000, to be expended by the Town Manager, to construct water main extensions on Lost Lake Drive, Pine Trail, Boston Road, Lakeside Drive and Summit Drive, two (2) 50,000 gallon underground fire cisterns and one (1) “dry” fire hydrant for Fire Protection Purposes in the Lost Lake Area of Groton, and all costs associated and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$1,837,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(34) and 8(7) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and that the Town Manager is authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriate funds and any funds received from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts or other sources for such project.

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

Discussion:

- Mr. Orcutt stated that fire protection is critical in this area due to the density of homes.
- Mr. V. Prest educated the Meeting how a dry hydrant works. A dry hydrant can pull water from the lake but can only be installed where water depth is 9' 6" within reasonable distance of the shore, and the "head" (horizontal lift) is 18' or less. There is only one suitable location for a dry hydrant at the lake.
- Chief McCurdy reiterated the need for the dry hydrant, wet hydrants and 50,000 gallon cisterns. The roads are tight, housing is dense and there has been high incidence of fires in the area. The compactness of the area makes it difficult to get adequate tanker capacity in a robust manner.
- Mr. Orcutt stated that there are 374 dwelling units. The proposed plan would give the area 90-95% coverage within 1000 feet of a fire protection water source. Redundancy is built into the plan. He noted that the wet hydrant part of this plan (requiring water lines) is a project of the Board of Selectmen, not of the Water Commission, but that the Water Commission will manage it. He also noted that the Baptist Camp and Groton Conservation trust generously agreed to easements for this project.
- Mr. Petropoulos did not dispute the value of the project, but had concerns over the cost and approach. He stated this project was born is the post-mortem of the Boathouse Road fire. His analysis indicated that the project covered only 190 homes. He believed that a cost / benefit analysis had not been conducted, and that a cost allocation plan should be developed, citing the process a new development goes through. He argued that a town-wide fire protection plan should be developed before embarking on the project. He further pointed out that in the wet hydrant portion of the project, the town was essentially extending the water infrastructure, and by implication the water district. New development could occur because the need for water setbacks could be eliminated to some parcels.
- Mr. A. Prest of the Finance Committee stated the Finance Committee was in favor of the project. He acknowledged the impetus from the Boathouse Road fire, but added that 4 other homes have burnt in the area. There is also dense woodland throughout, and a danger to homes if caught on fire.
- Mr. Orcutt stated that Lost Lake is the first phase of a town wide plan. Alternatives are being considered for north Groton. Costs are a primary consideration.
- Mr. Fisher from south Groton supported the Lost Lake project due to the density of homes. He also stated that the suggestion of sprinklers was of marginal value as the sprinklers needed water pressure, probably more than most wells supply.
- Ms. Swezey stated that there are 86 acres of vacant land in the area, and that according to the fire chief many fires start on vacant parcels.
- Mr. Woodle stated that his house was 1 mile from a hydrant. In 2008 a neighbor's house burnt down due to lack of water. Proximity to forest land presents an issue. In 2004, an electric pole fell and started a fire. 3 mutual aid pumpers saved 5 homes. No water was able to be drawn from the pond. Article 11 is the first step towards fire protection for the area.

- Mr. V. Prest stated that the NFPA requires 50 gallons per minute for sprinklers. Most wells don't have this capacity. The Lost Lake area pays the highest taxes in town, and therefore contributes a lot to this project.
- Mr. Pine questioned why this was only a fire protection plan, and that a consolidated plan to bring water to the area would be valuable. He was in favor of fire protection.
- Mr. Orcutt stated that the Water Commission could not finance a water supply project to the area.
- Mr. Degen agreed that a comprehensive plan is needed but that the Lost Lake area is at particular risk due to the density.
- Ms. Lathrop asked the cost of equipment such as pumper trucks, and would that be a viable alternative.
- Chief McCurdy stated that pumper trucks cost \$400k to \$500k. The size of the trucks is an issue when navigating the Lost Lake area roads.
- A letter was read on behalf of someone who had lost their home due to a fire in winter. The fire department's truck ran out of water, and couldn't break through 15" of ice at the time. Nothing could be done and they had to watch their house burn.
- Mr. Lyman asked how a cistern is filled. Chief McCurdy answered that initially, probably by pumper trucks, but on an going basis via a small well associated with the cistern.
- Ms. Pine asked if house on the wet hydrant lines would be allowed to connect for domestic water. She also stated that the town sewer in the town center had a carefully articulated funding plan, with some paid by all taxpayers and betterments for the sewer users. Why not a similar plan for Lost Lake?
- Mr. Orcutt stated that the Water Department is not sponsoring the project. The water main is an add/alternate. If installed, 55 homes would be eligible to connect to town water.

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 11-Main Motion: Passed by 2/3rds Majority.
7 voters did not contest the ruling of the Chair.**

ARTICLE 12: ESTABLISH THE FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to establish a new sewer service area in the Town of Groton to be known as the "Four Corners Sewer District" under the provisions of Chapter 83 of the Massachusetts General Laws, for the purpose of providing a system of sewerage to serve business and commercial properties in the so-called Four Corners portion of the Town, said service area to be subject to the provisions of Chapter 190, Sewers, of the Code of the Town of Groton and subject to expansion by a vote of Town Meeting, as follows, or to take any other action relative thereto:

Four Corners Sewer District

A. There is hereby established a Sewer System within the Town entitled “Four Corners Sewer District” comprised of land situated in a geographical area bounded and described on a plan of land entitled “Four Corners Sewer District” prepared by the Town of Groton and dated January 2015, on file with the Office of the Town Clerk. The land zoned Business or Commercial within said geographical area shall be served by a system of sewerage to be provided by the Town within the territorial limits, and subject to the capacity of, said system.

B. The system may be extended and expanded to serve increased land area if there remains sufficient capacity, and the land to be served is zoned Business or Commercial, by a vote of Town Meeting following the establishment of said system.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: (3 In Favor, 2 Against – Degen, Petropoulos)
Finance Committee: (6 In Favor, 1 Against – Hargraves)

Summary: *This article proposes creation of a new sewer district to serve the Four Corners area with a Wastewater Collection System.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to establish a new sewer service area in the Town of Groton to be known as the “Four Corners Sewer District” under the provisions of Chapter 83 of the Massachusetts General Laws, for the purpose of providing a system of sewerage to serve business and commercial properties in the so-called Four Corners portion of the Town, said service area to be subject to the provisions of Chapter 190, Sewers, of the Code of the Town of Groton and subject to expansion by a vote of Town Meeting, as set forth in Article 12 of the warrant for this Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

(Note: Discussion for Articles 12, 13 14 and 15 was heard)

- Ms. Eliot stated that these articles are structured to approve the spending of engineering design dollars but none of the construction money. Construction spending is contingent upon a MassWorks Development Grant for the full amount of construction monies. However, MassWorks will only consider “shovel ready” projects, hence the need for the town to do engineering design.
- Mr. Degen stated that there was little to no local business interest in this project. The town should wait 6 to 12 months and revisit the idea.
- Mr. Wallens asked what happen to the money the town invested in the 134 Main Street project. Mr. Degen responded that the town spent \$412,000 as the Affordable Housing Trust to become 1/3 investors in the project. It is expected that the town will receive a \$200,000 to \$300,000 return in the next 16 months.
- Mr. Petropoulos does not believe the project will generate large tax revenue.
- Mr. A. Prest added that The Point (a development in Littleton) has its own sewer treatment facility.

- Ms. Sartini asked if the Inter-municipal agreement would require the approval of the Ayer Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad confirmed that it would.
- Ms. Sartini asked if betterments for Ayer businesses would be paid to Ayer. Mr. Haddad said that issues such as betterments to Ayer businesses would need to be negotiated in the Inter Municipal Agreement.

MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE ARTICLE 12. Mover: Mr. Degen

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

- Mr. Green of the Finance Committee stated that this is exactly the type of project that MassWorks funds. If the town doesn't invest the \$285,000 engineering cost, necessary to implement Article 13, to get the project to an implementable state, then we can be sure that MassWorks will not award a grant. The engineering design is the cost of entry for a project of this type, assuming the town would rely upon a MassWorks grant. He further added that, in his opinion, sewer is important to expand the types of business that could utilize the 4 Corners area (for example gyms, restaurants, medical facilities).

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 Motion to Indefinitely Postpone the Question: Defeated

- Mr. Weber from the Board of Health stated that inquiries over the past 10 years to utilize space in Shaws complex haven't panned out. There are 3 or 4 examples where the septic system was an issue. If the town wants this to be a business district, then we should make this investment.
- Mr. Grant suggest this was a prelude to install a sewer system in the Lake's area.
- Mr. Hewitt asked why the map showed only 3 of the 4 corners were included in the district. Ms. Eliot responded that the 4th corner was zoned R-A and did not qualify. It would need to be rezoned to qualify.
- Mr. Gordon stated that the Groton Board of Trade supported this project.
- Mr. Rasmussen stated that this project could be pursued at minimal cost to the town. In the long term, this project makes sense. 4 Corners is the opportunity to development the business tax base.

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 12 – Main Motion: Passed by Majority vote

ARTICLE 13: DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR CORNERS SEWER SYSTEM

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 in Fiscal Year

2015 or later, for the design and construction of the Sewer System for the Four Corners Sewer District; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust or otherwise; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Board of Sewer Commissioners to assess betterments upon the properties benefitted thereby for the cost of the System; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for a MassWorks Development Grant for such project; provided, that no funds may be expended hereunder for construction purposes unless and until the Town has received a MassWorks Development Grant for the project, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: (3 In Favor, 2 Against – Degen, Petropoulos)
Finance Committee: (6 In Favor, 1 Against – Hargraves)

Summary: *This article seeks an appropriation for the Board of Selectmen to construct a sewer collection system in the Four Corners Area of Town in order to promote economic development. The Sewer Collection System is for properties zoned Business or Commercial. This system is not for residential users. The cost of the sewer system will be borne by the end users through betterments.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate \$3,000,000, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015 or later, for the design and construction of the Sewer System for the Four Corners Sewer District; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$3,000,000 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 therefor, and that the Town Manager is authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriate funds and any funds received from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts or other sources for such project; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Board of Sewer Commissioners to assess betterments upon the properties benefitted thereby for the cost of the System; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for a MassWorks Development Grant for such project; provided, that no funds may be expended hereunder for construction purposes unless and until the Town has received a MassWorks Development Grant for at least the entire cost of construction for the project.

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

Discussion:

- Ms. Eliot stated that Article 12 was needed to engineer the project. Article 13 is needed to fund the project, making it shovel ready. However, as noted in the article and in the main motion, no town funds would be expended for construction costs unless and until a MassWorks grant has been awarded.
- Mr. Degen believes there is not enough business support for the project.

MOTION To INDEFINITELY POSTPONE ARTICLE 13 Mover: Mr. Degen
Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

- Ms. Pine asked what would happen to the district created in Article 12 if Article 13 does not pass? Mr. Haddad respond that the district will remain in effect, unless repealed, but that the other articles authorize any monies to be spent.
- Ms. Pine also asked that if Article 13, which authorizes \$285,000 in engineering design spending in anticipation of a grant, passes but the town ultimately does not get the grant, what would be the status of the engineering design project? Mr. Haddad responded that the engineering design would need to be done before applying for the grant. If the grant were not to be approved, the study would be the property of the town. An application in future would still need the study, and the study may have to be updated at that time, but the bulk of the study should still be valid. He stated that the Inter-municipal Agreement with Ayer would also need the study to identify the points of the agreement.

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 Motion to Indefinitely Postpone Article 13: Defeated

MOTION To AMEND ARTICLE 13

Mover: Mr. Hersh

I move that the main motion under Article 13 be amended to include these words appended to the end of the motion: “No funds appropriated under this article will be expended until an affirmative vote by Ayer to accept sewage from Groton is made.”

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

- Mr. Hewitt asked if a 40B development could hook up to this sewer district. Town Counsel responded that it would be possible if the district was expanded.
- Mr. Haddad stated that the effect of the amendment was to indefinitely postpone the article.

MOTION to MOVE the QUESTION on the AMENDMENT and ARTCILE 13 MAIN MOTION

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rds Majority

Vote on Motion to Move the Question on the Amendment and Main Motion:

Passed by 2/3rds Majority

Vote on the Motion to Amend Article 13: Defeated

Vote on Article 13 – Main Motion:

126 In favor; 36 Against - Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 14: AUTHORIZE INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH AYER

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Ayer for the discharge of Groton wastewater to the Ayer Sewer Collection System for treatment, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: *(3 In Favor, 2 Against – Degen, Petropoulos)*
Finance Committee: *(6 In Favor, 1 Against – Hargraves)*

Summary: *An affirmative vote under this article will permit the Board of Selectmen to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Ayer for the purpose of discharging wastewater to the Town of Ayer's Wastewater Collection System for treatment.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Ayer for the discharge of Groton wastewater to the Ayer Sewer Collection System for treatment.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

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

ARTICLE 15: ESTABLISH FOUR CORNERS BUSINESS DISTRICT AS AN E.O.A.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit to the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council an Application for Designation of Economic Opportunity Area(s) to designate the Four Corners Business District area as an Economic Opportunity Area, said Area to be comprised of the following parcels as shown on the Groton Assessors' Maps: 120-1, 120-3, 133-1, 133-10, 133-11, 133-54 and 133-55, or take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Summary: *In an effort to help revitalize the Four Corners Business District, the Board of Selectmen would like to apply to the State to designate the Four Corners area as an Economic Opportunity Area. If approved, any renovation to a building in the EOA that has been vacant for more than two (2) years (defined as at least 75% vacant for at least two (2) years) will then be eligible for a 10% Massachusetts Abandoned Building Renovation Tax Deduction (ABRTD) based on the cost of the renovations in the first year. The Board believes this will help revitalize some of the vacant buildings in the Four Corners Business District.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit to the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council an Application for Designation of Economic Opportunity Area(s) to designate the Four Corners Business District area as an

Economic Opportunity Area, said Area to be comprised of the following parcels as shown on the Groton Assessors' Maps: 120-1, 120-3, 133-1, 133-10, 133-11, 133-54 and 133-55.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 15 – Main Motion: Passed by Majority Vote

ARTICLE 16: GDRSD – CREATE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Committee vote on February 11, 2015 to a) establish a Stabilization Fund, pursuant to Section 16G½ of Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws, said Stabilization Fund to be invested and to retain its own interest earnings as provided by law, and b) to set up an operational line item for the transfer of available monies into said Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

GDRSD COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This account, if approved by Town Meeting in both Member Towns, allows the Regional School District to set aside funds for future capital expenses in a Stabilization Account. Projects eligible for Stabilization Account funds use include any for which the district could borrow money or which are approved by the Director of Accounts in the Department of Revenue. This account is a tool that will aid the district in saving for future capital expenses in advance of work. Funds would be added to this account directly from the Towns, via approval at future Town Meetings, or from the GDRSD Operating Budget. At this time we are not requesting Town funds for the account and the 2017 Fiscal Year would be the first time funds would be added via a line item in the Operating Budget. Establishment of the Account allows GDRSD a tool to maintain its current fiscal stability into the future.*

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to approve the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Committee vote on February 11, 2015 to a) establish a Stabilization Fund, pursuant to Section 16G½ of Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws, said Stabilization Fund to be invested and to retain its own interest earnings as provided by law, and b) to set up an operational line item for the transfer of available monies into said Stabilization Fund.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

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

MOTION to adjourn the First Adjourned Session of the Spring 2015 Meeting until Monday May 11 at 7:00 PM was Moved and Seconded and passed by Unanimous Vote. The Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

The Second Adjourned Session of the Spring Town Meeting 2015 was called to order at 7:01 PM on May 11.

The Moderator reminded the audience that the vote to impose a 3 minute speaking limit for other than the principal proponent and opponent of an article was still in effect.

115 people attended the Second Adjourned Session.

ARTICLES 17 THROUGH 28 PERTAIN TO FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUSINESS

ARTICLE 17: ADDITIONAL PARKING ON MAIN STREET/STATION AVENUE

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 in Fiscal Year 2015 or later, to construct a municipal parking lot on land located at 167 Main Street and shown on Assessors' Map 113 as Parcel 48, which premises are described in a deed recorded with the South Middlesex Registry of Deeds in Book 12634, Page 361 and owned by Bank of America, and on land located at 163 Main Street and shown on Assessors' Map 113 as Parcel 47, which premises are described in a deed recorded in Book 13572, Page 703 and owned by Shames Realty Trust, and all costs associated and related thereto; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to obtain easements by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, and/or enter into a lease (for up to 99 years) for the use of said property for municipal parking lot purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against – Petropoulos)*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *In an effort to create more parking, the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board have been working with the owners of Bank of America and Citizens Bank on Main Street to create a municipal parking lot in the rear of both properties. The Town will seek easements for the construction and maintenance of this lot for municipal use. A detailed cost breakdown will be provided to the Spring Town Meeting.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Board of Selectmen's Gift Fund, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015 or later, to construct a municipal parking lot on land located at 167 Main Street and shown on Assessors' Map 113 as Parcel 48, which premises are described in a deed recorded with the South Middlesex Registry of Deeds in Book 12634, Page 361 and owned by Bank of America, and on

land located at 163 Main Street and shown on Assessors' Map 113 as Parcel 47, which premises are described in a deed recorded in Book 13572, Page 703 and owned by Shames Realty Trust, and all costs associated and related thereto; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to obtain easements by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, and/or enter into a lease (for up to 99 years) for the use of said property for municipal parking lot purposes.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- Mr. Barringer reported that the Planning Board supported this article as it conforms to the Town's Master Plan and supports pedestrian safety. There is also the possibility for eliminating a "curb cut" onto Main Street.

Vote on Article 17 – Main Motion: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 18: PURCHASE LOT ON STATION AVENUE FOR MUNICIPAL PARKING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire from 14 Station Avenue, LLC by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, including, without limitation, for use as a municipal parking lot, and for the purpose of conveyance and/or leasing, the fee to or a permanent easement in a parcel of land located on Station Avenue, shown on Assessors' Map 113 as Parcel 60, and described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 62225, Page 73, said parcel containing 0.32 acres, more or less, in the aggregate, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow, or any combination of the foregoing, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015 or later, for such acquisition and costs related thereto, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey and/or lease said parcel or a portion or portions thereof on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, and, further, to accept grants or donations of funds for the purposes stated herein and enter into all agreements and execute on behalf of the Town any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purposes of this article, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

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

Summary: *For the past two years, the Town has been leasing land, owned by 14 Station Avenue, LLC, between the Town Hall and former Center Fire Station for municipal parking. This lot is fully utilized and has added needed parking on Station Avenue for Town Hall and other uses. The Town Manager has recommended to the Board of Selectmen that this parcel be obtained permanently for parking and the Town is working with the new owner of the former Center Fire Station to acquire and make improvements to the lot.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION A: I move that the Town vote to approve Article 18 as printed in the Warrant for the 2015 Spring Town Meeting.

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

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Haddad reported that through the generosity of Mr. Webber and Mr. McElroy that the empty lot next to Town Hall will be converted to a parking lot. Mr. Webber agreed to significantly lower the price, and Mr. McElroy purchased the lot. The lot will be used for his new business and for town hall customer and employee parking.

Vote on Article 18 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 19: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2015 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2015 Town Operating Budget, being the sums of money identified in the “**Transfer funds from**” line items designated in the Information Packet distributed to voters for this Town Meeting, said sums to be transferred to the various line items in the “**Transfer funds to**” categories designated within the Information Packet, the total amount to be transferred being \$189,110.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Transfer funds from:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount To Be Transferred</u>
1090 – Human Resources – Salary	\$ 2,500
1370 – Police & Fire Communications – Wages	\$ 84,000
1501 – Highway Department – Wages	\$ 16,000
1550 – Solid Waste Disposal – Wages	\$ 8,000
1661 – Library – Wages	\$ 1,610

1701 – Country Club – Wages	\$ 32,000
3000 – County Retirement	\$ 30,000
3010 – Health Insurance	<u>\$ 15,000</u>

Total \$189,110

Transfer funds to:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Transferred To</u>
1080 – Town Counsel – Expenses	\$ 62,000
1091 – Human Resources – Expenses	\$ 2,500
1101 – Information Technology – Wages	\$ 5,000
1251 – Mechanical Inspector – Expenses	\$ 1,000
1280 – Sealer Weights & Measures – Fee Salaries	\$ 1,000
1502 – Highway Department – Expenses	\$ 34,000
1660 – Library – Salary	\$ 1,610
1681 – Water Safety – Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ 15,000
1700 – Country Club – Salary	\$ 16,000
1702 – Country Club – Expenses	\$ 46,000
3012 – Employee Benefits – Medicare/Social Security	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total	\$189,110

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 19 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 20: 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 2015 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2014 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *Due to the severity of this winter, the Town anticipates a deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 Snow and Ice Budget of over \$300,000. Ordinarily, such a deficit is made up in the following Fiscal Year. However, in an effort to minimize the impact on the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, the Town Manager has recommended that some of the deficit be dealt with this year by utilizing funds from the Town's Overlay Surplus Reserve. The appropriation under this Article will reduce the deficit.*

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$175,000 from Overlay Surplus, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2014 Spring Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 20 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 21: TRANSFER WITHIN WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2015 Water Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Water Commission: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This article allows the Water Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

Mover: Thomas Orcutt

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2015 Water Department Budget.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 21 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 22: TRANSFER WITHIN SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2015 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Sewer Commission: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

Mover: James Gmeiner

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2015 Sewer Enterprise Department budget.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 22 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 23: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *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.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$714.92 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to pay the following unpaid bill from a prior fiscal year:

Griffin Auto Service & Restoration	\$714.92
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Moved and Seconded

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

Vote on Article 23 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 24: REPLACE VOTING MACHINES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for the purpose of replacing the voting tabulators used by the Town to tabulate votes during all elections, and all costs associated and related thereto, in Fiscal Year 2015, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This request for a minor capital item is to replace the Town's voting tabulators. The Town uses three (3) OpTech III-P Eagle precinct ballot tabulators for all elections. These machines are of 1985 design, and have been in use in Groton since the late 1990s. In 2011, the vendor (Elections Systems and Software) announced an "end-of-life" for these machines, citing particular concern for replacement part availability. While these machines have been solid performers, we have noticed a higher than normal service incident rate over the past two (2) years. The vendor has committed to support of the OpTech Eagle through the 2016 election cycle. In 2014, the State certified two (2) replacement machines as meeting federal and state standards. Both replacement machine types have similar functionality to the OpTech Eagle. If this item is approved by Town Meeting, a Request for Quotes will be issued.*

Mover: Michael Bouchard

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$22,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015, for the purpose of replacing the voting tabulators used by the Town to tabulate votes during all elections, and all costs associated and related thereto.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 24 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 25: *APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR DEFICIT BALANCES IN GRANTS*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from available funds to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2013 Training and EMD Grant, and, further, to transfer a sum or sums of money from available funds to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2013 911 Support and Incentive Grant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *Over the last several years, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has awarded the Town of Groton grant money for upgrades and maintenance to our 911 Dispatch equipment. These are reimbursable grants and the award is not forwarded to the Town until after the expense has been made. In regards to the two (2) grants noted above, the Commonwealth disallowed a small portion of the Town's reimbursement request after the vendors had been paid. These deficits must be cleared in order to close out the grants for the FY 15 year end.*

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$1,696.88 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2013 Training and EMD Grant, and, further, to transfer the sum of \$187.28 from from the Excess and Deficiency

Fund (Free Cash) to offset a deficit balance for the Fiscal Year 2013 911 Support and Incentive Grant.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 25 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 26: TRANSFER FUNDS TO LOST LAKE WATERSHED COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining funds appropriated under Article 16 of the 2011 Fall Town Meeting, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015, for use by the Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee for engineering or other related purposes to carry out the Charge of the Committee approved by the Board of Selectmen, or to take any other action relative thereto.

LOST LAKE WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *There is approximately \$17,600 remaining in the appropriation voted under Article 16 of the 2011 Fall Town Meeting that was for a study of the potential for a sewer in the Lost Lake Area of Town. The Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee has replaced the original Lost Lake Sewer Advisory Committee and a new charge to study the entire watershed has been approved by the Board of Selectmen. In order for the new Committee to utilize the remaining funds, Town Meeting needs to transfer these funds for this purpose.*

Mover: Arthur Prest

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$17,639.21, the unexpended balance of the appropriation voted under Article 16 of the 2011 Fall Town Meeting, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2015, for use by the Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee for engineering or other related purposes to carry out the Charge of the Committee approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 25 – Main Motion: Passed by Majority Vote

MOTION to Consider Article 28 Before Article 27 (Mr. Degen)

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote of Motion to Consider Article 28 Before Article 27:

Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 28: SALE OR LEASE OF TARBELL SCHOOL

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or lease, for a period not to exceed 99 years, the building known as the Tarbell School, which comprises approximately 8,300 square feet, and all or a portion of the 1.44 acre site on which it is located at 73 Pepperell Road, West Groton, Massachusetts, to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said building, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended 6-0-1 (Manugian)*

Summary: *The Tarbell School has been vacant for the past six (6) years. Prior to vacating the property, the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee conducted several public hearings on the re-use of the building. A report was drafted and the School Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen develop an RFP requesting developers to submit proposals that are compatible with the neighborhood in West Groton. The Selectmen have issued an RFP and will present a proposal to Town Meeting based on the best proposal received.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer to the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of sale, the property known as the Tarbell School and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell the property, being the 1.44 acre site located at 73 Pepperell Road, West Groton, Massachusetts, shown on Groton Assessors' Maps as Parcel 102-44, and the building thereon known as the Tarbell School, which comprises approximately 8,300 square feet, for a sum of not less than \$35,000, and to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said property, and to petition the General Court for any special legislation necessary to accomplish said sale.

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

Discussion:

- Mr. Degen reported that a recent RFP for the Tarbell School yielded two viable responses. One proposed residences and the other proposed offices. The objective is to find a use for the building that is complementary to the neighborhood and recoup the town's \$35,000 investment in the septic system. The alternative is to demolish the building.
- Mr. M. Manugian asked for details on the RFP responses. Mr. Degen responded that one proposed three condos with a purchase price of \$75,000 for the building. The other offered \$30,000, and would build office space.
- Ms. Pine asked that since the Article 28 Motion specified a sale price of not less than \$35,000, could the lower bid be honored. Mr. Degen responded that \$35,00 was the price floor, but that specific terms would be negotiated in executive session.

Vote on Article 28 – Main Motion: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

**ARTICLE 27: REZONE PARCEL 102-44 FROM PUBLIC USE “P”
TO RESIDENTIAL – AGRICULTURAL “R-A”**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map established under Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton to rezone from Public Use (P) to Residential-Agricultural (R-A) a parcel of land located at 73 Pepperell Road consisting of approximately 1.44 acres, and shown on Assessors’ Map 102 as Parcel 44, or take to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Deferred – Pease, Robertson, 1 Abstain - Manugian)*

Planning Board: *Recommended*

Summary: *Currently, the Tarbell School is zoned for public use because it is owned by the Town and was used for municipal purposes. The Board of Selectmen has solicited proposals for the sale of the Tarbell School and expects to have a proposal for Town Meeting consideration. Since the building will no longer be used for municipal purposes, it should be rezoned accordingly.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Map established under Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton to rezone from Public Use (P) to Residential-Agricultural (R-A) a parcel of land located at 73 Pepperell Road consisting of approximately 1.44 acres, and shown on Assessors’ Map 102 as Parcel 44.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- Mr. Lyman asked if the playground currently on the Tarbell grounds was compatible with condos. Would the neighborhood and the town lose a playground? Mr. Degen responded that the developer has stated that he would grant an easement for the playground to the Park Commission.

Vote on Main Article 27 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 29: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FUNDING ACCOUNTS

To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund:

Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 7,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 67,750
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 67,750
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 67,750

Unallocated Reserve: \$466,750

or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary to ensure the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during Fiscal Year 2016. 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 Town vote to appropriate and allocate the following sums from the Community Preservation Fund to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 7,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 67,750
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 67,750
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 67,750
Unallocated Reserve:	\$466,750

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 29 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 30: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2015, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws, and by authorizing the Board of Selectmen, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A: Accessible Trail Project

\$24,932

Summary: *The Trails Committee has applied for a State Grant that will fund the creation of the Nashua River Accessible Trail. It will be the first trail of any kind in Groton to provide access for people of all abilities to a peaceful forest experience as well as beautiful views of the Nashua*

River and one of its oxbow ponds. The proposed trail will provide a unique recreational experience along the Nashua River for all, including parents with children in strollers, wheelchair-bound individuals, and anyone who needs a flat stable surface upon which to travel. The Nashua River Accessible Trail will be entirely within the J. Harry Rich State Forest, which is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The proposed trail will intersect Nod Rd. about 0.5 miles east of where Rte. 119 crosses the Nashua River. The grant application is for \$24,932. The grant has a requirement for 20% matching funds, which means the Town must provide \$5,845 towards the project. This article is seeking the full amount in the event the grant is not awarded. Any unexpended funds will be returned to the CPC.

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

MOTION 1: Accessible Trail Project

Mover: Dan Emerson

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$24,932 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2016-01 "Accessible Trail Project".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 30 – CPC Proposal A / Motion 1: Passed by Unanimous Vote

CPC Proposal B: Conservation Fund

\$200,000

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

Board of Selectmen: 3 In Favor; 2 Against (Cunningham, Schulman)

Finance Committee: *Not Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

MOTION 2: Conservation Fund

Mover: Bruce Easom

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2016-02 "Conservation Land Fund".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Trails Committee unanimously supports the article.

- Greenway Committee supports the proposal,

MOTION to Amend Article 30 CPC Proposal B to appropriate the sum of \$140,000 made by Mr. Cunningham.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Cunningham stipulated that the Conservation Commission does good work. He suggests that this money be lowered and the difference kept aside to fund other projects, potentially including the Prescott School Reuse.
- Mr. V. Prest asked the impact to the taxpayer for all lands under Conservation control. Mr. Easom responded that this would require a large number of assumptions, and that conservation land is purchased with state aid. It also reduces the need for services on that land.
- Mr. Degen stated that the \$140,000 amendment, when added to the current Conservation Commission balance, meets the threshold of the 2% Groton standard for a Conservation Commission account balance. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-2 in favor of the original \$200,000, but was unanimous for the \$140,000 amount.

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 Motion to Amend Article 30 CPC Proposal B: Defeated

Vote on Article 30 – CPC Proposal B / Motion 2: Passed by Majority Vote

CPC Proposal C: Rehab a Portion of Old Meetinghouse \$203,333

Summary: *The First Parish Church is responsible for the stewardship and maintenance of the Old Groton Meetinghouse. It has provided repairs over the years and has continued to maintain the structure. Recently, it privately raised \$17,000 to hire an architect to complete a comprehensive assessment of the structure. Based on this assessment, the architect has recommended a phased approach to rehabilitate and stabilize the Old Groton Meetinghouse. Phase I calls for addressing pressing structural repairs to rehabilitate the steeple, bell tower and attic. It will also correct exterior paint failures of the façade, the bell tower and the steeple, while also repairing the brick masonry at the front entrance. Phase I is estimated to cost \$305,000 to complete. The First Parish Church is requesting \$203,333, or 2/3's of the anticipated cost, while raising the remaining amount privately.*

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 3: Rehab a Portion of Old Meetinghouse

Mover: Gineane Haberlin

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$203,333 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2016-03 "Rehab a Portion of Old Meetinghouse".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote:

Majority

Discussion:

- Ms. Lathrop does not support the proposal as the money is being used to support a church which is exempt from taxation. She believed this was a violation of "church and state".
- Mr. Lieman stated that, across the state, public funds have been used for the purpose of saving historic buildings, even if used by religious organizations.
- Town Counsel, Mr. Doneski, stated that this is a permissible use of CPA funds for historic preservation.
- Ms. Lathrop argued that there are several cases in litigation on this issue.
- Ms. Lawrence stated that the building belongs to the town of Groton. If the religious society moved out, ownership reverts to the town. The town has also funded other historic buildings that host religious services with CPA funds.
- Mr. Degen stated that initially he was against the use of CPA funds for the restoration of the Grange, but in retrospect he thought it was a good use of funds. This building is iconic, and reverts to the town. It qualifies as a historic structure.

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 30 – CPC Proposal C / Motion 3: Passed by Majority Vote

CPC Proposal D: Repair to Town Basketball Courts

\$109,000

Summary: *The Park Commission is proposing to repair the basketball courts located at Town Field and Cutler Field. Both of these courts serve large communities within the Town of Groton and are in serious need of repair. The repairs at Town Field will include removal and replacement of existing surface, fencing, posts, backboards and timed lighting, as well as correction of drainage issues. It will also include a new ADA compliant sloped path to support additional town functions such as the Fourth of July Celebration and other activities that take place at Town Field. The Cutler Field repairs will include patching of cracks in the existing court, installation of timed lighting, replacement of posts and backboards and court painting.*

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 4: Repair to Town Basketball Courts

Mover: Matt Frary

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$109,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2016-04 "Repair to Town Basketball Courts".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 30 – CPC Proposal D / Motion 4: Passed by Unanimous Vote

CPC Proposal E: ADA Compliant Park and Open Space Study \$6,000

Summary: *The Commission on Accessibility has requested funding to work with the Northeast Independent Living Program to prepare a self-evaluation/transition plan for 28 park and open space properties in the Town of Groton. The plan will identify reasonable improvements along with a timeline for implementation in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project will involve active participation from the Park Commission and other community organizations.*

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 5: ADA Compliant Park and Open Space Study Mover: Bruce Easom

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$6,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2016-05 "ADA Compliant Park and Open Space Study".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Ms. Collette as the ADA Coordinator stated that the Commission on Accessibility sponsors this proposal.

Vote on Article 30 – CPC Proposal E / Motion 5: Passed by Unanimous Vote

CPC Proposal F: Housing Coordinator Salary \$49,509

Summary: *The Town established the position of Housing Coordinator in 2009. Since that time, the Community Preservation Administrative Account has paid the salary of this position. Last year, the Community Preservation Committee approved the increase of the position to 25 hours and requested that it become an annual funding item to be approved by Town Meeting, with the funding to come from the Community Housing Reserve. Town Meeting approved this last year. This will be the second year that this position will be funded in this manner.*

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

MOTION 6: Affordable Housing Coordinator

Mover: Bruce Easom

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$49,509 from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2016-06 "Affordable Housing Coordinator".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 30 – CPC Proposal F / Motion 6: Passed by Majority Vote

CPC Proposal G: Milestone Engraving

\$17,000

Summary: *Last year, the Town Meeting appropriated funding from the Community Preservation Fund to repair twenty (20) of the mile markers originally installed in 1902 and 1903. The project was a success. The Groton Historical Commission is requesting additional funding to continue this restoration project by completing the remaining work on the local milestones. This will include resetting, etching and restorative cleaning of the milestones.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

MOTION 7: Mile Stone Engraving

Mover: Bob DeGroot

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$17,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2016-07 "Mile Stone Engraving".

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 30 – CPC Proposal G / Motion 7: Passed by Unanimous Vote

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 31: AMEND CHAPTER 218-25 - ZONING CODE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows:

Amend Section 218-25 Site Plan Review by deleting Section 218-25 in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Section 218-25, Site Plan Review, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The proposed amendment to Site Plan Review simplifies the process for "Minor Site Plan Review" by enabling review by the Land Use Director and Building Commissioner after consulting with other Town Departments. The existing Level II and Level III review will be combined into "Major Site Plan Review" which will continue to require a Planning Board Special Permit.*

Mover: **George Barringer**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows:

Amend Section 218-25 Site Plan Review by deleting Section 218-25 in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Section 218-25, Site Plan Review, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote:

2/3rds Majority

Vote on Article 31 – Main Motion:

Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 32: AMEND CHAPTER 218, ZONING CODE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows:

Amend Section 218-33C Temporary Permits by deleting Section 218-33C in its entirety, and by inserting a new Section 218-16 Accessory Use, subsection E Temporary Permits, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The proposed zoning amendment will remove the requirement of a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for temporary facilities and replace it with a by-right building permit, with temporary construction and office trailers subject to Minor Site Plan Review.*

Mover: George Barringer

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows:

Amend Section 218-33C Temporary Permits by deleting Section 218-33C in its entirety, and by inserting a new Section 218-16 Accessory Use, subsection E Temporary Permits, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk;

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote:

Vote on Article 32 – Main Motion:

2/3rds Majority

Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 33: CITIZENS' PETITION – REZONE 152-158 BOSTON ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Groton's Zoning Map to rezone from G-B (General Business) to R-B (Residential Business) certain premises located at 152-158 Boston Road owned by Peter W. Norton, consisting of approximately 30,654 square feet, which premises is described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 21298, Page 3, being shown as Parcel 5 on Assessors' Map 222, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS' PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Peter W. Norton	152 Boston Road	Carolyn J. Bissell	48 West Main Street
Rebecca M. Babcock	41 West Main Street	Hugo H. Maahs	973 Lowell Road
Michelle Collette	43 Windmill Hill Road	Wanda P. Maahs	973 Lowell Road
Regina Beausoleil	103 Blossom Lane	Peter C. Myette	69 Schoolhouse Road
Edward W. Homer	56 Sunset Road	Michael F. Bouchard	69 Hill Road

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This Article has been submitted as a Citizens' Petition by the above ten (10) registered voters of the Town of Groton for Town Meeting consideration.*

Mover: Peter Morrison

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Town of Groton's Zoning Map to rezone from G-B (General Business) to R-B (Residential Business) certain premises located at 152-158 Boston Road owned by Peter W. Norton, consisting of approximately 30,654 square feet, which premises is described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 21298, Page 3, being shown as Parcel 5 on Assessors' Map 222.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote:

Vote on Article 33 – Main Motion:

2/3rds Majority

Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 34: ACCEPT M.G.L. CHAPTER 53, SECTION 18B

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 53, §18B, regarding information for local Ballot Questions, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: *Acceptance of MGL Chapter 53 Section 18B will authorize the Board of Selectmen to create "fair and concise" summaries of local ballot questions when such questions appear on Town ballots. These summaries would also include one sentence describing the effect of a yes or no vote, and brief arguments for and against the question. This would be very similar to what voters see for state ballot questions. The process to create the question summaries would involve town counsel and designated question opponents and proponents. A copy of the question, summaries and arguments would be mailed to each household prior to an election. If Chapter 53 Section 18B is not accepted, the Town has no authority to create question summaries for local ballot questions.*

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 53, §18B, regarding information for local Ballot Questions, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 34 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 35: HOME RECYCLING REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Home Recycling Revolving Fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½, to be expended under the direction of the DPW Director, in order to place anticipated revenues collected from the sale of recycling equipment as well as monies received through related State grants, which shall be used to purchase additional recycling equipment, advertise the availability of such items, or undertake recycling related activities, and to establish the limit on expenditures from said account for Fiscal Year 2016 at \$10,000, or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This account is proposed in order to permit the DPW to accept receipts from both the sale of recycling equipment (including, but not limited to, recycling and compost bins) and funding obtained through related state grants, which may upon deposit be used without further*

appropriation to purchase additional recycling equipment or other items that will serve to enhance town-wide recycling efforts.

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to authorize the Home Recycling Revolving Fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½, to be expended under the direction of the DPW Director, in order to place anticipated revenues collected from the sale of recycling equipment as well as monies received through related State grants, which shall be used to purchase additional recycling equipment, advertise the availability of such items, or undertake recycling related activities, and to establish the limit on expenditures from said account for Fiscal Year 2016 at \$10,000.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Article 35 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLES 36 THROUGH 41 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED BY THE TOWN MODERATOR AFTER ARTICLE 41.

Town Moderator Mr. Kauppi read the title of each Article in the Consent Agenda. No voter asked for a hold on any article.

ARTICLE 36: APPLY FOR GRANTS

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

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

ARTICLE 37: 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 2016 for the Surrenden Farm Land Acquisition, as authorized under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended 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. The anticipated debt service for Fiscal Year 2016 is \$480,000.*

ARTICLE 38: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Chapter 44, §53E½ of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received under Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Stormwater Management - Low Impact Development, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee for administration, oversight and review activities under Chapter 198, with the maximum amount to be expended in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2016, or to take any other action relative thereto.

STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

ARTICLE 39: CONSERVATION COMMISSION REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½ for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received for agricultural or silvicultural activities conducted on Town-owned conservation land under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, said receipts and fees are to be credited to said account and expended by the Conservation Commission for oversight and management of conservation lands owned by the Town, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2016, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

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

ARTICLE 40: AFFORDABLE HOUSING REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew, under the authority of the Town Manager, a revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½ for the receipt of revenue and funding of expenses related to marketing and monitoring Affordable Housing units

within developments in the Town, said revenue, in the form of receipts and fees, to be credited to said account and expended by the Town Manager for this purpose, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2016, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

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

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

ARTICLE 41: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

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, 37, 37A, 41, 41B, 41C or 43 of G.L. c. 59, §5, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

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

Summary: *This article is geared toward elderly persons, blind persons and veterans with service connected disabilities. It would increase the exemption under state statute up to 100% of the exemption. Section 5C1/2 was enacted in 2014 and replaces the special legislation that previously authorized the additional exemption, section 4 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988.*

CONSENT AGENDA: ARTICLES 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 **Mover: Peter Cunningham**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each, and that, with respect to Article 37, the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of \$80,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and the sum of \$402,850 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$482,850 to fund the Surrenden Farm debt service for Fiscal Year 2016; provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific

article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Consent Agenda: Passed by Unanimous Vote

Motion to Dissolve the 2015 Spring Town Meeting passed by Unanimous Vote. The Meeting was dissolved at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bouchard, Town Clerk

Moderator's Consent Agenda to Save Time at Town Meeting

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

What Articles Are Included

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

In this warrant, Articles 36 to 41 have been identified by the moderator as being appropriate for the consent agenda. At Town Meeting, voters will receive a handout with the final consent agenda, as changes are possible between the time of this writing and April 27.

How Consent Agendas Work

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

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

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

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

What Voters Need To Do

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

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

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

Given under our hands this 6th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen.

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

BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2016

Pursuant to Article 6, Sections 6-3 and 6-4 of the Charter of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Manager are pleased to submit for your consideration the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. The FY 2016 Budget is a “needs budget” that allows the Town to continue to address areas that will improve the overall service delivery to residents of Groton. The Proposed Budget will provide growth in some areas, including the Police Department and Groton-Dunstable Regional School District. Funding is also being provided in the Debt Service Budget within the levy to address some very important capital needs. Last Spring, in order to meet the budgetary needs of the Town in Fiscal Year 2015, the Town voted to exclude the debt service on the new Center Fire Station from Proposition 2½. The excluded debt budget will decrease in FY 2016, providing some relief for residents and taxpayers. In addition, the Fiscal Year 2016 budget will address Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). This will allow the Town to fund OPEB with money already contained in the budget. It will not require a new appropriation. The Town anticipates that it will be required to address this issue by Fiscal Year 2018 and by addressing it in Fiscal Year 2016, it will put the Town in a strong financial position to deal with this liability ahead of schedule.

When putting together our estimated revenues for Fiscal Year 2016 the Finance Committee and I have taken into consideration a couple of factors that impact anticipated revenues. Governor Charlie Baker has just submitted his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016. The Legislature has yet to take up the proposal, but the Governor has increased the Town’s anticipated local aid in Fiscal Year 2016 by approximately \$27,000. This proposed increase has been factored into anticipated revenues in FY 2016. Another factor that will have a positive impact on revenues in FY 2016 is a vote by the 2014 Fall Town Meeting that authorized the collection of a local meals tax. In FY 2016, it is estimated that this new revenue stream will provide an additional \$100,000 in local receipts. Another important factor to consider is a decision that was made at the 2014 Fall Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommended, and Town Meeting approved, taking an additional \$150,000 from “Free Cash” to offset the FY 2015 Tax Rate. This increased our unexpended Tax Capacity from \$314,488 to \$464,488. This will not be available in FY 2016 and the relief provided to the residents in FY 2015 will have to be made up with property taxes in FY 2016 in order to maintain and improve the level of services provided to Groton residents. The following chart shows what the Town expects to receive in revenues for FY 2016 that can be used to fund the Proposed Operating Budget:

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Budgeted FY 2015</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2016</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Property Tax	\$26,002,556	\$26,926,670	\$ 924,114*	3.56%
Unexpended Tax Capacity	\$ (464,488)	\$ (100,000)	\$ 364,488	78.47%
State Aid	\$ 828,915	\$ 856,252	\$ 27,337	3.29%
Local Receipts	\$ 3,054,000	\$ 3,217,000	\$ 163,000	5.34%
Free Cash	\$ 150,000	\$ 0	\$(150,000)	-100.00%
Other Available Funds	\$ 175,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 25,000	14.29%
TOTAL	\$29,745,983	\$31,099,922	\$1,353,939	4.55%

*Includes two and one half (2½%) percent increase allowed by law and \$15 million in new growth.

Thanks to the Finance Team's practice of sound financial planning and smart budgeting, the Town is confident that it has a healthy revenue forecast for Fiscal Year 2016. This will allow the Town to continue to maintain services and to address areas that it believes will improve the delivery of those services. There are two areas in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget that will significantly impact expenses in Fiscal Year 2016. The Town will see a major increase in its Middlesex County Pension Budget. This budget will increase by eleven (11%) percent. The Town is one of 71 members of the Middlesex County Retirement System, whose employees become vested in the pension system after 10 years of service and when they reach age 55. Each individual member city or town is assessed according to many vital statistics, including active employees, new hires, terminated employees who have yet to seek retirement or a return of their money, replacement employees who came from elsewhere in the state retirement system, death and longevity statistics, and investment performance. In addition, the pension system assesses all members on an annual basis for their portion of the unfunded liability of the system, a liability which will be paid in full in 2035. The Middlesex County Retirement System, as a whole, set a benchmark of 6.5% annual assessment increases through 2020 (and 4.5% thereafter until 2035), which are adjusted up or down to each city or town, based on the Town's specific circumstances. The FY 2016 increase is largely attributable to several replacement hires in the past two (2) years whose State pension liability from their previous employment has temporarily transferred to Groton. This anomaly whereby a town is responsible for the pension liability of a new hire from another town is not uncommon, however it is a temporary charge and is credited back in future years. Groton's Fiscal 2017 pension assessment has been set at 5.8%, below the system-wide target of 6.5%, further evidencing the year-to-year fluctuations that impact the assessment. PERAC, the State's Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, monitors and governs all aspects of the Middlesex County Retirement System (MCRS). PERAC consistently identifies MCRS as one of the State's most efficient and well run pension systems in the Commonwealth. The second area is the Town's Health Insurance Budget. The Minuteman Nashoba Health Group has increased the Town's Health Insurance Rates by 7.7% with an overall increase of 9.98% in FY 2016. Both of these increases have been fully funded in the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Operating Budget.

That said, the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and I have proposed increases in some areas of the Budget that will improve the delivery of services next fiscal year. The following is a breakdown of those proposals:

POLICE DEPARTMENT WAGES

The Town of Groton is extremely fortunate to have an exceptional Police Department. Our Department provides excellent services to our residents and has an outstanding reputation throughout the region. The commitment made by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to provide the necessary funding in past years for our Police Department has paid off. I would like to continue that commitment in Fiscal Year 2016. An area of importance is the protection of our students. The Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget contains funding for a School Resource Officer in the Police Department Budget.

The Massachusetts Task Force Report on School Safety and Security published in July 2014 makes several recommendations to the Governor that states that each Municipality should establish a district-level emergency management team, comprised of the town manager, superintendent of schools, police chief, fire chief, emergency management director as well as other public safety officers and that at the secondary level, every school in the Commonwealth should have a school resource officer. This will allow for a consolidated set of protocols including evacuation, shelter in place, lock down and family reunification. On a regular basis, districts should direct schools to practice gathering at a primary rallying point and preparedness training should be provided for all staff. Groton has 3 high schools (1 public, 2 private), 2 Middle School Buildings, 1 Elementary School Building, 2 school operated buildings with multi-function use, 1 private K-8 school, 3 Day Cares, early education centers and 1 Special needs hospital with a school. Our current staffing includes 2 part-time (P/T) School /Juvenile Officers that perform duties as needed, including DARE. By adding a School Resource Officer, we will be able to improve our delivery of services for our school aged children and address the issues stated above. A full-time officer assigned to the Schools will allow for more direct attention to school and juvenile needs and allow for a second juvenile officer (P/T) as needed. The impact to the FY 2016 Proposed Operating Budget for this position is \$71,000, including benefits.

SARGISSON BEACH

In the original Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Operating Budget, I had included funding to reopen Sargisson Beach. This was based on the desire of the Board of Selectmen to reopen the Beach and the appointment of the Sargisson Beach Committee that was charged with developing a plan for this purpose. Due to the School Budget issues faced in FY 2015, the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee decided to remove this funding from the budget. It is still a priority of the Board and funding is contained in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget to open the Beach this summer. The impact to the Proposed FY 2016 Operating Budget to open the Beach is \$38,210.

DEBT SERVICE BUDGET

The Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Plan contains two important items that I believe are crucial for the safety of our residents and employees. The first item is the Fire Protection of the Lost Lake Area. The 2013 Fall Town Meeting appropriated funding to develop a plan to address the shortage of water for firefighting purposes around Lost Lake. We have developed a plan to install water mains, cisterns and dry hydrants to provide this protection. This project has been put out to bid and the cost for this project is \$1.9 million. The second area of concern is the Town's public safety radio communications. The Police Chief and Fire Chief have proposed a joint radio project to upgrade the radio system. This is a major upgrade. Currently the police and fire department radio systems are inadequate for a community the size of Groton. This issue creates major "dead" areas that are unacceptable and place personnel needlessly at risk. One

of the most common contributing factors in firefighter and police officer injuries and deaths are communications issues. There is an Article contained in the Warrant for this Town Meeting that seeks to borrow \$650,000 to fund a complete overhaul of the Town's radio system that will improve communications between our Police Department, Fire Department, Highway Department and Water Department. This will dramatically improve the safety of the Town's emergency personnel, as well as improve the delivery of services to our residents. The Fiscal Year 2016 Debt Service Budget contains funding to cover the first year debt service for these very important projects.

OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) are those benefits *other than pension* that the Town is responsible to continue providing to the employee after he or she has retired or left Town service. Currently, the Town of Groton provides health insurance and life insurance to its retirees, recognizing the expense during the period of actual distribution rather than in the period during which those benefits are earned. In 2004, the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued statement number 45 setting forth some requirements for Towns that handle OPEB costs on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. This was done in an effort to provide interested parties with more complete information regarding the true financial position of municipalities that provide such benefits. To this end, GASB 45 first requires that a periodic actuarial analysis be done to identify the costs of the OPEB that are earned by public employees during their years of service, and then also requires that this cost be reported as an accrued liability and included as a footnote to the Town's financial statements. The Town of Groton made a commitment to Standard and Poor's to begin to fund this liability by Fiscal Year 2018. Currently, Groton's Liability is \$7,150,656. The Town will be required to update this liability in FY 2016 and the Town Accountant's Budget contains the necessary funding to pay for this update. Choosing to leave it unfunded may negatively impact the Town's ability to maintain a high credit rating and thereby control debt service costs.

The only long-term solution to the OPEB liability is to develop a dedicated revenue stream to address this growing obligation. In order to allow the Cities and Towns of Massachusetts to address this, the Legislature has approved Chapter 479 of the Acts of 2008, which provides for the establishment of an "Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund". The law is a local option that requires approval at Town Meeting. Upon acceptance, the Town may establish an irrevocable trust fund to account for appropriations made to cover its unfunded OPEB liability. The Town is proposing to establish this Trust in FY 2016. One of the benefits of this Trust is that it can be used to pay for current retiree health insurance. Currently, the Town appropriates approximately \$200,000 in its Operating Budget to pay for retiree health insurance on an annual basis. This Trust will be established in FY 2016 and it will be funded by appropriating the money already allocated for retiree health insurance. This will be used to pay for the Town's retiree obligations in FY 2016. It will be repeated in subsequent Fiscal Years until such time as the Town has the ability to increase the Trust's appropriation to begin to pay down the Town's liability.

UNION CONTRACTS AND BY-LAW EMPLOYEES

The Town now has seven (7) Collective Bargaining Units. All Agreements are up for renewal in Fiscal Year 2016. In an effort to provide a Proposed Operating Budget that completely addresses all of our anticipated obligations and expenses in FY 2016, I reached out to all seven (7) unions and asked them to consider negotiating new agreements a full six (6) months prior to

the expiration of the current agreements. Due to the outstanding relationships my office has with our Unions and employees, all seven (7) unions agreed to early collective bargaining. I am pleased to report that we have successfully concluded negotiations with all Unions for new three (3) year agreements that will run from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. These agreements provide the Town with budget stability. I want to thank our employees and Unions for working so cooperatively with the Town to reach these agreements. All costs associated with these new agreements have been included in the Proposed Operating Budget. The following shows the cost of each Union Agreement in FY 2016:

Groton Supervisors' Union (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$ 13,383
Groton Patrolmen's Union (0% Adjustment in FY 2016 – 40 Hour Work Week)	\$ 55,201
Groton Superior Officers (0% Adjustment in FY 2016 – 40 Hour Work Week)	\$ 20,856
Groton Firefighters Association (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$ 10,578
Groton Communications Union (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$ 10,920
Groton Town Hall/Library Union (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$ 34,664
Groton DPW Union (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	<u>\$ 20,070</u>

Total Cost	\$165,672
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The remaining three (3) By-Law employees will receive the same adjustment as the Supervisors' Union, which will cost \$4,255 in FY 2016. This will be the third year that we have implemented the performance incentive program for several of our union employees, as well as our By-Law employees. This program allows employees to earn up to an additional two (2%) percent wage increase based on a review of their performance by their department manager. This program continues to be very successful. The Fiscal Year 2016 impact for this program is \$38,033 which is a slight increase over the amount budgeted in FY 2015. The total salary impact on the FY 2016 Proposed Budget is \$207,960.

REGIONAL SCHOOL BUDGET

My Finance Team and I have always prided ourselves with the excellent relationship we have with the Administration of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD). The Municipal Government has always and will continue to work cooperatively with GDRSD to establish a budget that meets the needs of our children. This was evident last year in the Town's ability to help address a major budget deficit in the GDRSD Budget without negatively impacting the Municipal Budget. This strong relationship continues in Fiscal Year 2016. It had been the practice of setting aside a two and one half (2½%) percent increase in the Regional School Assessments as a placeholder to balance the budget. This is done because the School Department does not usually finalize their budget until March and the Town Manager is required to submit a balanced budget by December 31st. This year, thanks to the outstanding efforts of the School Committee, School Superintendent Kristan Rodriguez and Business Manager Jared Stanton, they started their budget process much earlier in an effort to provide the Town with a more realistic assessment for when the Town Manager is required to present the Proposed Operating Budget. This was done in conjunction with representatives from our Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and officials from Dunstable. The Regional School Committee has approved an operating assessment of \$17,097,405 or an additional \$575,598, which translates into an increase of 3.48%. With regard to the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, the NVRTHS School Committee has voted an assessment to the Town of Groton of \$596,609 or an additional \$23,834, or 4.16%.

The following is a breakdown of the proposed FY 2016 Town Operating Budget by function:

<u>Function</u>	<u>FY 2015 Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2016 Proposed</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
General Government	\$ 1,791,130	\$ 1,926,434	\$135,304	7.55%
Land Use Departments	\$ 407,038	\$ 422,912	\$ 15,874	3.90%
Protection Persons & Property	\$ 3,341,010	\$ 3,561,983	\$220,973	6.61%
Department of Public Works	\$ 2,042,784	\$ 2,094,007	\$ 51,223	2.51%
Library and Citizens Services	\$ 1,633,141	\$ 1,539,710	\$ (93,431)	-5.72%
Debt Service	\$ 1,418,721	\$ 1,383,590	\$ (35,131)	-2.48%
Employee Benefits	<u>\$ 3,171,724</u>	<u>\$ 3,507,389</u>	<u>\$335,665</u>	<u>10.58%</u>
Municipal Government Total	\$13,805,548	\$14,436,025	\$630,477	4.57%
Nashoba Technical High	\$ 572,775	\$ 596,609	\$ 23,834	4.16%
Groton Dunstable Operating	\$16,521,807	\$17,097,405	\$ 575,598	3.48%
Groton Dunstable Debt	<u>\$ 1,234,216</u>	<u>\$ 1,168,791</u>	<u>\$ (65,425)</u>	<u>-5.30%</u>
School Department Total	\$18,328,798	\$18,862,805	\$534,007	2.91%
TOTAL FY 2016 BUDGET	\$32,134,346	\$33,298,830	\$1,164,484	3.62%

There are a few issues that contribute to the proposed 4.57% increase in the Municipal Budget that should be noted. Some of these costs are out of the Town's control and there is no choice but to fund them in FY 2016, while others are areas where it is believed that the Town can improve the delivery of services. Please note the following increases:

Pepperell SRF Debt Service – Board of Selectmen Minor Capital	\$ 27,000
School Resource Officer – Police Department Budget	\$ 71,000
Sargisson Beach – Water Safety Budget	\$ 38,210
Health Insurance – Employee Benefits Budget	\$142,799
County Retirement – Employee Benefits Budget	<u>\$180,066</u>
Total	\$459,075 or 3.32% increase

The Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Operating Budget, including Regional School Assessments and excluded debt, is \$33,298,830 or an increase of 3.62%. This budget is one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars under the anticipated FY 2016 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 budget is \$36,136,348. The Fiscal Year 2015 Tax Rate has been certified at \$18.27. Based on the proposed Budget, the estimated Tax Rate in Fiscal Year 2016 is \$18.83, or an increase of \$0.56. In Fiscal Year 2015, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at \$400,000) is \$7,308. Under this proposed budget, that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$7,532 or an increase of \$224. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2015 and FY 2016:

	<u>Actual FY 2015</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2016</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$25,538,071	\$26,826,670*	\$1,288,599	5.05%*
Tax Rate On Levy Capacity	\$16.68	\$17.35	\$0.67	4.02%
Average Tax Bill	\$6,672	\$6,940	\$268	4.02%
Excluded Debt	\$2,433,390	\$2,290,932	\$(142,458)	-5.86%
Tax Rate On Excluded Debt	\$1.59	\$1.48	\$(0.11)	-6.92%
Average Tax Bill	\$636	\$592	\$(44)	-6.92%
Final Levy Used	\$27,971,461	\$29,117,602	\$1,146,141	4.10%
Final Tax Rate	\$18.27	\$18.83	\$0.56	3.07%
Average Tax Bill	\$7,308	\$7,532	\$224	3.07%

*Includes anticipated new growth of \$15 million.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, Town Accountant Patricia DuFresne, Town Treasurer/Collector Michael Hartnett, Principal Assessor Rena Swezey, 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 of Schools Kristan Rodriguez, Business Manager Jared Stanton and the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Committee was extremely important in developing a budget that allowed us to maintain services for our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad

Groton Town Manager

BUDGET REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2016

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Charter of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, the Finance Committee is pleased to submit for your consideration the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. The Finance Committee believes that this budget reflects the needs and priorities of the Town of Groton.

Budget Summary

The fiscal year 2016 proposed operating budget, including regional school district assessments and excluded debt, is \$33,298,830 or an increase of 3.6%. After adding in Capital Budget requests, Enterprise Funds and other appropriations, the total Municipal budget for fiscal year 2016 is \$36,181,124. This is a \$913,355 or 2.6% increase over fiscal year 2015. See below for additional information and further discussion on specific areas of the budget.

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>FY 2015</u> <i>(Actuals)</i>	<u>FY 2016</u> <i>(Proposed)</i>	<u>Inc/(Dec) \$</u> <i>2015-2016</i>	<u>Inc/(Dec) %</u> <i>2015-2016</i>
General Government	\$1,791,130	\$1,926,434	\$135,304	7.6%
Land Use Departments	\$407,038	\$422,912	\$15,874	3.9%
Protection of Persons and Property	\$3,341,010	\$3,561,983	\$220,973	6.6%
Department of Public Works	\$2,042,784	\$2,094,007	\$51,223	2.5%
Library and Citizen Services	\$1,633,141	\$1,539,710	\$(93,431)	(5.7%)
Debt	\$1,418,721	\$1,383,590	\$(35,131)	(2.5%)
Employee Benefits	\$3,171,724	\$3,507,389	\$335,665	10.6%
Sub-Total (Not Including Debt)	\$12,386,827	\$13,052,435	\$665,608	5.4%
Sub-Total Municipal Spending	\$13,805,548	\$14,436,025	\$630,477	4.6%
 GDRSD	 \$16,521,807	 \$17,097,405	 \$575,598	 3.5%
GDRSD Debt	\$1,234,216	\$1,168,791	\$(65,425)	(5.3%)
NVTHS	\$572,775	\$596,609	\$23,834	4.2%
Sub-Total School Expenses	\$18,328,798	\$18,862,805	\$534,007	2.9%
 Total Municipal Operating Budget	 \$32,134,346	 \$33,298,830	 \$1,164,484	 3.6%
 Additional Appropriations				
Capital Budget Request	\$635,190	\$404,145	\$(231,045)	(36.4%)
Enterprise Funds	\$1,924,762	\$1,925,157	\$395	0.0%
Other	\$555,027	\$508,216	\$(46,811)	(8.4%)
Sub-Total Additional Appropriations	\$3,114,979	\$2,837,518	\$(277,461)	(8.9%)
 Grand Total Appropriations	 \$35,249,325	 \$36,136,348	 \$887,023	 2.5%

For fiscal year 2016, total available revenues are budgeted to increase 3.3% from \$34,969,325 to \$36,136,348. This Includes the two and one half percent increase allowed by law and \$15 million in new growth. Other expected increases in revenue include a bump in state aid and \$100,000 in revenues from the local meals tax that town meeting approved last fall.

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>FY 2015</u> <i>(Actuals)</i>	<u>FY 2016</u> <i>(Proposed)</i>	<u>Inc/(Dec) \$</u> <i>2015-2016</i>	<u>Inc/(Dec) %</u> <i>2015-2016</i>
Property Tax	\$26,002,556	\$26,926,670	\$924,114	3.6%
State Aid	\$828,915	\$856,252	\$27,337	3.3%
Local Receipts	\$3,564,000	\$3,633,192	\$69,192	1.9%
Free Cash	\$150,000	\$-	\$(150,000)	(100.0%)
Other Available Funds	\$455,000	\$200,000	\$(255,000)	(56.0%)
Sub-Total Available Revenues	\$31,000,471	\$31,616,114	\$615,643	2.0%
Unexpended Tax Capacity	\$(464,488)	\$(100,000)	\$364,488	(78.5%)
Sub-Total Revenues	\$30,535,983	\$31,516,114	\$980,131	3.2%
Excluded Debt	\$2,433,390	\$2,290,932	\$(142,458)	(5.9%)
Stabilization Fund	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.0%
Capital Stabilization Fund	\$355,190	\$404,145	\$48,955	13.8%
Enterprise Funds	\$1,924,762	\$1,925,157	\$395	0.0%
Total Available Revenues	\$35,249,325	\$36,136,348	\$887,023	2.5%

The fiscal year 2015 Tax Rate has been certified at \$18.27. Based on the proposed Budget, the estimated Tax Rate in fiscal year 2016 is \$18.83, or an increase of \$0.56. In fiscal year 2015, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at \$400,000) is \$7,308. Under this proposed budget, that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$7,532 or an increase of \$224. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2015 and FY 2016:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY 2015</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2016</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$25,538,071	\$26,826,670*	\$1,288,599	5.05%*
Tax Rate On Levy Capacity	\$16.68	\$17.35	\$0.67	4.02%
Average Tax Bill	\$6,672	\$6,940	\$268	4.02%
Excluded Debt	\$2,433,390	\$2,290,932	\$(142,458)	-5.86%
Tax Rate On Excluded Debt	\$1.59	\$1.48	\$(0.11)	-6.92%
Average Tax Bill	\$636	\$592	\$(44)	-6.92%
Final Levy Used	\$27,971,461	\$29,117,602	\$1,146,141	4.10%
Final Tax Rate	\$18.27	\$18.83	\$0.56	3.07%
Average Tax Bill	\$7,308	\$7,532	\$224	3.07%

*Includes anticipated new growth of \$15 million.

Over the course of the budget cycle, as new information became available and projections became actuals, there were several minor adjustments made to the original budget submitted by the Town Manager. These changes are detailed in the appendix to this report.

Further Discussion of Selected Budget Areas

The proposed municipal operating budget (minus the schools) shows an increase of \$630,477 (4.6%) from \$13,805,548 to \$14,436,025. Some of these costs are of a contractual nature and require that we fund them in FY 2016, while other increases support improvements to the delivery of services to our students and citizens.

For a detailed explanation of the proposed budget, you should read the Town Manager's Budget Message and the budget itself as published in the Town of Groton Spring 2015 Town Meeting Warrant.

However, there are several areas in the fiscal year 2016 budget that the Finance Committee would like to highlight. These are areas that have had a greater impact on the overall budget.

Town Health Insurance

Nationally, insurance rates have been rising rapidly. Groton is not immune to this trend. The Minuteman Nashoba Health Group has increased the town's health insurance rates by 7.7%. Accounting for this rate increase as well as the potential for additional enrollment by existing town employees has led to an increase in the town health care budget of 9.98%. The impact in the proposed FY 2016 operating budget is \$142,799.

Middlesex County Pension Assessment

The town will see an 11% increase in our Middlesex County Pension assessment. The FY 2016 increase is largely attributable to new town employees whose state pension liability has temporarily transferred from their previous employment. The large increase in our assessment will be credited back in future years. For 2017, Groton's pension assessment has been set at 5.8% (below the system-wide target of 6.5%). The impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget is \$180,066.

School Resource Officer

The fiscal year 2016 operating budget contains funding for a school resource officer. The Massachusetts Task Force Report on School Safety and Security (July 2014) makes several recommendations including the recommendation that every secondary school in the commonwealth should have a school resource officer. This is the only new employee being added to the town's roles in fiscal year 2016. The impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget for this position is \$71,000 (including benefits).

Lost Lake Fire Protection

The 2013 Fall Town Meeting appropriated funding to develop a plan to address the shortage of water for firefighting purposes around Lost Lake. The resulting plan includes the installation of water mains, cisterns and dry hydrants. This project is expected to cost \$1.9 million. The impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget is \$42,750 for the first year of debt service.

Police and Fire Radio Upgrade Project

The Police Chief and Fire Chief have proposed a joint radio project to upgrade the town's radio system. This is a major upgrade. Currently the police and fire department radio systems are inadequate with major "dead" areas that are unacceptable and place personnel and citizens needlessly at risk. To fund the complete overhaul of the town's radio system, the town will seek to borrow \$650,000. The impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget is \$14,625 for the first year of debt service.

Sargisson Beach

The Sargisson Beach Committee was appointed by the Board of Selectman to develop an operating plan for the Sargisson Beach area. This was based on the desire of the Board of Selectmen to reopen Sargisson Beach to the community for the purpose of outdoor recreation. Although originally planned for fiscal year 2015, school budget issues caused funding to be withdrawn. As it is still a priority of the Board of Selectman, funding has been included in the fiscal year 2016 budget. The impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget to open the beach is \$35,570.

Groton Country Club

For the last several years, the Finance Committee has requested a more strategic approach to operating the Groton Country Club. When the General Manager retired in June 2014, a portion of his salary was used to bring in a consultant to review club operations and recommend improvements that would increase long-term viability.

Over the course of the year, the Town Manager worked to decrease operational expenses by combining the administrative assistant function at the Country Club with the Highway Administrative Assistant in order to eliminate a position from the town payroll.

Further, the club employed a General Manager (\$75,000) and a Golf Pro (\$25,000). Moving forward, the club will have a combined position of General Manager/Head Professional at a salary of \$65,000. This position will have responsibilities for operations and marketing of the club and its programs in addition to performing the duties of Golf Pro.

Lastly, the fiscal year 2015 budget included \$68,400 for the operation of the function hall. However, the town did not take in enough revenues to offset operating expenses. Starting this fiscal year, the town has leased out the function hall.

In fiscal year 2015, the Town appropriated \$550,000 for the Country Club. As a result of the Town Manager's focus on creating a sustainable operating model for the club, the projected fiscal year 2016 budget for the Country Club is \$380,503 with projected revenues of \$416,000. The impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget is to reduce the country clubs appropriation by \$124,960.

OPEB Liability Trust Fund

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) are benefits ***other than pensions*** that the town is responsible to provide after an employee has retired or left town service. For more information on OPEB, please see the Town Manager's Message as printed in the Town of Groton Spring 2015 Town Meeting Warrant. Based on the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) recommendations and discussions the town's finance team has had with credit rating agencies, the Finance Committee believes it is prudent to establish an "Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund". As allowed for by law, the Trust can be used to pay current retiree health insurance. For fiscal 2016, the budget uses any monies paid into the trust to pay current retiree liabilities resulting in no impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget.

Contractual Obligations to Town Employees

The Town Manager, in order to promote fiscal stability and provide predictability to the budgeting process, reached out to all town employee collective bargaining units (i.e. unions) and asked them to consider entering negotiations prior to the 2016 budgeting

cycle. All seven unions agreed to early collective bargaining that concluded successfully with new three-year agreements that run from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. The following shows the cost of each union agreement in FY 2016:

Groton Supervisors Union (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$13,383
Groton Patrolmen's Union (0% Adjustment in FY 2016 – 40 Hour Work Week)	\$55,201
Groton Superior Officers (0% Adjustment in FY 2016 – 40 Hour Work Week)	\$20,856
Groton Firefighters Association (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$10,578
Groton Communications Union (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$10,920
Groton Town Hall/Library Union (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$34,664
Groton DPW Union (2% Adjustment in FY 2016)	\$20,070
Total Cost	\$165,672

Regional School Districts

Due to the fact that the districts do not finalize their budgets until March, it has been the practice of the Town Manager to prepare his budget assuming a 2.5% increase in assessments. This allows him to present a balanced budget in December as required by the Town Charter.

This year, the GDRSD School Committee shared budgeting information much earlier in the process with a board of people that have been meeting regularly to discuss the financial status of the district. The board consists of representatives from Groton including the Town Manager, a member of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee as well as similar officials from the Town of Dunstable. This was very much appreciated and resulted in more accuracy in the Town Manager's budget proposal.

At the conclusion of the district's budgeting process, the GDRSD School Committee approved Groton's assessment at \$17,097,405. This final number was very close to the number that was communicated early on and translates into an increase of 3.48%. The impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget is \$575,598.

Due to flat enrollment numbers for Groton students, the Nashoba Valley Technical High School (NVTHS) School Committee voted an assessment to the Town of Groton of \$596,609, which translates to an increase of 4.16% in fiscal year 2016. The impact to the proposed FY 2016 operating budget is \$23,834 for Groton's share of the total assessment.

The Town Manager, Board of Selectman and Finance Committee will continue to work closely with our regional school districts to make sure they have the resources required to effectively educate our students.

Areas of Focus for Future Year Budgets

There has been a lot of discussion in town regarding the growth in the municipal budget. The Finance Committee would like to thank the citizens of the town who have taken the time to work with us to explore contributing factors.

It is important to understand that the town is in solid financial shape. This viewpoint has been validated over and over again as Standard and Poor's upgraded the town's bond rating to AA in 2010, AA+ in 2013 and to AAA in 2014. During the 2013 upgrade, the press release stated the following:

"The upgrade follows a review of the town's financial policies and practices, which we have determined are strong, well embedded, and likely sustainable," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Victor Medeiros.

The 2013 and 2014 upgrades were based on several factors including:

- Primarily residential tax base, with access to jobs in and around the deep and diverse Boston employment base; (2013)
- Very strong wealth and incomes and low unemployment; (2013)
- Stable budgetary performance and strong financial reserves; and (2013)
- A moderate overall net debt burden, low debt service carrying charge, and manageable long-term liabilities. (2013)
- Strong budgetary flexibility with fiscal 2013 available reserves of 12.9% of general fund expenditures; (2014)
- Strong budgetary performance with operating surpluses in each of the past three fiscal years; (2014)
- Very strong liquidity, providing very strong cash to cover debt service and expenditures; (2014)
- Very strong management conditions with "strong" financial management policies under our Financial Management Assessment (FMA) methodology; (2014)
- Very strong debt and contingent liabilities, supported by low overall net debt as a percent of market value. (2014)

In addition, the Town's financial management practices have recently been reviewed by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue – Division of Local Services. The conclusion written in the March 2014 report titled "Financial Management Review Update" states:

Among the many municipalities where the DLS Technical Assistance Section has provided its services, the Town of Groton stands out. Achievements began when voters recognized the merits of professional management in government and adopted the town's first charter. Local leaders, working with the new town manager, acted decisively to create continuity in government. They in addition addressed critical needs by proposing new IT director and human resources director positions, both of which were accepted by town meeting. Finance department managers have been receptive to new ideas and have implemented change in ways that have increased efficiencies in their respective department.

We do not often see communities where voters, town meeting members, local leaders, the town manager and department heads are as uniformly receptive to new approaches for improving municipal government as in Groton. The process, however, is ongoing. We, therefore, encourage town officials to continue working toward continuity and stability in municipal government.

So if Standard and Poor's and Massachusetts Department of Revenue – Division of Local Services both believe that Groton is in strong shape, does the Finance Committee have any concerns? The answer is yes, we do.

Looking at the numbers below, it becomes apparent that there are a limited set of financial levers to use to limit the growth of the Town's operating budget. Groton is not unique in that companies, organizations and government entities of every shape and type are all struggling with the same growth patterns in wages, salaries and benefits.

The total of wages, salaries and benefits for the Town of Groton accounts for just under 80% of the municipal operating budget (not including debt). Whereas the overall operating budget is growing at 5.4%, wages, salaries and benefits is growing at 7%. In fact, the rest of the budget decreased from fiscal year 2015 to 2016.

There are no obvious answers to these trends, but the finance committee is committed to working with the Town Manager, the town's finance team, the Board of Selectman and concerned citizens to look for possible ways to decrease the rate of growth in the town's allocation for wages, salaries and benefits.

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>FY 2015</u> <i>(Actuals)</i>	<u>FY 2016</u> <i>(Proposed)</i>	<u>Inc/(Dec) \$</u> <i>2015-2016</i>	<u>Inc/(Dec) %</u> <i>2015-2016</i>
Wages and Salaries	\$6,500,891	\$6,500,891		
Union Contracts		\$165,672	\$165,672	2.5%
New Hire		\$71,000	\$71,000	1.1%
Other Increases (Merit, hrs, etc...)		\$100,002	\$100,002	1.5%
Total Wages and Salaries	\$6,500,891	\$6,837,565	\$336,674	5.2%
Health/Life/Unemp. Insurance	\$1,580,701	\$1,736,300	\$155,599	9.8%
County Retirement	\$1,591,023	\$1,771,089	\$180,066	11.3%
Total Employee Benefits	\$3,171,724	\$3,507,389	\$335,665	10.6%
Total Wages, Salaries and Benefits	\$9,672,615	\$10,344,954	\$672,339	7.0%
Percentage of Municipal Budget	78.1%	79.3%	101%	
Other				
Country Club	\$262,650	\$127,239	\$(135,411)	(51.6%)
Sargisson Beach	\$950	\$35,570	\$34,620	3644.2%
Other	\$2,450,612	\$2,544,672	\$94,060	3.8%
Total Other	\$2,714,212	\$2,707,481	\$(6,731)	(0.2%)
Total Municipal Expenses (No Debt)	\$12,386,827	\$13,052,435	\$665,608	5.4%

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Process

The Finance Committee, as required by the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, always operates in posted open public meetings. However, those meetings are often sparsely attended. As a result, we feel it is important to outline the process that was undertaken to arrive at the budget that you have before you.

The 2016 fiscal year budget cycle started in early November of 2014 when the Town Manager met with department heads to review the budgeting process and provide spending guidelines. The process continued throughout November as department heads assessed priorities, evaluated spending levels and submitted individual departmental budgets.

In December of 2014, the Town Manager held multiple daylong meetings with participation by his finance team, department heads and individual Finance Committee members. In compliance with Article 6, Section 6-2, the Town Manager, submitted the proposed 2016 Operating Budget along with accompanying budget message and supporting documents on December 31, 2014.

Town Charter: Article 6, Section 6-2: Submission of Budget and Budget Message

"Within the time fixed by by-law, but not later than December 31 of the year immediately preceding the year in which the next spring town meeting is to convene, the town manager, after consultation with the board of selectmen, shall submit to the finance committee a proposed, balanced, operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year with an accompanying budget message and supporting documents. The town manager shall simultaneously provide for the publication of a general summary of the proposed budget in a local newspaper and the town's website. The summary shall specifically indicate any major variations from the current operating budget and the reason for such changes. The notice shall further indicate the times and places at which the complete copies of the proposed operating budget are available for examination by the public."

On January 5th, there was a joint session in open public meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, the Town Manager and his finance team for a formal presentation of the proposed budget.

Following the presentation of the budget, as has become tradition, the Finance Committee held a daylong Saturday open public meeting on February 7th (after a two week snow delay), in joint session with the Board of Selectmen, to begin an in depth analysis of each department's budget. This meeting provides the opportunity for the Town Manager, his finance team and department heads to thoroughly explain the proposed budget.

Throughout February and March, the Finance Committee assigned departmental liaisons to meet individually with department heads. Since January, the Finance Committee, as a whole, has met in open public meetings at least eight times. During these meetings we reviewed departmental as well as various town committee's budget requests including detailed discussions with regard to salaries, wages and expenditures (with more meetings anticipated leading up to Town Meeting). However, it should be noted that the Finance Committee had no input to the wage negotiations.

Town Charter: Article 6, Section 6-5: Action on the Budget

"The finance committee shall, upon receipt of the budget from the town manager, consider in public meetings detailed expenditures for each town department and agency and may confer with representatives of each town agency in connection with its review and consideration. The finance committee may require the town manager, or any town

agency, to furnish it with additional information as it may deem necessary to assist it in its review and consideration of the proposed budget. The finance committee shall file with the town clerk, at least 14 days before to the first session of spring town meeting, a report containing its proposed budget and its comments or recommendations regarding differences between its proposed budget and the budget submitted by the town manager. The report shall also be made available to voters of the town by publication on the town's website and by leaving copies of the report at least 3 public places in the town at least 14 days before the first session of spring town meeting. Additionally, copies of the report shall be made available to voters at the first session of spring town meeting. The failure to timely file the budget report with the town clerk or to publicize the report by posting on the town's website or in 3 public places in the town shall not prohibit the town meeting from voting on the budget nor shall it affect the validity of any vote taken thereon at town meeting.

The finance committee's proposed annual town budget shall be presented to the town meeting by motions made by the finance committee, which shall also present its comments and recommendations with respect to the budget. The town manager or the board of selectmen, or both, shall also present their comments and recommendations, if any, at the town meeting with respect to the budget. The budget shall be voted upon in accordance with the by-laws."

The Committee has worked hard over the last three months with the Town Manager, his finance team, the Board of Selectman and other town committees. The end result is a budget that we believe deserves broad support.

However, the committee did not recommend one item, Article 30, CPC Proposal B – Conservation Fund. Through vigorous discussion in two separate meeting, there were numerous concerns voiced by members of the Finance Committee including:

- The lack of a specific project or proposal for the use of the money.
- The downward trend in state matching funds in concert with the upcoming Spring 2015 Town meeting vote on additional CPC projects that may lead to the depletion of CPC funds available for potential future projects.
- This request ties up town monies by transferring \$200,000 to the Town's Conservation Fund, which can only be used to purchase new land for conservation.
- Concerns about the ability to fund maintenance of existing Conservation Committee owned properties.
- A lack of clear priorities and criteria from the Conservation Committee with regard to how they determine if they should spend town money on a property.
 - The Conservation Committee points to the priorities listed in the Town of Groton's Master Plan.
 - The Finance Committee does not consider the Master Plan a suitable alternative to clearly documented priorities and criteria from the Conservation Committee.
 - Equally concerning, when asked to define the Conservation Committee's goals with respect to land purchases, the answer offered was that they will reach their goal when all undeveloped land is either developed or put into conservation.
- Each year, the town expends \$480,000 for the Surrenden Farm Land Acquisition, which is a piece of property that is under conservation restriction.

The Finance Committee understands that the addition of this \$200,000 to the Conservation Fund would bring the fund into the recommended range of ~\$750,000. We also appreciate the

character of the Town of Groton and support purchases of land when presented with a compelling reason. In our opinion, we are being asked to simply trust the Conservation Commission to determine when they want to spend Groton citizen's money by providing the funds up front with no clearly defined priorities or guidelines.

Closing Words

Overall, the Finance Committee believes this process has been thorough leading to a budget that reflects the needs as well as the priorities of the town. That said, the Finance Committee is eager to participate in the upcoming Charter Review process to strengthen the fiscal checks and balances and to refine the role of the Finance Committee in the process of fiscally managing the town's budget.

Now, it is up to the voters to decide and ultimately approve the budget for the Town of Groton through their vote at Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee would like to thank the Town Manager, his finance team, the Board of Selectman, various town committee members and members of the public who spent many long, hard hours assembling this budget for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Green

Robert Hargraves

Mark Bacon

David Manugian

Barry Pease

Art Prest

Bud Robertson

Town of Groton Finance Committee

			TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2016 REVENUE ESTIMATES		
			BUDGETED FY 2015	ESTIMATED FY 2016	CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE			\$ 26,002,556	\$ 26,926,670	\$ 924,114
DEBT EXCLUSIONS			\$ 2,433,390	\$ 2,290,932	\$ (142,458)
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID			\$ 828,915	\$ 856,252	\$ 27,337
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY			\$ (464,488)	\$ -	\$ 464,488
LOCAL RECEIPTS:					
General Revenue:					
	Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes		\$ 1,375,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 25,000
	Meals Tax		\$ 40,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000
	Penalties & Interest on Taxes		\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ -
	Payments in Lieu of Taxes		\$ 190,000	\$ 230,000	\$ 40,000
	Other Charges for Services		\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ -
	Fees		\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$ -
	Rentals		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
	Library Revenues		\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -
	Other Departmental Revenue		\$ 575,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 25,000
	Licenses and Permits		\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	\$ -
	Fines and Forfeits		\$ 22,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 8,000
	Investment Income		\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000
	Recreation Revenues		\$ 510,000	\$ 416,192	\$ (93,808)
	Miscellaneous Non-Recurring		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-total - General Revenue			\$ 3,564,000	\$ 3,633,192	\$ 69,192
Other Revenue:					
	Free Cash		\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ (150,000)
	Stabilization Fund for Minor Capital		\$ -		\$ -
	Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief		\$ -		\$ -
	Capital Asset Stabilization Fund		\$ 355,190	\$ 404,145	\$ 48,955
	EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve		\$ 175,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 25,000
	Community Preservation Funds		\$ -		\$ -
	Water Department Surplus		\$ -		\$ -
	Sewer Department Surplus		\$ -		\$ -
	Insurance Reimbursements		\$ -		\$ -
	Encumbrances		\$ -		\$ -
Sub-total - Other Revenue			\$ 680,190	\$ 604,145	\$ (76,045)
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE			\$ 979,622	\$ 997,545	\$ 17,923
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE			\$ 673,166	\$ 662,154	\$ (11,012)
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE			\$ 271,974	\$ 265,458	\$ (6,516)
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE			\$ 34,969,325	\$ 36,236,348	\$ 1,267,023

TOWN OF GROTON		
FISCAL YEAR 2016		
TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS		
FY 2016 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		
Finance Committee's Proposed Budget		
General Government	\$	1,926,434
Land Use Departments	\$	422,912
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	3,561,983
Regional School Districts	\$	18,862,805
Department of Public Works	\$	2,094,007
Library and Citizen Services	\$	1,539,710
Debt Service	\$	1,383,590
Employee Benefits	\$	3,507,389
A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS		\$ 33,298,830
B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS		\$ 404,145
C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS		\$ 1,925,157
D. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REQUEST		
OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED		
1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes	\$	-
2. Debt and interest charges not included	\$	-
3. Final court judgments	\$	-
4. Total Overlay deficits of prior years	\$	1,000
5. Total cherry sheet offsets	\$	20,000
6. Revenue deficits	\$	-
7. Offset Receipts	\$	-
8. Authorized deferral of Teachers' Pay	\$	-
9. Snow and Ice deficit	\$	155,224
10. Other		
E. TOTAL OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED		\$ 176,224
F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES		\$ 106,992
G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS		\$ 225,000
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$ 36,136,348
FY 2016 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		
ESTIMATED TAX LEVY		
Levy Limit	\$	26,926,670
Debt Exclusion	\$	2,290,932
A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY		\$ 29,217,602
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		\$ 856,252
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED		\$ 3,633,192
D. OFFSET RECEIPTS		\$ -
E. ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$ 1,925,157
F. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS		\$ -
G. FREE CASH		\$ -
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS		
1. Stabilization Fund		
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	404,145
3. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	200,000
G. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$ 604,145
TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		\$ 36,236,348
FY 2016 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		\$ 100,000

APPENDIX A			TOWN OF GROTON					
			FISCAL YEAR 2016					
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				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
FINANCE COMMITTEE								
1040	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	0.00%	\$ 33.02	0.44%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	0.00%	\$ 33.02	0.44%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT								
1050	Salaries	\$ 70,227	\$ 73,064	\$ 81,539	\$ 81,539	11.60%	\$ 17.95	0.24%
1051	Wages	\$ 31,779	\$ 39,135	\$ 40,950	\$ 40,950	4.64%	\$ 9.02	0.12%
1052	Expenses	\$ 30,514	\$ 30,560	\$ 35,610	\$ 35,610	16.52%	\$ 7.84	0.10%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 132,520	\$ 142,759	\$ 158,099	\$ 158,099	10.75%	\$ 34.81	0.46%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS								
1060	Salaries	\$ 80,137	\$ 83,246	\$ 84,847	\$ 84,847	1.92%	\$ 18.68	0.25%
1061	Wages	\$ 85,640	\$ 87,696	\$ 94,130	\$ 94,130	7.34%	\$ 20.72	0.28%
1062	Expenses	\$ 11,305	\$ 18,250	\$ 23,475	\$ 23,475	28.63%	\$ 5.17	0.07%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 177,082	\$ 189,192	\$ 202,452	\$ 202,452	7.01%	\$ 44.57	0.60%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR								
1070	Salaries	\$ 77,719	\$ 79,273	\$ 82,476	\$ 82,476	4.04%	\$ 18.16	0.24%
1071	Wages	\$ 111,277	\$ 96,125	\$ 100,742	\$ 100,742	4.80%	\$ 22.18	0.29%
1072	Expenses	\$ 19,353	\$ 18,774	\$ 20,530	\$ 20,530	9.35%	\$ 4.52	0.06%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 4,132	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	-25.00%	\$ 0.99	0.01%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	20.00%	\$ 0.66	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 214,981	\$ 202,672	\$ 211,248	\$ 211,248	4.23%	\$ 46.51	0.61%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	TOWN COUNSEL							
1080	Expenses	\$ 79,663	\$ 75,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	20.00%	\$ 19.81	0.26%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 79,663	\$ 75,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	20.00%	\$ 19.81	0.26%
	HUMAN RESOURCES							
1090	Salary	\$ 56,599	\$ 71,396	\$ 70,359	\$ 70,359	-1.45%	\$ 15.49	0.21%
1091	Expenses	\$ 4,444	\$ 4,450	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	58.43%	\$ 1.55	0.02%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 61,043	\$ 75,846	\$ 77,409	\$ 77,409	2.06%	\$ 17.04	0.23%
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
1100	Salary	\$ 115,080	\$ 121,618	\$ 125,248	\$ 125,248	2.98%	\$ 27.58	0.37%
1101	Wages	\$ 33,224	\$ 44,538	\$ 46,158	\$ 46,158	3.64%	\$ 10.16	0.13%
1102	Expenses	\$ 23,621	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	0.00%	\$ 5.46	0.07%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 171,925	\$ 190,956	\$ 196,206	\$ 196,206	2.75%	\$ 43.20	0.57%
	GIS STEERING COMMITTEE							
1120	Expenses	\$ 13,040	\$ 15,100	\$ 15,100	\$ 15,100	0.00%	\$ 3.32	0.04%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 13,040	\$ 15,100	\$ 15,100	\$ 15,100	0.00%	\$ 3.32	0.04%
	TOWN CLERK							
1130	Salaries	\$ 68,867	\$ 71,649	\$ 74,544	\$ 74,544	4.04%	\$ 16.41	0.22%
1131	Wages	\$ 48,574	\$ 53,041	\$ 51,930	\$ 51,930	-2.09%	\$ 11.44	0.15%
1132	Expenses	\$ 5,903	\$ 9,520	\$ 11,870	\$ 11,870	24.68%	\$ 2.61	0.03%
1133	Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 123,344	\$ 134,210	\$ 138,344	\$ 138,344	3.08%	\$ 30.46	0.40%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS								
1140	Stipend	\$ 3,768	\$ 10,050	\$ 7,880	\$ 7,880	-21.59%	\$ 1.74	0.02%
1141	Expenses	\$ 12,527	\$ 12,014	\$ 9,903	\$ 9,903	-17.57%	\$ 2.18	0.03%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 16,295	\$ 22,064	\$ 17,783	\$ 17,783	-19.40%	\$ 3.92	0.05%
STREET LISTINGS								
1150	Expenses	\$ 5,195	\$ 5,850	\$ 6,275	\$ 6,275	7.26%	\$ 1.38	0.02%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 5,195	\$ 5,850	\$ 6,275	\$ 6,275	7.26%	\$ 1.38	0.02%
INSURANCE & BONDING								
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 132,863	\$ 143,000	\$ 181,000	\$ 181,000	26.57%	\$ 39.86	0.53%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ 4,429	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0.00%	\$ 2.64	0.04%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 21,060	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	0.00%	\$ 5.50	0.07%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 158,352	\$ 180,000	\$ 218,000	\$ 218,000	21.11%	\$ 48.00	0.64%
TOWN REPORT								
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.33	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.33	0.00%

		FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	AVERAGE TAX BILL	PERCENT OF TAX BILL
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION							
	POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES							
1180	Expenses	\$ 46,903	\$ 53,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	3.77%	\$ 12.11	0.16%
1181	Telephone Expenses	\$ 40,872	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	0.00%	\$ 11.01	0.15%
1182	Office Supplies	\$ 16,870	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	0.00%	\$ 3.75	0.06%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 104,645	\$ 120,000	\$ 122,000	\$ 122,000	1.67%	\$ 26.87	0.37%
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 1,539,430	\$ 1,791,130	\$ 1,926,434	\$ 1,926,434	7.55%	\$ 424.13	5.63%
	LAND USE DEPARTMENTS							
	CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
1200	Salary	\$ 62,044	\$ 61,384	\$ 63,551	\$ 63,551	3.53%	\$ 13.99	0.19%
1201	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1202	Expenses	\$ 3,126	\$ 7,950	\$ 7,950	\$ 7,950	0.00%	\$ 1.75	0.02%
1203	Engineering & Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1204	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 65,170	\$ 69,334	\$ 71,501	\$ 71,501	3.13%	\$ 15.74	0.21%
	PLANNING BOARD							
1210	Salaries	\$ 76,215	\$ 80,788	\$ 82,358	\$ 82,358	1.94%	\$ 18.14	0.24%
1211	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1212	Expenses	\$ 7,531	\$ 8,100	\$ 8,100	\$ 8,100	0.00%	\$ 1.78	0.02%
1213	M.R.P.C. Assessment	\$ 3,159	\$ 3,160	\$ 3,320	\$ 3,320	5.06%	\$ 0.73	0.01%
1214	Legal Budget	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 86,905	\$ 92,048	\$ 93,778	\$ 93,778	1.88%	\$ 20.65	0.27%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS								
1220	Wages	\$ 20,034	\$ 18,267	\$ 18,467	\$ 18,467	1.09%	\$ 4.07	0.05%
1221	Expenses	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	0.00%	\$ 0.31	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 21,104	\$ 19,667	\$ 19,867	\$ 19,867	1.02%	\$ 4.38	0.05%
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION								
1230	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1231	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
BUILDING INSPECTOR								
1240	Salaries	\$ 76,195	\$ 79,273	\$ 80,858	\$ 80,858	2.00%	\$ 17.80	0.24%
1241	Wages	\$ 59,818	\$ 62,578	\$ 65,486	\$ 65,486	4.65%	\$ 14.42	0.19%
1242	Expenses	\$ 4,648	\$ 7,900	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	-17.72%	\$ 1.43	0.02%
1243	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 140,661	\$ 149,751	\$ 152,844	\$ 152,844	2.07%	\$ 33.65	0.45%
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR								
1250	Fee Salaries	\$ 21,480	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	25.00%	\$ 5.50	0.07%
1251	Expenses	\$ 4,445	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	42.86%	\$ 1.10	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 25,925	\$ 23,500	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	27.66%	\$ 6.60	0.08%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR								
1260	Stipend	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1261	Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
1262	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 100	\$ 101	\$ 101	\$ 101	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
BOARD OF HEALTH								
1270	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1271	Expenses	\$ 847	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	-13.04%	\$ 0.22	0.00%
1272	Nursing Services	\$ -	\$ 10,021	\$ 10,273	\$ 10,273	2.51%	\$ 2.26	0.04%
1273	Nashoba Health District	\$ 31,943	\$ 22,366	\$ 22,948	\$ 22,948	2.60%	\$ 5.05	0.08%
1274	Mental Health	\$ -	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	23.08%	\$ 1.76	0.02%
1275	Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0.00%	\$ 2.20	0.03%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 42,790	\$ 50,037	\$ 52,221	\$ 52,221	4.36%	\$ 11.49	0.17%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES								
1280	Fee Salaries	\$ 1,460	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%	\$ 0.56	0.01%
1281	Expenses	\$ 66	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.00%	\$ 0.02	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,526	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	0.00%	\$ 0.58	0.01%
TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 384,181	\$ 407,038	\$ 422,912	\$ 422,912	3.90%	\$ 93.11	1.24%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</u>							
	POLICE DEPARTMENT							
1300	Salaries	\$ 275,298	\$ 284,676	\$ 296,814	\$ 296,814	4.26%	\$ 65.35	0.87%
1301	Wages	\$ 1,465,476	\$ 1,492,580	\$ 1,613,910	\$ 1,613,910	8.13%	\$ 355.32	4.72%
1302	Expenses	\$ 184,601	\$ 176,171	\$ 190,600	\$ 190,600	8.19%	\$ 41.96	0.56%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.00%	\$ 0.88	0.01%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 14,378	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0.00%	\$ 2.20	0.03%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,943,653	\$ 1,967,427	\$ 2,115,324	\$ 2,115,324	7.52%	\$ 465.71	6.19%
	FIRE DEPARTMENT							
1310	Salaries	\$ 123,171	\$ 108,912	\$ 98,880	\$ 98,880	-9.21%	\$ 21.77	0.29%
1311	Wages	\$ 675,249	\$ 651,016	\$ 685,676	\$ 685,676	5.32%	\$ 150.96	2.00%
1312	Expenses	\$ 133,066	\$ 128,059	\$ 148,000	\$ 148,000	15.57%	\$ 32.58	0.43%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 931,486	\$ 887,987	\$ 932,556	\$ 932,556	5.02%	\$ 205.31	2.72%
	GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION							
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ 750	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ 2,500	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 3,250	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 2	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	ANIMAL INSPECTOR							
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.00%	\$ 0.46	0.01%
1331	Expenses	\$ 186	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.00%	\$ 0.09	0.00%
							.	
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,268	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER							
1340	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.00%	\$ 0.46	0.01%
1341	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.00%	\$ 0.09	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%
	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY							
1350	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1351	Expenses	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,650	\$ 14,650	12.69%	\$ 3.23	0.04%
1352	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,650	\$ 14,650	12.69%	\$ 3.23	0.04%
	DOG OFFICER							
1360	Salary	\$ 10,400	\$ 13,973	\$ 13,973	\$ 13,973	0.00%	\$ 3.07	0.04%
1361	Expenses	\$ 3,655	\$ 4,250	\$ 4,250	\$ 4,250	0.00%	\$ 0.94	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 14,055	\$ 18,223	\$ 18,223	\$ 18,223	0.00%	\$ 4.01	0.05%
	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS							
1370	Wages	\$ 223,185	\$ 436,182	\$ 462,014	\$ 462,014	5.92%	\$ 101.71	1.35%
1371	Expenses	\$ 12,637	\$ 13,225	\$ 14,250	\$ 14,250	7.75%	\$ 3.14	0.04%
1372	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 235,822	\$ 449,407	\$ 476,264	\$ 476,264	5.98%	\$ 104.85	1.39%
	TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY	\$ 3,145,616	\$ 3,341,010	\$ 3,561,983	\$ 3,561,983	6.61%	\$ 784.21	10.41%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
	<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</u>							
	NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL							
1400	Operating Expenses	\$ 468,592	\$ 572,775	\$ 596,609	\$ 596,609	4.16%	\$ 131.35	1.74%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 468,592	\$ 572,775	\$ 596,609	\$ 596,609	4.16%	\$ 131.35	1.74%
	GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT							
1410	Operating Expenses	\$ 15,118,999	\$ 16,521,807	\$ 17,097,405	\$ 17,097,405	3.48%	\$ 3,764.20	49.98%
1411	Debt Service, Excluded	\$ 1,237,704	\$ 1,211,301	\$ 1,118,387	\$ 1,118,387	-7.67%	\$ 246.23	3.27%
1412	Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$ -	\$ 22,915	\$ 50,404	\$ 50,404	0.00%	\$ 11.09	0.15%
1413	Out of District Placement	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 16,356,704	\$ 17,756,023	\$ 18,266,196	\$ 18,266,196	2.87%	\$ 4,021.52	53.40%
	TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$ 16,825,296	\$ 18,328,798	\$ 18,862,805	\$ 18,862,805	2.91%	\$ 4,152.87	55.14%
	<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</u>							
	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT							
1500	Salaries	\$ 88,394	\$ 92,809	\$ 96,498	\$ 96,498	3.97%	\$ 21.25	0.28%
1501	Wages	\$ 603,918	\$ 605,341	\$ 620,989	\$ 620,989	2.58%	\$ 136.71	1.82%
1502	Expenses	\$ 167,927	\$ 127,300	\$ 134,300	\$ 134,300	5.50%	\$ 29.57	0.39%
1503	Highway Maintenance	\$ 85,640	\$ 89,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	6.74%	\$ 20.92	0.28%
1504	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 945,879	\$ 914,450	\$ 946,787	\$ 946,787	3.54%	\$ 208.45	2.77%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
STREET LIGHTS								
1510	Expenses	\$ 17,800	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0.00%	\$ 5.28	0.07%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 17,800	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0.00%	\$ 5.28	0.07%
SNOW AND ICE								
1520	Expenses	\$ 174,503	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	0.00%	\$ 36.33	0.48%
1521	Overtime	\$ 314,315	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.00%	\$ 30.82	0.41%
1522	Hired Equipment	\$ 72,910	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	0.00%	\$ 7.71	0.10%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 561,728	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	0.00%	\$ 74.86	0.99%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET								
1530	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1531	Expenses	\$ 316	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.00%	\$ 0.66	0.01%
1532	Trees	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%	\$ 0.33	0.00%
1533	Tree Work	\$ 9,729	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	-33.33%	\$ 2.20	0.03%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 10,045	\$ 19,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	-25.64%	\$ 3.19	0.04%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE								
1540	Wages	\$ 75,099	\$ 81,180	\$ 84,728	\$ 84,728	4.37%	\$ 18.65	0.25%
1541	Expenses	\$ 235,649	\$ 272,350	\$ 272,350	\$ 272,350	0.00%	\$ 59.96	0.80%
1542	Minor Capital	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0.00%	\$ 4.40	0.06%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 350,748	\$ 373,530	\$ 377,078	\$ 377,078	0.95%	\$ 83.01	1.11%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL								
1550	Wages	\$ 87,454	\$ 119,820	\$ 124,305	\$ 124,305	3.74%	\$ 27.37	0.36%
1551	Expenses	\$ 54,105	\$ 54,486	\$ 54,486	\$ 54,486	0.00%	\$ 12.00	0.16%
1552	Tipping Fees	\$ 134,458	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	0.00%	\$ 29.71	0.39%
1553	North Central SW Coop	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	0.00%	\$ 1.29	0.02%
1554	Minor Capital	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	0.00%	\$ 1.10	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 291,867	\$ 320,156	\$ 324,641	\$ 324,641	1.40%	\$ 71.47	0.94%
PARKS DEPARTMENT								
1560	Wages	\$ 1,957	\$ 2,540	\$ 2,659	\$ 2,659	4.69%	\$ 0.59	0.01%
1561	Expenses	\$ 39,106	\$ 48,608	\$ 64,342	\$ 64,342	32.37%	\$ 14.17	0.19%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 41,063	\$ 51,148	\$ 67,001	\$ 67,001	30.99%	\$ 14.76	0.20%
	TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 2,219,130	\$ 2,042,784	\$ 2,094,007	\$ 2,094,007	2.51%	\$ 461.02	6.12%
	<u>LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES</u>							
COUNCIL ON AGING								
1600	Salaries	\$ 59,800	\$ 66,586	\$ 68,597	\$ 68,597	0.00%	\$ 15.10	0.20%
1601	Wages	\$ 47,365	\$ 50,122	\$ 65,208	\$ 65,208	30.10%	\$ 14.36	0.19%
1602	Expenses	\$ 6,038	\$ 8,454	\$ 8,454	\$ 8,454	0.00%	\$ 1.86	0.02%
1603	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 113,203	\$ 129,162	\$ 142,259	\$ 142,259	10.14%	\$ 31.32	0.41%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
SENIOR CENTER VAN								
1610	Wages	\$ 34,387	\$ 56,806	\$ 58,104	\$ 58,104	2.28%	\$ 12.79	0.17%
1611	Expenses	\$ 10,749	\$ 17,913	\$ 17,673	\$ 17,673	-1.34%	\$ 3.89	0.05%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 45,136	\$ 74,719	\$ 75,777	\$ 75,777	1.42%	\$ 16.68	0.22%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER								
1620	Salary	\$ 3,484	\$ 3,485	\$ 3,485	\$ 3,485	0.00%	\$ 0.77	0.01%
1621	Expenses	\$ 237	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	0.00%	\$ 0.20	0.00%
1622	Veterans' Benefits	\$ 38,866	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	0.00%	\$ 11.01	0.15%
1623	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$ 42,587	\$ 54,385	\$ 54,385	\$ 54,385	0.00%	\$ 11.98	0.16%
GRAVES REGISTRATION								
1630	Salary/Stipend	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	0.00%	\$ 0.06	0.00%
1631	Expenses	\$ 660	\$ 660	\$ 660	\$ 660	0.00%	\$ 0.15	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 910	\$ 910	\$ 910	\$ 910	0.00%	\$ 0.21	0.00%
CARE OF VETERAN GRAVES								
1640	Contract Expenses	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	0.00%	\$ 0.34	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	0.00%	\$ 0.34	0.00%
OLD BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE								
1650	Expenses	\$ 692	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700	0.00%	\$ 0.15	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 692	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700	0.00%	\$ 0.15	0.00%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
LIBRARY								
1660	Salary	\$ 280,796	\$ 333,198	\$ 346,861	\$ 346,861	4.10%	\$ 76.37	1.01%
1661	Wages	\$ 324,309	\$ 279,707	\$ 289,138	\$ 289,138	3.37%	\$ 63.66	0.85%
1662	Expenses	\$ 189,225	\$ 198,335	\$ 202,532	\$ 202,532	2.12%	\$ 44.59	0.59%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ 2,350	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 796,680	\$ 811,240	\$ 838,531	\$ 838,531	3.36%	\$ 184.62	2.45%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS								
1670	Expenses	\$ 448	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.00%	\$ 0.11	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 448	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.00%	\$ 0.11	0.00%
WATER SAFETY								
1680	Wages	\$ 1,576	\$ 2,640	\$ 2,640	\$ 2,640	0.00%	\$ 0.58	0.01%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ 10,663	\$ 950	\$ 26,570	\$ 26,570	2696.84%	\$ 5.85	0.09%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	0.00%	\$ 1.98	0.03%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 12,239	\$ 3,590	\$ 38,210	\$ 38,210	964.35%	\$ 8.41	0.13%
WEED MANAGEMENT								
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 3,748	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.00%	\$ 0.88	0.01%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ 417	\$ 2,385	\$ 2,385	\$ 2,385	0.00%	\$ 0.53	0.01%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 4,165	\$ 6,385	\$ 6,385	\$ 6,385	0.00%	\$ 1.41	0.02%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
		FY 2014	FY 2015	TOWN MANAGER	FINCOM	PERCENT	AVERAGE	PERCENT OF
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE	TAX BILL	TAX BILL
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB								
1700	Salary	\$ 131,026	\$ 133,150	\$ 129,781	\$ 129,781	-2.53%	\$ 28.57	0.38%
1701	Wages	\$ 130,022	\$ 154,200	\$ 123,483	\$ 123,483	-19.92%	\$ 27.19	0.36%
1702	Expenses	\$ 331,031	\$ 257,650	\$ 127,239	\$ 127,239	-50.62%	\$ 28.00	0.37%
1703	Minor Capital	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%	\$ -	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 596,079	\$ 550,000	\$ 380,503	\$ 380,503	-30.82%	\$ 83.76	1.11%
	TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES	\$ 1,613,764	\$ 1,633,141	\$ 1,539,710	\$ 1,539,710	-5.72%	\$ 338.99	4.50%
	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>							
DEBT SERVICE								
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$ 959,368	\$ 910,640	\$ 915,640	\$ 915,640	0.55%	\$ 201.59	2.67%
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 72,030	\$ 77,030	\$ 77,030	0.00%	\$ 16.96	0.23%
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ 373,881	\$ 311,450	\$ 256,905	\$ 256,905	-17.51%	\$ 56.56	0.74%
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 12,601	\$ 9,015	\$ 9,015	0.00%	\$ 1.98	0.03%
2006	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town	\$ -	\$ 112,000	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
2007	Short Term Debt - Interest - Town	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	0.00%	\$ 27.52	0.37%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,333,249	\$ 1,418,721	\$ 1,383,590	\$ 1,383,590	-2.48%	\$ 304.61	4.04%
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$ 1,333,249	\$ 1,418,721	\$ 1,383,590	\$ 1,383,590	-2.48%	\$ 304.61	4.04%

				FY 2016	FY 2016		FY 2016	FY 2016
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2014 ACTUAL	FY 2015 APPROPRIATED	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FINCOM BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE	AVERAGE TAX BILL	PERCENT OF TAX BILL
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
	GENERAL BENEFITS							
3000	County Retirement	\$ 1,481,574	\$ 1,591,023	\$ 1,771,089	\$ 1,771,089	11.32%	\$ 389.93	5.18%
3001	State Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
3002	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 43,488	\$ 40,000	\$ 41,800	\$ 41,800	4.50%	\$ 9.20	0.12%
	INSURANCE							
3010	Health Insurance/Employee Expenses	\$ 1,383,565	\$ 1,431,201	\$ 1,574,000	\$ 1,574,000	9.98%	\$ 346.53	4.60%
3011	Life Insurance	\$ 1,753	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%	\$ 0.55	0.01%
3012	Medicare/Social Security	\$ 109,304	\$ 107,000	\$ 118,000	\$ 118,000	10.28%	\$ 25.98	0.34%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 3,019,684	\$ 3,171,724	\$ 3,507,389	\$ 3,507,389	10.58%	\$ 772.19	10.25%
	TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 3,019,684	\$ 3,171,724	\$ 3,507,389	\$ 3,507,389	10.58%	\$ 772.19	10.25%
	GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	\$ 30,080,350	\$ 32,134,346	\$ 33,298,830	\$ 33,298,830	3.62%	\$ 7,331.13	97.33%
	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS							
	Capital Budget Request	\$ 409,500	\$ 635,190	\$ 404,145	\$ 404,145	-36.37%	\$ 88.98	1.18%
	Overlay Deficit From Prior Years	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.00%	\$ 0.22	0.00%
	Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 13,555	\$ 17,617	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	13.53%	\$ 4.40	0.06%
	Snow and Ice Deficit	\$ 98,516	\$ 221,729	\$ 155,224	\$ 155,224	-29.99%	\$ 34.17	0.46%
	State and County Charges	\$ 104,471	\$ 106,992	\$ 106,992	\$ 106,992	0.00%	\$ 23.56	0.31%
	Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	\$ 228,492	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	0.00%	\$ 49.54	0.66%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 854,534	\$ 1,207,528	\$ 912,361	\$ 912,361	-24.44%	\$ 200.87	2.67%
	GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	\$ 30,934,884	\$ 33,341,874	\$ 34,211,191	\$ 34,211,191	2.61%	\$ 7,532	100.00%

FY 2016 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS							
		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2016	
LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
WATER DEPARTMENT							
	WD Salaries	\$ 131,728	\$ 128,932	\$ 116,487	\$ 118,265	\$ 118,265	1.53%
	WD Wages	\$ 128,380	\$ 141,139	\$ 146,484	\$ 151,875	\$ 151,875	3.68%
	WD Expenses	\$ 420,926	\$ 472,978	\$ 354,489	\$ 368,554	\$ 368,554	3.97%
	WD Debt Service	\$ 361,980	\$ 361,606	\$ 361,217	\$ 358,851	\$ 358,851	-0.66%
100	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,043,014	\$ 1,104,655	\$ 978,677	\$ 997,545	\$ 997,545	1.93%
SEWER DEPARTMENT							
	Sewer Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,585	\$ 18,026	\$ 18,026	2.51%
	Sewer Wages	\$ 19,126	\$ 21,290	\$ 30,111	\$ 30,865	\$ 30,865	2.50%
	Sewer Expense	\$ 559,158	\$ 664,942	\$ 582,615	\$ 571,843	\$ 571,843	-1.85%
	Sewer Debt Service	\$ 5,439	\$ 5,435	\$ 42,851	\$ 41,420	\$ 41,420	-3.34%
200	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 583,723	\$ 691,667	\$ 673,162	\$ 662,154	\$ 662,154	-1.64%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT							
	Cable Salaries	\$ 55,312	\$ 58,297	\$ 60,521	\$ 62,657	\$ 62,657	3.53%
	Cable Wages	\$ 41,974	\$ 49,589	\$ 54,293	\$ 56,533	\$ 56,533	4.12%
	Cable Expenses	\$ 40,263	\$ 48,143	\$ 69,160	\$ 81,268	\$ 81,268	17.51%
	Cable Minor Capital	\$ 15,675	\$ 16,540	\$ 88,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	-26.14%
300	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 153,224	\$ 172,569	\$ 271,974	\$ 265,458	\$ 265,458	-2.40%
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$ 1,779,961	\$ 1,968,891	\$ 1,923,813	\$ 1,925,157	\$ 1,925,157	0.07%

		APPENDIX B			FACTOR:	1.0200
		Town of Groton Personnel By-Law				
		Wage and Classification Schedule				
		Fiscal Year 2016 (Effective July 1, 2015)				
Grade	Position Title	Low				High
4	Salary					
		35,225				43,594
	Wages					
		16.95				20.95
5	Salary					
		37,236				46,089
	Wages					
		17.91				22.17
7	Salary					
		43,057				54,538
	Wages					
		21.20				26.22
8	Salary					
		48,879				60,521
	Wages					
		23.50				29.10
9	Salary					
	Executive Assistant to Town Manager	50,058				61,943
	Wages					
		24.07				29.78
10	Salary					
		57,410				71,038
	Wages					
		27.61				34.16
11	Salary					
	Human Resources Director	61,675				76,323
	Wages					
		29.66				36.70
12	Salary					
		61,862				76,590
	Wages					
		29.75				36.83

		APPENDIX B			FACTOR:	1.0200
		Town of Groton Personnel By-Law				
		Wage and Classification Schedule				
		Fiscal Year 2016 (Effective July 1, 2015)				
Grade	Position Title	Low				High
13	Salary					
	Library Director	63,526				78,602
	Town Accountant					
	Wages					
		30.55				37.80
14	Salary					
		64,061				79,273
	Wages					
		30.80				38.11
15	Salary					
	Police Lieutenant	67,551				83,591
	Wages					
		32.47				40.19
16	Salary					
	Police Captain	69,991				86,662
	Wages					
		33.65				41.65
17	Salary					
	IT Manager	78,413				97,005
	Wages					
		37.70				46.65
18	Salary					
	Fire Chief	84,799				104,946
	Police Chief					
	Wages					
		40.77				50.46
19	Salary					
		87,026				107,681
	Wages					
		41.83				51.78
20	Salary					
		93,314				114,763
	Wages					
		44.86				55.18

APPENDIX B			
NON-CLASSIFIED, TEMPORARY SEASONAL AND STIPEND POSITIONS			
NON-STEP AND STIPEND POSITIONS			
FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT		Pool and Golf Center Seasonal Employees	
Deputy Chief: Fire	23.87	Pro Shop Staff	10.00 - 12.50
Deputy Chief: EMS	23.46	Snack Bar/Lounge Staff	10.00 - 12.50
Rescue Advisory	1.00		
Call Captain: Fire	23.10	Pool Staff	10.00 - 11.75
Call Captain: EMS	23.10	Lifeguards	
Call Lieutenant: Fire	22.64		
Call Lieutenant: EMS	22.64	Camp Staff	10.00 - 12.25
Call Lieutenant: Rescue	22.64	Counselors	15.00
Call Firefighter	19.80	Assistant Director	
Call Emergency Medical Technician	19.80		
Call Rescue Personnel	19.80	Buildings & Grounds	10.00 - 25.00
Probationary Firefighter	16.49	Grounds Crew Staff	
Probationary Emergency Medical Technician	16.49		
Probationary Rescue Personnel	16.49		
MISCELLANEOUS			
Veteran's Agent	1,742		
Director of Veteran's Services	1,742		
Earth Removal Inspector	1.00		
Dog Officer	13,973		
Animal Inspector	2,082		
Animal Control Officer	2,082		
Town Diarist	1.00		
Keeper of the Town Clock	1.00		
Conservation Land Manager	14.07		
Parking Attendant	10.20		
Graves Registration Officer	250		
Emergency Management Director	1,270		
Election Worker: Warden	Minimum Wage		
Election Worker: Precinct Clerk	Minimum Wage		
Election Worker: Inspectors (Checker)	Minimum Wage		

MINUTES

TOWN OF GROTON



2015 FALL TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Monday, October 19, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting



Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

OCTOBER 19, 2015

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator

Robert L. Gosselin, Sr.

Board of Selectmen:

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

Finance Committee:

Mark Bacon
Gary Green, Chairman
Barry Pease
Robert Hargraves, Vice-Chair
David Manugian
Arthur Prest
Bud Robertson

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Town Clerk:

Michael Bouchard

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM on October 19, 2015. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided.

Eagle Scouts Pratt and Primm led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports:**Library Trustees – Jane Allen**

Ms. Allen reported that the Library survey received an excellent response, and that the Library organization is looking to implement many of the suggestions. A similar survey five years ago resulted in many changes including joining a library lending organization, increased hours and allowing coffee and beverages. She concluded by promoting the use of the Groton Public Library.

Charter Review Committee – Michael Manugian

Mr. Manugian provided the Meeting with a status update. He stated that there were 225 submissions for consideration. He also explained how people can participate with the Committee.

It was moved and seconded that the warrant was duly posted. The reading of the warrant was waived by unanimous vote.

There is no quorum requirement for this Annual Town Meeting. 128 voters were present.

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 nineteenth day of October, 2015 at Seven O'clock in the evening, to consider the following:

ARTICLE LISTINGS

		Town Meeting Action (1)
Article 1:	Prior Year Bills	P
Article 2:	Amend the Fiscal Year 2016 Town Operating Budget	
	General Government	P-A
	Protection of Persons and Property	P
	Department of Public Works	P
Article 3:	Transfer Money into the Capital Stabilization Fund	P
Article 4:	Transfer Money into the Stabilization Fund	P
Article 5:	Offset the Tax Rate	P
Article 6:	Extend Four Corners Sewer District	P
Article 7:	Transfer Money to Water Enterprise	P
Article 8:	Amend Groton Center Sewer System Map	P
Article 9:	Extend Sewer System to Include 122 Old Ayer Road	P
Article 10:	Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project	DNP
Article 11:	Amend Section 218-9 of the Zoning Bylaw	P
Article 12:	Amend Section 218-23 of the Zoning Bylaw	P
Article 13:	Amend Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Groton	P
Article 14:	Amend Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Groton	P-A
Article 15:	Amend Chapter 196 "Signs" of the Code of the Town of Groton	P

Report of the Town Manager to the 2015 Fall Town Meeting
Appendix A – Proposed Amendments to Chapter 196 "Signs"

(1) Town Meeting Action - Legend:

P	Passed
P-A	Passed as Amended
DNP	Did Not Pass

Note: Refer to the minutes of the article for the exact Town Meeting action

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.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *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.*

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$5,000 for the payment of the following bills of a prior fiscal year:

Turf Unlimited -	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total	\$5,000

Moved and Seconded

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

Vote on Article 1 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 2: AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget as adopted under Article 8 of the April 27, 2015 Spring 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 2016, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: *See Town Manager's Report in Back of Warrant for Recommendations*

Finance Committee: *See Town Manager's Report in Back of Warrant for Recommendations*

Summary: *The Fiscal Year 2016 Town Operating Budget was approved at the 2015 Spring Town Meeting in April, 2015. 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 2016 Operating Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report contained in the back of this Warrant for an explanation outlining the proposed changes.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget, as adopted under Article 8 of the April 27, 2015 Spring Town Meeting, as follows, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted:

MOTION – Article 2 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT: By increasing the General Government Appropriation from \$1,926,434 to \$1,934,434 so as to: increase Line Item 1022 – “Board of Selectmen Expenses” by \$8,000, from \$2,000 to \$10,000; and to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$8,000 to fund said increase.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION TO AMEND Article 2 – General Government (Mover: Greg Sheldon): I move to amend the motion under General Government to read as follows:

“By increasing the General Government Appropriation from \$1,926,434 to \$1,939,434 so as to: increase Line item 1022 – “Board of Selectmen Expenses” by \$13,000 from \$2,000 to \$15,000; and to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$13,000 to fund said increase.”

Moved and Seconded
Quantum: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Sheldon explained that the request to increase the appropriation by an additional \$5,000 is to fund the study the impact of MGL Chapter 34 code regulations on the Prescott School building.

Vote on Motion to Amend Article 2 - General Government: Passed by Majority Vote

Vote on Article 2 - General Government: Passed by Unanimous Vote

MOTION Article 2 - PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY: By increasing the Protection of Persons and Property Appropriation from \$3,561,983 to \$3,621,983 so as to: increase Line Item 1302 – “Police Department Expenses” by \$60,000, from \$190,600 to \$250,600; and increase Line Item 1312 – “Fire Department Expenses” by \$20,000, from \$148,000 to \$168,000; and to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$60,000 to fund said increases.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum: Majority

Discussion:

- As detailed in the appended Town Manager’s report, this transfer is requested to complete repairs/renovations and to address new electrical repairs at the Police Station, deploy security systems at various town buildings and to fund call-firefighter recruiting and training.

Vote on Article 2 – PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY:
Passed by Unanimous Vote

MOTION – Article 2 – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: By increasing the Department of Public Works Appropriation from \$2,094,007 to \$2,102,507 so as to increase Line Item 1540 – “Municipal Building and Property Maintenance Expenses” by \$8,500, from \$272,350 to \$280,850; and to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$8,500 to fund said increase.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum: Majority

Discussion:

- A detailed explanation of the reason for this requested transfer is included in the appended Town Manager’s Report.

Vote on Article 2 – Department of Public Works: Passed by Majority Vote

ARTICLE 3: TRANSFER MONEY INTO THE CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstained – Pease)*

Summary: *The Fund has a balance of \$129,646. 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.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$425,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3’s Majority
Vote on Article 3 Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 4: TRANSFER MONEY INTO THE STABILIZATION FUND

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Summary: *The balance in this fund is \$1.64 million. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Stabilization Fund equal to 5% of the total annual budget. The target amount for the Stabilization Fund will be provided at Town Meeting.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$32,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Stabilization Fund.

Moved and Seconded

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

Vote on Article 4 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 5: OFFSET THE TAX RATE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the General Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) or from other available funds for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the period beginning July 1, 2015, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Summary: *The intent of this article is to use a portion of Free Cash or General Stabilization Fund monies as a funding source for the FY 2016 Budget in order to lower the amount of money required to be raised from taxes or to balance a deficit budget. The amount of Free Cash and General Stabilization Fund monies available for appropriation will be provided at Town Meeting.*

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$200,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the period beginning July 1, 2015.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

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

ARTICLE 6: EXTEND FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to extend the “Four Corners Sewer District”, as established by the vote under Article 12 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, to include the property shown on Groton Assessors’ Maps as Lot 120-2-40 and more particularly shown as Lot 1C-5 on the plan entitled “Rocky Hill Subdivision Lay Out Plan” by R. Wilson and Associates, dated April 20, 2005, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office, provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the connection and any General Benefits Facility Charge are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Summary: *When the Spring Town Meeting voted to create the Four Corners Sewer District, it also approved funding for the submission of a MassWorks Development Grant to pay for the construction. During the compilation of the Town’s Grant Application, it was determined that adding a housing component would make the application more viable. To that end, the Town had previously approved a 55 and Older Development on the parcel referenced in this Warrant Article. Adding this parcel to the Four Corners Sewer District enhances the Town’s Grant application. The Developer of this Housing Development has agreed to pay all cost associated with adding this parcel to the District in a Public/Private Partnership that will also enhance the Town’s Grant Application. This article seeks to amend the original district by adding this parcel.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to extend the “Four Corners Sewer District”, as established by the vote under Article 12 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, to include the property shown on Groton Assessors’ Maps as Lot 120-2-40 and more particularly shown as Lot 1C-5 on the plan entitled “Rocky Hill Subdivision Lay Out Plan” by R. Wilson and Associates, dated April 20, 2005, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office, provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the connection and any General Benefits Facility Charge are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Q: Does allowing a residential connection to the system (proposed for commercial use) set a precedent for other residential requests?
 - R: Future additions, if any, would need to be approved by Town Meeting.
- A concern was expressed that this project is being proposed in a piecemeal way.
- Q: Mr. Lyman – As proposed the Four Corners Sewer will pass be Groton Housing Authority property, should that septic system fail, could the property be connected to the sewer? This issue would not be anticipated for another 20 years.

- R: Only by a vote of Town Meeting. If approved, all costs would be borne by the Groton Housing Authority.
- Q: Mr. Eklof – Is the “55 and Older” development contingent upon receiving a sewer connection?
 - R: No. The developer is expected to proceed in any event.
- Mr. Haddad commented that state officials recommended a residential component of the grant application to make the application as viable as possible. No town monies are involved in the construction of the sewer line.

Vote on Article 6 – Main Motion: Passed by Majority Vote

ARTICLE 7: TRANSFER MONEY TO WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2016 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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

Summary: *This Article requests funding from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2016 Water Department’s General Expense for Engineering Services related to the Electrical Upgrades and Pump and Motor Improvements at the Whitney Pond Well. The final amount needed will be presented to the Fall Town Meeting.*

Mover: Thomas Orcutt

MOTION A: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$0 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2016 Water Department Operating Budget.

MOTION B: I move that Article 7 be indefinitely postponed.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Orcutt stated that the Water Commission was not ready to go forward with the project at this time

Vote on Article 7 – Motion B: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 8: AMEND GROTON CENTER SEWER SYSTEM MAP

To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the plan entitled "Town of Groton Sewer System" showing the Groton Center Sewer System, which was established by a vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989 under Article 7, which plan is referred to in section 190-3 of the Groton Code, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Sewer Commission: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article is to approve minor changes/corrections to the Groton Center Sewer District Map that from time to time requires clarification. This article does not seek to add any new parcels to the District.*

Mover: Thomas Orcutt

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to approve amendments to the plan entitled "Town of Groton Sewer System" showing the Groton Center Sewer System, which was established by a vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989 under Article 7, and amend the first sentence of section 190-3 of the Groton Code so that it reads as follows:

There is hereby established within the Town a sewer system entitled "Groton Center Sewer System" comprised of land situated in a geographical area bounded and described on a plan entitled "Sewer District Groton, MA" by Environmental Partners Group dated August 2015, on file with the office of the Town Clerk.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Orcutt stated that this was a housekeeping article. No new parcels are being added to the system with this article.

Vote on Article 8 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 9: EXTEND SEWER SYSTEM TO INCLUDE 122 OLD AYER ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to extend the "Groton Center Sewer System," as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, to include the property shown on Assessors' Lot 222-55 (122 Old Ayer Rd), such extension to be only for the exclusive use of the property currently shown on Groton Assessors' Maps as Lot 222-55, which is proposed to be used and occupied by Indian Hill Music, Inc., and on the condition that, and only for as long as said property is used as a music education and performance center by Indian Hill Music, Inc. or its successors or assigns; otherwise, the system extension shall terminate and be null and void; 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 proportionate share of any 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 SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Abstained - Schulman)

Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to extend the Center Sewer System to include 122 Old Ayer Road in order to provide for Indian Hill Music's use. This extension, if approved, will provide sewer capacity for the exclusive use of Indian Hill Music. Should Indian Hill Music not relocate to this location, the extension of the Center Sewer System will be rescinded.*

ARTICLE 9: EXTEND SEWER SYSTEM/122 OLD AYER RD Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION A: I move that the Town vote to extend the "Groton Center Sewer System" to include the property shown on Assessors' Lot 222-55 (122 Old Ayer Rd), as printed in the warrant for this Town Meeting.

MOTION B: I move that Article 9 be indefinitely postponed.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- The new owners of 122 Old Ayer Road, Indian Hill Music, are not ready to address this issue.

Vote on Article 9 – Motion B: Passed by Unanimous Vote.

Article 10 was moved to be considered after Article 15

MOTION: (Mr. Weber) – I move that Article 10 be postponed until after the completion of Article 15.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

Vote on Motion to Move Article 15 Until Completion of Article 15:

Passed by Majority Vote. Seven voters did not contest the ruling of the Chair.

ARTICLE 11: AMEND SECTION 218-9 OF THE ZONING BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, as follows:

by striking out Section 218-9, Location of Districts, which reads as follows:

§218-9 Location of districts. Said districts are located and bounded as shown on a map entitled "Town of Groton, Massachusetts — Zoning Map," dated August 22, 2014, on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Said map, with the boundaries of the districts and all explanatory matter thereon, is hereby made a part of this chapter.

And inserting in its place:

§218-9 Location of districts. Said districts are located and bounded as shown on a map entitled "Town of Groton, Massachusetts — Zoning Map," as most recently amended by Town Meeting, on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Said map, with the boundaries of the districts and all explanatory matter thereon, is hereby made a part of this chapter.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The proposed amendment changes the reference to the Zoning Map by removing the revision date and by replacing it with, "as most recently amended by Town Meeting." The Zoning Map is revised whenever a property is rezoned by a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting, so the reference to Town Meeting vote will be more accurate.*

ARTICLE 11: AMEND SECTION 218-9 - ZONING BYLAW

Mover: Carolyn Perkins

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, as follows:

by striking out Section 218-9, Location of Districts, which reads as follows:

§218-9 Location of districts. Said districts are located and bounded as shown on a map entitled "Town of Groton, Massachusetts — Zoning Map," dated August 22, 2014, on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Said map, with the boundaries of the districts and all explanatory matter thereon, is hereby made a part of this chapter.

And inserting in its place:

§218-9 Location of districts. Said districts are located and bounded as shown on a map entitled "Town of Groton, Massachusetts — Zoning Map," as most recently amended by Town Meeting, on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Said map, with the boundaries of the districts and all explanatory matter thereon, is hereby made a part of this chapter.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a public hearing October 8, 2015 to consider the proposed zoning amendment described in Article 11 to modify the provisions of Section 218-9 Location of Districts. The Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the amendment to the Town Meeting.
- Article 11 allows administrative amendments to the Zoning Map based upon Town Meeting votes of zoning changes. Zoning maps cannot be changed until the zoning change is approved by Town Meeting. Without the authority provided by Article 11, Town Meeting is asked to approve zoning map changes at a future town meeting for changes approved in an earlier meeting.

Vote on Article 11 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote.

ARTICLE 12: AMEND SECTION 218-23 OF THE ZONING BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, as follows:

by deleting Section 218-23, "Off-street Parking and Loading," in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Section 218-23, "Off-street Parking and Loading," a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The proposed amendment is a result of the Comprehensive Master Plan, Phase II Implementation, non-residential zoning provisions. The amendment to the parking requirements establishes minimum and maximum number of parking spaces per use and gross floor area (GFA). The Planning Board will continue to have the ability to waive parking requirements based upon special circumstances.*

Mover: George Barringer

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, as follows:

by deleting Section 218-23, "Off-street Parking and Loading," in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Section 218-23, "Off-street Parking and Loading," a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a public hearing October 8, 2015 to consider the proposed zoning amendment described in Article 12 to amend Sections 218-23 Off Street Parking and Loading. The Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the amendment to the Town Meeting.

Vote on Article 12 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 13: *AMEND THE ZONING BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF GROTON*

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, as follows:

by deleting item (2) of paragraph F in Section 218-25.1, "Personal Wireless Services Facilities," which reads as follows:

(2) Any extension, addition of cells or construction of a new or a replacement personal wireless services facility or accessory structures, buildings or equipment shall require the issuance of a new special permit under this chapter or an amendment to a special permit previously issued under this Chapter.

And inserting in its place Items (2) and (3) to read as follows:

(2) Any extension in height of an existing tower, expansion of a base station, or construction of a new or a replacement personal wireless services tower shall require the issuance of a new special permit under this chapter or an amendment to a special permit previously issued under this chapter.

(3) Any eligible facilities request, defined in 47 U.S.C. Section 1455(a) as a request for modification of an existing wireless tower or base station that involves: (A) collocation of new transmission equipment; (B) removal of transmission equipment; or (C) replacement of transmission equipment; shall be subject to Minor Site Plan Review by the Land Use Director and Building Commissioner. (Refer to § 218-25C(1) Minor Site Plan Review.)

And by adding the word "Modifications" to the title of paragraph F, so that it reads as follows:

"Approval of special permit applications; Modifications."

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The proposed amendment will bring the Zoning Bylaw into compliance with the most recent amendment to the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and applicable FCC regulations. Collocation and replacing equipment on an existing tower or within existing base stations will no longer require a special permit from the Planning Board. The changes will be subject to Minor Site Plan Review by the Land Use Director and Building Commissioner.*

Mover: John Giger

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, Section 218-25.1, as set forth in Article 13 of the Warrant for the October 19, 2015 Fall Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

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

Discussion:

- Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a public hearing October 8, 2015 to consider the proposed zoning amendment described in Article 13 to amend Sections 218-25.1 Personal Wireless Services Facilities. The Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the amendment to the Town Meeting.

Vote on Article 13 – Main Motion: Passed by Unanimous Vote

ARTICLE 14: AMEND THE ZONING BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF GROTON

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, as follows:

1. in Section 218-26, Flexible Development, by deleting item (1) of Paragraph D, Procedures, which reads as follows:

D. Procedures. Flexible development may be authorized upon the issuance of a special permit by the Planning Board. An application for flexible development shall be filed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Planning Board.

(1) Where the flexible development is a subdivision of land, a development plan conforming to the requirements for a preliminary plan as set forth in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations of the Planning Board. Final engineering details regarding flexible development may be provided during the course of definitive plan review. In the event that the flexible development does not involve the subdivision of land, the development plan shall conform to the requirements for the applicable plan as set forth in such rules and regulations.

And by inserting in its place the following:

D. Procedures. Flexible development may be authorized upon the issuance of a special permit by the Planning Board. An application for flexible development shall be filed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Planning Board.

(1) Where the flexible development is a subdivision of land, a development plan conforming to the requirements for a definitive plan as set forth in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations of

the Planning Board shall be submitted to the Planning Board. The special permit application shall be submitted concurrently with the application for approval of a definitive plan. In the event that the flexible development does not involve the subdivision of land, the development plan shall conform to the requirements for a definitive plan as set forth in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations.

2. Adding the following items to Paragraph F of Section 218-26, Modification of lot requirements:

4) Lot frontage. The minimum frontage of any lot shall not be less than 40 ft.

5) Individual lot area. The minimum area of any individual lot shall not be less than 10,000 square feet.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously as Amended*

Summary: *The proposed amendment will change the submission requirements for special permits for Flexible Development plans. At the present time, special permit plans are submitted with preliminary subdivision plans. The amendment will require submission of special permit plans with definitive subdivision plans when more engineering data is available. The amendment also reestablishes minimum lot frontage and lot area requirements in Flexible Developments.*

Mover: Russel Burke

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, Section 218-26, as set forth in Article 14 of the Warrant for the October 19, 2015 Fall Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

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

MOTION TO AMEND Article 14 – Main Motion

Russell Burke

I move to amend the main motion under Article 14 by deleting Item (1) under Section 218-26D Procedures and substituting the following language:

- (1) Where the flexible development is a subdivision of land, a development plan consistent with the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations¹ shall be submitted to the Planning Board. Final engineering details regarding flexible development shall be provided as specified by the Planning Board during the course of plan review. In the event that the flexible development does not involve the subdivision

¹ See Chapter 381, Part 1, Subdivision Rules and Regulations

of land, the development plan shall conform to the requirements for the applicable plan as set forth in such rules and regulations.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum: Majority

Discussion:

- Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a public hearing on October 8, 2015, continued on October 15, 2015, to consider the proposed amendment to Section 218-26 Flexible Development. In response to concerns expressed at the public hearing, the Board voted unanimously to propose an amendment to the main motion under Article 14. The Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the main motion, as amended.
- Ms. Eliot stated that questions on the amendment were better addressed in a public hearing, and motion to indefinitely postpone Article 14.

MOTION to Indefinitely Postpone Article 14 Anna Eliot

I move that Article 14 be indefinitely Postponed.

Moved and Seconded
Quantum: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Burke stated that the Planning Board heard concerns about the original article in its public meetings, and crafted this amendment to address the concerns. He asked Town Counsel if the amendment was in error.
- Town Counsel Mr. Doneski stated that there was no legal due process issue, but this vote would rather address what the voters felt was appropriate.

Vote on Motion to Indefinitely Postpone Article 14: Did Not Pass
Vote on Motion to Amend Article 14: Passed by Majority Vote
Vote on Article 14- Main Motion as Amended: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

ARTICLE 15: AMEND CHAPTER 196 “SIGNS” OF THE GROTON CODE

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 196, “Signs,” of the Town of Groton Code by deleting Chapter 196 in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Chapter 196, “Signs,” a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Summary: *In 2010, Town Meeting amended Chapter 196 by completely overhauling the Sign Bylaw and providing a new bylaw that allowed greater flexibility for businesses and*

residents, while still maintaining the important qualities of the former Sign Bylaw. The new bylaw has been in existence for five years and has been very successful. That said, after a complete review of Chapter 196, the Sign Committee is recommending minor amendments to the Sign Bylaw to address issues that have arisen over the past five years with the implementation of the new bylaw. The Sign Committee will provide a complete report to the 2015 Fall Town Meeting.

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 196, "Signs," of the Town of Groton Code by deleting Chapter 196 in its entirety and inserting in its place a new Chapter 196, "Signs," a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

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

ARTICLE 10: CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to become a member of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project for a minimum of three (3) years, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 252, Section 5A, Chapter 583 of the Acts of 1973 and any other enabling authority, or take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (2 In Favor, 1 Against – Petropoulos, 2 Abstained – Eliot, Schulman)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 3 Against – Green, Robertson, Bacon)*

Summary: *The Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) is a mosquito control project established by legislative act, Chapter 583 of the Acts of 1973. It operates under an assessment procedure and provides a year-round program of mosquito control in 39 cities and towns in both Middlesex and Worcester counties. Services offered include larval and adult mosquito surveillance, larval and adult mosquito control, public education, ditch cleaning and maintenance and research/control efficacy. The program is tailored to meet the specific needs of the member cities and towns, and residents can opt out of any part of the program. Spraying is done at residents' request. It is anticipated that the Town will be assessed an annual fee of \$73,000 on our Cherry Sheet for a minimum of three (3) years for a total of \$219,000.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to become a member of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project for a minimum of three (3) years, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 252, Section 5A, Chapter 583 of the Acts of 1973 and any other enabling authority.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Discussion:

- Mr. Deschamps, director of the CMMCP, gave a presentation on the program.
- Mr. Giger: The Sargisson Beach Committee voted 3-4-1 with 1 absent on October 19 to support this article. It is felt this will increase the safety of Sargisson Beach.
- Dr. Horowitz, Board of Health, stated it is important for the Town to know the mosquito status. CMMCP is the only tester.
- Mr. Hargraves: The Finance Committee voted 4-3 to support the article.
- Mr. Delaney said that CMMCP activities will help with land clearing and beaver mitigation.
- Mr. Petropoulos stated that the Board of Selectmen unanimously opposed this article because of budget considerations.
- Ms. Metzger stated that the Mass Department of Public Health (DPH) recommends spraying when the level of threat is reached. DPH depends upon mosquito control projects to get data, but does not dictate spraying. Individual property owners can opt out but the Town must accept the program. Ms. Metzger is opposed to the article if the Town cannot opt out of spraying. The program does not guarantee mosquito safety. It is not efficient. Treatments can have environmental effects. The risk is not zero, but it is low. Best protection is to use mosquito repellent.
- Mr. Deschamps stated that the product is applied in a targeted manner and is safe for other insects.
- Mr. Hewitt asked who could authorize spraying. Mr. Deschamps stated that residents and or town officials can make requests.
- Ms. Gilbert opposed the article due to its expense and the potential for an increased school funding request.

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 10 – Main Motion: Did not pass.

Seven voters did not contest the ruling of the chair.

MOTION TO DISSOLVE THE MEETING

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

Vote on the Motion to Dissolve the Meeting: Unanimous

The meeting dissolved at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bouchard
Town Clerk

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 29th Day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen.

John G. Petropoulos

John G. Petropoulos, Chairman

Anna Eliot

Anna Eliot, Vice Chairman

Stuart M. Schulman

Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Member

Joshua A. Degen

Joshua A. Degen, 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

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER TO THE 2015 FALL TOWN MEETING

The 2015 Fall Town Meeting Warrant contains several warrant articles that seek appropriations, some of which will affect the Tax Rate and some which will have no further impact on taxes. The purpose of this report is to provide the residents and taxpayers with a summary of these articles and what impact they will have on the Fiscal Year 2016 Tax Rate.

As you will recall, the 2015 Spring Town Meeting voted a budget of \$33,298,830 which was \$100,000 under the levy limit based on our best estimate of revenues at that time. Since that time, we have begun to get a better picture of our estimates. Most importantly, in July, the Commonwealth finalized its budget and provided the Town with its final State Aid Estimates. Further, the Assessors continue to work toward the finalization of the Town's new growth. They should have it certified by the end of October. At this time, I am pleased to say that both of these amounts have come in essentially on budget, with slight increases in both accounts. The following chart provides the difference between what was originally estimated and what we are estimating at this time:

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Difference</u>
State Aid	\$ 856,252	\$ 856,513	\$ 261
State Charges	\$ 106,992	\$ 81,969	\$25,023
Snow & Ice Deficit	\$ 155,224	\$ 144,388	\$10,836
Off-Set Receipts	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,814	\$ 2,186
Property Tax Levy	\$29,217,602	\$29,218,484	\$ 882
Local Receipts	\$ 3,633,192	\$ 3,633,192	\$ <u>0</u>
Additional Revenues			\$39,188

With this additional revenue, the approved budget is now \$139,188 under the levy limit. Since the original budget was voted, we have been attempting to address several issues that require attention. Article 2 of the Warrant proposes to amend the original budget in some line items. In addition, the Department of Revenue has certified the Town's Free Cash at \$1,009,092. Free Cash will be used to fund several of the Articles contained in the Warrant. The use of "Free Cash" will not impact the tax rate. We will not be proposing the use of any of the excess levy capacity at the Fall Town Meeting.

The following is a summary of Warrant Articles requesting funding:

Article 1:	Unpaid Bills	Amount Requested: \$5,000
Turf Unlimited -	<u>\$5,000</u>	
Total	\$5,000	

Article 2: Budget Amendments**Amount Requested: \$76,500**

The proposed funding for this Article will come from taxation and will impact the Tax Rate (at the conclusion of the summary and explanation will be a chart showing the impact on the FY 2016 Tax Rate). The following is a breakdown of the requests, followed by an explanation:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Original Appropriation</u>	<u>New Appropriation</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Board of Selectmen Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000
Police Expenses	\$190,600	\$230,600	\$40,000
Fire Expenses	\$148,000	\$168,000	\$20,000
Municipal Building Wages	<u>\$ 84,728</u>	<u>\$ 93,228</u>	<u>\$ 8,500</u>
Total	\$425,328	\$501,828	\$76,500

Explanation of Requests**Board of Selectmen Expenses - \$8,000**

There are two specific requests that comprise this appropriation of \$8,000. The first request is for a consultant to assist in the review of the Regional School Agreement. The Board of Selectmen has been working with representatives from Dunstable and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District reviewing the Regional School Agreement. It was determined to hire a consultant to assist in the review of the Agreement. The School Department advertised an RFP for this service and one company responded to the RFP. The Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) submitted the only proposal, at a cost of \$13,500, which was accepted. Groton's share will be \$4,500. The second request has to do with the study of the Prescott School. The Municipal Building Committee for the Prescott School has been working very hard to develop a thorough and well thought out proposal for the future of the Prescott School. One of the areas of importance is the actual cost of renovating the building if it were to be designated for community use. In order to obtain the best possible cost estimates, they would like to be able to update the estimates that were contained in the Bargmann Report done for the original Prescott Re-Use Committee. They have reached out to the company that did the original estimates three years ago and they would charge \$3,500 for this update. The update would be based on the proposed use by the Committee.

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously***Finance Committee: *Recommended (Pease Voted Against Prescott Request)***

Police Expenses - \$40,000

Last fall, the Town Meeting appropriated \$60,000 to renovate the Public Safety Building after the Fire Department moved into the new Center Fire Station. An additional \$25,000 will be needed to complete the renovations. There have been unforeseen electrical costs. When the rehab began, an electrician was needed to come in for necessary renovations. A number of rooms had just one receptacle in them. Additionally, an electrical panel had to be added to accommodate current technology and leave some room for growth. The electrical renovations are now going to cost between \$12-14K. This expense covers upgrades to bring the building up to code and wiring the building to accommodate future needs. There have also been technology upgrades, wiring and backroom equipment as well as modifications to the dispatch center that would complete the renovations. Please note that all of the painting, cleaning and moving of materials is being completed by Department employees on a voluntary basis. In addition, in FY 2015 we began a multi-year security implementation that would offer many enhanced security features through-out the town. Through this process we contracted with a vendor to implement keycard access doors and high resolution security cameras within the town's larger buildings. We broke this into project phases and started 'Phase I' at the Public Safety Building at 99 Pleasant St (Groton Police Department) in April 2015. Phase I was a larger scope of the project because all of our central hardware would be located there. It required additional cameras and equipment to fully secure the premises for the desired levels of access/surveillance that should be expected of a public safety building. Phase II is planned for FY 2016 and will implement door access and surveillance at 173 Main St (Town Hall). After finalizing project quotes we have found that we require an additional \$15,000 in FY 2016 to complete Phase II. Therefore, the total amount requested for Police Expenses is \$40,000

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against – Petropoulos)*
Finance Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstained – Pease)*

Fire Department Expenses - \$20,000

The Groton Fire Department is requesting \$20,000 for the purpose of running an on-call firefighter recruit class in the fall/winter timeframe. This recruit class will help bolster the available call staff in all three fire stations. With the continued development in Town, the call volume has similarly grown at a consistent pace. This growth, coupled with the need to balance family and work commitments requires the Groton Fire Department to have a large call department to continue to answer emergency calls. In addition to the need to create balance for members, the nature of on-call services results in turnover often due to these same outside factors. On-call recruit programs and drive of course will cost money in terms of instruction, materials such as books and protective equipment for new personnel.

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

Town of Groton, Ma				
FINAL RESULTS				
Annual Town Election				
May 19, 2015				
Election Turnout	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Grotonn Registered Voters	2664	2519	2432	7615
May 19 Voter Turnout	548	379	441	1368
Turnout %	20.6%	15.0%	18.1%	18.0%
Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Board of Assessors	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Jenifer Evans, Candidate for Re-election	422	283	294	999
Write - In	3	0	1	4
Blank	123	96	146	365
Total	548	379	441	1368
Board of Health	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Susan H. Horowitz, Candidate for Re-election	419	285	315	1019
Write - In	3	3	0	6
Blank	126	91	126	343
Total	548	379	441	1368
Board of Selectmen	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
John G. Petropoulos, Candidate for Re-election	264	197	215	676
George E. Barringer, Jr.	94	19	63	176
Arthur L. Prest	167	157	147	471
Write - In	23	0	0	23
Write - In	0	0	0	0
Blank	0	6	16	22
Total	548	379	441	1368
Commissioner of Trust Funds	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Joseph E. Twomey, Candidate for Re-election	443	286	335	1064
Write - In	2	0	0	2
Blank	103	93	106	302
Total	548	379	441	1368
Groton Electric Light Commission	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Kevin J. Lindemer, Candidate for Re-election	437	294	328	1059
Write - In	4	0	3	7
Blank	107	85	110	302
Total	548	379	441	1368
Groton Housing Authority	Vote for One		Five Year Term	
Ellen G. Todd, Candidate for Re-election	417	265	301	983
Write - In	1	1	0	2
Blank	130	113	140	383
Total	548	379	441	1368
Park Commission	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Write-in				
Jon Strauss	4	0	3	7
Donald Black	2	2	0	4
Kerri Strauss	2	1	2	5
Scatterings	11	9	15	35
Blank	529	367	421	1317
Total	548	379	441	1368

Planning Board	Vote for Three		Three Year Term	
Russell J. Burke, Candidate for Re-election	373	231	261	865
Carolyn A.Perkins, Candidate for Re-election	367	242	282	891
Timothy M. Svarczkopf, Candidate for Re-election	351	218	242	811
Write-in 1	5	9	1	15
Blank	548	437	537	1522
	1644	1137	1323	4104
Sewer Commission	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Write - In				
Tom Hartnett	23	20	25	68
John McCafferty	0	35	13	48
Scatterings	6	11	14	31
Russ Burke	5	0	0	5
Blank	514	313	389	1216
Total	548	379	441	1368
Trustees of the Groton Public Library	Vote for Two		Three Year Term	
Jane R. Allen, Candidate for Re-election	409	265	314	988
Kristen vonCampe, Candidate for Re-election	405	260	307	972
Write-in 1	1	0	3	4
Blank	281	233	258	772
Total	1096	758	882	2736
Water Commission - 3 year term	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
John J. McCaffrey, Jr.	402	277	313	992
Write - In	2	2	2	6
Blank	144	100	126	370
Total	548	379	441	1368
Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	Vote for Two		Three Year Term	
Alsion Manugian, Candidate for Re-election	317	199	240	756
Peter A. Cronin	269	197	222	688
Angela M. Donahue	267	186	226	679
Write - In		1	0	1
Blank	243	175	194	612
Total	1096	758	882	2736
Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	Vote for One		One Year Term	
Marlena A. Gilbert	204	148	159	511
Jon G. Sjoberg	280	178	235	693
Write - In	1	0	0	1
Blank	63	53	47	163
Total	548	379	441	1368
Town Clerk	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Michael F. Bouchard, Candidate for Re-election	451	301	344	1096
Write - In	2	0	0	2
Blank	95	78	97	270
Total	548	379	441	1368
Town Moderator	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Jason N. Kauppi, Candidate for Re-election	455	299	347	1101
Write - In	1	3	2	6
Blank	92	77	92	261
Total	548	379	441	1368

Town of Groton, Massachusetts
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes In Fund Balances -
All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types	Total (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Water, Sewer & Electric Light Enterprise Funds	Exp & Non-Exp Trust Funds
Revenues:					
Property Taxes / SurTaxes	27,915,605	604,687 x			28,520,292
Motor Vehicle/Other Excise	1,598,791				1,598,791
Licenses and Permits	539,776				539,776
Intergovernmental	924,511	567,239	544,421	72,808	2,108,979
Charges for Services/Fees	865,183	277,364 x		12,618,172	13,760,719
Penalties and Interest	101,332				101,332
Fines and Forfeits	43,763				43,763
Interest Earnings	17,477	3,587		5,950	376,619
Departmental and Other	736,828	433,449		44,582	21,565
Total Revenues	32,743,266	1,886,326	544,421	12,741,512	398,184
Expenditures:					
General Government	1,422,553	100,762			1,523,315
Public Safety	3,818,041	295,991			4,114,032
Education	18,328,798	3,390			126,485
Highway and Public Works	1,953,388	6,064		9,498,379	11,457,831
Culture, Recreation & Cit Svcs	1,793,115	283,784			163,050
Debt Service	1,204,781	496,875		2,496,923	4,198,579
Intergovernmental	106,992				106,992
Capital Outlay/Construction	695,616	329,454	1,015,369	3,747,722	5,788,161
Employee Benifits & Misc.	3,234,091				3,234,091
Total Expenditures	32,557,375	1,516,320	1,015,369	15,743,024	289,535
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	185,891	370,006	(470,948)	(3,001,512)	108,649
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Operating Transfers In	827,829	1,884	110,000		615,000
Operating Transfers Out	(716,884)	(555,000)	(17,639)		(355,190)
Proceeds of Bonds				2,000,000	
Total Other Sources (Uses)	110,945	(553,116)	92,361	2,000,000	259,810
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	296,836	(183,110)	(378,587)	(1,001,512)	368,459
Fund Balance, Beginning	1,723,768	2,610,641	640,244	2,794,523	19,008,046
Adjust to Fair Market Value					
Prior Period Adjutment	12,673	0	0	0	
Fund Balance, Beginning, as Restated	1,736,441	2,610,641	640,244 #	2,794,523	19,008,046
Fund Balance, Ending	2,033,277	2,427,531	261,657	1,793,011	19,376,505

Town of Groton, Massachusetts
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis)
General Funds
For The Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Final <u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	27,971,460	27,689,578	(281,882)
Motor Vehicle Excise & Meals Excise	1,415,000	1,598,791	183,791
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	190,000	226,027	36,027
Licenses, Leases, Fees and Permits	1,185,000	1,404,959	219,959
Intergovernmental	828,915	857,265	28,350
Charges for Services	65,000	67,246	2,246
Penalties and Interest	90,000	101,332	11,332
Fines and Forfeits	34,000	43,763	9,763
Interest Earnings	10,000	17,477	7,477
Departmental and Other	575,000	736,828	161,828
Total Revenues	32,364,375	32,743,266	378,891
Expenditures:			
Reserve Fund	150,000	97,604	52,396
General Gov	2,020,818	1,891,693	129,125
Public Safety	3,314,510	3,170,072	144,438
Education	18,328,798	18,328,798	0
Highway and Public Works	2,240,784	2,343,290	(102,506)
Human Services & Culture and Recreation	1,693,245	1,610,449	82,796
Capital Expenditures/Special Articles	1,030,829	554,627	476,202
Debt Service	1,308,721	1,295,281	13,440
Intergovernmental	106,992	106,992	0
Employee Benefits & Miscellaneous	3,133,724	3,070,625	63,099
Total Expenditures	33,328,421	32,469,431	858,990
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(964,046)	273,835	1,237,881
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Operating Transfers In	827,829	827,829	0
Operating Transfers Out	(626,884)	(626,884)	0
Proceeds of Bonds/BAN's	200,000	200,000	0
Free Cash	1,018,229	1,018,229	0
Additional Overlay & Deficits to be raised	(439,166)	(439,166)	0
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	980,008	980,008	0
Excess of Revenue and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and other Uses	15,962	1,253,843	1,237,881

FISCAL 2015
BUDGET VS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

	Appropriation or Bal/Fwd	Res. Fund or Line Item Tx	Expended	Balance to Fund Bal	Balance to FY 16
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				<small>= Line item in deficit at year end</small>	
Moderator Salary	65.00		65.00	0.00	
Moderator Expense	80.00		20.70	59.30	
Selectmen Salaries	3,950.00		3,950.00	0.00	
Selectmen Expense	2,000.00		1,975.64	24.36	
Town Manager Salaries	183,649.00		183,649.00	0.00	
Town Manager Wages	84,191.00	261.00	84,451.67	0.33	
Town Manager Expense	3,300.00		3,299.92	0.08	
Town Manager Expense Prior Year	2,120.00		2,120.00	0.00	
Town Mgr Station Avenue Engineering	49,322.51		26,263.84	0.00	23,058.67
Town Manager 4 Corners Sewer Design	200,000.00		855.00	0.00	199,145.00
Town Mgr Herbicide Treatment Lost Lake	16,600.45		10,500.00	0.00	6,100.45
Town Mgr Lost Lake Watershed Committee	32,639.21			0.00	32,639.21
Town Mgr Squannacook Hall Septic	30,000.00			0.00	30,000.00
Finance Committee Expense	0.00			0.00	
Reserve Fund	150,000.00	(97,604.00)		52,396.00	
Town Accountant Salary	73,064.00		73,064.00	0.00	
Town Accountant Wages	39,135.00	(261.00)	37,816.45	1,057.55	
Town Accountant Expense/Audit	30,560.00	3,000.00	33,036.50	0.00	523.50
Town Accountant Expense/Audit Prior Year	1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00	
Assessors Salaries	83,246.00		83,246.01	(0.01)	
Assessors Wages	87,696.00	8.38	87,704.38	0.00	
Assessors Expense	18,250.00	(8.38)	13,575.55	4,666.07	
Assessors Expense Prior Year	360.00		357.24	2.76	
Assessors Update Maps	3,500.00		3,062.50	437.50	0.00
Assessors Personal Property Revaluation	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00	
Treasurer/Tax Collector Salary	79,273.00		79,272.96	0.04	
Treasurer/Tax Collector Wages	96,125.00	155.45	96,280.45	0.00	
Treasurer/Tax Collector Expense	18,774.00	(155.45)	18,554.24	64.31	1,311.15
Treasurer Tax Title	6,000.00		4,365.82	323.03	
Treasurer Bond Costs	2,500.00		2,500.00	0.00	
Town Counsel Expense	75,000.00	62,000.00	101,332.50	0.00	35,667.50
Town Counsel Expense Prior Year	7,800.00		7,655.48	144.52	
Personnel Board Salary	71,396.00	(2,500.00)	68,560.13	335.87	
Personnel Board Expense	4,450.00	2,500.00	6,703.40	46.60	200.00
Personnel Board Prior Year Exp Encumbered	305.55		305.55	0.00	
Information Technology Committee Salary	121,618.00		117,973.50	3,644.50	
Information Technology Committee Wages	44,538.00	5,000.00	48,737.05	800.95	
Information Technology Committee Expense	24,800.00		23,788.86	875.03	136.11

Information Tech. Prior Year Exp	1,379.15		952.65	426.50
Information Technology Capital Expenses	40,000.00		39,253.52	746.48
GIS Committee Expenses	15,100.00		6,016.10	9,083.90
GIS Committee Expenses Prior Year	90.00		90.00	0.00
Town Clerk Salary	71,649.00		71,649.00	0.00
Town Clerk Wages	53,041.00		48,161.21	4,879.79
Town Clerk Expense	9,520.00		7,874.93	1,645.07
Election/Registrar Wages	10,050.00		8,914.00	1,136.00
Election/Registrar Expense	12,014.00		9,793.57	2,220.43
Elections Minor Cap Voting Machines	22,000.00		0.00	0.00
Street Listing Expense	5,850.00		5,489.07	10.93
Conservation Commission Salary	61,384.00		61,384.00	0.00
Conservation Commission Expense	7,950.00		4,322.92	3,627.08
Conservation Commission Expense Prior Year	129.28		129.28	0.00
Planning Board Salary	80,788.00		80,788.00	0.00
Planning Board Expense	8,100.00		7,177.76	922.24
Planning Board Expense Prior Year	180.00		180.00	0.00
Planning Board MRPC Assessment	3,160.00		3,160.00	0.00
Planning Brd Twn Ctr Overlay Guidelines PY	7,500.00		7,500.00	0.00
Planning Board Master Plan FY2012	7,500.00		7,500.00	0.00
Board of Appeals Wages	18,267.00		18,255.08	11.92
Board of Appeals Expense	1,400.00		986.00	414.00
Municipal Buildings Wages	81,180.00		81,072.19	107.81
Municipal Buildings Expense	272,350.00	13,000.00	283,792.72	127.13
Municipal Buildings Expense Prior Year	111.66		111.66	0.00
Municipal Bldgs Exp-Town Hall Security	30,000.00		0.00	0.00
Municipal Buildings Minor Capital	20,000.00		17,530.03	2,469.97
Insurance and Bonding	143,000.00		142,864.40	135.60
Insurance Deductible Reserve-GenLiab	12,000.00		5,648.81	6,351.19
Insurance Deductible Reserve-111F	25,000.00		3,309.78	6,690.22
Town Reports	1,500.00		1,400.00	100.00
Postage, General Expenses	53,000.00		52,323.00	345.50
Postage, General Expenses Prior Year	1,056.92		1,007.61	49.31
Central Purchasing/Office Supplies	17,000.00		15,512.00	808.02
Central Purchasing/Office Supplies Prior Yr	130.40		130.40	0.00
Telephone Expense	50,000.00		41,713.44	7,842.53
Telephone Expense Prior Year	616.36		616.36	0.00
Total General Government	2,801,304.49	(14,604.00)	2,272,652.83	115,030.41
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY				
Police Department Salary	284,676.00		283,340.46	1,335.54
Police Department Wages	1,492,580.00	10,000.00	1,489,613.33	12,966.67
Police Department Expense	176,171.00		173,239.21	2,731.79
Police Department Expense Prior Year	8,569.57		8,569.57	0.00
Police Department Data Conversion FY15	41,000.00		0.00	0.00
				41,000.00
Total	399,017.25			

Police Department Cruisers Lease/Purchase	4,000.00		3,960.00	40.00
Police Department Minor Capital	10,000.00		9,999.90	0.10
Police Department Minor Capital Prior Year	100.00		90.62	9.38
Police Department New Cruisers	120,000.00		120,000.00	0.00
Police Department Bldg Improvements FY15	60,000.00		34,392.38	0.00
Fire Department Salaries	108,912.00		102,181.79	6,730.21
Fire Department Wages	651,016.00	30,500.00	680,094.44	1,421.56
Fire Department Expense	128,059.00	17,000.00	144,266.75	0.25
Fire Exp Prior Year	33,042.67		30,258.44	2,784.23
Fire Department Capital: Ambulance FY15	280,000.00		278,690.82	1,309.18
Fire Department Ambulance Conversion FY15	50,000.00			0.00
Fire Hydrant Charge West Groton	1.00			1.00
Fire Hydrant Charge Groton	1.00			1.00
Building Inspector Salaries	79,273.00		79,273.00	0.00
Building Inspector Wages	62,578.00		60,282.45	2,295.55
Building Inspector Expense	7,900.00		2,870.05	5,029.95
Salaries/Fees-Mechanical Inspector	20,000.00	7,156.00	27,156.00	0.00
Mechanical Inspector Expense	3,500.00	844.00	3,325.96	1,018.04
Sealer Weights & Measures Salary/Fees	2,500.00	1,000.00	2,870.00	630.00
Sealer Weights & Measures Expense	100.00		29.10	70.90
Earth Removal Inspector Salary	1.00		0.00	1.00
Earth Removal Inspector Expense	100.00		94.50	5.50
Animal Inspector/Animal Control Off. Salaries	4,164.00		4,164.16	(0.16)
Animal Inspector/Animal Control Off.Expense	800.00		800.00	0.00
Civil Defense/Aux Police/EOC Expenses	13,000.00		13,000.00	0.00
Dog Officer Salary	13,973.00		10,400.00	3,573.00
Dog Officer Expense	4,250.00		3,398.22	851.78
Police & Fire Communications Wages	436,182.00	(84,100.00)	238,298.89	113,783.11
Police & Fire Communications Expense	13,225.00	100.00	13,315.29	9.71
Police & Fire Communications Exp Prior Yr	66.69		66.69	0.00
Total Protection Persons and Property	4,109,740.93	(17,500.00)	3,818,042.02	156,599.29
SCHOOLS				117,599.62
Nashoba Valley Tech High School Assmt	572,775.00		572,775.00	0.00
Minuteman Regional Vocation Technical	0.00			0.00
Groton Dunstable Reg School District Assmt	17,756,023.00		17,756,023.00	0.00
Total Schools	18,328,798.00	0.00	18,328,798.00	0.00

PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES

General Highway Salary	92,809.00		92,808.62	0.38
General Highway Wages	605,341.00	(16,000.00)	586,753.93	2,587.07
General Highway Expense	127,300.00	34,000.00	153,744.00	1,400.33
General Highway Prior Year Exp Encumbered	793.90		793.90	0.00
				6,155.67
				0.00

General Highway Road Maintenance	89,000.00		85,677.19	356.34	2,966.47
General Highway FY15 Pick-Up Truck	35,000.00		35,000.00	0.00	
Snow & Ice Overtime	191,452.49		191,452.49	0.00	
Snow & Ice Expense	288,547.51		356,192.28	(67,644.77)	
Snow & Ice Hired Equipment	35,000.00		111,742.30	(76,742.30)	
Street Lighting	24,000.00		17,800.00	6,200.00	
Waste Disposal Wages	119,820.00	(8,000.00)	110,970.07	849.93	
Waste Disposal Consulting	5,850.00		5,850.00	0.00	
Waste Disposal Expense	54,486.00		52,906.89	1,579.11	
Waste Disposal Tipping Fees	135,000.00		122,318.19	5,921.59	6,760.22
Waste Disposal Minor Capital	5,000.00		5,000.00	0.00	
Tree Department Expense	3,000.00		1,690.77	1,309.23	
Tree Department Tree Work	16,500.00		15,127.23	1,372.77	
Tree Department Tree Work Prior Year	5,100.00		5,100.00	0.00	
Graves Registration Salary	250.00		250.00	0.00	
Graves Registration Expense	660.00		660.00	0.00	
Care of Veterans' Graves	1,550.00		1,550.00	0.00	
Total Public Works & Facilities	1,836,459.90	10,000.00	1,953,387.86	(122,810.32)	15,882.36

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Board of Health Expense	1,150.00		786.50	363.50	
Board of Health Engineering Consult	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00	
Nashoba Nursing Service/Health Assessment	38,887.00		31,943.04	6,943.96	
Council on Aging Salaries	66,586.00		66,586.00	0.00	
Council on Aging Wages	50,122.00		44,851.69	5,270.31	206.00
Council on Aging Expense	8,454.00		7,533.03	714.97	
Council on Aging Expense Prior Year	635.00		625.54	9.46	
Council on Aging Minor Capital	4,000.00		1,495.00	0.00	2,505.00
Senior Center Van Wages	56,806.00		41,124.99	15,681.01	
Senior Center Van Expenses	17,913.00		9,565.34	6,447.66	1,900.00
Veterans' Agent Salary	3,485.00		3,484.00	1.00	
Veterans' Agent Expense	900.00		265.56	634.44	
Veterans' Benefits	50,000.00		43,824.37	6,175.63	
Total Health & Human Services	308,938.00	0.00	262,085.06	42,241.94	4,611.00

LIBRARY AND CITIZENS' SERVICES

Library Salaries	333,198.00	1,610.00	334,800.22	7.78	
Library Wages	279,707.00	794.00	277,752.28	2,748.72	
Library Expense	198,335.00		194,106.02	0.98	4,228.00
Library Expense Prior Year	5,000.00		2,234.03	2,765.97	
Library Automatic Doors FY14	9,000.00		7,944.13	1,055.87	
Library Minor Capital	0.00	12,700.00		0.00	12,700.00
Library Minor Capital Prior Year	10,732.00		8,785.00	1,947.00	
Library HVAC FY15	43,690.00			0.00	43,690.00

Country Club Salaries	62,689.00	16,000.00	78,192.08	496.92
Country Club Wages	184,738.00	(32,000.00)	148,765.68	3,972.32
Country Club Expenses	297,573.00	46,000.00	328,711.68	4,440.78
Country Club Expenses Prior Year	2,404.09		2,305.72	98.37
Country Club Minor Capital	5,000.00		5,000.00	0.00
Country Club Rough Mower Lease	10,000.00		9,939.46	60.54
Country Club Golf Cart Lease	20,000.00		19,995.45	4.55
Country Club Boom Sprayer Lease	6,500.00		6,499.88	0.12
Park Department Wages	2,540.00		2,321.27	218.73
Park Department Expense	48,608.00		48,540.13	67.87
Park Department Expense Prior Year	6,894.17		5,691.84	1,202.33
Parks Property Improvements FY14	25,768.25		21,048.33	0.00
Care of the Old Burying Ground	700.00		699.58	0.42
Town Forest Expense	5,200.00			0.00
Celebrations/Commemorations	500.00		464.00	36.00
Weed Harvesting/Great Ponds Expense	6,385.00		5,745.13	639.87
Weed Harvesting/Great Ponds Expense PY	900.00		900.00	
Water Safety Wages	2,640.00		1,142.40	1,497.60
Water Safety Expense	950.00	15,000.00	13,879.96	2,070.04
Water Safety Expense Prior Year	5,287.20		5,287.20	0.00
Total Library and Citizens' Services	1,574,938.71	60,104.00	1,530,751.47	23,332.78
				80,958.46

DEBT SERVICE

Principal Long-Term Debt	982,670.00		982,670.00	0.00
Interest Long-Term Debt	324,051.00		311,453.09	12,597.91
Interest Short-Term Debt	2,000.00		1,158.17	841.83
Total Debt Service	1,308,721.00	0.00	1,295,281.26	13,439.74
				0.00

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

County Retirement Assessment	1,591,023.00	(30,000.00)	1,560,704.00	319.00
Health & Life Insurance	1,433,701.00	(19,000.00)	1,359,702.75	49,266.00
Health & Life Insurance Prior Year	2,668.82		2,668.82	0.00
Unemployment Compensation	40,000.00	6,000.00	40,634.65	0.00
Unemployment Compensation Prior Year	3,400.00		3,395.00	5.00
Medicare Employer Contribution	107,000.00	5,000.00	109,583.10	0.10
Medicare Employer Contribution Prior Year	2,696.24		2,696.24	
Total Employee Benefits	3,180,489.06	(38,000.00)	3,079,384.56	49,590.10
		0.00		13,514.40

WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Water Department Salaries	117,061.00		117,061.10	(0.10)
Water Department Wages	146,855.00	3,000.00	149,313.28	541.72
Water Department Expense *	454,489.00	(3,000.00)	415,565.44	423.56
				35,500.00

Water Department Expense Prior Year	6,461.00	6,460.28	0.72
Water Department Debt Service	361,217.00	361,216.14	0.86
Total Water Department Enterprise	1,086,083.00	1,049,616.24	966.76
35,500.00			

* Includes transfer from Water Enterprise E&D of \$100,000

SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Sewer Department Salaries	17,585.00	17,584.65	0.35
Sewer Department Wages	30,115.00	26,065.18	4,049.82
Sewer Department Expense *	682,615.00	593,805.94	88,509.06
Sewer Department Expense Prior Year	1,750.00	1,746.49	3.51
Sewer Dept: Debt Service (incl. betterments)	42,851.00	42,840.25	10.75
Total Sewer Department Enterprise	774,916.00	682,042.51	92,573.49
300.00			

* Includes transfer from Sewer Enterprise E&D of \$100,000

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Lost Lake Sewer Expense Prior Year	17,639.21	17,639.21	0.00
Debt Service Lost Lake Sewer	110,000.00	110,000.00	0.00
Center Fire Station Project Exp.	593,594.33	340,849.98	252,744.35
Lost Lake Fire Protection	28,001.40	20,097.00	7,904.40

Total Capital Projects

749,234.94	0.00	488,586.19	0.00	260,648.75
36,059,624.03	0.00	34,760,628.00	370,964.19	928,031.84

SPECIAL REVENUE FISCAL 2014

Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures	Bal to 2016
1,009.25	544,421.00	544,421.00	1,009.25

CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS

Chapter 90 Highway Funds	0.00
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Community Preservation Fund

Note: Bal. forward to 2016 incl. encumbrances for incomplete projects; Unalloc Rsrv incl. operating rsrv

Unallocated Reserve	570,834.57	597,091.91	643,544.06	524,382.42
Community Housing Reserve	274,852.43	85,298.85	34,011.07	326,140.21
Historic Resource Reserve	167,018.29	85,298.85	15,524.15	236,792.99
Open Space Reserve	36,121.47	85,298.85	99,377.00	22,043.32
1,048,826.76	852,988.46	792,456.28	0.00	1,109,358.94

GIFTS

Highway Department	4,961.03	440.00	5,401.03
Fire Department SAFE	570.42	255.00	291.76
Fire Department	8,901.99	845.00	6,498.22
EMS	4,311.68	3,248.77	2,636.68
		1,675.00	

Police Department	1,755.69	1,350.00	1,100.13	2,005.56
Shooting Range	144.04			144.04
DARE	0.00	3,000.00	2,448.18	551.82
Sargisson Beach GLA Gift	0.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
Civil Defense	1,100.34			1,100.34
Library	59,672.69	8,374.19	7,920.68	60,126.20
Council on Aging	6,580.00	2,140.00	1,998.46	6,721.54
GLA Weed Control Gift	0.00	9,000.00	3,430.25	5,569.75
Williams Barn	1,127.42	4,782.00	1,971.92	3,937.50
Care of Old Burying Ground	452.23			452.23
Groton Military Covenant	213.00			213.00
Dog Pound	1,755.20	181.00		1,936.20
Groton Children's Fund	9,488.47	12,963.24	17,327.25	5,124.46
Pavilion Maintenance	471.14			471.14
Smith Fountain	2,017.94			2,017.94
Sargisson Beach Canoe Launch	16,579.04		9,604.75	6,974.29
Cable TV Organization	171,089.10	192,758.63	201,444.67	162,403.06
Cable TV Programming	4,652.72	105.00	1,150.32	3,607.40
Greenway	2,537.40	2,342.13	1,425.30	3,454.23
Playing Fields	605.19			605.19
C-Lab/Insko Monitoring	1,406.51			1,406.51
Dr. Betty Scholarship	3,390.00		3,390.00	0.00
Country Club Gift	0.00	4,204.92	3,379.92	825.00
Groton School Fire Station Equipment	25,000.00		25,000.00	0.00
Evan's Rink Gift	1,060.01		794.46	265.55
Hanson Playground Gift	563.01			563.01
Rocky Hill Gift Fund	2,469.50			2,469.50
Lost Lake Dam Gift Fund	34,806.00	10,000.00		44,806.00
Sustainability Committee Fund	29.61	1,000.00		1,029.61
Trails Committee Gift Fund	3,775.64	1,000.00	132.67	4,642.97
Recycling Gift Fund	1,978.67	1,104.50		3,083.17
Academy Hills Lottery Gift Fund	3,018.66			3,018.66
Lost Lake/Knops Pond Gift Fund	3,430.00			3,430.00
Swim Team Gift Fund	19.02			19.02
Vets Breakfast/Senior Lunch Fund	1,058.94	100.00	267.01	891.93
GRG Traffic Light Gift	100,000.00			100,000.00
GRANTS	480,992.30	260,945.61	288,243.40	0.00
GRANTS				453,694.51

FY14 Dispatch S & I

(64,492.52)

64,492.52

0.00

FY13 Dispatch Support & Incentive	(187.28)	187.28		0.00
FY13 Dispatch Training	(1,696.88)	1,696.88		0.00
FY14 Dispatch Training	(2,621.52)		1,601.00	(1,258.69)
Fire Department SAFE Program	5,099.11	7,218.00	3,936.32	8,380.79
Fire Training Grant	4,712.97		4,712.97	0.00
Fire Fighter SAFER Wage Grant	0.00			0.00
Dispatch 911 Incentive Grant FY15	0.00	124,992.80	233,602.40	(108,609.60)
Dispatch 911 Training Grant FY15	0.00	154.94	2,537.79	(2,382.85)
Dispatch 911 Development Grant FY15	0.00	5,240.00	40,240.00	(35,000.00)
Police Bullet Proof Vests Grant	355.00		355.00	0.00
DPW DOT WRRRP FY15	0.00	75,993.00	89,215.09	(13,222.09)
Squannacook Dam Repair Grant	0.00			0.00
Conservation WHIP Grant	1,875.00			1,875.00
43 D Planning Grant	4,480.64			4,480.64
Stormwater: James Brook Grant	59.41			59.41
Aid to Libraries	77,882.48	17,817.95	13,240.71	82,459.72
Arts Council	4,903.58	4,302.60	5,250.00	3,956.18
Elder Programs Grant	0.00	13,080.00	13,080.00	0.00
Cable Equipment Grant	112,989.54	25,000.00	63,967.20	74,022.34
Additional Polling Hours	2,901.00	2,040.00		4,941.00
Recycling	0.00	2,800.00		2,800.00
Antenna Grant Civil Defense	1,445.00			1,445.00
Regional Recycling	532.65			532.65
BoH Equipment Grant	177.05	1,238.87	1,365.18	50.74
Title V Loan	83,573.03	3,363.83	10,400.00	76,536.86
	231,988.26	352,582.50	483,503.66	0.00
				101,067.10
REVOLVING				
Affordable Housing Marketing	7,607.53		608.00	6,999.53
Drug Forfeiture	6,919.76			6,919.76
Insurance Claims	4,779.97	14,064.47	14,064.47	4,779.97
Erosion Control	5,862.71	4,021.00	7,285.48	2,598.23
Conservation Land Management	32,487.69	1,150.00	6,357.62	27,280.07
Conservation 593 Academy Hill	496.44	0.26		496.70
Conservation 593 GELD Peer Review	1.29			1.29
Conservation 593 NESSP Temple	67.94	0.07		68.01
Planning Board 593	34,540.18	25,092.68	23,801.41	35,831.45
Zoning Board 593	3,260.49	1.81		3,262.30
	96,024.00	44,330.29	52,116.98	0.00
				88,237.31

RECEIPTS RESERVED

Town Forest Reserved	79,358.26			79,358.26
Insurance Reimbursement over \$20,000	6,925.07			6,925.07
Sale of Old Fire Station	0.00	100,000.00		100,000.00
Emergency Medical Fees Reserved	666,526.05	277,363.51	455,000.00	488,889.56
<i>EMS Repts Res. includes \$407k encumbered for FY 2016</i>	752,809.38	377,363.51	455,000.00	675,172.89

NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS

	Interest & Disbursements & Transfers		
	+ Market Adj	- Market Adj	In or Out
Dr. Samuel Green Charity Fund	121,290.80	404.49	120,886.31
Joseph T. Shepley Charity Fund	279,557.46	932.28	278,625.18
Sarah E. Barr Eye Fund	2,400.58	8.01	2,392.57
Willard Dalrymple Eye Fund	10,131.91	33.79	10,098.12
Frank E. Waters Vocational Fund	5,458,027.44	18,201.68	5,439,825.76
John H. Robbins Library Fund	2,819,550.59	9,402.77	2,810,147.82
Library Book Fund	156,023.31	520.32	155,502.99
Lecture Fund	4,319,289.24	14,404.16	4,304,885.08
Joseph T. Shepley Fountain Fund	2,400.54	8.01	2,392.53
Arthur E. Spaulding Fund	967.35	3.23	964.12
Cemetery Perpetual Care (Blood/Champney)	1,934.67	6.46	1,928.21
Mary T. Sawyer Library Fund	4,973.24	16.59	4,956.65
Robertson Scholarship Fund	16,032.47	53.48	15,978.99
Groton Commons	9,614.14	32.06	9,582.08
Butler/GrotonDunstable School Trust	11,444.95	38.17	11,406.78
Robertson/Onners Memorial Trust	28,786.06	2,183.96	30,970.02
Bertozzi Trust/Scholarship Fund	156,824.27	24.72	156,799.55
VanHoogan Trust/Scholarship Fund	68,457.10	6,564.92	75,022.02
Belitsky Scholarship	17,102.32	659.22	17,761.54
Peter M. Twomey Trust/Scholarship Fund	33,772.93	2,718.67	36,491.60
	13,518,581.37	12,126.77	13,486,617.92

EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS

	Trans. In Trans. Out		
	+ Market Adj	- Market Adj	Expenditures
Dr. Samuel Green Charity Fund	788,413.41	25,872.04	1,160.00
Joseph T. Shepley Charity Fund	315,663.30	15,972.82	0.00
Sarah T. Barr Eye Fund	1,938.38	56.28	207.20
Willard Dalrymple Eye Fund	20,463.74	1,684.52	22,148.26

Frank E. Waters Vocational Fund	658,659.77	156,588.73		119,714.71	695,533.79
John H. Robbins Library Fund	605,717.63	73,532.34	888.39	70,501.75	607,859.83
Library Book Fund	37,856.04	5,034.27			42,890.31
Lecture Fund	422,812.41	103,811.89	3,242.14	66,752.97	456,629.19
Joseph T. Shepley Fountain Fund	3,949.57	60.21			4,009.78
Arthur E. Spaulding Fund	324.54	21.20			345.74
Cemetery Perpetual Care (Blood/Champney)	7,419.59	57.04			7,476.63
Stabilization Fund	1,475,066.03	180,587.85	10,069.07		1,645,584.81
Capital Purchases Stabilization Fund	523,053.70	365,847.38		355,190.00	533,711.08
Conservation Fund	422,481.94	100,984.57			523,466.51
Carl A.P. Lawrence Library Fund	60,184.03	1,079.00	160.36		61,102.67
Mary T. Sawyer Library Fund	1,006.09	112.16			1,118.25
John H. Robertson Scholarship Fund	4,437.28	360.42			4,797.70
Butler/Groton Dunstable Library Fund	6,064.54	263.15			6,327.69
Avenue of Flags	3,314.34	1.81			3,316.15
Groton Commons Fund	4,163.58	219.06			4,382.64
Robertson/Onners Memorial Trust Fund	12,819.47	1,449.36	413.87	620.00	13,234.96
Bertozzi Trust/Scholarship Fund	5,364.58	3,321.71	830.43	1,150.00	6,705.86
VanHoogan Trust/Scholarship Fund	5,512.65	2,111.06	422.21		7,201.50
Peter M. Twomey Trust & Scholarship Fund	958.76	1,196.87	299.22	500.00	1,356.41
Belitsky Scholarship	533.36	797.89	159.58	500.00	671.67
Turtle Study Trust	25,243.99	13.66			25,257.65
Turtle Main Trust	28,273.24	15.28			28,288.52
Town Scholarship Fund	5,868.25	3,327.09		4,000.00	5,195.34
Affordable Housing Trust	41,900.88	18,411.87			60,312.75
	5,489,465.09	1,062,791.53	17,645.27	644,724.93	5,889,886.42

Note: Capital Purchase Stabilization Fund Balance includes \$404,145 encumbered to FY 16 for Capital Expenditures

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS JULY 1, 2015 - DECEMBER 31, 2015

GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
	Appropriation	Res Fund or Line Item Tx	6-Month Expended	Est. To Be Expended	
Moderator Salary	65.00		0.00	65.00	
Moderator Expense	80.00		0.00	80.00	
Selectmen Salaries	3,950.00		2,126.88	1,823.12	
Selectmen Expense	15,000.00		1,267.00	13,733.00	
Selectmen Minor Capital (Sewer SRF)	27,000.00		26,716.60	283.40	
Town Manager Salaries	188,596.00		96,715.90	91,880.10	
Town Manager Wages	96,327.00		47,710.85	48,616.15	
Town Manager Expense	4,000.00		1,289.37	2,710.63	
Town Manager: Station Avenue Engineering	23,058.67		250.00	22,808.67	
Town Mgr: LL Herbicide Treatment FY13	6,100.45		6,100.45	0.00	
Town Mgr: Lost Lake Watershed Committee FY15	32,639.21		0.00	32,639.21	
Town Mgr: Squannacook Hall Septic Repair	30,000.00		3,539.50	26,460.50	
Reserve Fund	150,000.00	(3,400.00)		146,600.00	
Town Accountant Salary	81,539.00		42,564.06	38,974.94	
Town Accountant Wages	40,950.00		20,055.09	20,894.91	
Town Accountant Expenses/Audit	35,610.00		32,341.76	3,268.24	
Town Accountant Expenses/Audit Prior Year	523.50		523.50	0.00	
Assessors Elected Officials Salaries	2,430.00		1,308.44	1,121.56	
Assessors Salaries	82,417.00		42,274.64	40,142.36	
Assessors Wages	94,130.00		46,071.08	48,058.92	
Assessors Expense	23,475.00		14,052.17	9,422.83	
Treasurer/Tax Collector Salary	82,476.00		43,083.24	39,392.76	
Treasurer/Tax Collector Wages	100,742.00		49,020.56	51,721.44	
Treasurer/Tax Collect Expense	20,530.00		11,149.58	9,380.42	
Treasurer Tax Title	4,500.00		1,912.06	2,587.94	
Treasurer Tax Title Prior Year	1,311.15		0.00	1,311.15	
Treasurer Bond Costs	3,000.00		2,500.00	500.00	
Town Counsel Expense	90,000.00		20,465.42	69,534.58	
Town Counsel Expense Prior Year	35,667.50		11,506.48	24,161.02	
Human Resource Salaries	70,359.00		36,081.34	34,277.66	
Human Resource Expense	7,050.00		4,999.32	2,050.68	
Human Resource Expense Prior Year	200.00		200.00	0.00	
Information Technology Salary	125,248.00		62,675.38	62,572.62	
Information Technology Wages	46,158.00		22,668.24	23,489.76	
Information Technology Expense	24,800.00		10,037.44	14,762.56	
Information Technology Expense Prior Year	136.11		136.11	0.00	
Information Technology: Capital Outlay	50,000.00		4,968.02	45,031.98	
GIS Committee	15,100.00		781.61	14,318.39	
Town Clerk Salary	74,544.00		38,227.72	36,316.28	
Town Clerk Wages	51,930.00		24,235.96	27,694.04	

	Appropriation	Res Fund or Line Item Tx	6-Month Expended	Est. To Be Expended
Town Clerk Expense	11,870.00		6,190.91	5,679.09
Election/Registrar Wages	7,880.00		216.00	7,664.00
Election/Registrar Expense	9,903.00		114.00	9,789.00
Election Minor Capital Expense	22,000.00		0.00	22,000.00
Street Listing Expense	6,275.00		1,923.83	4,351.17
Street Listing Expense Prior Year	350.00		0.00	350.00
Conservation Commission Salary	63,551.00		32,590.14	30,960.86
Conservation Commission Expense	7,950.00		1,455.33	6,494.67
Planning Board Salary	82,358.00		41,466.06	40,891.94
Planning Board Expense	8,100.00		2,599.69	5,500.31
Planning Board County Assessments	3,320.00		3,319.28	0.72
Board of Appeals Wages	18,467.00		9,248.54	9,218.46
Board of Appeals Expense	1,400.00		515.25	884.75
Municipal Buildings Wages	84,728.00		41,838.38	42,889.62
Municipal Buildings Expense	280,850.00		130,254.53	150,595.47
Municipal Buildings Expense Prior Year	1,430.15		1,092.65	337.50
Municipal Buildings Minor Capital	20,000.00		2,849.94	17,150.06
Munic.Bldgs HVAC Town Hall	90,000.00		0.00	90,000.00
Munic. Bldgs Town Hall Security Upgrade FY15	30,000.00		30,000.00	0.00
Munic. Bldgs Town Hall Security Upgrade FY16	30,000.00		7,500.00	22,500.00
Insurance and Bonding	181,000.00		178,930.27	2,069.73
Insurance and Bonding Deductible Reserve	12,000.00		0.00	12,000.00
Insurance and Bonding, Medical Reserve	25,000.00		1,070.82	23,929.18
Ins. and Bonding, Medical Reserve Prior Year	15,000.00		2,742.82	12,257.18
Town Report	1,500.00		0.00	1,500.00
Postage and Copying Expense	55,000.00		20,831.00	34,169.00
Postage and Copying Expense PY	331.50		331.50	0.00
Central Purchasing (Office Supplies)	17,000.00		6,447.12	10,552.88
Central Purchasing (Office Supplies) PY	679.98		679.98	0.00
Telephone Expenses	50,000.00		14,649.13	35,350.87
Telephone Expenses PY	444.03		444.03	0.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,880,030.25	(3,400.00)	1,268,856.97	1,607,773.28

PROTECTION PERSONS AND PROPERTY

Police Department Salary	296,814.00		164,760.15	132,053.85
Police Department Wages	1,613,910.00		861,578.17	752,331.83
Police Department Expense	230,600.00		107,268.77	123,331.23
Police Department Expense PY	200.00		200.00	0.00
Police Department Data Conversion	41,000.00		0.00	41,000.00
Police Department Lease/Purchase Cruisers	4,000.00		3,960.00	40.00
Police Department Minor Capital	10,000.00		4,492.80	5,507.20
Police Department Building Improvements	25,607.62		22,670.14	2,937.48
Police Department Capital Outlay: Vehicles FY16	85,000.00		84,253.70	746.30

	Appropriation	Res Fund or Line Item Tx	6-Month Expended	Est. To Be Expended
Fire Department Salaries	98,880.00		50,707.73	48,172.27
Fire Department Wages	685,676.00		327,403.92	358,272.08
Fire Department Expense	168,000.00		61,364.50	106,635.50
Fire Department Expense: Prior Year	792.00		791.54	0.46
Fire Department Capital Outlay Swap Loader	105,000.00		135.31	104,864.69
Fire Department: Capital Outlay Chief's Vehicle	46,900.00		0.00	46,900.00
Fire Department: Hydrant Charges Groton	1.00		0.00	1.00
Fire Department: Hydrant Charges W. Groton	1.00		0.00	1.00
Police & Fire Communications Wages	462,014.00		182,860.36	279,153.64
Police & Fire Communications: Expense	14,250.00		8,068.11	6,181.89
Building Inspector Salary	80,858.00		41,466.06	39,391.94
Building Inspector Wages	65,486.00		28,296.93	37,189.07
Building Inspector Expense	6,500.00		819.87	5,680.13
Salary/Fees-Gas/Plumbing/Elec Inspectors	25,000.00		13,380.00	11,620.00
Gas/Plumbing/Elec Inspector Expense	5,000.00		1,549.73	3,450.27
Sealer Weights & Measures Salary Fees	2,500.00		1,240.00	1,260.00
Sealer Weights & Measures Expense	100.00		30.21	69.79
Earth Removal Inspector Expense	101.00		67.50	33.50
Animal Inspector/Control Officer Salaries	4,164.00		2,242.24	1,921.76
Animal Inspector/Control Officer Expense	800.00		129.99	670.01
EOC Expense/Aux. Police Expense	14,650.00		8,406.39	6,243.61
Dog Officer Salary	13,973.00		7,245.28	6,727.72
Dog Officer Expense	4,250.00		652.99	3,597.01

TOTAL PROTECTION PERSONS/PROPERTY

	4,112,027.62	0.00	1,986,042.39	2,125,985.23
SCHOOLS				
Nashoba Valley Tech High School Assmt	596,609.00		298,304.50	298,304.50
Out of District Placement	0.00		0.00	0.00
Groton Dunstable Reg School Dist Assmt	18,266,196.00		9,133,098.00	9,133,098.00
TOTAL SCHOOLS	18,862,805.00	0.00	9,431,402.50	9,431,402.50

HIGHWAY AND HEALTH

General Highway Salary	96,498.00		50,216.80	46,281.20
General Highway Wages	620,989.00		287,153.19	333,835.81
General Highway Expense	134,300.00		66,700.47	67,599.53
General Highway Expense Prior Year	6,155.67		6,155.67	0.00
General Highway Road Maintenance	95,000.00		22,154.75	72,845.25
General Highway Road Maint. Prior Year	2,966.47		2,966.47	0.00
General Highway Capital: Dump Truck	180,000.00		0.00	180,000.00
Snow & Ice Overtime	140,000.00		10,610.00	129,390.00

	Appropriation	Res Fund or Line Item Tx	6-Month Expended	Est. To Be Expended
Snow & Ice Expense	165,000.00		136,348.77	28,651.23
Snow & Ice Hired Equipment	35,000.00		0.00	35,000.00
Street Lighting	24,000.00		6,250.00	17,750.00
Waste Disposal Wages	124,305.00		56,333.00	67,972.00
Waste Disposal Expense	54,486.00		6,551.61	47,934.39
Waste Disposal Consulting	5,850.00		5,850.00	0.00
Waste Disposal Tipping Fees	135,000.00		57,287.17	77,712.83
Waste Disposal Tipping Fees Prior Year	6,760.22		6,760.22	0.00
Waste Disposal Minor Capital	5,000.00		0.00	5,000.00
Waste Disposal Capital: Trf Station Bobcat	35,000.00		35,000.00	0.00
Tree Department Expenses	3,000.00		29.25	2,970.75
Tree Department Tree Work	11,500.00		5,374.00	6,126.00
Graves Registration Salary	250.00		0.00	250.00
Graves Registration Expense	660.00		640.00	20.00
Care of Veterans' Graves	1,550.00		0.00	1,550.00
Board of Health Expense	1,000.00		389.50	610.50
Board of Health Engineering	10,000.00		5,175.34	4,824.66
Board of Health Nursing/ Health Services	41,221.00		32,915.57	8,305.43
Council on Aging Salaries	68,597.00		35,177.86	33,419.14
Council on Aging Wages	65,208.00		19,936.72	45,271.28
Council on Aging Expense	8,454.00	3,400.00	2,122.34	9,731.66
Council on Aging Expense Prior Year	206.00		205.99	0.01
Council on Aging Minor Capital	2,505.00		2,500.00	5.00
Senior Center Van Wages	58,104.00		21,757.18	36,346.82
Senior Center Van Expenses	17,673.00		3,501.65	14,171.35
Senior Center Van Expenses Prior Year	1,900.00		1,898.89	1.11
Veterans' Agent Salary	3,485.00		1,876.00	1,609.00
Veterans' Agent Expense	900.00		0.00	900.00
Veterans' Agent: Veteran's Benefits	50,000.00		19,807.59	30,192.41
TOTAL HIGHWAY AND HEALTH	2,212,523.36	3,400.00	909,646.00	1,306,277.36
CULTURE AND RECREATION				
Library Salaries	346,861.00		178,009.49	168,851.51
Library Wages	289,138.00		136,204.21	152,933.79
Library Expense	202,532.00		84,294.16	118,237.84
Library Expense Prior Year	4,228.00		4,228.00	0.00
Library Capital Carpet	22,645.00		0.00	22,645.00
Library Minor Capital	12,700.00	0.00	0.00	12,700.00
Library Capital Furniture & Fixtures HVAC FY15	43,690.00		43,690.00	0.00
Country Club: Salaries	129,781.00		65,689.66	64,091.34
Country Club: Wages	123,483.00		99,910.65	23,572.35
Country Club: Expenses	127,239.00		98,638.27	28,600.73
Country Club: Expenses Prior Year	10,420.54		4,385.42	6,035.12

	Appropriation	Res Fund or Line Item Tx	6-Month Expended	Est. To Be Expended
Country Club: Rough Mower Capital Lease	10,000.00		9,939.46	60.54
Country Club Golf Carts Capital Lease	20,000.00		19,915.45	84.55
Country Club Boom Sprayer Capital Lease	6,500.00		6,499.88	0.12
Park Department Wages	2,659.00		1,265.21	1,393.79
Park Department Expense	64,342.00		31,410.67	32,931.33
Park Department Expense Prior Year	5,000.00		5,000.00	0.00
Park Department Property Improvements FY14	4,719.92		4,719.92	0.00
Park Department Field Improvements FY16	45,000.00		11,708.18	33,291.82
Park Department Playgrounds FY16	50,000.00		252.28	49,747.72
Care of Old Burying Ground	700.00		175.00	525.00
Town Forest Committee FY11	5,200.00		0.00	5,200.00
Commemorations & Celebrations	500.00		0.00	500.00
Great Lakes Advisory Committee Expense	2,385.00		16.97	2,368.03
Weed Harvester Expense	4,000.00		3,375.57	624.43
Water Safety Wages	2,640.00		989.40	1,650.60
Water Safety Expense	35,570.00		15,267.03	20,302.97
TOTAL LIBRARY & CITIZENS' SERVICES	1,571,933.46	0.00	825,584.88	746,348.58

DEBT SERVICE

Principal Long-term Debt	992,670.00		707,670.00	285,000.00
Interest Long-term Debt	265,920.00		138,261.10	127,658.90
Principal Short-term Debt	0.00		0.00	0.00
Interest Temporary Loans	125,000.00		500.00	124,500.00
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	1,383,590.00	0.00	846,431.10	537,158.90

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

County Retirement Assessment	1,771,089.00		1,737,842.00	33,247.00
Unemployment Compensation	41,800.00		10,156.65	31,643.35
Unemployment Compensation Prior Year	5,365.35		5,365.35	0.00
Health & Life Insurance	1,576,500.00		744,308.65	832,191.35
Health & Life Insurance Prior Year	5,735.25		3,771.59	1,963.66
Medicare Employer Contribution	118,000.00		61,153.55	56,846.45
Medicare Employer Contribution Prior Year	2,416.80		2,416.80	0.00
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,520,906.40	0.00	2,565,014.59	955,891.81

WATER DEPARTMENT

Water Department Salaries	118,265.00		61,069.48	57,195.52
Water Department Wages	151,875.00		81,344.51	70,530.49
Water Department Expense	368,554.00		253,264.13	115,289.87
Water Department Expense Prior Year	35,500.00		58.00	35,442.00
Water Department Debt Service	358,851.00		312,707.31	46,143.69
TOTAL WATER DEPARTMENT	1,033,045.00	0.00	708,443.43	324,601.57

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Sewer Department Salaries	18,026.00		9,244.25	8,781.75
Sewer Department Wages	30,865.00		12,972.87	17,892.13
Sewer Department Expense	571,843.00		176,126.99	395,716.01

	Appropriation	Res Fund or Line Item Tx	6-Month Expended	Est. To Be Expended
Sewer Department Expense Prior Year	300.00		218.71	81.29
Sewer Department Debt Service	5,106.00		4,479.39	626.61
TOTAL SEWER DEPARTMENT	626,140.00	0.00	203,042.21	423,097.79

LOCAL CABLE ACCESS

Cable Department Salaries	65,000.00		33,333.34	31,666.66
Cable Department Wages	56,533.00		23,907.05	32,625.95
Cable Department Expense	78,925.00		4,769.12	74,155.88
Cable Department Minor Capital	65,000.00		400.00	64,600.00
TOTAL CABLE DEPARTMENT	265,458.00	0.00	62,409.51	203,048.49

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION

Operating Reserve	7,500.00		0.00	7,500.00
Unallocated Reserve Debt Service	402,850.00		351,743.75	51,106.25
Unallocated Reserve Open Space Study	6,000.00		5,850.00	150.00
Unallocated Reserve Basketball Courts	109,000.00		0.00	109,000.00
Unallocated Reserve Accessible Trails	24,932.00		1,591.00	23,341.00
Unallocated Reserve Cons Comm Funding	200,000.00		200,000.00	0.00
Unallocated Rsv CC Driving Range Prior Year	16,436.17		2,892.00	13,544.17
Unallocated Sargisson Beach Phase 2 Prior Year	62,393.50		14,273.50	48,120.00
Community Housing Reserve	65,000.00		19,194.46	45,805.54
Historic Resource Reserve Old Meeting House	203,333.00		2,452.00	200,881.00
Historic Resource Reserve MileStone Engraving	17,000.00		10,351.80	6,648.20
Historic Res. Rsv Milestones Prior Year	11,335.60		861.12	10,474.48
Open Space Reserve Debt Service	80,000.00		80,000.00	0.00
TOTAL COMMUNITY PRESERVATION	1,205,780.27	0.00	689,209.63	516,570.64

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

Four Corners Sewer Engineering	199,145.00		172,435.27	26,709.73
Lost Lake Fire Protection Eng/Construction	1,844,904.40		1,246,517.83	598,386.57
Center Fire Station Construction Prior Year	252,744.35		166,712.54	86,031.81
Public Safety Radio Upgrade	650,000.00		28,076.38	621,923.62
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	2,946,793.75	0.00	1,613,742.02	1,333,051.73
GRAND TOTAL	40,621,033.11	0.00	21,109,825.23	19,511,207.88