

Town of Groton

2023 Annual Report



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

February 15, 2023, Chief Luth, Deputy Chief Bielecki, Officer Candow, and Select Board Member John Reilly attended the Accreditation Ceremony in Marlborough, MA.

Achieving Accreditation means that the Groton Police Department has met or exceeded the best practices for a Law Enforcement Agency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These standards are established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) who provide the framework for standards in the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Program.



Achieving Accreditation demonstrates our commitment to delivering an exemplary level of police service to the Town of Groton. It was a lot of work, and was a department wide effort. Chief Luth would like to especially thank Officer Candow, our Accreditation Manager, for his tireless work on this process over the last few years, first Achieving Certification in September 2021, and now Achieving Accreditation one year later.



GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLESEX COUNTY

www.grotonma.gov



Photo Courtesy by Steve Lieman

“At A Glance”

Settled: May 23, 1655

Type of Government: Open Town Meeting; Town Manager

Location: Northwestern part of Middlesex County

Population as of December 31, 2023: 11,226

Registered Voters as of December 31, 2023: 8,827

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:

125

IN MEMORIAM
2023



William "Dennis" Eklof
September 3, 1941 - March 21, 2023



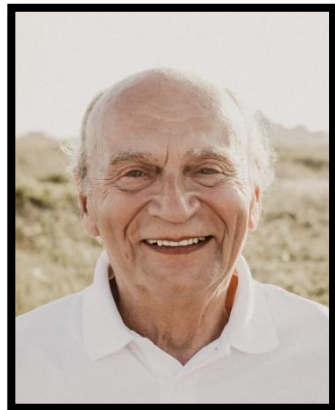
Elizabeth "Alice" MacGregor
June 12, 1927 - May 20, 2023



Leon Avey
November 19, 1941 - June 29, 2023



Sally Eleanor Morton
April 4, 1953 - June 30, 2023



Robert Piche
June 29, 1945 - September 24, 2023



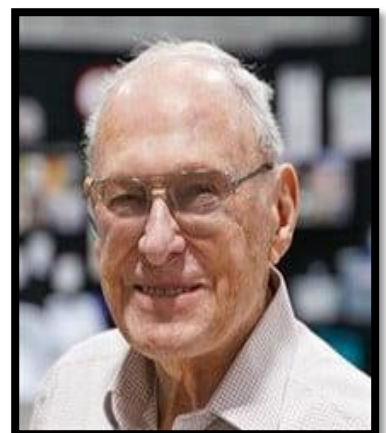
Leroy Johnson
December 9, 1928 - October 6, 2023



Suzanne Goehringer
July 6, 1944 - August 22, 2023



David "Dave" Moulton
October 30, 1935 - October 28, 2023



Albert "Al" Stone
March 25, 1928 - December 12, 2023

2023 PROCLAMATIONS

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

COMMUNITY

Groton Garden Club Day
Nations Older Americans Month
Arbor Day
Peter T. Macy Day
Gail Chalmers Day
Catherine Lincoln Day

April 2, 2023
May, 2023
May 6, 2023
August 18, 2023
November 11, 2023
June 9, 2023

EAGLE SCOUTS/GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARDS

Catherine Elizabeth Daly Day

March 12, 2023

Curtis Matthew Prestia Day

March 26, 2023

Samuel Landry Day

April 30, 2023

SELECT BOARD

Peter S. Cunningham, Chair

John Reilly, Vice Chair

Alison S. Manugian, Clerk

Rebecca H. Pine, Member

Matthew F. Pisani, Member

Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager

WHAT MAKES OUR COMMUNITY SPECIAL

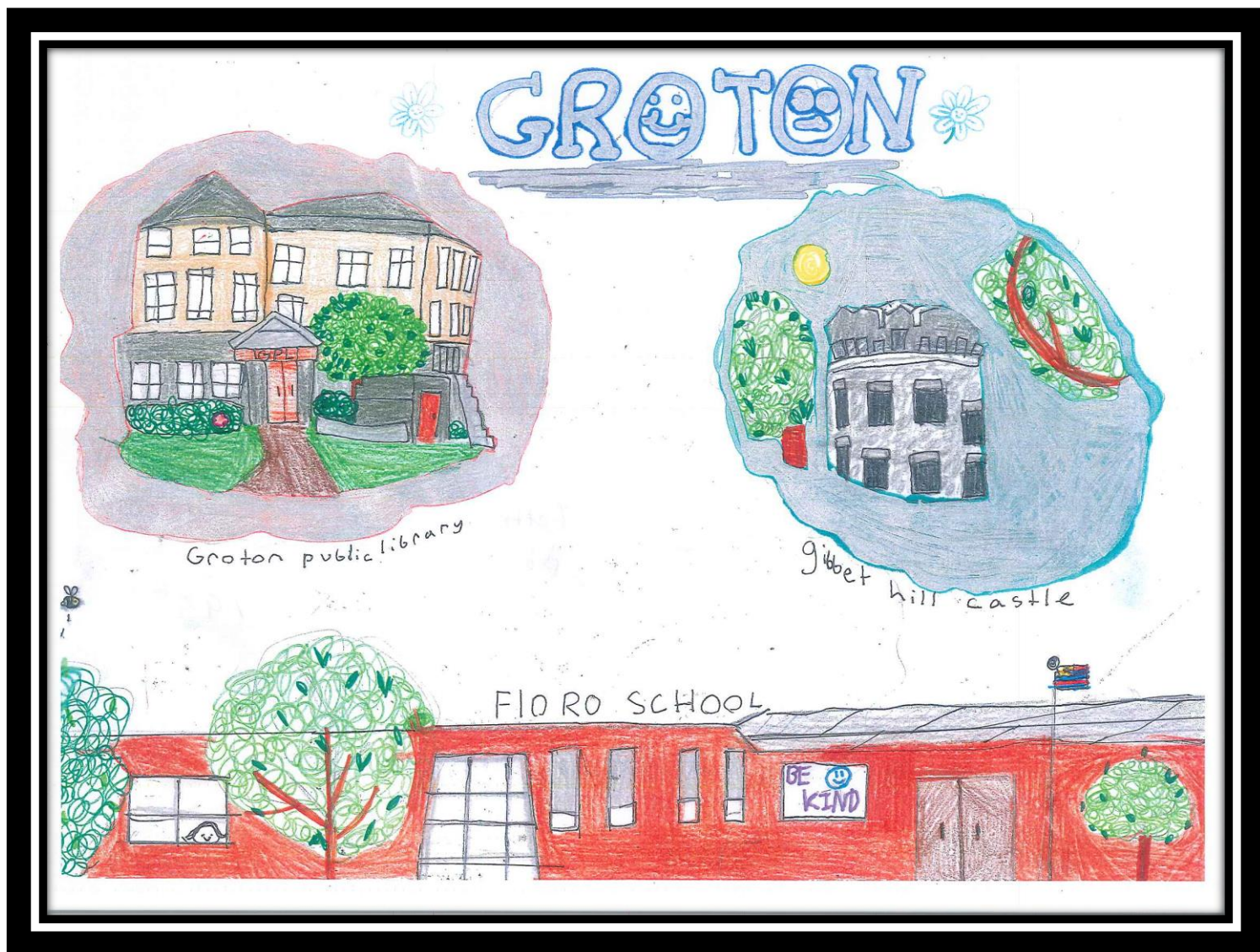


Photo Courtesy by Steve Lieman

We held our first Annual Town Report Contest this year, inviting students from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District to submit artwork showcasing what makes our community special. Two winners were chosen, with the first-place winner receiving a gift card to Prescott Community Center in Groton and the runner-up winning a Ride a Fire Truck to School Day. Congratulations to both winners on their spectacular artwork!



Artwork by Vincenzo- First Grade



Artwork By Jillian- Fourth Grade

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FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT

Joe Biden
The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
NW Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111
Visitors Office: 202-456-2121

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Edward J. Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office
Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2742

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

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

2400 JFK Federal
Building 15 New
Sudbury Street Boston,
MA 02203
(617) 565-3170

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lori Trahan
2439 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3411

126 John Street
Suite 12
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 459-0101

GOVERNOR

Maura Healey
State House, Room 280
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 725-4005

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Andrea Campbell
1 Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Consumer Hotline (617) 727-8400
(617) 727-2200
ago@state.ma.us

DISTRICT ATTORNEY MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Marian Ryan

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

SECRETARY OF STATE

William F. Galvin
1 Ashburton Place, 17th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-7030
cis@sec.state.ma.us

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Edward Kennedy
First Middlesex District
24 Beacon Street, Room 109-E
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-1630
edward.kennedy@masenate.gov

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Margaret Scarsdale
First Middlesex
District
24 Beacon Street, Room 103
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-2305
Margaret.Scarsdale@mahouse.gov

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Middlesex South
Registry Maria Curtatone
208 Cambridge Street, PO Box 68
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 679-6300
middlesexsouth@sec.state.ma.us

REGISTER OF PROBATE

Tara DiCristofaro, Register
Middlesex Probate and Family
Court 10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
middlesexprobate@jud.state.ma.us

SHERIFF

Peter J. Koutoujian
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office
400 Mystic Avenue, 4th Floor
Medford, MA 02155
(781) 960-2800

TOWN DEPARTMENTS DIRECTORY

Accountant	978-448-1107
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	978-732-1893
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
Town Manager/Select Board.....	978-448-1111
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	2024
Garrett Boles	2026
Jenifer Evans	2024

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS

Rodney R. Hersh	2025
Eric Fisher	2026
Kevin J. Lindemer	2024

GDRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Rosanna Casavecchia	2025
Yasmeen Cheema	2025
Catherine Awa	2026
Fay Raynor	2024
Brian LeBlanc	2024

HEALTH, BOARD OF

Robert Fleischer	2025
Evan Thackaberry	2026
Michelle Collette	2024

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Donald Black	2025
Leslie Colt	DHCD
Daniel C. Emerson	State Appt'd
John Sopka	2024
Vacancy	

MODERATOR

Jason Kauppi	2024
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PARK COMMISSIONERS

Anna Eliot	2024
Brenden Mahoney	2025
Gail Chalmers	2025
Jeffrey Ohringer	2026
Mary Jennings	2026

PLANNING BOARD

George E. Barringer, Jr.	2025
David Bonnett	2025
Phil Francisco	2026
Scott O. Wilson	2026
Lorayne Black	2024
Alyson Bedard	2024
Russell Burke	2024

SELECT BOARD

Matthew Pisani	2025
John F. Reilly	2025
Alison S. Manugian	2026
Rebecca H. Pine	2026
Peter S. Cunningham	2024

SEWER COMMISSIONERS

James L. Gmeiner	2025
Thomas Orcutt	2026
Vacancy	2024

TRUST FUNDS, COMMISSIONERS OF

Rachael Bielecki	2025
Martha McLure	2026
Joseph E. Twomey	2024

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mark Gerath	2025
Helena Fruscio Altsman	2024
David Zeiler	2026
Kate Bettencourt	2026
Kristen Von Campe	2024
Jennifer Peterson	2024

WATER COMMISSIONERS

Greg R. Fishbone	2025
James L. Gmeiner	2026
John J. McCaffrey	2024

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

TOWN MANAGER

Mark W. Haddad 2025

TOWN COUNSEL

Mirick O'Connell 2024

POLICE CHIEF

Michael F. Luth 2024

FIRE CHIEF

Steele McCurdy 2026

TOWN CLERK

Dawn Dunbar 2025

OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

ADA COORDINATOR

Michelle Collette 2024

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2024

John Greenhalgh 2024

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

George Moore 2024

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Robert Garside 2024

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Daniel Britko 2024

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS

Warren Gibson 2024

Catherine Myers 2024

Samuel Welch 2024

Christopher Cotter 2024

John Weix 2024

Edward J. Bushnoe (Part time) 2024

Michael MacGregor (Relief) 2024

Kayla Savage 2024

Devon Gaughan 2024

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR

Charlotte Steeves 2024

CONSTABLES

Brian O. Downes 2025

George Moore 2024

Frederick Correia 2026

Michele Giso 2025

COUNCIL ON AGING DIRECTOR

Ashley Shaheen 2024

COUNTRY CLUB GM / HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Shawn Campbell 2024

DATABASE COORDINATOR

Mike Chiasson

DOG OFFICER

Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2024

John Greenhalgh 2024

EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR

Michelle Collette 2024

ELECTION WORKERS

Judith Anderson 2024

Alicia Black 2024

Jennifer Cacciola 2024

Gail Chalmers 2024

Carole Clark 2024

Michelle Collette 2024

Joan Croteau 2024

Janis Discipio 2024

Michael Discipio 2024

Daniel Emerson 2024

Pat Fairchild 2024

Al French 2024

Lindsey Goranson 2024

Joan Guimond 2024

Andreas Hartmann 2024

Valerie Heim 2024

Aneeqa Hashimi	2024	GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER	
Jacquelyn Jackson	2024	Deborah Beal Normandin	2024
Margaret Knight	2024		
Barbara Keast	2024	HARBOR MASTER	
Michael LaTerz	2024	Michael F. Luth	2024
Stephen Legge	2024		
Dennis Levesque	2024	HAZ-MAT COORDINATOR	
Cindy Martell	2024	Steele McCurdy	2024
Paula Martin	2024		
Richard Marton	2024	HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY & ACCOUNTIBILITY OFFICER	
Kate Mceleny	2024	Melisa Doig	2024
Sarah Miller	2024		
Lynda Moore	2024	HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR	
Emily Navetta	2024	Melisa Doig	2024
Lisa O'Neill	2024		
Eileen Paxton	2024	IT DIRECTOR	
Donna Piche	2023	Michael Chiasson	2024
Nancy Pierce	2024		
David Posner	2024	KEEPER OF THE TOWN CLOCK	
Katrina Posner	2024	Paul Matisse	2024
Diana Rice	2024		
Suzanne Sanders	2024	LAND USE DIRECTOR / TOWN PLANNER	
Harold Sanford	2024	Takashi Tada	2024
Connie Sartini	2024		
William Seldon	2024	LOCAL LICENSING AGENT	
Stuart Shuman	2024	Michael F. Luth	2024
John Sopka	2024		
Fran Stanley	2024	MEASURER OF WOOD AND BARK	
Alberta Steed	2024	Evan C. Owen	2024
Virginia Steward	2024		
Ramona Tolles	2024	MOTH SUPERINTENDENT	
Jeffrey Upton	2024	R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2024
Bronwen Wallens	2024		
Charlotte Weigel	2024	NIMS COORDINATOR	
Lois Young	2024	Michael F. Luth	2024
		PARKING CLERK	
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR		Dawn Dunbar	2024
Edward Doucette	2024		
John Dee III (Alternate)	2024	PLUMBING AND GAS INSPECTOR	
		Norm Card	2024
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN MANAGER		Jeremy Pierce (Alternate)	2024
Kara Cruikshank	2024	PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR	
		Megan Foster	2024
FENCE VIEWER	2024		
George Moore			
FIELD DRIVER	2024		
George Moore			

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

POLICE DEPARTMENT**Deputy Chief**

Rachel Bielecki 2024

Matrons

Catherine Myers 2024

Officers

Robert Wayne, Jr. 2024

Adam Hyde 2024

Robert Breault* 2024

Peter Breslin 2024

Gordon Candow 2024

Paul Connell 2024

Omar Connor 2024

Andrew Davis 2024

Derrick Gemos 2024

Kevin Henehan 2024

Adam Hyde 2024

Michael Lynn 2024

Casey O'Connor 2024

Dale Rose 2024

Gregory Steward 2024

Patrick Timmins 2024

Peter Violette 2024

Michael Masterson 2024

Brian Underhill 2024

Reserve Officers

Frank Mastrangelo 2024

Michael Ratte 2024

Steven Tully 2024

PUBLIC WORKS

2024

DIRECTOR R. Thomas

Delaney, Jr. 2024

ROAD KILL OFFICER

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.

SEALER WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Eric Aaltonen 2024

SURVEYOR OF WOOD/LUMBER

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2024

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Patricia Dufresne 2024

TOWN DIARIST

M. Constance Sartini 2024

Robert L. Collins 2024

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Hannah Moller

TREE WARDEN

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2024

VETERANS' SERVICE**OFFICER** Maureen Heard 2024**WATER SUPERINTENDENT**

Thomas Orcutt 2024

**BOARDS, COMMITTEES &
COMMISSIONS APPOINTED
BY THE SELECT BOARD****AFFORDABLE HOUSING****TRUST FUND**

Carolyn Perkins 2024

Phil Francisco 2024

Becky Pine 2025

Richard Perini 2025

Charles Vander Linden 2025

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Dawn Dunbar – Town Clerk	
Marvin Caldwell	2025
Jane Fry	2026
Gregory Baran	2024

CAPITAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michael Sulprizio	2024
David Manugian	2025
Jamie McDonald	2024
Michael O'Rourke	2025
Vacancy	2026

COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Donald Black	2024
Gail Chalmers	2024
Michael F. Luth	2024
Steele McCurdy	2024
Jennifer Moore	2024

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Bruce Easom (Conservation)	2025
Russell Burke (Planning)	2025
Anna Eliot (Parks)	2026
Daniel Emerson (Housing Auth.)	2024
Robert DeGroot (Historical)	2024
Carolyn Perkins (SB)	2024
Richard Hewitt (SB)	2024

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Kristen Von Campe	2024
George Barringer	2024
Peter Cunningham	2024
R. Thomas Delaney Jr.	2024
Stephen Legge	2024
Takashi Tada	2024
Gordon Row	2024
Vacancy	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Eileen McHugh	2025
Peter A. Morrison	2025
Larry Hurley	2025
Bruce H. Easom	2026
Olin Lathrop	2026

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

Alison Hamilton	2024
Jon Smigelski	2024

COUNCIL ON AGING

Ashley Shaheen	2025
Michelle Collette	2025
Tony Serge	2024
Harris McWade	2025
Alberta Erickson	2025
Lois Young	2026
Judith Pumbo O'Brien	2026
Dorothy Zale	2026
Carole Carter	2026
Pascal Miller	2024

DESTINATION GROTON COMMITTEE

Brian Bolton	2024
Jeff Gordon	2024
Julie Platt	2024
Joni Parker-Roach	2024
Greg Sheldon	2024

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Michelle Collette	2024
Gordon Candow	2024
Susan Hughes	2024
Raquel Majeski	2024
Deidre Slavin-Mitchell	2024
Fran Stanley	2024
Damian Huggins	2024
Vacancy	

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Manugian	2025
Scott Whitefield	2026
Gary Green	2024
Colby Doody	2024
Norman "Bud" Robertson	2024
Mary Linskey	2026
Michael Sulprizio	2025

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Peter S. Cunningham	2024
Anna Eliot	2024
Richard Perini	2024
Vacancy (2)	

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

Jonathan Basch	2024
Brian Bettencourt	2024
Adam Burnett	2024
Ann Carpenter	2024
Richard Hewitt	2024
Olin Lathrop	2024
Ron Strohsahl	2024
Charlotte Weigel	2024
Ben Wolfe	2024

LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCIL

Harris Mcwade	2026
Judith Romatelli	2026
Deb Busser	2027
Christine Brooks	2024
Leslie Lathrop	2024
Kathleen Phelps	2028
Nancy Muller	2026
Vacancy (3)	

**LOWELL REGIONAL TRANSIT
AUTHORITY**

Ashley Shaheen	2024
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MBTA ADVISORY BOARD

John Reilly	2024
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**MONTACHUSETT JOINT
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Russell Burke (PB)	2024
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**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Russell Burke	2024
Peter Cunningham	2024

**NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL
TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Robert Flynn	2025
John Ellenberger -Alternate	2025

PERSONNEL BOARD

Norman " Bud" Robertson	2025
Leonard Adjety	2026
Vacancy	

SARGISSON BEACH COMMITTEE

Andrew Davis	2025
Cheney Harper	2025
John Reilly (SB Rep)	2025
Kevin Charland	2024

Nicholas Degaitas	2024
Larry Hurley (Cons Com Rep)	2024

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Geoffrey Kromer	2025
Trisha Winroth	2026
Kate Dennison	2026
Alberta Erickson	2024
Valencia Augusta	2025
Deb Busser	2025
Vacancy	

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

James Allen	2024
Bruce Easom	2024
Phil Francisco	2024
Alison Dolbear Peterson	2024
Sue Fitterman	2024
Ken Horton	2024
Andrew Scott	2024
Jim Simko	2024
David Southwick	2024
Linda Loren	2024
Patrick Parker- Roach	2024
Virginia Vollmar	2024
Charlotte Weigel	2024

**TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERS AND THE
DISABLED COMMITTEE**

Garrett Boles	2024
Louis Dimola	2024
Charles Vander Linden	2024
Pascal Miller	2024
Hannah Moller	2024

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Jay Prager	2025
Bruce Easom	2025
Daniel McLaughlin	2026
Jack Petropoulos	2024
Tom Peisel	2026
Leonard Green (Associate)	2024
Veronica O' Donnell (Associate)	2024
Vacancy (2)	

**BOARDS, COMMITTEES &
COMMISSIONS APPOINTED
BY THE TOWN MANAGER**
CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Neil Colicchio	2024
Eric Fisher	2024

John Macleod	2024
Janet Vartanian Sheffield	2024
Robert Piche**	2024

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Brian Cartier	2025
Jennifer Rand	2026
Lisa Hicks	2025
Jennifer Moore	2026
Peter Benedict	2024
Vacancy (2)	

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacancy	
Barbara Cronin	2024
Melisa Doig	2024
Derrick Gemos	2024
Warren Gibson	2024
Paul McBrearty	2024
Rena Swezey	2024
DPW Representative	2024
Supervisors Rep	2024
Police Representative	2024
Town Hall/Library Rep	2024

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS NOMINATED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Sally Smith	2025
Jessica MacGregor	2024
Shelly Sullivan	2026
Vacancy (2)	

BOARD OF SURVEY

Robert Garside - Bldg. Comm.	2024
Steele McCurdy - Fire Chief	2024
Evan C. Owen	2024

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY

Judith Anderson	2024
Robert Fleischer	2024
Alan Taylor	2024
Lynne Pistorino	2024
Thomas Pistorino	2024
Vacancy (2)	

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2024
Michael F. Luth	2024
Steele McCurdy	2024

CONDUCTORLAB COMMITTEE

Michelle Collette	2024
Mark Deuger	2024
Robert Hanninen	2024
Takashi Tada	2024
Evan Thackaberry	2024
Veronica O' Donnell	2024

EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

George Barringer	2024
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2024
Robert Hanninen	2024
Bruce Easom	2024
Steven Savage	2024

GREAT POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Larry Hurley	2024
Remigiusz Kaleta	2024
James Luening	2024
Ronald Hersch	2024
Alexander Woodle	2024
Rick Salon	2024
Vacancy (3)	

GREENWAY COMMITTEE

Adam Burnett	2024
Carol Coutrier	2024
Marina Khabituyeva	2024
David Pitkin	2024
Pete Carson	2024

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Thomas Horsman	2025
Michael Danti	2025
Robert DeGroot	2025
Allen King	2026
Michael LaTerz, II	2024
Joshua Vollmar	2024
Aubrey Theall	2026

Resigned/Retired *
Deceased **

OLD BURYING GROUND COMMISSION

Don Black	2024
Gail Chalmers	2024
Debbie Beal Normandin	2024
Vacancy (2)	2024

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Tessa David	2024
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2024
Bart Yeager	2024
Jamie E. King	2024
Nancy Ohringer	2024

SIGN COMMITTEE

Connie Sartini	2024
Mark W. Haddad	2024
Carolyn Perkins	2024

TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE

John Sheedy	2025
Stephen Babin	2026
Vacancy	2024

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Tom Montillo	2024
Paul Funch	2024
Stephen Legge	2024
Harris McWade	2024
Wanfang Murray	2024
James Peregoy	2024
Richard Lynch	2024
Britain McKinley	2024
Kiirja Paananen	2024
Bob Fournier	2024
Ken Adams	2024

**WEED HARVESTER
COMMITTEE**

Gerrett Durling	2024
Cy Richards	2024
Erich Garger	2024
Jed Richards	2024
Joshua Richards	2024
James Luening	2024
Steve Beard	2024

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

WILLIAMS BARN COMMITTEE

Lori "May" Brackett	2024
Bruce Easom	2024
Robert Kniffen	2024
Joseph Twomey	2024
Sandra Tobies	2024
Steve Woodin	2024
Matt Novak	2024
Christopher Darling	2024
Chris Furcolo	2024

GROTONS ELECTED OFFICIALS



Select Board

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

Business and Finance Department

Student Services

Technology & Digital Learning Department

Human Resources

Extended Day & Community Services

Regional High School

Regional Middle School

Florence Roche Elementary School

Swallow Union Elementary School

Boutwell Early Childhood Center

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Groton Public Library

Park Commission

Planning Board

Sewer Commission

Town Clerk

Water Department

SELECT BOARD

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

selectboard@grotonma.gov

This past year was a very busy one for the Select Board as Groton continued to emerge from the impact of the pandemic and pay closer attention to many of the issues that will have an impact on our town. Many of these, in one form or another, are related to climate change, and some of the weather extremes that were experienced this year make it clear this is an important issue. The Select Board is very appreciative of the work of the dedicated group of volunteers who serve on our Sustainability Committee and have worked hard to educate us on ways to ‘tread lightly’ on our environment.

This year’s town election saw Alison Manugian and Becky Pine both re-elected to their positions on the Select Board. Both demonstrate an impressive skill set and perspective in what they bring to the table as we work to navigate the issues that come before the Select Board. The Select Board also demonstrated a strong ability to debate the issues that came before it in a respectful manner and, whether in agreement or not, settle on an outcome without the rancor which can cloud the ability to maintain the public trust. Much time is spent dealing with and contemplating the policy directions, which provide the Town Manager with the guidance needed to manage Groton. Townspeople can take comfort in the fact that the Select Board is dedicated to this task and takes their jobs seriously.

Water was an issue that appeared frequently on the Select Board agenda in 2023, and not just due to the fact that it was an unusually wet year. The PFAS contamination to the well at the Groton/Dunstable High School and some surrounding properties demanded a solution. After extended negotiations with the Towns of Dunstable and Pepperell a plan was devised and an inter municipal agreement (IMA) with those communities entered into. This IMA provided for the extension of the Groton water system to the high school, the contiguous impacted properties and interconnection with the water systems of Dunstable and Pepperell. This plan was supported by townspeople at Town Meeting and a subsequent debt exclusion vote. Once completed, this will not only provide clean water to the school and impacted properties but will also alleviate an expense the school district has had to provide potable water as required by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Also, this year the Groton Water Department’s new treatment facility at the Whitney Pond well was completed and is operating. This plant will address a long-time concern with elevated levels of manganese as well as accommodating additional treatment infrastructure for PFAS should that become necessary. It is important to note that testing for PFAS in the town’s water system has not revealed any concerns at this time, however the prevalence of PFAS in the environment around us may make treatment necessary at some point.

The challenges faced in developing an FY ’24 operating budget were significant this year due to relatively flat state aid and the cessation of federal pandemic relief funds, which had been a resource for one-time expenditures. Rather than working in separate silos and in order to start preparing for the FY ’25 budget cycle, the Select Board working with the Town Manager and representatives from Dunstable and the Groton/Dunstable Regional School District, established the Tri-Comm Working Group, which met on a regular basis to track trends in spending and

revenue in order to provide for a more transparent and predictable budgeting process. While there was no ‘silver bullet’ found to address the funding challenges faced by all parties, the process worked well in revealing essential budget components and avoiding the second guessing that can be unproductive in presenting a final budget at Town Meeting. This process is a ‘best practice’ that will be followed in future budgeting cycles.

One of the significant changes that was made by the Select Board this year to deal with an impending budget shortfall was to close our public safety communication center and join the Patriot Regional Emergency Communication Center. The Patriot RECC will now be comprised of five towns; Ashby, Townsend, Pepperell, Groton and Dunstable. It operates out of the Pepperell Police Department and all calls for public safety response will now go there. Public safety response will still originate locally and townspeople should notice no difference in response times. In addition to the underlying savings in providing services on a regional basis, the state is encouraging the move through subsidies to communities that regionalize.

The accreditation this year by both our Police Department and Senior Center are accomplishments that townspeople can take pride in. The accreditation of our Police Department has been underway for a number of years and consists of a thorough review of all procedures, policies and protocols used by the department in serving the town and providing public safety. Relatively few police departments achieve this accomplishment and it speaks volumes to the professionalism of the men and women who provide this essential service. Chief Luth, Deputy Chief Bielecki and all members of the Groton Police Department are to be commended for this accomplishment. Also, our Senior Center achieved accreditation this year and is one of only nine senior centers state wide to do so. The process was very involved and consisted of a thorough review of policies and programming offered to our senior population. Senior Center Director, Ashley Shaheen, and members of the Council of Aging both past and present are to be commended for this accomplishment and for the level of service that is provided to Groton’s senior population.

Groton will face many challenges in the coming year, some related to budget and finances and some related to the changing nature of the environment we are all a part of. Fortunately, we are well positioned to meet those challenges with a well-managed town and dedicated volunteers who serve on the various boards and committees that guide us in confronting those challenges. Groton functions best when townspeople get involved and participate in their governance and we strongly encourage that participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cunningham, Chair
Groton Select Board

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Megan Foster, Principal Assistant Assessor

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

Meetings as Posted

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

assessors@grotonma.gov

The Board of Assessors (BOA) are responsible for establishing the value of property for tax purposes. The assessors are responsible for the valuation of all taxable property, Real and Personal. The assessors grant all statutory exceptions and all applications for the town's Senior Work Off Program. They act on all abatement applications and also are responsible for defending all appeals made to the Appellate Tax Board (ATB). The Assessors administer all special assessments qualifying as classified within the farm and forest management programs (also known as Chapter 61/61A/61B). Assessments in Massachusetts are based upon full and fair cash value as of January 1st.

The assessor's office completed its interim revaluation in FY2024. The town of Groton's next certification as directed by the Department of Revenue will be FY2027. FY2027, certification will be completed by the BOA.

Each property in town has a property record card (PRC) on file with all components that make up the valuation of the parcel, such as, land size; building characteristics; condition; quality; etc. The BOA recommends that each taxpayer obtain a copy of their individual PRC to ensure all information is accurate. The PRC's are available for no charge during regular business hours and also can be requested by email (assessors@grotonma.gov). PRC's are also available online, (www.grotonma.gov) however, these PRC's are from a static database that is only updated once per year. For the most up to date record please obtain a PRC directly from the assessor's office.

The tax rate for FY2023 is \$15.09 per \$1000 of value.

Office hours continue to be Monday 8 am to 7 pm, Tuesday through Thursday 8 am to 4 pm, and Friday 8 am to 1 pm. The office phone number is 978-448-1127.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS-cont.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE				
DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES				
BUREAU OF LOCAL ASSESSMENT				
LA4 Comparison Report - Fiscal Year 2023				
Property Type	Description	FY 2023 Parcel Count		FY 2023 Assessed Value
101	Single Family	3,246		2,057,915,300
102	Condominiums	307		115,962,343
MISC 103,109	Miscellaneous Residential	25		15,253,300
104	Two - Family	132		77,062,700
105	Three - Family	11		7,312,700
111-125	Apartment	12		17,282,200
130-32,106	Vacant / Accessory Land	464		33,566,300
200-231	Open Space	0		0
300-393	Commercial	91		79,897,000
400-442	Industrial	13		14,391,900
450-452	Industrial Power Plant	0		0
CH 61 LAND	Forest	12	15	60,970
CH 61A LAND	Agriculture	25	24	615,430
CH 61B LAND	Recreational	4	7	576,140
012-043	Multi-use - Residential	39		38,129,195
012-043	Multi-use - Open Space	0		0
012-043	Multi-use - Commercial	0		17,292,150
012-043	Multi-use - Industrial	0		2,889,700
501	Individuals / Partnerships / Associations / Trusts /	34		1,929,050
502	Corporations	34		2,626,080
503	Manufacturing	1		60,030
504	Public Utilities	3		11,843,760
505	Centrally Valued Telephone	1		7,300,800

BOARD OF HEALTH

Katie Berry, Interdepartmental Assistant

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@grotonma.gov

The Board of Health serves 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 6:30 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. Often, the Board is tasked with balancing that which is best for the public health with property owner's rights.

During the calendar year 2023, the Board of Health reviewed/granted the following permits:

- Subsurface sewage disposal system
- New permits: 25
- Upgrade permits: 14
- Variances: 11
- Well
- Permits 13
- Variances 1
- Habitable Lighting
- Variances 13
- Tobacco control permits 8
- Trash hauler permits 6
- Stable licenses 25

Discussions regarding the contaminant PFAS were frequent in 2023.

On May 15, 2023 the Board adopted revisions to the following regulations: Chapter 286 - Hazardous Materials, Chapter 307 - Solid Waste, Chapter 315 - Subsurface Sewage Disposal, Chapter 322 – Tobacco, and Chapter 330 – Wells.

The Board of Health would like to thank Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Director, James Garreffi, Health Agent, Ira Grossman and the Land Use Department staff at Town Hall for their continued support throughout the year. We welcomed Kalene Gendron, as the new Groton Health Agent on January 1st, 2024, upon Ira Grossman's retirement, thank you for your many years of service and expertise, Ira! The reality of supporting any Board of Health can be challenging. The Board appreciates the effort and professionalism with which these efforts are undertaken.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Collette, Chair
Robert Fleischer
Evan Thackaberry

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

Ira Grossman, 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 Town of Groton and the Groton Board of Health in meeting the challenges of environmental and public health needs in your community. The Nashoba Associated Boards of Health is a regional health district whose members, including the Town of Havard and the Groton Board of Health, are members. The health District is governed by the elected Board of Health members from member communities and meet quarterly to conduct the District business.

- Our public health nursing staff returned to pre-pandemic activities while working with our Public Health Educator to provide public health education programs to our communities.
- It is with great sadness that we needed to close the Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice, our VNA, primarily due to the difficulty obtaining and retaining nursing staff; the service ended in June.
- As a recipient of a Public Health Excellence Grant, we have brought on staff to increase our presence in food service establishments and provide improved communication, and public health education to the Nashoba District. We have been able to bring on another Health Agent to improve our service to the communities.

We look forward to continuing our work with **Groton's Board of Health** to meet the public health, environmental and nursing needs of your community.

Environmental Health Department

The Nashoba Sanitarian serving your community is always available at our Ayer office and has regular hours in the Groton Town Hall to serve Groton residents and work with Town Hall staff.

Food Service Licensing and Inspections:

58

This office licenses, inspects, responds to complaints and conducts follow up on concerns in licensed operations. Some of the inspection done this year were in response to COVID complaints.

Recreational Permitting and Inspections:

19

This office licenses, inspects and responds to complaints regarding recreational camps for children, bathing beaching and public and semi-public pools. We sample water at bathing beaches weekly, providing the results to community partners, to ensure swimming only occurs at those public and semi-public beaches which meet State regulations.

Housing & Nuisance Investigation:

12

This office inspects dwelling units for compliance with the State Sanitary Code upon compliant and prior to occupancy. We issue orders to take corrective actions, reinspect, and initiate legal action if necessary. Similarly, complaints from residents concerning unsanitary conditions or pollution are investigated.

Title 5 related work – On-site Sewage Disposal

We received 31 applications for soil testing (testing necessary for the design of a sewage disposal systems) and witnessed 85 tests performed (perc tests and soil evaluation holes).

We received 39 applications for sewage disposal systems and reviewed 67 plans for new and replacement systems.

Our office prepared 51 sewage disposal system permits for the Board's review and approval: 27 for new construction and 24 for the replacement of failed systems.

We conducted 65 inspections during the construction of sewage disposal systems.

We reviewed 60 Title 5 inspection reports and we were available to provide consultation to your residents on matters relating to sewage disposal systems.

Private Well related services

Private wells are regulated by local regulation and we issued 13 well permits for new and replacement private water supply wells.

We reviewed water quality and quantity reports and interpreted the results for your residents.

Rabies Clinics

Clinics were held in a handful of communities in cooperation with local veterinarians; clinics were open to the residents of all member communities.

Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice

It was with great sadness that we closed the Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice at the end of June 2023, what follows is a record of the activities in your community performed by the Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice through the end of June.

Nashoba's Certified Home Health Registered Nurses visited and provided skilled services to patients in their home under physician's orders. The services included assessment of physical, psychological, and nutritional needs. Skills included 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.

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

Nashoba Therapists provided 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.

Nursing Visits:

1013

Home Health Aide Visits:

120

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.

The Nashoba nursing team reviewed, investigated and reported on all mandated communicable and infectious diseases (including COVID-19) while working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) epidemiology team. Though this daily reporting and investigation work is not always visible, it is vital to protect the public from the spread of disease and includes:

- Working with MDPH and local boards of health to identify and manage clusters of disease/exposures in the District.
- Working with school nurses and childcare providers in the District to provide information, offer advice and support.
- Working with the Health Agents in our member communities to assist individuals in unsafe living situations, our goal is to improve their living conditions.

Communicable Disease Number of Cases investigated:

Anaplasmosis	5
Amebiasis	1
Babesiosis	3
Campylobacter	2
Cyclosporiasis	1
Group A Strep	1
Hepatitis C	1
Influenza	41
Norovirus	2
Salmonella	2
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)	161
Strep Pneumonia	1

.....
The Nashoba nursing staff provided monitoring and guidance to **167** travelers and residents throughout the District testing positive for TB infection (not contagious) this calendar year, and have also been managing **3** active TB cases in the District since Spring/Summer 2023 (monitoring continues to date). The towns in the Nashoba District fall into a **LOW RISK TB** category (as defined by MDPH).

In addition to the mandated disease surveillance and reporting, 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, dog bites etc.) in a variety of ways including:

- Monthly well adult clinics have been & continue to be offered throughout the District. Nashoba nursing staff conducted **134** total clinics this year, including **11** clinics in Groton. Clinics provide the opportunity for residents to meet with the nurse for blood pressure checks, blood sugar screening, general health counselling, resource information and referrals as needed. District wide flu clinics are held in the fall.
- Nashoba conducted seasonal flu clinics in each community to make vaccinations available to everyone, including homebound residents. We administered **1564** flu shots to community members, including **74** Groton residents.
- The nurses are available for & have made home visits to make general assessments, assist with coordinating care and services, provide support/teaching and make referrals to other local community resources. We made **6** home visits.
- Nashoba has offered community outreach and educational programs covering topics such as disease prevention, chronic disease management, emergency preparedness, mental health awareness, and overall wellness. We provided the following programs: Summer Safety Talk, Brain Health & Stroke Talk and What is Public Health at the Groton Senior Center; Nashoba staff provided Grief Support groups after the closing of Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice.
- Nashoba staff attend and regularly participate in collaborative meetings, trainings, and conferences to keep current with the latest developments in local public health.
- Nashoba staff facilitated several meetings with key stakeholder groups to promote partnership, encourage strong regional communication, and foster working relationships. This has helped to identify common goals and guide future public health initiatives and outreach.

Community Health- Communications and Public Health Education Summary 2023

The Public Health Educator/Communications Specialist (PHE/CS) role has evolved since its inception in Sept 2021 to best support the needs of the District and the work of the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health's (NABH) Public Health Nursing and Environmental Health departments. In the past year, the PHE/CS has been communicating timely and relevant public health information to towns and stakeholders, providing educational opportunities across the District with a social determinants of health (SDOH) lens, advocating for improved resource access and health equity in the region, and partnering with a variety of community-based organizations. This work has included:

- Developing educational programs and presentations both independently and collaboratively with the PH nursing team- Public Health 101, Brain Health & Stroke Prevention, etc.
- Serving an overseeing administrative role during annual flu clinics.
- Providing education and advocacy related to treatment and de-stigmatization of substance use disorder, mental health.
- Providing public and written testimony to advocate for public health-related resources in the region.

- Maintaining up-to-date distribution lists, communicating within the district via channels such as quarterly newsletters, regular email updates, etc. pertaining to public health news, information and events such as flu and rabies clinics. Continuing to identify ways to diversify communication methods to reach as many community members as possible.
- Building and maintaining relationships with a broad range of stakeholders through meetings and attending community events to represent NABH.
- Serving as a resource for community members with public health related questions across a broad range of topics.
- Attending trainings with an emphasis on health equity and public health service regionalization. MDPH has prioritized these areas because research has shown they have the biggest impact on health outcomes for the broadest range of people.
- Attended “Grantmakers” training and oriented to grant application process.
- Became certified in Mental Health First Aid for Adults.
- PHE/CS has utilized an SDOH lens to identify health inequities that most impact the NABH region to focus efforts and collaborate with community partners to lessen these gaps.
- Developing educational and communications materials for district and individual towns by request including print, electronic, presentation, and TV/news media materials.
- Maintaining and improving NABH website to keep info relevant and accessible. Maintaining and expanding upon a robust, in-depth Resources page on the website.
- Organizing events to facilitate the exchange of information such as networking events for Council on Aging and Outreach Workers and local Boards of Health and learning events including a district-wide Mental Health Learning Collaborative.
- Maintaining agency social media to reach people in district with current, relevant and seasonal public health information.

COMMISSIONERS OF TRUST FUNDS

Karen Tuomi, Executive Director

Meetings by Appointment

(978) 877-6787

trustfunds@grotonma.gov

The Commissioners of Trust Funds continue into their second century by disbursing funds from many of the Towns twenty-five Trust Funds and two Gift Funds. Some examples of this are: residents of Groton continued to enjoy many lectures and programs sponsored by The Lecture Fund; the Groton Public Library continued to receive support from the John Robbins Library Fund; residents in financial need benefitted from assistance through the Green/Shepley Charity Funds and a teacher at the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School was able to attend an out of state conference via the Social Justice Fund.

The individual recipients of the Groton Trust Fund's scholarship awards are;

Maria Belitsky Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Maria Belitsky Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by her family to promote horticultural and environmental studies. The recipient of this year's award was Savannah Carpenter.

Peter E. Bertozzi Trust and Scholarship Fund

The Peter E. Bertozzi Trust and Scholarship Fund was established by the Squannacook Sportsmen's Club to promote an interest in conservation and environmental studies. The year's recipients were Liam Hermann and Sydney Prescott.

Joseph DiPietro Scholarship Trust Fund

The first recipient of the Joseph DiPietro Scholarship as selected by the principal and staff of the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School was Michelle Velasquez.

Thomas D. Hartnett Scholarship Trust Fund

The Thomas D. Hartnett Scholarship Trust Fund was established to offer financial aid to candidates who demonstrate the desire to give back to the community through service. This year's recipient was Abigail Flynn.

Peter M. Twomey Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund

The recipients of this Trust Fund are chosen based on their response to the question, "How will you use your special abilities to make a positive contribution to our world?" The recipients of this year's awards were Emma Shortsleeve and Kevin McCallum.

Frank F. Waters Vocational Education Scholarship Trust Fund

Ten students received scholarships of \$6500 toward their first year at a vocational education institution. These students were: Sam Dutile, Andrew Hallon, Jason North, Evan Poliquin, Griffin Poser, Alexander Saboliaiskas, Caroline Slattery, Christin Tims, Nicholas Tores-Paraizo and Casey Trimper.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachael Bielecki, Commissioner
Martha McLure, Commissioner
Joseph Twomey, 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



The Groton Electric Light Department turned one hundred and fourteen years old in 2023 – *Let it Shine GELD*. 2023 was a great year for GELD to shine –

GELD was the first utility in Massachusetts to offer exclusive time of use rates and we were one of two in the country to receive a national gold-level customer satisfaction award through the American Public Power Association (APPA).

Below is a summary of our 2023 operations. Our complete report, including audited financial statements, will be available in the Spring.

Operations

We continue our focus on infrastructure improvements – replacing old poles, upgrading old lines as well as aggressive tree trimming. We hired our own tree trimming crew; we partnered with Delorean to install TWO 8.9 MW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) – one at our substation on Lowell Road and one at the new Florence Roche Elementary School. We also began the construction of a covered storage facility at our substation on Lowell Road. Although these projects weren't fully completed in 2023, they are scheduled for completion in early-to-mid 2024.

Power Supply

In 2023, GELD faced high power and fuel costs due to natural gas and diesel fuel supply and constraint issues. To help offset the higher capacity and transmission costs, GELD introduced the exclusive time of use rates which focus on higher rates during peak times. A Power Cost Adjustment was implemented in January, February, March, and December to help offset higher energy costs in the winter months. The management team closely monitors the power markets to ensure the best hedging strategy possible. The Berkshire Wind Power Project had its twelfth full year of operation producing power at 16.30% of its capacity. GELD's 2.3-megawatt solar farm located on the closed town landfill is producing approximately 25% of GELD's power needs during certain hours in the spring and fall and operated at 17.5% of its capacity for 2023. The wind project in Hancock, Maine produced power at 24.43% of capacity in its seventh full year of operation. Investing in Wind, Solar and other renewable energy projects help in many ways - to lower our carbon footprint; to diversify GELD's power supply portfolio; and to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. It also helps GELD in reaching state mandated goals beginning in 2030. Our purchased power remains between 60 and 70% carbon free.

Rates

KWh sales were down 2.6% in 2023 and down 1.16% for the five-year average. Our two time-of-use rates (TU & TS) became exclusive in October 2023 – these new rates will help modify GELD's peak demand. We also introduced a "winter" time-of-use rate with a slightly lower rate during peak times and slightly higher rate during non-peak times. We continue to offer a 1.7 cents per kWh 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 on December 1, and accidentally doubled for the bill received on January 1, 2024. We ended 2023 in the middle of the rates compared to the 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 119% & 120% higher than Groton Electric respectively.

Thank you, Groton ratepayers, for helping Groton's locally owned and operated Light Department to shine; and thank you GELD employees for *always shining* through your hard work and commitment!

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin P. Kelly, Manager
Kevin J. Lindemer, Chairman

Eric S. Fisher, Member
Rodney R. Hersh, Clerk

GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices: 344 Main Street, Groton, MA01450

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

Dr. Laura Chesson, 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. Laura Chesson, Superintendent of Schools



With great pride and pleasure, I present the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District's 2023 report. Below is a short executive summary of highlights from this year. To learn about each item, you can access a more detailed narrative in the remainder of the report. The goal for all of our schools this year was to help each of our learners, whether learning at home or in school, to feel seen, heard and safe. While that is our goal every year, this year it proved to be even more paramount.

Section 1: Curriculum and Instruction

Read about launching an implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Support for all students in academics, social emotional and mental and behavioral supports.

Section 2: Business and Finance.

There are many projects that are underway in our district. The Florence Roche project is in its latter stages. We are working on the building of a stadium field replacement. We have also been looking at our Food Service programming.

Section 3: Student Services

We continue to work to strengthen our ability to support all students in our district. We have secured two Massachusetts competitive grants, Safe and Supportive Schools and Hate Crime Prevention, provided us with additional funds and resources to support the collaboration of school based teams, and initiate our work with the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) for peer training programming for students and professional development for staff.

Section 4: Technology and Digital Learning.

In our continued pursuit of technological excellence and innovative learning environments, the Department of Technology & Digital Learning has embarked on another transformative journey over the past year, marked by strategic initiatives and comprehensive advancements across various educational settings. From refreshing technology at Florence Roche Elementary School and empowering educators through laptop life cycle replacements to fortifying cybersecurity measures and upgrading internet filtering systems, each initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a secure, resilient, and technologically advanced district.

Section 5: Human Resources

See all of the new staff who joined the Groton Dunstable team. We continue to feel lucky to have found talented individuals to make sure we were able to supervise and assist learners at all levels. Staffing has become increasingly difficult throughout the pandemic and we know that the solid academic environment and what it has to offer teachers continues to attract talented educators.



Section 1: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Submitted by Kristin DeFrancisco, Assistant Superintendent

As we launch our the building of our new strategic plan, this year's district goals highlight Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in our district. We have hired two coordinators to lead our efforts in tiers I, II and III. Jessica Durling and Abby Kachura have come aboard to plan the steps toward successful implementation of tiers of support that will meet the needs of all students and result in equitable access to academic, social emotional and mental and behavioral success.

2022 Highlights

- Our seasons of professional development and learning that launched last year continue to grow in their offerings. Our Fall season offered opportunities for educators to learn about developing culture and climate in their classrooms as they launched the school year. Our Winter season has offerings from Facing History and Ourselves in an effort to help increase the depth of looking at our work through an equity lens. We also have many educators leading opportunities for their colleagues including improv in the classroom and ways to share best practices for students that need to work a bit harder to stay engaged.
- We continued to use think tanks to help teachers come together and lead district initiatives. This year we have think tanks to plan the transitions our students make from building to building. We have a professional development and learning think tank that is planning ways that we can engage educators in leading PD opportunities. We have a think tank to implement the next steps of Responsive Classroom in the elementary schools and Advisory in the middle school.
- We are moving forward with the development of systems and structures that will make our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support strong. We have hired two coordinators to help with our implementation efforts. Jessica Durling and Abby Kachura will be working together to make sure that we have strong tier I instruction supported by interventions in tier II and tier III spaces. We are also participating in a DESE academy with a focus on tiering social emotional learning practices and support. This is a three year academy and we look forward to seeing our systems and structures grow.
- Looking at data is a focus in our district. This year we are not only looking at what data we are collecting, but we are also looking at where we talk about and analyze the data that we are collecting. Two of those places are our student support team meetings and our behavioral task force meetings. Student support team, or SST, is where we work to look at data narratives for individual students. Our behavioral task force is where we look at whole school data so that we may inform best practices across all grade levels based on trends in the data.

- Social emotional wellness continues to be an area of progress. Our focus this year is working with Walker Solutions to understand how we make our learning environments places where students can exhale, stay regulated and engage in learning. We are working to have spaces inside of classrooms where students can “take a break” and calm if necessary. 14 middle school educators are piloting a full calming corner space in their classrooms while all educators at all levels are working to implement take a break strategies in their instruction.

Section 2: Business and Finance Department

Submitted by Sherry Kersey, Director of Business and Finance



2023 Highlights

- The FY23 budget concluded with actual expenses and obligations being very close to budget with very little surplus, however actual revenues exceeded expectations.
- Food Service program provided universal free lunch for all students for the entire year.
- The new Florence Roche Elementary Building is making great progress to staying on budget and on time for completion in June 2024
- The new track built behind the middle school with CPA funds is complete.
 - A permanent solution to addressing the Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) detected in water source at the High School. The Towns of Groton and Dunstable, along with the Town of Pepperell,

have worked tirelessly to bring a plan to the taxpayers to provide town water to the high school and surrounding homes. Voters will have a say on the funding at special town meetings in the Fall of 2023.

- The high school stadium field replacement began in June 2023.
- Worked collaboratively with Town Manager in Groton and Town Administrator in Dunstable to produce a balanced FY24 budget.
- Advocated for projects to be funded to accomplish capital plan goals.

The FY23 budget year closed favorably for the district, ending with a small surplus of unspent funds of \$63,483 (less than 0.01% of budget) of our total \$45,094,388 budget. Revenues however exceeded budget by \$542,897 (1.2%) primarily due to additional Medicaid reimbursements and interest income received. These funds will help replenish Excess & Deficiency (E & D) funds that have been appropriated for the \$911,740 appropriation that was approved by the school committee and the towns to be used to balance the FY24 operating budget. Future budgeting strategy will lean toward restoring the balance of E & D to the level set as a goal by the school committee.

Since the summer of 2021, DESE has funded universal free lunch for all students. This is great news for the families in our communities. As universal free lunch continues 2023-2024 school year, we will monitor performance and provide the support the program needs to continue to serve our students nutritious food options. The district is anticipating offering breakfast to all students for free in the upcoming school year.

The Florence Roche Elementary School Building Project is progressing on time and on budget with a projected building completion scheduled for June 2024. Leftfield, LLC , the Owner's Project Manager, Studio G Architects, and Gilbane Building Company, General Contractor continue to lead the project to fruition. The Florence Roche Elementary Building Committee convenes regularly to make decisions that are necessary to continue forward progress, approve bid awards to subcontractors as well as approve budget and contract adjustments and invoices. The voters of Groton voted favorably to appropriate additional CPA funding to build a track behind Middle School South to replace the track that was located on the current building site for Florence Roche Elementary. Work was completed in the Fall of 2022, and after a resting period for turf to properly grow and stabilize the track there was a dedication ceremony in April 2023.

The Department of Environmental Protection notified the school district in January 2022 that during routine water testing at the High School, PFAS was detected at levels exceeding state guidelines. Staff, students, parents, surrounding home owners and Town officials were notified immediately. Water was (and continues to be) brought in for drinking and cooking. A consultant was procured to recommend a solution to address the issue with the current water treatment facility on the property. The Towns of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell are working together to determine a long term solution to getting water to the high school.

The stadium football field at the High School had been put on hold since the Summer of 2021. After discovering that the high school water contained levels of PFAS higher than state recommended levels, it led to testing the soil prior to disturbing the soil as the source of the PFAS is believed to have occurred very close to the field location. After receiving guidance from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on soil removal, the project began in June 2023 and will be complete by the end of the summer.

The district continued to work with the town manager and town administrator from our member towns to produce an FY24 budget that allowed the district to meet our budget guidance and continue to fund our capital needs. In order to balance revenue requirements with academic and operational budgetary requirements, \$911,740 was appropriated from E & D. This should be considered a one-time appropriation. A five (5) year budget projection was prepared in order for the member towns to be able to better predict the annual funding request of the school district. We look forward to continued collaboration and leadership from elected officials of both towns to continue to work to create budgets that will support the district educational goals and provide the best possible education for all students.

The continued support of both member towns has allowed the district to continue to fund our capital plan and improve all school facilities. The district completed a number of important projects during 2023 including:

- Installed ductless mini splits at Swallow Union and few at Middle School North to continue to improve temperature control in classrooms/learning environments.
- Install new & additional security equipment at the High School and Middle Schools.
- Made repairs to and repaved the road leading to the High School.
- Repair the press box and installed a new sound system at the high school football field.
- Provided new storage sheds for Athletic equipment.

- Maintenance/Grounds equipment that support the new initiatives from the Director of Buildings and Grounds including purchase of a new lawn mower and maintenance of existing fields throughout the school district.
- Support the technology refresh plan.

Section 3: Student Services

Submitted by Jill Greene, Director of Student Services



2023 Highlights

- Maintained our focus on increasing the coordination of our Special Education, Behavioral Health, Social Emotional Learning, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts and the further development of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework, in collaboration with the District's Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment efforts.
- Continued our partnership with Care Solace, a platform which helps individuals find the mental health care, substance misuse assistance, and overall support that they deserve. Care Solace Companions connects individuals with community-based providers. The Care Solace navigation system taps into a vast database of verified mental healthcare resources. Care Solace is available in over 200 languages and is completely confidential and accessible to all in need of mental health and well-being support.
- For a second consecutive year, we were awarded a Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education competitive SEL/Mental Health Grant providing us with additional funds and resources to support the collaboration of school based teams, books and materials for students and staff, and multiple professional development/professional learning opportunities including a workshop series on anxiety and depression.

Special Education: The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District provides a constellation of support services for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) throughout the district. In addition to the supports and services provided in general education environments, the district offers a variety of in-district programs to students eligible for special education services. Our programs offer more structured supports and services with predictable routines, highly specialized individual and small group instruction and curriculum that allows students to experience success as they learn and develop at their own rate.

Special Education highlights:

- Participated as a District in the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Individualized Education Program (IEP) Improvement Project Cohort. Our participation provided the District with opportunities for an early preview of upcoming changes to IEP processes and documentation, and multiple resources for professional development/learning.

- Continued with our ongoing professional development series for special educators to improve consistency of IEP development.
- Expanded our professional development to include a focus on data collection and data based instructional decision making, specialized instructional practices, and the use of a wider variety of assessment and instructional materials district wide.
- Focused our programming efforts based on the guiding principle of “promoting student independence” for meaningful outcomes.

Section 4: Technology & Digital Learning Department

Submitted by Luke Callahan, Ed.D., Director of Technology & Digital Learning



2023 Highlights

In our continued pursuit of technological excellence and innovative learning environments, the Department of Technology & Digital Learning has embarked on another transformative journey over the past year, marked by strategic initiatives and comprehensive advancements across various educational settings. From refreshing technology at Florence Roche Elementary School and empowering educators through laptop life cycle replacements to fortifying cybersecurity measures and upgrading internet

filtering systems, each initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a secure, resilient, and technologically advanced district.

Technology Advancements at Florence Roche Elementary School

In anticipation of our move to the new school, we are thrilled to share our strategic initiative to refresh technology at Florence Roche Elementary. By replacing all Chromebooks and iPads, we ensure that students and educators will enter the upcoming 2024-2025 school year equipped with the latest and most efficient devices.

Further, ahead of the imminent opening of the new Florence Roche Elementary School, a significant amount of time and effort has been dedicated to perfecting the technology infrastructure. Countless hours have been invested to ensure cutting-edge technology seamlessly integrates into every aspect of the learning environment. Every detail, from high-speed internet to advanced classroom setups, has been meticulously examined, reflecting our commitment to providing our students with a modern and innovative educational space. We eagerly anticipate unveiling a school where technology and education coexist seamlessly, thanks to the extensive efforts to refine our new facility's technological backbone.

Empowering Educators through Laptop Life Cycle Replacement

Our ongoing commitment to excellence includes the life cycle replacement of teacher laptops, a key priority for our department. Three fundamental factors drive this strategic initiative:

- Enhanced Performance: Newer laptops with improved performance empower educators to manage and deliver curriculum materials efficiently.

- **Security Upgrades:** Deploying up-to-date laptops enhances our overall cybersecurity posture, reducing vulnerabilities and ensuring a secure digital environment.
- **Compatibility with Educational Software:** Keeping teacher laptops current guarantees compatibility with the latest educational software and tools, fostering an optimal teaching and learning experience.

Data Security Reinforcement with Virtualized Servers

We implemented server virtualization at strategic locations, including the high school, to fortify our data management and security capabilities. This technological advancement enables efficient and scalable data backup, ensuring the preservation of critical information in unforeseen circumstances. Our commitment to safeguarding data integrity is a cornerstone of our dedication to excellence.

Cybersecurity Excellence through Training and Measures

Our department conducted comprehensive training sessions focusing on data and email security as part of our unwavering commitment to cybersecurity. These professional development opportunities were available to all and equipped staff with the knowledge and skills to navigate digital platforms securely, fostering a cyber awareness and resilience culture.

Elevating Email Security with Abnormal

We implemented advanced measures in collaboration with Abnormal to fortify our email security. These enhancements safeguard our communication channels and contribute to an overall resilient cybersecurity framework, ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of our digital communications.

Strategic Security Landscape Optimization and Incident Response Planning

Our team optimized a meticulous security landscape, fortifying our digital infrastructure against potential threats. We formalized a comprehensive cyber security incident response plan to prepare for cyber incidents. This document outlines expectations and responsibilities, providing a clear and efficient roadmap for responding to and mitigating cybersecurity events, thereby ensuring a swift and effective response.

Internet Filtering Upgrade for a Secure Online Environment

To adapt to the changing digital landscape, we have improved our school's internet filtering system, transitioning to a new product called Linewize to facilitate better students' and teachers' internet access and reporting. This enhancement involves consistently blocking approximately 200,000 sites and domains, ensuring a secure online environment for students and staff. Additionally, it effectively blocks millions of inappropriate content each month, further enhancing the safety and security of our digital space. Noteworthy is our observation that staff and students interact with over 200,000,000 websites monthly in a typical month, emphasizing the significance of our proactive internet filtering approach.

District Copier Refresh and Aligned Replacement Schedule

We successfully executed a comprehensive refresh of district Xerox copiers. Additionally, we established and aligned replacement and lease schedules to ensure the continuous availability of efficient and up-to-date copying technology across the district. This strategic initiative enhances operational efficiency and aligns with our commitment to professionally maintained and modern copiers and printers.

Wireless Access Point Replacement

Another notable achievement includes replacing 150 Extreme Wireless access points at the Middle School and Swallow Union Elementary School. This upgrade ensures a robust and reliable wireless network, supporting students' and educators' evolving digital needs.

Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant at the High School

In a significant move to upgrade essential hardware, we secured an Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) grant valued at \$185,500. This grant facilitated the acquisition of 700 Google Chromebooks, reinforcing the school's commitment to cutting-edge technology. Also worthy of note is that we repurposed existing Chromebooks from the high school to the Middle School North, demonstrating our dedication to optimizing resources and ensuring that technology reaches students at various educational levels.

Implementation of Zoom Phone System

Over the past year, our department achieved a significant milestone by successfully replacing the on-premises phone system with an innovative solution – Zoom Phones. This transition marks a strategic move towards modern and efficient communication tools for our community. We replaced all phone headsets with new units from YeaLink.

Interactive Panels at Swallow Union Elementary School (and beyond)

Furthermore, we have incorporated TouchView Interactive Panels into Swallow Union Elementary School classrooms, ushering in a new era of modernized elementary education. These panels, which will also be installed at the upcoming Florence Roche Elementary School, provide educators and students with various educational possibilities, fostering an environment conducive to interactive and engaging learning experiences.

These initiatives demonstrate our unwavering commitment to maintaining a secure, resilient, and technologically advanced environment for all Groton-Dunstable staff and students, setting the stage for a year of continued innovation and educational excellence.

Section 5: Human Resources

Submitted by Justin Williams, Director of Human Resources



2023 Highlights

- 2023 changes in our administrative team.
- Fourteen (14) district employees retired.
- Provided multi week yoga sessions for employees at all buildings.
- Recognized many staff members for reaching 10, 20 and 30 year milestones within the District.
- Continue to explore new avenues to attract talented diverse staff to fill the District's vacancies.

New administrative hires joining the District in 2023 were MTSS Tier I Coordinator, Jess Durling and MTSS Tier II & Tier III Coordinator Abby Kachura. In addition to new members of the administrative team, we welcomed a number of new staff members

to fill available vacancies across all levels. We also saw the retirement of Fourteen (14) district employees, many of which had been with the district for over 20 years.

Section 6: Extended Day and Community Services

Submitted by Megan Mastroianni, Director



2023 Highlights

- Proudly presented school musical productions of Beauty and the Beast and Finding Nemo Jr. by middle school and Swallow Union students.
- Expanded the Wachusett Ski Mountain Ski & Snowboard Club for middle and high school students.
- Continued collaboration with Groton Senior Center offering weekly walking and pickleball programs.
- Hosted a variety of evening and daytime trainings, meetings and community engagement events at the Peter Twomey Youth Center

The Extended Day Program continues to see an increase in registrations with over 320 students attending all of the program sites this year. This growth has necessitated the before and after-school program to continue the use of new locations and expansions in order to eliminate the waiting list and provide care for all families in need. In addition to February and April vacation weeks, the Extended Day Program offered PTYC Summer Camp, multiple sessions of Playing with Heart Athletics Camp as well as a variety of other summer offerings

Community Education continues to offer residents in our area fun and informative classes. We proudly presented 116 middle school students in the fall production of Finding Nemo Jr. and 41 Swallow Union 4th graders in the spring production of Beauty and the Beast. We continued to grow our partnership with the Groton Senior Center by offering free pickle ball and walking programs for seniors and our community throughout the week. In addition to

these productions and partnerships, we also offered several new classes for middle school and elementary students including Pop Art Club, a variety of Mixed Media Clubs, Debate Club, Karate, Creative Clay Workshop, Chess Club and Kids Test Kitchen. These along with old favorites like Minecraft Club, Flag Football, Ski Club, and Summer Strength and Conditioning, help give our students in grades K through 8 many options for after school and weekend fun.

As we look for a variety of ways to expand our programming, community input is always encouraged and welcomed. Find us on the Groton-Dunstable Community Education webpage for updates, course offerings and to share your interests and ideas!

Section 7: Groton-Dunstable Regional High School

Submitted by Stephen Sierpina, Principal



2023 Highlights

- 91% of our Graduating Seniors went on to a post-secondary academic opportunity. 84.5% of the class of 2023 went to a four year college/university, 6.5% to a two-year college/university, 8% went on to employment.
- The World Of Difference (WOD) group continues to move forward and we are thankful to Jessica Durling, Rachel Hammond, and Tammie Reynolds for their help in leading the group. The students have truly taken a role as leaders amongst the student body and have engaged in class meetings, faculty meetings, and working with the middle school students to ensure the group grows throughout the district. WOD also is a group that clearly exemplifies the school and district core values of acceptance, belonging and equitable outcomes.
- We are continuing to prioritize making our WIN block an effective means of providing students with multiple opportunities each week to have access to necessary interventions and enrichment to make their scholastic and social and emotional journey at GDRHS a successful one. The overall goal of this block is to provide students with extra assistance in classes when needed, while also providing students opportunities to explore options not included in their schedules or to meet with teachers they have to go further than typical class content would take them. Specifically, this has enabled most Students with Disabilities to engage in 8-16 more courses and electives making their schedules more equitable. In our first full year of implementing these opportunities, we have seen various groups, such as our Student Activities Council, Class Advisors, Drama Guild, Fine Arts, and World of Difference take advantage of this time to expand their opportunities or messages to the student body.
- We had 323 Advanced Placement (AP) Tests taken. 51% of the tests taken earned a three or better, which is the standard to receive college credit. 23% scored a 5 which is the highest score possible.
- This past fall we had our Decennial Accreditation visit through NEASC. The staff and students were able to highlight many of the great things that occur in and out of the classrooms everyday. The visiting committee was impressed with the level of dedication of both the staff and students and the high level work they saw being done during their visit. One aspect of the school programming that especially impressed the visiting team was our Vision of the Graduate. This is work that we will continue to work on and implement with fidelity in our high school. This is critical work that when finished should have an impact on the teaching and learning of all students in the district, Pre-K through grade 12.
- Athletic Director, Matthew Ricard, has done an outstanding job leading all our student-athletes and coaches to ensure GDRHS is well-represented on and off the fields of competition. Our teams have had much success on the fields, courts, ice rinks, courts and running trails during this year. Mr. Ricard was also able to bring back our fall Cheer Team that did an outstanding job all season and we are looking forward to seeing that program grow. Additionally, our

talented students have been able to produce fantastic concerts, theater productions, math competitions and DECA competitions. Our Robotics team, “Robotomies”, is still working hard and getting ready for competition. Collectively, these extracurricular aspects of student life make a huge impact in creating a positive school culture and school pride into our hallways and classrooms. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our community, families and the incredible dedication of our staff and students.

Section 8: Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School

Submitted by Wendy Salvatore, Principal

2023 Highlights



First I could not do the work we do here at the Middle School without the help of my 2 assistant principals, Mr. Day, 5th & 6th grade and Mr. Fleming 7th & 8th grade. Secondly without all of our amazing teachers, paras and support staff we would not have the success we do as a Middle School community.

Advisory

We are in our second year of Advisory. Teachers have noticed a difference between the students they had last year versus this year with 1 year of Advisory under their belts. Our teaching staff feels as though our “advisory experienced” students seem open to try new things, they are more prepared for our expectations, they seem more open to share, more eager to participate and generally kinder to each other. This is a huge win.

Core Values

Last year we spent a lot of time as a school talking about what we wanted to see in our Core Values. What did we want students to be able to do when they leave middle school? As a middle school we settled on O.A.K.

- **Ownership**, Own your space, Own your learning, Own your behavior.
- **Awareness**, Be aware of yourself and others, Be aware of your surroundings, and Be aware of your impact.
- **Kindness**, Be kind to yourself, Be kind to others, and Be kind to your surroundings.



The pictures below are what we came up with. The first is a picture that is on our staff t-shirts and the second is from the 5th grade hallway made by a 5th grade team.



School Council

The Middle School- School Council is up and running. We have 4 parent volunteers, 3 teachers and myself. We are looking at communication with all stakeholders and how to update our Middle School libraries.

Field Trips and Assemblies

With the new year and COVID, pretty much behind us, we have found ourselves getting back to a new normal and by that I mean assemblies and field trips. We are on for the 8th grade trip to Washington DC in early June. We have had quite a few assemblies in the PAC this year thank you to our MS PTO and the Groton Trust.

World Of Difference

Our Middle School World Of Difference (WOD) group continues to move forward thanks to our Advisors, Lori Ogden, Maria Viera and Brennan Bennett. Just this winter our students hosted a holiday stroll where students had the opportunity to learn about different cultural holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, St Lucia, Kwanzaa, New Years, St. Nikolaus Tag, Diwali, Los Pasados, Bodhi Day, Chinese New Year, and German Market. Their next endeavor is going to be a Cultural Fair. Our students plan to reach out into the community at large for volunteers to share about their various cultures, as well as reaching out to the Groton Cultural Council for assistance. We hope to invite the entire communities of Groton and Dunstable to attend this event.

Section 9: Florence Roche Elementary School

Submitted by Brian O'Donoghue, Principal

2023 Highlights



- Students in 3rd and 4th grade experienced growth in ELA from 2022 to 2023 as measured by the annual MCAS assessment.
- A continued professional development commitment to Responsive Classroom for all staff.
- We hired 10 new staff members.
- Progress was made on the new building project.

We opened the year with 508 students in 25 classrooms. We opened a sixth section of 4th grade. This was due to a higher enrollment at that grade level in an effort to keep the class sizes in line with the district guidelines. We had 6 sections of 3rd grade during the 2021-2022 school year. This larger class will finish with the 6th section of 4th grade and then we anticipate a return to 5 sections in the following year. Kindergarten enrollment was lower than typical and we were able to operate with only 4 sections of kindergarten this year.

We noticed positive growth with our reading performance in both 3rd and 4th grade as measured by the annual MCAS assessment. Over the past 2 years, our literacy team has been strategically providing interventions to students who have been identified as needing support. The team uses the DIBELS assessment 4x during the year to determine a student's foundational literacy skills. Intervention groups are planned according to student need and their progress is monitored using the DIBELS. Our team of 5 literacy specialists work across the grade levels supporting students in the classroom and working with small groups outside of the classroom. This is a tremendous resource for our students.

We continue to support professional development for staff in the Responsive Classroom approach to teaching. Responsive Classroom is strong in the school culture of Florence Roche. The language we use with students and how we respond to behavior both proactively and reactively are rooted in Responsive Classroom practices. Over the summer, 10 staff members participated in either level I or Level II Responsive Classroom training.

We were excited to have 10 new staff members join our team at Florence Roche this year. Due to retirements, our classroom teaching staff had some new additions. We also welcomed a new counselor, and a few new special education teachers. Each of these staff members brought an enthusiasm for working with elementary students and were a great addition to our team. We are excited to see them grow with us as they continue in their careers.

The new Florence Roche School building grew over the course of the year. In January, we had the “topping off” ceremony during which a signed beam was installed as the last piece of steel on the project. Over the rest of the year, the building’s exterior walls were completed and the interior of the building began to be defined. The expected opening of the building remains on schedule for the fall of 2024. Thank you to the community of Groton for supporting this beautiful new school building for its students. This new school building will serve the community for the next 50 years and beyond!

Section 10: Swallow Union Elementary School

Submitted by Jill Jarvis, Principal



As I enter my second year of leading this wonderfully talented school of professionals and hardworking and kind students, I begin with a reflection of the year that has passed. In getting to know our students, families and teachers, what I have learned and gained from them far exceeded my expectations.

I learned just how strong the sense of community is at Swallow Union and in Dunstable. I feel this way because I was welcomed on Day 1 ~ kind notes, colorful pictures, a smile, hug or words of encouragement. I have learned that our families are raising well-rounded, compassionate, thoughtful, and responsible human beings. I feel this way in every interaction I have with them and with our parents, either to help them solve problems, how they share what they value, and how they treat one another.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our tireless, dedicated teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, administrative assistants, team chair, lunch/recess aides, kitchen and maintenance staff for their daily commitment to our students, the children of Groton and Dunstable. I am so grateful to work with these amazing individuals who holistically care for your children. Thank you for entrusting us with them.

The 2023-2024 school year was off to a smooth start as we continued to fortify the initiatives we embarked upon last year. With 318 students in attendance, we continue to maintain reasonable class sizes with three teachers per grade level. Swallow Union had three teachers retire last year, Mrs. Katie Vargeltis, Kindergarten, Mrs. Phyllis Hamel, Grade 2 and Mrs. Lisa Mitchell, Music. In addition, our full time technology position was reduced to a .5 position. As a result, we had some shifts with staff ~ Mrs. Amy Codyer moved into the 2nd grade classroom from being the technology teacher and Mrs. Erin Mulligan moving into a Kindergarten classroom from being the school librarian. After a thoughtful, time-invested hiring committee and process, we were able to acquire wonderfully talented new educators to our faculty ~ music teacher, art teacher and a combined position of Library/Innovative Tech Teacher.

2023 Highlights

- New hires include the addition of Kristen Roberts, Special Education Teacher, Erin Kelley, Library/Innovative Tech, Sara Mohan, Music Teacher, and Gwendolyn Johnston, Art Teacher.
- Continued academic excellence - Swallow Union was ranked #8 in the state (out of 958 elementary schools) with students performing well above expectations in reading and math.
- Implementation of Responsive Classroom practices K-4, focusing on improving our physical classroom spaces in order to meet the social and emotional needs of our students as well as working to build our understanding of the Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS).
- Fully implementing Second Step curriculum K-4 - this is an evidenced based social-emotional learning curriculum that fosters students' emotional intelligence, empathy and problem solving skills.
- We have aligned practices with the district's goals of A+B+C+D=E
- Ensuring that our Ti-GRRR Core Values (Growth, Respect, Resilience, and Responsibility) that support our school community are living and breathing within what we expect from one another in all spaces of our school.
- We have established our Student Council and support their voices within the school
- We embrace our highly committed PTO and continue to support the traditions of events that bring our families and community together (Color Wars, Monster Mash, Tiger Twist, and Game Night to name a few).
- In June, the success of the fourth grade play, Beauty and the Beast, directed by Jon Swift
- The School Council has met several times to discuss goal areas for the school and has worked to develop our School Improvement Plan ensuring alignment with the District's Strategic Plan and budgetary planning.
- We are engaged in committee work such as our transition think tanks and behavioral task force as well as professional development (Readers and Writers Workshop, IXL Math, Responsive Classroom, MTSS, and Second Step).
- With the support of GDEF, we continue to be thankful for the support of our grant proposals which in turn directly support student learning in a meaningful way. Some recently approved grants included: Discovery Museum enrichment programs, third grade audiobooks, kindergarten wordless picture books, as well as procuring books to be added to our library that represent and discuss disabilities.

Section 11: Boutwell Early Childhood Center

Submitted by Maggie Richardson, Director of Boutwell Early Childhood Center



2023 Highlights

Over the past year, Boutwell has continued to grow, thus necessitating new hires, including an additional Occupational Therapist who splits her time between Boutwell and Swallow Union, a Physical Therapist, and ABA and classroom paraeducators. We also relocated two classrooms in order to better align services for IEP students. None of this could have been accomplished without the incredible support and care from our wonderful staff. This included teachers, paraeducators, SLP, OT's, PT, BCBA's, nurse, and secretary. Each individual has made a significant contribution to Boutwell's success.

Core Values

Last year, our focus was on creating our core values. In reflecting on our growth and future, we wanted to embrace core values that were inclusive and fostered a sense of acceptance, belonging, and community. Before deciding on our core values, we reflected in staff meetings on what our own values were, and what it meant to truly be inclusive, in all areas. The values that we have chosen are:

- Caring
- Creative
- Cooperative

Our next steps will be to further develop our understanding of these values and how they continue to weave through our daily lives at Boutwell.

As we continue our mission to be an inclusive preschool, we were grateful to be the recipient of an award from GDEF towards diverse and inclusive toys. As our community is growing, we wanted to be able to have toys that represent all children at Boutwell. Some of the items we received included: dolls with differing abilities, Crayola Colors of the World art supplies, bilingual activities, and inclusive block play families.

Library

Our library project has been coming to fruition! Although the classrooms are rich with books, we envisioned a library that would embrace our core values. We have partnered with Lawrence Academy to envision and build a library at Boutwell. This library project is a community wide project in that it involves LA faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and community partners. The library will be a welcoming space for all students of all backgrounds and abilities. The books at our library will be reflective of our community at Boutwell and will have a focus on themes such as community, families, abilities, differences, acceptance, kindness, and belonging.

Curriculum

This past year, staff were engaged in professional learning throughout the year as they piloted Eureka Math. At the preschool level, Eureka Math lessons are multisensory and play based. Children are exposed to and begin to develop an understanding of number sense at a developmentally appropriate level.

Second Step, our social-emotional curriculum, officially launched this fall! At the preschool level, Second Step offers short, daily lessons that teach developmentally appropriate concepts such as emotions, kindness, sharing, how to be a good friend, etc.

Professional Development and Learning

One of the areas we have been focusing on for this past year that will continue this year is on deepening our understanding of MTSS in action in the classroom, specifically with designing developmentally appropriate spaces for children, including calming corners, and delving deeper into co-regulation strategies.

Another area of professional learning involves looking closely at preschool units of study, in order to align our play based curriculum with our core values and the district mission and goals, all in service of A+B+C+D=E.

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www.nashobatech.net

Mission Statement

The Mission of Nashoba Valley Technical High School is to provide the highest quality academic and technical education possible to prepare our students for college and career paths leading to success in an ever-changing technological world. The school strives to promote citizenship through a safe and inclusive atmosphere encouraging a diverse population of students to become positive and productive members of the community.

Groton

NVTHS

School Committee Members

Robert Flynn

Alternate



Serving the towns of Ayer, Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, Westford

Dr. Denise Pigeon
Superintendent

Mr. Jeremy Slotnick
Principal

Ms. Michelle Shepard
Business Manager

Accreditation: New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Learning Schedule: Three 12-week trimesters consisting of eight 45-minute periods set in a four block schedule, five days per week. The school schedule alternates one week of academic classes with a week in a career-technical area for grades 9 through 12.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School is a regional technical high school established in 1969 to serve students grades 9–12 and also provides post-graduate programs for those between the ages of 18 and 25 years old in all career areas on a space available basis. Nashoba has earned an impressive reputation for producing community leaders as well as providing a vast amount of community projects for our district towns. Nashoba Valley Technical High School offers career preparation in 20 technical programs.

Accreditation: New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Learning Schedule: Three 12-week trimesters consisting of eight 45-minute periods set in a four block schedule, five days per week. The school schedule alternates one week of academic classes with a week in a career-technical area for grades 9 through 12.

The Year in Review: The core mission of a vocational-technical school is to offer practical training for skills-based careers, and impart to its students knowledge and skills that will be valuable for securing and having success in future employment. To achieve this goal, Nashoba Valley Technical High School must constantly look to the future to determine the necessary skills that will be valued in an economy yet to come. Since Nashoba Valley Technical High School opened its doors in September 1969, in-demand skills have changed along with career pathways and technology. Nashoba Tech’s history is one of near-constant adaptation; not just to keep pace with a rapidly changing world but to anticipate those changes and keep learning relevant. These changes have come about both in the technical programs that Nashoba offers and in the facilities and equipment of the building. Nashoba Valley Technical High School’s enrollment continues to grow with the need for skilled labor for in-demand trades.

Workforce Skills Capital Grant Projects: Since 2016, Nashoba Valley Technical High School has been the honored recipient of \$8,575,000 in competitive state grant funds from the Workforce Skills Capital Program. This has allowed us to continue to provide the most advanced technical education possible to our students, meeting the standards set by industry partners. The following programs have been renovated and received updated equipment as a result of these funds: Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering/Robotics, Health and Dental Assisting, Culinary/Hospitality, Cosmetology, Electrical/Veterinary Science, and Programming and Web Development.

FY	Program	Amount	Plan
2016	Advanced Manufacturing	\$500,000	Program Renovation and Equipment Update
2017	Engineering/Robotics	\$500,000	Program Renovation and Equipment Update
2019	Health/Dental	\$500,000	Program Renovation and Equipment Update
2020	Culinary/Hospitality	\$125,000	Equipment Replacement
2022	Plumbing	\$250,000	Program Renovation and Equipment Update
2023	Cosmetology	\$500,000	Salon Renovation and Equipment Update
2024	Electrical/Veterinary Science	\$2,500,000	Program Renovation and Equipment Update - will also allow us to expand the physical space of both programs, building to address student enrollment trends

2024/2025	Engineering/Robotics/ Programming and Web/ Advanced Manufacturing	\$3,750,000	Building Addition and Equipment Update - will allow us to create a “Manufacturing Production Center” addressing the growing needs of the manufacturing industry, a primary employer in our area.
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Technical Program Enrollment: The NVTHS District following our mission continues to offer cost-effective high quality Chapter 74 technical education programs to its member district towns of Ayer, Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, and Westford. Below is an overview of student enrollment trends by technical program.

Technical Program Enrollment (All Students)	% of Students
<u>Construction & Transportation Cluster</u> Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Technology, Carpentry, Electrical Technology, and Plumbing Technology	41%
<u>Health and Services Cluster</u> Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, Marketing, Early Childhood Education, Health Assisting, Dental Assisting, and Veterinary Assisting	31%
<u>Arts and Technology Cluster</u> Programming and Web Development, Television and Media Production, Design and Visual Communications, Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, Robotics, and Biotechnology	28%

Special Academic Programs: Advanced Placement, Honors, and College Preparatory courses are available in all core subjects. Foreign language, music, theatre art, and additional elective courses are offered for all four years to all interested students.

Dual Enrollment: The Dual Enrollment program is a state sponsored program that allows eligible NVTHS students the opportunity to enroll in courses at a local college while they are still in high school. The Dual Enrollment Program is available to any junior or senior who meets the criteria adopted by both the State and the School District. Juniors who are eligible and recommended by teachers/ administration may elect to enter the Dual Enrollment Program and take courses during their junior and senior years at a two- or four-year public college or private institutions in Massachusetts or New Hampshire. The program allows a student to attend Middlesex Community College, Mt. Wachusett Community College, U Mass Lowell, or Fitchburg State University on a full-time basis, while still enrolled at NVTHS as a high school student. Credit for the courses applies to both the high school and college transcripts. Upon completion, students receive their high school diploma from Nashoba and one or two years of college credit. Many Nashoba students in recent years have graduated with an associate’s degree from a college and their high school diploma at the same time. Also, individual study programs for talented students are directed to their area of excellence. Many of our students are accepted at such distinguished institutions as MIT, Ithaca College, Emerson College, Boston University, and the University of Massachusetts, among others.

Early College: In January 2019, Nashoba became the first vocational school to be awarded the Early College designation from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Students can apply to participate in the Early College at Nashoba program beginning in their junior year. This program allows students to remain at Nashoba Valley Technical High School, enroll in “concurrent” enrollment classes at NVTHS, and earn credit at both Nashoba and Middlesex Community College. Students would be expected to complete a minimum of 12 or more credits between their junior and senior year. These credits are offered at no cost to the student or their families. Additionally, beginning with the class of 2022, students will enter

the program with one credit earned for Career Exploration. This course is taken by all students in grade 9 when they participate in their required Freshmen Exploratory of all Nashoba's technical programs. In future years, all students will earn one credit apiece for a First Year Seminar and a Service Learning course, both of which are currently in development. Early College at Nashoba students have all the resources of Middlesex Community College available to them. They become college students with access to libraries, technology centers, and support services available at the college. Nashoba's teachers work with a mentor from Middlesex to design the course and to help students get the most benefit from this unique experience.

Community Service Projects: Nashoba is unique in its approach to community service and its relationship to its district towns. Students and their instructors travel to various sites within our district to work on community service projects that have been approved and selected for their benefit to the community and the learning of our students. The students perform all necessary work for the district towns to complete their requested project. The Community Service Program educates students in a real-world setting and allows the towns the benefit of observing Nashoba students at work, creating a lasting tribute to their efforts, and having a major project completed without over-expending limited town resources for capital improvement.

Student Activities: Nashoba sponsors an extensive program in intra-scholastic sports including varsity teams in 16 current high school sports, with equal opportunities for both male and female students. Next year we hope to add tennis and crew as new team sports. Other extracurricular activities include Student Council, National Honor Society, Music Honor Society, Yearbook, Kick-Off Mentors, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Skills USA, Student Leadership, Peer Mediation, Chorus, Drama, and many special interest clubs. No user fees are imposed on any sport, school sponsored club, or activity.

Continuing & Community Education: Nashoba Tech's Continuing Community Education Program offers many late afternoon and evening classes to our community, such as Electrical, Advanced Manufacturing, and Driver's Education. Additional information can be found on the NVTHS website.



GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vanessa Abraham, Director

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

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

Mission: The Groton Public Library provides free access to collections, services, and programs that enrich the lives of all in our community. Library services are provided in a professional, friendly, and confidential environment that also promotes the joys and benefits of reading and lifelong learning.

Programming: The biggest news of 2023 was in programming, with a record-breaking **18,010** people attending **1,648** programs. Attendance numbers:

- Children's: 8,400, a 26% increase over 2022
- Tweens & Teens: 2,890, a 30% increase over 2022
- Adults: 6,720, a whopping 65% increase over 2022

Adult Programs: Adult programs have expanded more than ever before because of the ability to offer many virtual events as well as in-person, and due to new partnerships. Our program coordinator is partnering with three other libraries to offer virtual programs every Monday-Thursday evening, with GPL hosting only once per week.

Operations: Normal operations resumed after the pandemic disruptions, and we enjoyed a bustling and busy return of regular users, especially in the Children's Room. We expanded preschool storytimes because of demand. T(w)eens returned in full force and it's been a terrific year of program attendance, with activities nearly every day after school, as well as a safe place to hang out, read, and study.

Personnel: The biggest change was the retirement of Jeffrey Pike, after serving 25 years as our technology & reference librarian. With the Town, this position was re-envisioned as a more general assistant director role, which has long been needed for an organization of this size and complexity. Sarah Breen was hired as our first assistant director.

Technology: We completed the three-year process of transitioning all library technology so it could be managed by non-specialized staff. The three servers running everything in the library were removed and replaced with a new acquisitions system, hosted website, and Office365 cloud storage. Staff are managing day-to-day issues and utilizing our network (MVLC) and the Town for advanced IT support.

Reading: Groton joined the statewide student reading challenge in June, with 181 teens participating. Our summer and winter reading programs were a hit with 841 kids, teens, and adults participating. The top circulating books of 2023 were *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict for adults, *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman for teens, and *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney for kids.

Groton Reads: In honor of the Groton Garden Club's 100th anniversary, gardening was the theme of this year's annual community-wide reading event. Two books were selected: Nature's Best Hope by Douglas Tallamy and Gardening in Eden by Arthur Vanderbilt II. It was a huge success, with an enormous spike in adult program attendance, doubling the highest attendance ever recorded for the month of March.

By the Numbers:

- 160,683 physical items borrowed
- 35,523 digital materials (ebooks, audio, video, music) borrowed
- 8,393 Groton residents hold library cards
- Research databases searched 21,870 times, up 33% over 2022
- 82,747 people visited the library, up 8% over 2022
- 1,369 public uses of GPL meeting rooms, up 42% over 2022
- 9,608 wireless internet sessions, up 18% over 2022

Outreach: Children's and teen librarians returned to the schools to promote summer reading. Busing to the library returned, with elementary classes visiting the library for a tour, school assignment, storytime, and, for several first graders, to get their first library card! The children's librarian is also visiting the PTYC every month to bring and check out library books to kids in the afterschool program.

Special Events: FanFest on June 23 was our biggest program of the year and our best Summer Reading kick-off yet, as over 300 kids, teens, and families came for Bluey outdoor storytime, face-painting, a comics workshop, cosplay contest, video gaming truck, and more! Our second biggest event of the year was the high-flying dogs in June with 250 kids, teens, and adults in attendance.



Grades 5-12 Youth Survey Results: We surveyed 5th-12th graders at the end of 2023. It was promoted at area schools, around town, on social media, and in the library. We received 248 responses, double our goal. All grades were represented, with the highest number of respondents in the 6th and 7th grades. Of all respondents, 79% visited the library regularly (weekly to monthly), with 40% attending library programs regularly (weekly to monthly). The survey focused on library usage and programming interests.

Respondents said the most important library services were: Borrowing Physical Materials (64%) and a Relaxed Hangout Space (57%), followed by Activities on School Half-Days (40%), Use Wi-Fi/Computers/Printing (35%), Place for Study/Group Projects (31%), Summer Reading Program (30%), Library Programs (29%), and Librarian/Staff Assistance (23%). Creativity-focused activities were the top interest for programming at 54%, and school is the best way to

let t(w)eens know about library programs and services (51%).

Favorite quotes: “I love all of the library clubs and especially the summer reading it’s so fun! I will continue to do it every summer.” “Thanks for giving us a good learning environment 😊 Thanks you ❤️” “I love the summer and winter reading programs. They are my favorite to attend!” “I love the library, it is a great place to hang out and relax and read.” “I think the summer programs are very fun and I love going to the library with friends” “I think you guys are doing awesome - thank you for keeping the library running so well!” “The library is great! Thank you!! =)” “The activities at the library are amazing, I wish I could attend more of them! The librarians are so friendly as well!” “I love the library!!!!!!!!!!”

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Trustees of the Groton Public Library:

Kate Bettencourt, Chair

Kristen von Campe, Vice-Chair

Helena Fruscio Altsman, Clerk

Mark Gerath, Member

Jennifer Petersen, Member (11/6/2023-)

Nancy Wilder, Member (-6/15/2023) – We thank Nancy for her 16 years of dedicated service as Trustee

David Zeiler, Member



Bluey storytime with Miss Jacque in the garden as part of FanFest, June 23, 2023

PARK COMMISSION

Katie Berry, Park Administrator

Meetings 1st Tuesday of the Month, Town Hall, 173 Main Street

(978) 448-1109

parks@grotonma.gov

The Park Commission continues to maintain the Parks, Commons, Courts, and Playing Fields placed under its jurisdiction for the use of the public. All residents are encouraged to visit and enjoy the diverse properties available for passive and active recreation. Additionally, the Park Commission is responsible for the Christine Hanson Memorial Playground, Town Field Basketball Court, Cutler Field Playground and Basketball Court, George and Agnes Rider Park and Basketball Court, Hazel Grove Park/Groton Fairgrounds, the Old Burying Ground, the Smith Social Pavilion, and all the Town Commons and Squares.

Park Commissioners meet the first Tuesday of the month at Town Hall. Our meetings follow an agenda which include meeting with Residents, User Groups, other Town Boards and Committees to promote good stewardship and coordinate Community use of our properties.

Special thanks to The Hazelgrove Agricultural Association for the fine work they do in providing a safe and

well-maintained venue for Equestrians of all ages. Groton is fortunate to have so many accomplished recreation programs. This would not happen without the many dedicated volunteers who give freely of their time and talent.



We also wish to extend our thanks to the many groups and individuals who volunteer their time and efforts toward the care of the Town's Parks, Playgrounds, and Commons. Our sincere thanks to the Groton Garden Club for their continuing beautification efforts and dedication in tending our Commons and Traffic Circles. As ever, the Park Commissioners rely upon and greatly appreciate the Department of Public Works' care and cooperation in its efforts to help maintain all Town properties.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenden Mahoney (Chair), 2025

Anna Eliot (Vice Chair/CPC Representative), 2024

Jeffrey Ohringer, 2026

Mary Jennings, 2026

Gail Chalmers, 2025

PLANNING BOARD

Takashi Tada, Land Use Director/Town Planner
Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm
Meeting Every Other Thursday @ 7:00pm
(978) 448-1105 Fax: (978) 448-1113
planning@grotonma.gov

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 Bylaw amendments must be adopted by a 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 Bylaw, Subdivision Regulations, Zoning Map, Town Center Overlay District Map, and Water Resource Protection District Map are available on the Town's website.

During 2023, the Planning Board reviewed the following applications:

Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans	7
Major Site Plan Review	2
Preliminary Subdivision Plans	1
Definitive Subdivision Plans	1
Scenic Roads Permits	1
Special Permits	6

In 2023, the Planning Board's Action Plan for MBTA Communities Multi-family Zoning was approved by the state, allowing the Town to remain eligible for various grant programs. Voters in the Spring Town Meeting adopted a zoning amendment to clarify certain provisions of the Zoning Bylaw with respect to accessory apartments. Town Meeting voters rejected a citizens' petition to rezone the property at 797 Boston Road. Thanks to funding previously approved by Town Meeting voters, the Planning Board began updating the Comprehensive Master Plan. The Planning Board looks forward to completing this project in 2024.

The Planning Board held 24 public meetings in 2023. Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law as revised during the COVID-19 pandemic, 22 of the meetings were held remotely on Zoom. Two meetings were held in person. Meetings were broadcast on the Groton Channel and recorded for on-demand viewing.

Members of the Planning Board appreciate the support and guidance provided by Town Departments and staff throughout the year, especially the public safety officials, the DPW, the Building Commissioner, the Stormwater Inspector, the IT Department, the Groton Channel, and the Town Manager.

The Planning Board wishes to thank former member, Annika Nilsson Ripps, whose term ended in May 2023. The Planning Board was pleased to welcome a new member, Phil Francisco, in May 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Wilson, Chair
Lorayne Black, Vice Chair
Phil Francisco, Clerk
George Barringer, Member

Alyson Bedard, Member
David Bonnett, Member
Russell Burke, Member
Takashi Tada, Town Planner

SEWER COMMISSION

Lauren Crory, 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@grotonma.gov

The Sewer Commission is pleased to make the following report for the calendar year ending December 31, 2023 to the sewer rate payers and the citizens of the Town of Groton.

In 2023, the Groton Sewer Commission continued working with the Pepperell DPW to finalize the Inter-municipal agreement (IMA) for the Center Sewer District. The new IMA will consist of structured monthly billing and will now be based on flow over flow. The new IMA will also include more services/maintenance for the Groton Sewer Collection System.

In CY2023, the Commission held several public hearings for new sewer connections, change of use applications and sewer district expansion requests in the Center Sewer District. The Commission put a new SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflow) Public Notification Plan in place to notify people of an SSO event and this would be done with a Smart 911 call. The Commission has also adopted a New System Expansion Policy and the purpose of the policy is to accommodate sewer requests to satisfy public health requirements and promote economic development as possible within each district. However, with the limited system capacity available, the Sewer Commission has taken a position not to expand the sewer districts at this time.

Groton's flows to the Pepperell Treatment Plant were based off a ratio from the January-August 2023 flows due to the flow meter at Nod Road being out of service. The Sewer Commission is in the preliminary design stages for upgrades to the Nod Road Pump Station and is hoping to have it completed this year. This would include replacing the flow meter, a new bypass system and site improvements. This upgrade is needed to deal with the sewer requirements in the Center Sewer District. The Commission continues to work to reduce I & I and is in the process of investigating reduction opportunities with the Pepperell DPW.

2020	39,891,356 gallons	or	108,993 avg. gpd
2021	45,796,143 gallons	or	125,373 avg. gpd
2022	41,381,011 gallons	or	113,373 avg. gpd
2023	57,800,000 gallons	or	158,356 avg. gpd ESTIMATED

The Commission continues management of the Four Corners Sewer District. This is a separate sewer district servicing the Four Corners business district and a few residences. This sewerage is discharged to, and treated by the Town of Ayer under a separate Inter-municipal agreement. There was a slight decrease of flows from 2022 and 2023 due to elimination from metered flows of water which was not discharged to sewer.

Groton Four Corners Sewer District wastewater is treated at the Ayer Wastewater Treatment Plant:

2021	2,160,972 gallons	or	5,920 avg, gpd
2022	2,643,432 gallons	or	7,242 avg, gpd
2023	2,543,948 gallons	or	6,723 avg gpd

We would like to congratulate Michael Bouchard on his retirement and wish him the best on his new journey. We have enjoyed working with Mike for the last six years and we want to thank him for his valuable and diligent service above and beyond.

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:
Lauren E. Crory, Business Manager
Ann M. Livezey, Sewer Assistant

Board of Sewer Commissioners:
James L. Gmeiner, Chairman
Thomas D. Orcutt, Vice-Chairman
Michael F. Bouchard, (Resigned)

TOWN CLERK

Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk

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

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

townclerk@grotonma.gov

2023 was a productive year for the Clerk's Office. Outside of the regular services we provide year-round and because 2023 was a quiet year for elections, we were fortunate to have time to prepare for what's going to be a really busy 2024 election year.

Thanks to the generosity of the voters at the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, we were able to purchase Poll Pads which have replaced the printed-out voter lists we have utilized for many years. Voters in the second half of 2023 were checked in by means of an iPad. This technology allows the Clerk's Office to locate a voter more efficiently, gather voter check-in totals quicker and greatly helps with end of election reconciliation and voter history updates. The Clerk's Office, again thanks to the voters, was given permission to petition the Commonwealth in 2023 to merge Precinct 3A with Precinct 1. The addition of Precinct 3A was assigned when redistricting and reprecincting was done in 2021. Our request for a Special Act was granted by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor on September 27, 2023.

The Town held two (2) Annual Town Meetings in 2023 all of which were held at the Groton Dunstable Middle School Auditorium. Minutes from these meetings can be found in the Appendix of the Annual Report.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u># of Voters Present</u>	<u>% Voter Turnout</u>
Spring Town Meeting	April 29, 2023	279	3%
Fall Town Meeting	October 28, 2023	126	1%

There were two (2) elections conducted in 2023. Official election results can be found in the Appendix of the Annual Report.

<u>Election</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>	<u>% Voter Turnout</u>
Annual Town Election	May 24, 2023	5.56%
Special Town Election	November 7, 2023	11.67%

The office administered the town census to 4,652 addresses, including vacant, "inactive" voter and undetermined-class addresses. The information provided by the Town Census is statistically important, and is the basis for updating the Voter List on a yearly basis. The population in Groton as of December 31, 2023 is 10,674, based on our yearly local census. (The 2020 Federal Census has our population recoded as 11,315. The difference between the two (2) population figures is because the Federal Census gathers more detailed information than our local census does such as a record of all minor children. If a resident chooses not to list their minor child on their local census, we would not have that information as part of our population number.)

The Town, as of December 31, 2023 has 8,916 registered voters. Of that number, 68% of voters are registered as Unenrolled, 20% of voters are registered as Democrats, 11% of voters are registered as Republicans, .04% of voters are registered as Libertarian and less than 1% of voters are registered in other parties or designations. These are similar party registrations to 2022 and previous years.

In 2023, the Office administered the oath of office to all of our appointed and elected officials, qualified 72 public commissioners, performed 384 notarial services, registered 1,198 dogs, and processed approximately 529 transactions on behalf of the Department of Public Works. Acting as the Town's Register of Vital Records, the office recorded 72 Births, 65 Deaths and 39 Marriages in 2023. 33 new and 27 renewed "Doing Business As" business registrations were recorded. The Office processed approximately 32 formal public information requests, and many, many additional "informal" requests and election related information requests.

In 2023, the Clerk's office, in addition to the many requests for information, notarization and other non-financial interactions turned over the following amounts to the Town Treasury:

Transaction Category	Amount
Dog License Revenue	\$10,255.50
Vital Records Revenue	\$15,356.00
Transfer Station Transactions	\$16,645.00
Total	\$42,256.50

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Assistant Town Clerks Nancy Pierce and Fran Stanley. The Town is very lucky to have these knowledgeable, hardworking, dedicated women serving the residents and visitors to town. Nancy, Fran and I would also like to thank our many election workers, volunteers, committee members, and town departments for continued cooperation, assistance and service in 2023. Much of what we do requires help from so many and we are not successful without all of you. It has been our privilege to serve the people of Groton during 2023 and we look forward to what 2024 brings!

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Dunbar
Town Clerk

Nancy Pierce
Assistant Town Clerk

Fran Stanley
Assistant 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@grotonma.gov

The Board of Water Commissioners is pleased to make the following report for the calendar year ending December 31, 2023 to the water rate payers and citizens of the Town of Groton.

Groton's water quality and testing regime continues to play a vital role in the product we deliver every day, to you, as our valued customer. Groton consistently goes to great lengths testing our drinking water to be sure we remain in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection's regulations. In the calendar year 2023, the GWD has collected and analyzed more than one thousand water samples at the source wells and in the water distribution system. New substances such as Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been tested and reported to the MADEP. PFAS was present in two of our source wells at levels at less than 5.0 parts per trillion. However, these levels are well below the proposed standard of 20 parts per trillion and will not require remediation. Quarterly testing results can be found on our website at grotonwater.org.

In February of 2019, we were notified by MADEP that manganese levels at our Whitney Pond Wells #1 and #2 were not within specified Health Advisory Limits. The Groton Water Department began designing and constructing a new facility to remove manganese immediately. This facility was completed in January of 2024 and placed into service with minimal disruption to every day operations. The staff at the water department along with our engineers, Environmental Partners, worked extremely hard to make the project a success.

One of the Departments long terms goals is to increase our water management permit to pump more water from the aquifers to serve a growing customer base and expand our water delivery system. The Water Department has

located and installed a new well source at the Whitney Pond Well Field. It is anticipated that this new source will be on-line in the Spring of 2024. Overall, water consumption in 2023 was much lower than expected due to the rainy spring, summer and fall months and therefore no water use restrictions were actively monitored and/or enforced throughout the warmer growing season.



The Groton Water Department continues to work on our Water Meter Replacement Program. The Water Department is now using State-of-the-Art meter reading equipment, commonly referred to as “Smart” Meters. Smart water meters allow the office staff and customers to see water consumption in actual time and provide emergency alerts if there is a leak of any kind in your home. Meters and the batteries that provide us with this information last between 10 and 12 years.

Statistical Information - Period ending December 31, 2023:

Total Gallons of water pumped	160,449,249	Gallons per Year
Ave. Daily Consumption	439,586	Gallons per Day
Max. Daily Consumption – May 28 th	831,700	Gallons
Customer Accounts	2,239	
Water Mains	52.9	Miles
New/Replaced Water Mains	0.0	Miles
Total Hydrants (Public and Private)	397	Hydrants
Hydrants added to the system	0	Hydrant

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, Select Board, Electric Light Department, Highway Department, Land Use Departments, Sewer Commission, and our Police & Fire Departments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Water Department Staff:

Thomas D. Orcutt, Water Superintendent
 Lauren E. Crory, Business Manager
 Ann M. Livezey, Assistant
 Stephen B. Knox, Senior Water Technician
 Michael D. MacEachern, Senior Water Technician
 Robert A. Maloney, Senior Water Technician

Board of Water Commissioners:

John J. McCaffrey, Chairman
 Greg R. Fishbone, Vice Chairman
 James L. Gmeiner, 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

Police Department

Tax Collector/Treasurer

Total Principal 2023

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@grotonma.gov

The following financial report summarizes Fiscal Year 2023 (period ending 6-30-2023).

General Fund: The General Fund ended the year with a favorable fund balance, generating \$2,423,442 of “Free Cash”. This amount represents surplus funds certified by the DOR as available to the Town for future appropriation. The Fall Town Meeting (Oct. 2023) committed to spend approximately \$1,411,545 of that Free Cash on FY24 needs. That amount was earmarked for Leadership Training (\$4,850), Special Election Expenses (\$10,460), communication tower storm damage (\$30,000), and municipal parking lot repairs (\$110,000). \$1,256,235 will be used to replenish Stabilization Fund reserves, including the new Opioid Special Purpose fund. This leaves a Free Cash balance of \$1,011,897 available for appropriation at the FY24 Spring Town Meeting. Generous grant support from the State offset more than \$331,208 in Public Safety services, and, unlike previous years, ARPA funds were tapped rather than ambulance receipts to cover \$300,000 of Fire Department operations. The Town received \$6,808,701 in local receipts in FY23, an increase of more than \$1Mil (or 18%) over FY22. Groton’s strongest revenue streams (after property taxes) were Country Club Fees which brought in a surplus of \$189k (131% of budget), License/Permit revenue which generated a surplus of \$485k (254% of budgeted revenue) and Investment Income which returned a surplus of \$371k (842% of budgeted revenue) Local Receipts are now moderating somewhat, however the Town remains comfortable with its revenue projections for FY24 given the continued returns on investment income and (characteristically) consistent tax collections throughout FY23 and early FY24.

Other Funds: The Town’s other funds (Gift, Grant, Revolving, Receipts Reserved and Trusts) all closed the year with positive balances, with the exception of minor deficits in several Public Safety and DPW reimbursable grants which remained unreimbursed at year end. It is fully expected that these deficits will be resolved by 6/30/2024. The Town of Groton was allotted \$3,385,120 in Federal ARPA funding for Covid-19 fiscal recovery. This program has proved invaluable in allowing the Town to implement water/sewer infrastructure projects, public safety capital upgrades, and to provide support for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. \$1,613,869 of ARPA funding was spent over the course of FY23.

Community Preservation Fund: As of November of 2023, Groton has received a 29.98% State match (or \$289,610) on FY23 local surcharge collections of \$966,157. The CPA fund balance as of 6/30/23 was \$1,477,648. CPC funds are utilized to preserve open space and historic assets as well as to develop affordable housing and recreational facilities. Among the many projects funded in FY23 were the multi-use recreation courts at the Country Club and construction of the new Middle School Track.

Enterprise Funds: Water, Sewer, Four Corners Sewer, Stormwater and Cable Funds all ended the year with favorable balances and E&D funds sufficient to support their operations. The Water Enterprise continued work on significant capital infrastructure projects in FY23, spending approximately \$5,719,467 on the construction for the new Manganese Water Treatment Plant, and \$769,701 on construction for the new drinking water well at Whitney Field.

Reserves: The Town’s Stabilization Fund closed the year at \$2.389 million and the Capital Stabilization Funds at \$702,529 (with \$593,549 of that balance reserved for expenditures in FY24) The level of reserves in these accounts are managed so as to meet the target of 6.5% of the annual line-item budget as established in the Town’s Financial Management Policies.

Patricia Dufresne, Assistant Finance Director / Town Accountant

SEE APPENDIX FOR ACCOUNTANT’S FINANCIAL REPORT

BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Robert E. Garside, 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@grotonma.gov

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.

The Building Dept team continues to strive to provide exceptional customer service for all residents and contractors in the Town.

Department personnel consist of:

- Robert E. Garside, Building Commissioner/ Zoning Enforcement Officer
- Amanda Urmann, Land Use Administrative Assistant

Inspectors

- Daniel A Britko, Local Inspector
- Edward Doucette, Electrical Inspector
- John Dee, Alternate Electrical Inspector
- Norm Card, Gas/Plumbing Inspector
- Jeremy Pierce, Alternate Gas/Plumbing Inspector

The Building Dept experienced another excellent year with respect to permit and dollar volume of construction. In particular, renovations to attics and basements continued due to many citizens working from home on a more permanent basis. Single and Duplex Houses remained steady and there was significant increase in Solar and Energy Storage System (ESS) installations in the residential homes in 2023. Commercial volume remained steady with the renovation of 11 Lowell Rd.

The Building Dept is looking forward to another strong year in 2024 with many new projects in development to continue the trend of steady growth for the community.

An updated report from the Building Department follows.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Garside

Robert Garside

Building Commissioner/ Zoning Enforcement Officer

An updated report from the Building Department follows.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building and Zoning	2021	2022	2023
Value of Construction	\$22,371,514.00	\$53,533,283.00	\$82,948,296.47
Permit Fees Collected	\$321,190.00	\$550,236.00	\$508,586.96
Permits Issued	522	598	572
Inspections Performed	652	823	807
RESIDENTIAL			
Single Family Homes	17	23	6
Two Family Homes	2	6	9
Multi-Family	0	0	0
Additions	153	42	42
Renovations	241	294	314
Accessory Buildings/Pools	35	31	22
Demolitions	7	8	17
Solar	6	9	21
COMMERCIAL			
New	0	4	0
Additions	2	0	1
Renovations	10	16	9
Accessory Buildings	10	15	2
Demolitions	1	4	1
Communication Towers/Solar	7	8	3
Annual Certificates	84	82	84
Home Occupations Certs	36	39	24
Electric			
Permit Fees Collected	\$61,688.00	\$73,459.00	\$77,725.99
Permit Issued	445	518	516
Inspections Performed	657	749	912
Gas			
Permit Fees Collected	\$15,044.00	\$17,270.00	\$15,339.90
Permit Issued	186	228	199
Inspections Performed	209	222	216
Plumbing			
Permit Fees Collected	\$25,526.00	\$31,630.00	\$30,469.70
Permit Issued	189	212	233
Inspections Performed	245	284	328

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Charlotte Steeves, 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@grotonma.gov

The Groton Conservation Commission was established by Town Meeting vote in 1962 “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 oversees over 2,200 acres of Town-owned conservation land. Since 1972 the Commission also has been responsible for administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, §40) and the Groton Wetlands Bylaw, which was adopted by Town Meeting vote in 2001.

In 2023, the Commission held 23 open meetings and reviewed 16 Notices of Intent, 32 Requests for Determination of Applicability, 1 Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, and issued numerous Certificates of Compliance, Extension Permits, Enforcement Orders, Violation Notices, and Emergency Certifications, including work for storm damage repair along the Rail Trail near Smith Street after heavy summer rain events. The Commission also oversaw a project to replenish sand at Sargisson Beach.



Cassella Preserve: A view from the main trail over an esker.

The Conservation Commission presently oversees 2,263 acres of Town-owned conservation land.

Three new properties were purchased in 2023, one with the support from a state grant. Two of the properties are in Northeast Groton and provide connections to the Regional High School: the Casella Preserve, 120 acres with a small parking area off Nashua Road and the Marsh Lewis Memorial Grove, 15.3 acres, connecting the Casella Preserve and the High School to Reedy Meadow Road. The third property purchased is 28 acres in West Groton, adjacent to the Groton Center and the Ice Trail. Our subcommittee, the Stewardship Committee, continues to help manage these properties and this year developed and installed property signs, worked with the Sustainability Commission on a proposed Pollinator Garden, reviewed the Commission’s Turtle Habitat policies and responsibilities, organized a tire cleanup along Wrangling Brook in West Groton, and received training in vernal pool certifications.

The Committee continues to support the work of other Boards and Committees including the Trails Committee (trails at the Casella Preservation, Harrison Ripley Forest, Marsh Lewis Memorial Grove, and Orion Way), the Parks Department (Cow Pond Brook Parking area and Carol Wheeler Park), the Native Peoples Recognition Group (the renaming of the Shattuck Property to Nipmuc Meadows), and ongoing coordination with the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee, the Affordable Housing Trust, and the Groton Lakes Association.

Finally, we bid farewell and well-wishes to Nik Gualco and welcome our new Conservation Administrator Charlotte Steeves. We thank everyone in Town Hall who helped with the transition, with special thanks to Katie Berry.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen McHugh, Chair, (since 2015)

Larry Hurley, Vice-Chair (since 2017)

Bruce Easom, (since 2003)

Alison Hamilton, (since 2020)

Charlotte Steeves (Conservation Administrator)

Peter Morrison, Clerk (since 1991)

John Smigelski, (since 2012)

Olin Lathrop (since 2016)

COUNCIL ON AGING

Ashley Shaheen, Director

The Center, 163 West Main Street (Rt. 225)

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am – 4:00pm / Board Meetings 3rd Monday 1:00pm

(978) 448-1170 Fax (978) 448-3660

gcoa@grotonma.gov

The mission of the Groton Council on Aging is to serve as the community focal point promoting the independence of older adults through information and referral, support, health and wellness, socialization and education. We provide opportunities for all individuals as they age by leveraging resources, developing a sustainable future and engaging in strong partnerships and collaborations.

The Groton Council on Aging (COA), located in The Groton Center, offers programs, resources, and support to the town's residents ages 60 and older. The COA Staff consists of the Director, the Community Engagement Specialist, the Outreach Coordinator/Van Dispatch, the Departmental Assistant, and eight per diem van drivers. In addition to the staff members, the COA is fortunate to have more than 100 dedicated volunteers who continue to be the backbone of the organization. The COA's numerous outreach and support services include health screenings and clinics, SHINE health insurance advice, AARP Tax Aide assistance, Meals on Wheels, home visits, medical equipment, fuel assistance, transportation, and much more. Some of the programs and classes offered include yoga, strength training, pickleball, ping pong, tai chi, mah jong, billiards, cribbage, movies, and topic of interest presentations, to name a few. The Groton Center has a state-of-the-art Fitness Center that is open to residents ages 50 and older (membership required). Transportation is a crucial service the COA offers to the senior residents in the community. Convenient door-to-door rides are provided for medical appointments, shopping trips, social engagements, and errands. From January 2023 through December 2023, the transportation program provided 3,823 rides to 156 unique individuals and we served 25,652 (duplicated) and 1,140 unique individuals. We welcomed 279 new members.

In December 2023, the Groton Council on Aging achieved National Accreditation through the National Institute of Senior Centers Accreditation Board. The National Council on Aging's National Senior Center Accreditation Program officially recognizes that a senior center meets the nine standards of excellence for operations: Purpose, Community Collaboration, Program Planning, Evaluation, Financial Management, Governance, Administration/Human Resources, Record Keeping, and Facility and Operations. The Groton COA staff, Board of Directors, participants, volunteers, and other community stakeholders began the lengthy application.

Thanks to the strength of community engagement and collaboration, the Groton Council on Aging is a National Accredited Center! We celebrated this accomplishment on January 18, 2024 with a Gala Celebration. In addition to staff, board members, volunteers, and community members, we welcome distinguished guests including Representative Scarsdale, Representative Cena, Beth Walsh from Senator Cronin's Office, Secretary of MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Elizabeth Chen, MA Council on Aging Member Services Director, Kelly Burke, and Elizabeth Updike, Community Outreach Manager from Aging Services of North Central MA. We received local and state citations for being a recipient of this prestigious award.

The Groton Council on Aging was also chosen by the Massachusetts Council on Aging (MCOA) to be part of their brand-new storytelling program. The emphasis was on innovation and community collaborations. They filmed during the Gala Celebration to spotlight the Groton COA’s National Accreditation. The videos were filmed in The Groton Center, and several Groton COA Volunteers were interviewed about their experiences participating in the accreditation during a storytelling segment. Special thanks to the all-star cast who participated in this project: Deputy Fire Chief, Art Cheeks, Peter Cunningham, Pascal Miller, Roger Shaller, and Dorothy Zale

With the support of the community and the work of the dedicated staff and volunteers, the Groton COA continues to be one of Groton’s most valuable resources.

The Council on Aging Staff:

Director	Ashley Shaheen
Community Engagement Specialist	Nändi Munson
Outreach Coordinator/Van Dispatch	Nickole Boardman
Departmental Assistant	Vacant
Van Drivers	Peter Cunningham
	Debbie Dennis
	Brad Eaton
	Robert Hamilton
	Michael Kalil
	Hank Montanari
	Heather Rhodes
	Eddie Wenzell
Maintenance	Vacant

The Council on Aging Board:

Chair	Pascal Miller
Vice Chair	Tony Serge
Secretary	Judith Palumbo O’Brien
Members	Carole Carter
	Michelle Collette
	Berta Erickson
	Harris McWade
	Lois Young
	Dorothy Zale

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr., DPW Director
500 Cow Pond Brook Road
(978) 448-1162 Fax (978) 448-1174
highway@grotonma.gov

The following is the report of some of the activities of the DPW during the 2022-23 season. The Departments that make up the DPW are Highway, Transfer Station, Tree and the Building Maintenance Departments. The DPW Employees are the heart of this department and their dedication to their jobs shows with the accomplishments they achieve every year. My thanks goes out to one and all of them.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The following were some of the duties performed during the last year.

There were several roads that were resurfaced this year including sections of Farmers Row, North Street, Sawtell Drive, Watson Way, Fertile Dale drive, Sky field Drive, Integrity Way, and Fox Run. Our season was cut short due to all the rain, and made the scheduling of projects through our contractor impossible. Many projects will be completed this spring on last year's contract. Drainage improvements as well as other spot improvements add to our daily duties which keep our construction season filled every year.

A couple of our major side accomplishment last season was the demolition of the pool deck at the country club and the expansion of *Woitowicz* Field, saved over 60K in outside costs. The work on this was done by the workers of the DPW and came out spectacular. I am fortunate to have such a talented group of people to work with.

We have also begun a Director in training program to prepare for my, hopeful, retirement from the department in coming months. Brian Callahan, a current employee, is being trained on the ins and outs of his job to take over when I retire. He has the common sense and can-do attitude to bring the department into the future.

The mowing of our parks and commons is always a priority and a great deal of effort is put into them. Our playing fields are used by the young and old and get almost daily use so it is important to keep them well-manicured. The Park Department helps us to maintain by doing all the admin work to help us and is greatly appreciated. A lot of work and thanks also goes go to the Garden Club for helping us in the rehabilitation of several planting areas throughout the town every year. This work is noticed by everyone who enters and leaves Groton and it truly enhances the quality of our town. Once again, we have dedicated volunteers that help us add the finishing touches on these areas help with the details we can get to. Your hard work and dedication is unmatched.

Rain Snow repeat, rain, snow repeat. Snow is snow, it comes down, we remove it and start all over again. Lots of hard work and hours go into the preparation and operations and the work is exhausting and repetitive for the men. Thank you for being patient with us during storms and remember



Transfer Station

Operations here continue to be smooth and it shows in our users and our recycling numbers. With a great recycling effort from our volunteers as well as everyone else, we are above average for the area. The material we process and market are being shipped all over and we are constantly checking for the best places to market our products. By doing this we have brought our revenues up and our disposal costs down. All of this, also, could not have been done without the hard work of the employees at the Transfer Station.

A special thanks goes to Tessa David who retired from the Director of Mass Toss this past year. She was instrumental in many of the programs we have here as well as other communities. Her hard work and dedication are beyond anything I have ever seen and I look forward to continuing working with her on the Towns recycling committee.

Building Maintenance

Duties of this department are mostly routine with inspections, cleaning and normal wear and tear issues consisting of most of the work. Below are some of the basic duties of the department.

- 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.

Tree Work Season Accomplishments

Tree planting on Arbor Day was done in the Groton Cemetery with a Sugar Maple. With an additional 15+ new trees planted this year, we are continuing our enhancement of the 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.

A couple of the Season Highlights

Arbor Day was celebrated at the Groton Cemetery.

Brush and hazard tree trimming, inspection, and removal in various locations on over 50 miles of roads.

Assistance by the local light department with pruning, hazard tree removal and brush clearing.

Continued use of a roadside mower to remove brush and invasive species.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Steele McCurdy, Fire Chief

Center Station, 45 Farmers Row

General Calls: (978) 448-6333 Cell Phone Emergency: (978) 448-5555

Emergency: 911

fire@grotonma.gov

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.

The fire service has been ever evolving through advancements in technology, population changes and general needs of the community. We again are seeing the evolution of the fire service as we cope with the effects of climate change. As a multi-disciplinary organization, severe storms, floods, and wildland fires are happening at a greater rate than ever before. These events present a regular threat to properties and lives within the community. The Groton Fire Department recognizes that these changes are occurring and is reacting to them through training, education, and drills.

Training for fire and EMS members has increased tremendously through the years, most of this due to the ever-expanding range of hazards that exist. This drives a need to practice and hone skills to deliver the best service possible. In 2023 we held over 50 department training classes resulting in roughly 150 hours of educational improvement. In addition to the department trainings, on-duty personnel participated in a myriad of daily trainings throughout the year. The Groton Fire Department often holds trainings with neighboring fire departments in order to maximize the regional effect of training and strengthening ties.

2023 was the busiest year the Groton Fire Department has ever had. The Department responded to 1470 calls, which is a 3% increase from the previous year. Each year we are seeing a steady uptick to our emergency calls. Inspections have increased astronomically over the years with a 14% increase just in 2023. The primary driver of the inspections is the increase in new buildings and the sales of existing buildings in town.

In 2023, we again were able to hire 5 new on-call firefighters. Even though we regularly train on-call firefighters, often we only meet the attrition of our members. Unfortunately, across America, call and volunteer firefighters are becoming harder to find due to other life commitments. The Groton Fire Department has always been steadfast in maintaining a well-trained and staffed call department. As we ended 2023, the Department again embarked on starting a new training session for on-call personnel to run in the spring of 2024.

In February of 2023, Derek Maskalenko was promoted to Lieutenant which gave each of the 4 shifts a designated supervisor. In addition to his role as a shift supervisor, Lt. Maskalenko took on the responsibilities of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program. This program provides education to the most vulnerable populations under 12 and over the age of 65. In addition to education, the Senior S.A.F.E program allows firefighters to install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in homes through a state grant program.

This past June the department said goodbye to Cathy Lincoln after serving the Town of Groton for 30 years. Thank you for your service for all those late night calls, trainings, and the endless number of hours you gave to the citizens of Groton. June 9, 2023 was dedicated by proclamation of the Select Board as “Catherine Lincoln Day”!

I would like to thank the Groton Firefighters and EMT's and of course their families for their incredible dedication to the community. You are all the reason that the Groton Fire Department is so great!

Groton Fire Department Members 2023

Fire Chief, Steele McCurdy

Deputy Chief, Arthur Cheeks

Lieutenant James Crocker

Lieutenant Derek Maskalenko

Lieutenant James Foley

Lieutenant Steven Savage

Lieutenant Karl Lundgren

Lieutenant Tyler Shute

Firefighters/EMTs

Ryan Bellemore

Heidi Januskewicz

Nathan Bernier

Peter Kokolski

Christopher Braun

Brandon Lambert

John Brooks

Catherine Lincoln

Brad Cain

Paul McBrearty

Anthony Cianci

Grant McCullagh

Daniel Coelho

John McKeever

Christopher Curtis

Cody McNayr

David Dubey

Declan Nash

Christopher Fischer

Matthew Pisani

James Foley

Michael Poulin

Bryan Gardner

Christopher Quigley

Jason Grennell

Andrew Saball

Richard Gutierrez

Andrew Scott

Anthony Hawgood

Walter Shaw

Heather Hall

Daniel Shreve

Elsa Heil

James Sumner

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 Groton Publick House 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.

Season pass memberships are available but not required to enjoy any of the offerings at the

Country Club. Groton residents are afforded favorable price discounts on season pass memberships.

Our goal is to be financially self-reliant using revenues from season pass, membership sales, daily activity and summer program.

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 swim team from New England made up of 20 Groton Country Club Gators, won the National Junior Olympics in North Carolina in 2019.

Our Groton PGA Junior League expanded to 36 junior golfers competing on late Sunday afternoons in May & June.

The Groton Publick House continues to be a fantastic partnership for the Country Club.

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 Manager/Head Golf Professional

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Amanda Urmann, Land Use Administrative Assistant

Meetings 3rd Tuesday

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

aurmann@grotonma.gov

The Historic District Commission (HDC) continued to provide active assistance for projects in the Town's Historical Districts, relative to their appropriateness regarding Groton's historic context in 2023.

The Commission consists of seven members. Currently two vacancies remain. Jennifer Rand and Jennifer Moore were appointed this year, each for a three-year term expiring in June 2026. The Historic Districts Commission would like to thank Maureen Giattino for her many years of service.

Throughout 2023, the Historic District Commission continued to convene every month on the third Tuesday at 7:30 PM. Most of the meetings in 2023 were held in person, starting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HDC approved six new sign permits and granted nine Certificates of Appropriateness for proposed work in the district. Many of these great projects consist of renovations, accessory buildings, new roof's, fences, windows

and solar panels. The Commissioners would like to express their gratitude to the applicants for the given opportunities to work together to help maintain the historic feel in Groton. The newly completed projects are impressive and pleasing to the commission.



Respectfully submitted,
Peter Benedict, (Chair 2024)
Brian Cartier, (2025)
Lisa Hicks, (2025)
Jennifer Rand, (2026)
Jennifer Moore, (2026)

Amanda Urmann, Admin, Asst.

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@grotonma.gov

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

The past year, I have had several on-line trainings that employees have participated in through MIIA that have been beneficial. We also had mandatory Leadership training for all of our Department Heads through MIIA. We received \$2,332.00 in MIIA Rewards for these trainings and seminars. We had a great year through MIIA grant program receiving \$8,715.75 in grant money for Safety Glasses, Flammable Cabinet, and Cones.

BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

Open enrollment went well, MIIA offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that employees are able to use and speak with an advisor at no cost.

RECRUITMENT

This was a busy year for recruitment. We hired a Patrolman, Communications Officers, Per Diem Van Driver, Our first Assistant Library Director, Truck Driver/Laborer, Community Engagement Specialist, Inter-Departmental Administrative Assistant, Park Ranger, Circulation Library Assistant, Custodian II, GCC Summer Staff, and Conservation Administrator. 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.

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 on-line programs that employees participated in. We offered an in-person Yoga program that was very successful. 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
Perry Sisombath, Server & Desktop Support
Specialist

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

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

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 2023 the department handled about 1,400+ help desk tickets we received. We increased usage of point-of-sale payment processing in departments as we unify our in person transactions around town. Our email migration to the cloud is well underway as we currently operate in a hybrid cloud model featuring multi factor authentication for email users now. The biggest project we have this year is that we are working with Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center to migrate our police systems to a new model as we transition to a remotely connected dispatch center for the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Chiasson
Information Technology Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael F. Luth, Chief of Police

Police Station, 99 Pleasant Street

General Calls: (978) 448-5555 Emergency: 911

police@grotonma.gov

www.grotonpd.org

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the **Groton Police Department** to:

Treat everyone impartially with respect, dignity, and courtesy, as we fulfill our commitment to provide professional police services to the Town of Groton.

DEPARTMENT MOTTO

“Community First”

Greetings,

The Police Department provided community focused, professional police services with the support of the residents of Groton.

In January the Department was awarded full accreditation by The Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. The preparation for this was a two-year process of developing and implementing policies that encompassed 326 standards that are required by the Commission. Achieving accreditation means that the Department has met or exceeded the best practices for a Law Enforcement Agency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Department saw some personnel changes during 2023. In February, Officer Matthew Beal resigned to attend the Massachusetts State Police Academy. The opening that was created was filled by Officer Brian Underhill. Officer Underhill had previously interned with the Department while attending college. Shortly after graduating college, Officer Underhill attended the Lynnfield Police Academy 4th ROC in which he graduated from in January of 2024.

Officer Casey O'Connor was assigned as the Senior Liaison working hand-in-hand with Council on Aging, addressing needs of residents.

The Department applied for and received approximately \$370,000 in grants for Emergency Communications support, safety equipment replacement and traffic safety.

Staffing of the Emergency Communications Department continued to be a challenge. Our dispatchers handled 62,083 calls in 2023 for the towns of Groton and Dunstable. In 2023, the Town began the process of merging the Emergency Communications Department with Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center located in Pepperell. The Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center currently provides dispatch services to Pepperell, Townsend, and Ashby. There has been a great deal of planning, coordination, and cooperation in order to achieve this merger.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael F. Luth

2023 Groton Police Department Personnel

Chief of Police:	Michael F. Luth
Deputy Chief:	Rachael E. Bielecki
Sergeants:	Derrick Gemos, Kevin Henehan, Robert Breault, Patrick Timmins
Detective:	Andrew Davis
School Resource Officers:	Omar Connor, Peter Breslin, Robert Wayne
Patrol Officers:	Paul Connell, Dale Rose, Gordon Candow, Michael Lynn, Gregory Steward, Peter Violette, Matthew Beal, Casey O'Connor, Adam Hyde, Michael Masterson, Brian Underhill
Reserve Officers:	Michael Ratte, Frank Mastrangelo, Steven Tully
K-9:	Bane
Comfort Dog:	Miranda
Administrative:	Jessica Watson, Sr. Administrative Assistant Joan Tallent, Administrative Assistant
Communications Officers:	Warren Gibson, Samuel Welch, Catherine Myers, Christopher Cotter, Kayla Savage, Devon Gaughan, Edward Bushnoe, Michael MacGregor

TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER DEPARTMENT

Hannah Moller, CMMT - Treasurer/Collector
Michael Hartnett, CPA, CMMT - Assistant Treasurer/Collector
Nancy Amari - Payroll Coordinator/Assistant to the Treasurer
Office Hours: Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm
Main: (978) 448-1103 Fax: (978) 448-1115
treasurer@grotonma.gov

<u>Cash & Fund Balances</u>						Year-End Balance
						<u>June 30, 2023</u>
<u>Fund Description:</u>						
<u>General Fund</u>						
	ARPA Grant Funds					\$ 1,777,851
	BAN Proceeds Funds					\$ 4,743,739
	BOND Proceeds Funds					\$ 33,077,351
	All Other General Fund Accounts (incl. petty cash)					\$ 13,336,141
						\$ 52,935,082
<u>Other Funds</u>						
	Trust Funds (a)					\$ 25,963,538
	TREAD Trust					\$ 5,080
	Stabilization- Town					\$ 2,389,008
	Conservation					\$ 1,092,280
	Capital Stabilization- Town					\$ 441,044
	Capital Stabilization- GDRSD					\$ 261,486
	OPEB Trust					\$ 1,024,271
	Performance Bonds & Planning Board 593's					\$ 601,368
	Affordable Housing Trust					\$ 247,681
	Arts & Flags Agency					\$ 12,319
	Turtle Study & Maintenance					\$ 56,479
	Contractor Habitat Protection					\$ 20,247
	Regional Scholarship Committee					\$ 15,600
						\$ 32,130,401
<u>Enterprise Designated Funds</u>						
	Sewer Enterprise					\$ 428,086
	Water Enterprise					\$ 72,699
	Stormwater Utility					\$ 516
<u>Groton Electric Light Designated Funds</u>						
	Consumer Deposits					\$ 270,845
	Insurance Reserve					\$ 143,064
	Depreciation Reserve					\$ 202,548
						\$ 616,458
<u>Total Cash & Fund Balance, June 30, 2023</u>						\$ 86,183,241

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, in accordance with Mass. General Law Ch. 41, s. 46

Debt & Debt Service

The Town's long-term debt was not increased in Fiscal 2023. Although the Florene Roche Construction project is underway, no additional funds were permanently borrowed during this Fiscal year. The Town anticipates the final permanent borrowing for this project will occur near the end of Fiscal year 2025 once the final MSBA project assessment has been completed.

The Town's general fund short-term debt (BAN's) comprised; Police Radios (\$168,590) and Highway Dump Truck (\$148,000).

The Community Preservation Committee issued a BAN for; Middle School Track (\$1,525,374). The Town's Water Enterprise entity issued BAN's for; Whitney Pond Well #3 (\$1,150,000), the Maganese Water Treatment Facility (\$10,804,300), and the Whitney Pond Well Improvement for (\$126,086).

In Fiscal 2023, the General Fund of the Town paid \$240,807.54 in non-exempt debt service (principal and interest), which is in keeping with the Town's policy of maintaining approximately \$250,000 in annual debt service within the tax levy. This policy provides some relief to the taxpayer with respect to non-excluded debt.

The Town's portion of debt for the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District was \$482,904, which is excluded debt and becomes an addition to the annual tax rate. The Town's portion of debt for the Nashoba Valley Technical High School was \$40,950 which is not excluded debt, but part of the annual budgeted school assessment within the tax levy.

(The following page shows the FY 2023 debt service payments by Department and purpose.)

Credit Rating - Standard & Poor - AAA

The Town of Groton has a AAA credit rating as issued by Standard & Poor credit rating agency. AAA is the highest credit rating a municipality can achieve. This rating is based on a periodic comprehensive financial review of the Town, comprising financial strength and stability, financial policies, demographic characteristics, and financial planning and projections. One of the benefits of a municipality obtaining a AAA credit rating is the ability to borrow in the long-term bond market at more favorable interest rates, saving the Town thousands of dollars in debt service over the life of the bonds.

Respectfully,

Hannah Moller, CMMT Treasurer-Collector

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE AND DEBT BALANCES

ID	Name	Issued	Matures	Orig Amt	Exempt/ Non-Exempt	Principal	Interest	Total
2912	Center Fire Station	4/18/2013	6/30/2035	\$7,730,000	Exempt	\$360,000.00	\$117,912.52	\$477,912.52
2913	DPW Garage- New in FY21	2/20/2020	2/15/2040	\$4,307,000	Exempt	\$217,000.00	\$115,364.50	\$332,364.50
2914	Library Roof- New in FY21	2/20/2020	2/15/2040	\$1,055,000	Exempt	\$53,000.00	\$28,237.00	\$81,237.00
2980	Florence Roche #1 NEW- FY22	8/17/2021	8/15/2041	\$7,330,000	Exempt	\$245,000.00	\$226,775.00	\$471,775.00
2916	Florence Roche #2 NEW- FY23	6/21/2022	4/1/2047	\$18,655,000.00	Exempt	\$750,000.00	\$644,350.00	\$1,394,350.00
2991	Lost Lake Fire Station	11/15/2003	11/15/2022	\$1,450,000	Exempt	\$70,000.00	\$1,050.00	\$71,050.00
2992	Gibbet Hill	11/15/2003	11/15/2022	\$3,000,000	Exempt	\$135,000.00	\$2,025.00	\$137,025.00
2999	Senior Center	11/27/2018	6/30/2039	\$5,130,000	Exempt	\$220,000.00	\$173,837.50	\$393,837.50
					Total Exempt	\$2,050,000.00	\$1,309,551.52	\$3,359,551.52
2915	Fire Truck 2020- New in FY21	02/20/2020	2/15/2039	\$473,000	Non-Exempt	\$25,000.00	\$12,776.00	\$37,776.00
2978	Fire Ladder Truck	11/27/2018	11/15/2037	\$875,000	Non-Exempt	\$50,000.00	\$26,456.26	\$76,456.26
2979	Lost Lake Fire Protection	11/27/2018	11/15/2038	\$1,375,000	Non-Exempt	\$70,000.00	\$42,756.26	\$112,756.26
2994	Project Eval Report	11/1/2003	2/1/2024	\$330,000	Non-Exempt	\$13,786.17	\$32.85	\$13,819.02
					Total Non-Exempt	\$158,786.17	\$82,021.37	\$240,807.54
Summary	for General Fund				Total for General Fund	\$2,208,786.17	\$1,391,572.89	\$3,600,359.06
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
GELD								
2998	GELD- Headqtrs.	8/1/2014	11/1/2033	\$2,000,000	Non-Exempt	\$100,000.00	\$41,500.00	\$141,500.00
Summary	for GELD				Total Non-Exempt for GELD	\$100,000.00	\$41,500.00	\$141,500.00
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
CPC								
012	Surrenden Farm (paid off)	7/6/2007	12/15/2021	\$5,015,000	Non-Exempt	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Summary	for CPC				Total Non-Exempt for CPC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
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	\$2,517.94	\$19,165.44
2911	Old Ayer Rd	10/26/2007	10/1/2025	\$155,960	Non-Exempt	\$8,352.50	\$1,263.31	\$9,615.81
9994	Project Eval	11/1/2003	2/1/2024	\$330,000	Non-Exempt	<u>\$5,098.99</u>	<u>\$12.15</u>	<u>\$5,111.14</u>
Summary	for Sewer				Total Non-Exempt for Sewer	\$30,098.99	\$3,793.40	\$33,892.39
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
Title V								
2993	Title Five	8/1/2002	8/1/2020	\$197,403	Non-Exempt	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Summary	for Title V				Total Non-Exempt for TitleV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Water								
2997	Water SRF Loan 2	12/14/2006	7/15/2026	\$1,234,434	Non-Exempt	\$68,559.00	\$6,937.01	\$75,496.01
2909	Water System	11/23/2004	8/1/2024	\$4,417,366	Non-Exempt	<u>\$275,999.14</u>	<u>\$5,512.64</u>	<u>\$281,511.78</u>
Summary	for Water				Total Non-Exempt for Water	\$344,558.14	\$12,449.65	\$357,007.79
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
					FY23 Totals-	\$2,683,443.30	\$1,449,315.94	4,132,759.24
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR – FOR FISCAL YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

		Collected (a)		Uncollected @
		<u>During Fiscal 2023</u>		<u>June 30, 2023</u>
<u>Fiscal 2023</u>				
Real Estate		38,377,117		274,759
Community Preservation Act		965,308		5,596
Water District		178,842		2,475
Personal Property		399,816		1,785
Motor Vehicle Excise		1,614,388		164,447
<u>Fiscal 2022</u>				
Real Estate		189,625.81		64,002
Community Preservation Act		4,197.36		1,335
Water District		2,427.74		865
Personal Property		3,109.18		(521)
Motor Vehicle Excise		291,498		16,828
<u>Fiscal 2021</u>				
Real Estate		3,082.08		3,750
Community Preservation Act		(74.58)		4
Water District		-		418
Personal Property		1,776.72		1,481
Motor Vehicle Excise		12,171.28		8,200
<u>Fiscal 2010-2020</u>				
Real Estate		-		12,272
Community Preservation Act		-		67
Water District		-		113
Personal Property		-		7,456
Motor Vehicle Excise		3,624		26,322
TOTALS		511,437		142,592
(a) Net of refunds				
<u>Other Selected Tax Collector Data:</u>				
Penalties, Interest on Taxes Collected		180,735		
Payments In Lieu of Taxes Collected		361,853		
Tax Title Collections		173,725		
Tax Deferral Collections		21,327		
Scholarship Donations Collected		12,215		
Water/Sewer Liens Collected		1,892		
Boat Excise Tax Collected		2,921		
Boat Excise Tax Uncollected		2,003		
Municipal Lien Certificates Fees		12,300		
Tax Title Account- Balance Owed		373,980		
Taxes in Deferral- Balance Owed		152,613		
Tax Possessions- Balance Owed		45,745		

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

Maureen Heard, Veterans' Service Officer
Office Hours: Mon. 12:00pm-4:00pm or by Appointment
Legion Hall, 75 Hollis Street, Groton, MA
Mail should go to the Town Hall, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-1175
veteran@grotonma.gov

The Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) provides support to the Town's veterans and their family members, including widows and widowers as well as children and dependent parents of veterans. The VSO provides information about veterans benefits under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws as well as the benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VSO also provides assistance in the completion and submission of forms required to obtain benefits.

Over the course of the past year there have been many requests for assistance by phone and email. Assistance has been rendered to veterans seeking copies of DD Form 214 discharge paperwork, several applications to the VA for disability claims, how to get dependent ID cards, real estate abatements, processing monthly benefits under Chapter 115, etc.

The VSO assisted in preparations for the Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony and the Veterans Day Ceremony and also attends the monthly Veterans Breakfast at the Groton Fire Station.

Anyone who needs advice and/or assistance, or knows of a Veteran in need is encouraged to stop by the office during regular office hours, email me at mheard@grotonma.gov or by phone at (978)447-1175.

Maureen Heard
Master Sergeant (RET)
Groton Veterans' Services Officer



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Amanda Urmann, Zoning Board of Appeals Office Assistant

Wednesday Meetings as posted

Office Hours: Tues – Thurs 10am -

3pm (978) 448-1121 Fax: (978) 448-

1113

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 are two vacancies currently.

The Zoning Board of Appeals met to consider seven applications in 2023. There were two variance applications, one variance was approved and the other was withdrawn. There were two Special Permit applications, each to allow the alteration of a non-conforming structure/lot. One of these was approved and the other one was withdrawn. There was one Appeal of Action by the Building Inspector which was withdrawn. There were two 40B Comprehensive Permit Applications, one of which was known as the Groton Farms, which was approved with conditions. The second 40B application was known as Heritage Landing and this will continue being a topic in the following year.

Variances – 2

Special Permits – 2

Appeal of Action by Building Inspector- 1

Comprehensive Permits – 2

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Easom, (2025) Chairman

Jack Petropolous, (2024) Vice Chair

Daniel McLaughlin, (2026) Clerk

Jay Prager, (2025) Full Member

Thomas Peisel, (2026) Full Member

Veronica O'Donnell, (2024) Associate Member

Leonard Green, (2024) Associate Member

GROTON'S APPOINTED COMMITTEES



Affordable Housing Trust
Cable Advisory Committee
Capital Planning Advisory Committee
Commission on Accessibility
Community Preservation Committee
Complete Streets Committee
Conductorlab Oversight Committee
Destination Groton Committee
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee
Housing Partnership
Invasive Species Committee
Old Burying Ground
Sustainability Commission
Town Forest Committee
Trails Committee
Williams Barn Committee

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Fran Stanley, Housing
Coordinator (978) 732-1393
housing@grotonma.gov



The Town of Groton accepted M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 55C, the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund as a Town bylaw 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. Members of the Trust are appointed by the Select Board provided that at least one the five members is drawn from the Select Board.

The Housing Trust is searching for land to build affordable housing. The Housing Trust has been following the recommendations of the 2020 Housing Production Plan to evaluate Town-Owned land for the purpose of building housing. While we continue to assess the viability of town owned land, the possibilities are declining, and the Housing Trust has now concluded that it is prudent to create a significant Reserve Fund so that the Housing Trust will have the capacity to engage in a partnership with a third party or town department pursuant to which Affordable Housing Trust funds are used as a catalyst or supplement for an affordable housing project.

The Housing Trust received \$200,000 in CPC funding in 2023 and is requesting an additional \$400,000 in CPC funding for 2024. This funding is intended to build the Housing Trust's capital reserves to improve the Trust's ability to follow through on new affordable housing opportunities.

This year, the Housing Trust assisted the Groton Housing Authority by contributing funds for repairs to one of the Housing Authority's family rental units. No CPC funds were used. The Housing Authority is continuing to make necessary repairs and the Housing Trust looks forward to seeing this existing affordable rental back into productive use.

The Housing Trust is closely following the Commonwealth's rollout of the new Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for MBTA Communities (M.G.L. Chapter 40A Section 3A). MBTA Communities like Groton are expected to create a zoning district of by-right multi-family housing in order to maintain eligibility for certain state funding. Affordable housing is allowed but not required by the MBTA Communities legislation. The Planning Board has contracted for assistance from the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission to advise the Planning Board of its options. Any new zoning must be approved by Town Meeting. Groton has already met interim compliance requirements. The deadline for full compliance is December 31, 2025.

The Trust encourages community input and participation, and will be working with other town boards to pursue other ideas on fulfilling Groton's Affordable Housing needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca H. Pine, *Chair*
Carolyn Perkins, *Vice Chair*
Phil Francisco, *Member*
Richard Perini, *Member*
Charles Vander Linden, *Member*

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ashley Doucette, Cable Director

(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 channels.

The two cable access channels in Town are The Groton Channel (Public & Educational) and The Groton Government Channel.

In 2023, the two channels aired a total of 588 locally-produced programs - totaling over 575 hours of unique content. Programming included meeting coverage, sports, concerts, lectures, events, news, and original shows created and hosted by Groton residents.

We have spent this past year continuing to build up our online presence to make content easier to find and interact with. New content gets highlighted on our website homepage and we have begun to share all of our programming to our social media pages so that you can more easily stay up to date with all of the meetings and events that we cover.



We have also implemented a chaptering system for most meetings and other events, meaning you can quickly access the agenda items or moments that matter most to you.

Looking for older programs? We have made significant strides with our archival records and are proud to have over 3,500 files with more being added every day.

Visit **www.thegrotonchannel.org** for

more information on the channels, producing your own programs, volunteering, or to watch all of our live and on demand content online.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Respectfully Submitted,

John Macleod - Chair

Neil Colicchio

Eric Fischer

Janet Sheffield

& Ashley Doucette - Program Director

The Groton Channel - Verizon Channel 40/Charter Channel 191

The Groton Government Channel - Verizon Channel 41/Charter Channel 192

All live and on demand content is available online or via the Cablecast app

CAPITAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

selectboard@grotonma.gov

The Capital Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) consists of five residents appointed by the Select Board. The CPAC shall have continuing responsibility in advising the Town Manager in developing the Annual Five (5) Year Capital Plan, including the capital equipment replacement plan, developing a long-range building plan and other maintenance projects for the Town. In addition, they shall advise in the development and annual updating of a long-range building maintenance capital spending plan for all municipal buildings.

In 2023 the Committee met eight times. In January the Committee held a public hearing/ forum to discuss the capital needs of the Prescott building. The Friends of Prescott presented information on its current and proposed uses, and residents expressed both concerns and support for the uses. CPAC asked questions regarding the condition of the building and future uses.

CPAC met again in February and twice in April to continue the discussion. Existing reports on the building were reviewed and discussed. Out of the discussion it became apparent that further study should be done to better assess both the condition of the building and future improvements.

At its meeting on April 24, it was the consensus of the Committee that the Town Manager should prepare a CPA application for an assessment of the Prescott building in the fall of 2023 for consideration at the spring 2024 town meeting. The assessment will provide good information for determining future capital needs for the Building and creating a capital plan to complement its future uses.

In July the Committee reorganized and elected Mike Sulprizio chair, Jamie McDonald vice chair, and Mike O'Rourke secretary. John Croteau also reigned from the Committee after a number of years of service.

In October and twice in December the Committee held three meetings to discuss the FY25 capital budget. It had the opportunity to speak with department heads and make recommendations to the town manager regarding the plan.

The Committee encourages the public to attend its meetings and take part in its discussions. In 2024 it seeks to continue its work creating an overall plan for all municipal capital assets in order to maintain them properly and in a cost effective manner.

Mike Sulprizio
Jamie McDonald
Mike O'Rourke
David Manugian
John Croteau

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY

Michelle Collette, ADA Coordinator
Meetings 2nd Monday, every other
month (978) 448-1111 Fax: (978) 448-
1115
mcollette@grotonma.gov

The Commission on Accessibility was established in 1985 when the Town Meeting voted to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8J. As required by State Statute, the Commission must include a majority of people with disabilities, an immediate family member of a person with a disability, and an elected or appointed official. The Commission's purpose is to ensure that people with disabilities are welcome and able to participate in Groton's community life to the fullest extent possible. The ADA Coordinator, appointed by the Town Manager, works in conjunction with the Commission on Accessibility and with the Building Commissioner, who reviews and enforces the Architectural Access Board (AAB) Regulations, 521 CMR.

The Commission normally meets on the second Wednesday, every other month, in the Town Hall. Please check the Town's website to see the posted agenda.

The Commission continues to consider and resolve accessibility complaints in accordance with the Town's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy adopted by the Select Board in January 2016. Concerns or complaints on accessibility issues should be directed to the ADA Coordinator by contacting the Town Manager at 978-448-1111 or the Human Resources Director at 978-448-1145.

The Commission voted to support the Trails Committee's application to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for construction of a second accessible trail at the Rich State Forest.

The Commission reviewed several development plans in 2023 and submitted comments to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, including the Waters Houses and the 200-unit Groton Farms Comprehensive Permit Plan. The Commission appreciates the applicant's willingness to address all concerns regarding universal accessibility.

The Commission also thanks the Building Commissioner, DPW Director, and Land Use Departments for their assistance in making sure that all buildings, that are open to the public, and programs are open to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Fleischer, Chairman
Judy Anderson
Lynne Pistorino
Thomas Pistorino
Michelle Collette, ADA Coordinator

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Katie Berry, Interdepartmental Assistant
Meetings: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the Month
(978) 448-1140 Fax: (978) 448-1113
communitypreservation@grotonma.gov

The Community Preservation Act, MGL Chapter 44b (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 Trust 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, Park Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and two members at large that are appointed by the Select Board. 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 <https://www.grotonma.gov/>). 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 a combined \$1,497,893 in funds from the local surcharge, state fund match, and interest during FY2023, and received \$289,610 in FY2024 state match funds on November 15th, 2023.

Ongoing CPC Projects

- Maintenance Shed Restoration – To repair and restore both the Maintenance Building and the Mausoleum located at the Groton Cemetery. – CPC Request: \$65,000.
- Field and Recreation Feasibility Study – To carry out a Feasibility Study that would include Cow Pond Fields, Woitowicz Field, and Cutler Memorial Field, to determine that they are providing maximum and safe playing surfaces on their acreage while correcting the issue of parking and travel on their properties. – CPC Request: \$120,000.
- Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) – For construction of the SRRT from the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area to the northern Crosswinds Drive crossing for a total distance of .65 miles. – CPC Request: \$30,000.
- Groton Dunstable Field Restoration Plan – To use towards the renovations of the GDRHS Stadium Field and GDRHS Softball Field. – CPC Request: \$234,080.
- Nashua Riverwalk – To build a fully accessible trail that will go along the Nashua River in the J. Harry Rich State Forest and will connect with the similar John Tinker Trail. – CPC Request: \$60,154.

Projects approved for FY 2024

- Housing Trust Funds Request - To be used to help the Affordable Housing Trust meet its affordable housing goals. - CPC Request: \$200,000
- Preservation of Lake Massapoag- To fund rehabilitation/preservation costs for the Upper Massapoag Pond, as the pond is currently overrun by invasive aquatic plants. - CPC Request: \$4,000
- Conservation Fund, FY 2024 - To help preserve open space, protect water resources and wildlife habitat, and preserve land for agricultural, recreational, and forestry activities. - CPC Request: \$400,000
- Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond- To fund replacement of existing baseball field located at Town Field, behind library. - CPC Request: \$80,000
- Construct Softball Diamonds at Cutler Field- To be used to build over the site of the former Little League regulation diamonds, and construct two softball diamonds at Cutler Field in West Groton. - CPC Request: \$90,000
- Housing Coordinator, FY 2024- Provides funding from the Community Housing category to fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator position. - CPC Request: \$55,857
- Squannacook River Rail Trail- To fund construction of Phase 4 of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) from the northern Crosswinds Drive crossing of the MBTA Railroad right of way to the Groton/Townsend town line for a total distance of .25 miles. - CPC Request: \$90,000

Respectfully submitted,

Representing Conservation Commission: Bruce Easom

Representing Housing Authority: Dan Emerson

Representing Park Commission: Anna Eliot

Representing Planning Board: Russell Burke

Representing Historic Commission: Bob DeGroot

Members at Large: Richard Hewitt and Carolyn Perkins

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1105

planning@grotonma.gov

The Town of Groton's Complete Streets policy aims to accommodate the full range of users of our roadways, walkways, trails, and transit systems by creating a transportation network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. Decision-makers are directed to consistently plan, design, construct, and maintain streets to accommodate all users. The Select Board adopted the Complete Streets Policy in 2016.

Through the implementation of Complete Streets principles, people of all ages, abilities and income levels will be able to efficiently and safely travel between home, school, work, recreation facilities, and commercial venues. Demonstrated benefits of Complete Streets include cleaner air, promotion of physical exercise, improved access to retail and employment centers, and reduced personal transportation costs.

The focus of the Complete Streets Committee is ensuring the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy and, where necessary, modifying existing practices and overcoming barriers to implementation.

In 2017, the Complete Streets Committee was awarded a construction grant from MassDOT to improve crosswalks on Main Street, to extend the sidewalk on Long Hill Road, to add speed limit signage throughout town, and to install bicycle repair stations along the Nashua River Rail Trail. These projects were implemented in 2018.

In 2021, the Complete Streets Committee was awarded another construction grant from MassDOT to extend two sidewalks. In West Groton, the sidewalk on West Main Street will be extended to the Senior Center. And in the Town Center, the sidewalk on Lowell Road will be extended to the Gibbet Hill Grill.

In 2023, due to substantial increases in construction costs, the Complete Streets Committee secured a grant extension from MassDOT to allow more time to plan for the implementation of the sidewalk projects funded in 2021. The Complete Streets Committee looks forward to completing these projects in 2024.

The Complete Streets Committee also began reviewing the prioritization plan in 2023, in response to public concerns about pedestrian safety and accessibility throughout town.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Complete Streets Committee:

George Barringer, Chair
Kristen von Campe
Peter Cunningham
Robert T. Delaney
Stephen A. Legge
Gordon D. Row
Takashi Tada

CONDUCTORLAB OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

selectboard@grotonma.gov

Current Members: Mark Deuger (Chair), Michelle Collette, Robert Hanninen, Takashi Tada, Veronica O'Donnell

Background: The Conductorlab facility is located at 430 Main Street and was operated as a circuit board production facility between 1958 and 1985. In 1985, the town learned that ongoing operations at the facility had released several hazardous chemicals on the property, most notably hexavalent chromium (CR+6) and trichloroethylene (TCE). Initial investigations determined that soil and groundwater had been impacted both on and down-gradient of the property which included residences near Main, Arlington, and Mill Streets and Gratuity Road. This discovery required the abandonment of residential water wells and extension of town water throughout the impacted area. The Conductorlab property was designated a Disposal Site in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) and became subject to oversight and enforcement by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Over its history, the Conductorlab facility has changed ownership several times. The current owner and Responsible Party is Honeywell International, Inc. (Honeywell). At the town's request the site was designated a Public Participation Site per the MCP. The Conductorlab Oversight Committee was established to monitor ongoing remediation activities intended to mitigate the chemical releases.

MCP Response Actions have been ongoing at the site since the releases were identified. In 1996, a Class C Response Action Outcome (RAO) was submitted to MassDEP. The RAO was a temporary solution that allowed ongoing remediation work to continue until a condition of No Significant Risk could be achieved. Honeywell, through their consultant and Licensed Site Professional (LSP) Wood Environmental & Infrastructure (WSP), continues to perform response actions at the site to bring it into compliance with the MCP.

Activities in 2023: The Conductorlab Oversight Committee has maintained a dialogue with and periodically met with Honeywell/WSP representatives to review ongoing response actions. In February 2023, Honeywell/WSP provided the committee their Draft Permanent Solution Statement (PSS). The Draft PSS contains more than 1,200 pages and includes supplemental documents such as a Method 3 Human Health Risk Characterization, a Stage II Ecological Risk Assessment, and a previously submitted Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) document that applies to a portion of the site. The Draft PSS documents that chemical constituents at the site have been mitigated and represent a condition of No Significant Risk of Harm to Human Health or the Environment per guidelines in the MCP.

Since receiving the Draft PSS, the committee has endeavored to review and provide comments on this complex and highly technical document. Per previous agreement with Honeywell/WSP, the committee worked to retain a qualified environmental consultant/Licensed Site Professional (LSP) to conduct a technical/peer review of the Draft PSS. During the summer, with the assistance of the Town Manager, the committee solicited bids from qualified environmental consultants. Three firms were subsequently interviewed. The committee selected Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) of Raynham, MA to assist with the technical/peer review on behalf of the town. Honeywell provided the sum of \$20,000 to the town to cover the costs of the review.

At year's end, the technical/peer review of the Draft PSS is ongoing. CEC's initial impressions have raised a few questions mostly related to disposal site characterization. Seeking clarification and possible revisions to the Draft PSS, the committee organized working meetings with CEC and Honeywell/WSP that have helped address most of these concerns. All parties hope to conclude the technical/peer review process in the next few months, and Honeywell/WSP hope to submit a finalized PSS to the MassDEP by the spring of 2024. Subsequently, Honeywell hopes to dispose of the property.

DESTINATION GROTON COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

Website: www.destinationgroton.com

DSC Town Website: www.grotonma.gov/destination-groton

Background

Groton has long been recognized for its rich history, extraordinary landscape, and small-town character. Over the years, the arts, culture, fine dining, recreation, education, open space, farming, and hospitality have enhanced Groton's destination reputation. The DGC's Mission is to tell Groton's quintessential New England story and help bring it to life. DGC's Goals include engaging all stakeholders; collaborating; communicating; celebrating; and building civic pride. DGC's Objectives include: conduct public forums; build regional partnerships; promote Groton's many attractions; maintain the Town's quality of life; and contribute to Town revenues.

Organization

The five-member Committee will manage a series of specific communications, marketing, planning, infrastructure, development, event, and finance initiatives by working collaboratively with Town stakeholders and regional partners. DGC members include Chair Greg Sheldon, Vice Chair Jeff Gordon, Clerk Julie Platt, Joni Parker-Roach, and Brian Bolton.

Destination Groton Committee Activities 2023

- The DGC voted 5-0 to submit a Letter of Support for the Squannacook Greenways request for CPC FY24 funding.
- Presented to the Town Select Board, Finance Committee, and Town Meeting our agenda for the year and to unveil our new DestinationGroton.com website; featuring a new logo: icon: an image of a drumlin hill with trees and rivers; the brand is "Groton"; the tagline is "Enjoy the Experience"; and merchandise.
- Met with Congresswoman Lori Trahan to brief her on DGC mission/goals and to tour Groton Hill Music Center.
- Received a DLTA grant (valued at \$45,000,) from the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) to undertake economic data analysis, Traffic analysis, and access to a Grant Writer. Because of this grant and given the Town's financial conditions, the DGC returned \$6,000. from our FY 23 budget to the Town.
- Launched a comprehensive multi-channel marketing campaign to promote numerous Town assets.
- Began a Town wide residential survey on the DGC website with nearly 400 respondents to date.
- Submitted a State "One Stop - Commonwealth Places" grant application.
- Received Letters of Support from Trails Committee, DEI Commission, GBA, MRPC.
- Established Regional Strategic Partners across Federal, State and Local elected officials, two regional Chambers of Commerce and two regional planning organizations.
- Interviewed seven candidates to fill a committee vacancy.
- Received a \$15,000 FY25 State Earmark through collaborative efforts with Senator John Cronin and Rep. Margaret Scarsdale to enhance the Towns Trails Network. Due to State budget cuts the earmark will be \$7,500.
- Participated in a Regional Economic and Community Development Collaboration including the Towns of Ashby, Lunenburg, Townsend, Pepperell, Dunstable, and Groton, organized by State Rep. Maragret Scarsdale.

- Ongoing meetings with MRPC to analyze economic data in our effort to draft a 10-Year Strategic Vision Plan.
- Participated with a booth at Grotonfest. Sold Destination Groton logo merchandise (Ballcaps and T-shirts).
- Opened an Online Store to purchase Destination Groton merchandise including Ballcaps and T-shirts.
- Established a DGC Gift fund.
- Updated the Select Board on several items including the celebration of America's 250th Anniversary.
- Produced the first Groton Regional Tourism Conference held November 1 at the Groton Inn with 85 attendees from over a dozen surrounding communities. Received extensive local and regional media coverage.
- Speakers included Kate Fox, Dir. MOTT, and Anne Gobi, Dir. Rural Affairs. The Keynote was delivered by Congresswoman Lori Trahan, and the Plenary Speaker was Lisa Fiorentino, CEO Groton Hill Music Center.
- The DGC formally met 42 times in 2023 and collectively logged over 3,000 hours on Committee related work.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

selectboard@grotonma.gov

DEI Committee Charge: The main goal of this committee is to recognize and commemorate the diversity of the residents of Groton, past and present. To do so, the committee will examine our town for areas of unequal representation within our public institutions and spaces, both explicit and implicit, while also creating opportunities to celebrate our diversity as a community. The committee will provide research-based observations and recommendations to the Select Board, focus on the education of our residents, and commit to open dialogue and engagement with our residents.

Committee Composition

The committee is currently made up of seven members including Officer Gordon Candow who is a nonvoting member. We made the decision not to limit membership based on affiliation or representation from other groups.

Reporting incidents of hate and hate crimes

The committee was asked by the Select Board to formulate impactful Select Board and Groton-wide interventions to recognize, denounce, and prevent incidents of prejudicial hatred and injustice, such as Anti-Semitism, Racial and Religious Bigotry, Homophobia, and White Supremacy.

In response to this request, the committee recommends the following:

- In moments of hate incidents and hate crimes, the Select Board will make a statement to condemn the incident and recognize the victimized community excluding incidents that take place in the school.
- On a yearly basis, the Select Board will hear a report from the DEI committee on incidents of hate and hate crimes occurring within the town.

Select Initiatives

The DEI committee hosted a well-attended forum about official hate incidents and crimes; featuring Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan as a resource and keynote speaker.

The committee supported the Nashoba Valley Chorale in their promotional and housekeeping activity for the *Chariot Jubilee* by Nathan Dett.

The committee is organizing a community Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration and hopes to make this celebration an annual event.

The committee is exploring native installation and land acknowledgement, education for strategies for upstanders in the context of the Israel/Hamas war, and continuing education on gender identity.

The committee remains committed to partnering with neighboring towns to plan Juneteenth initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted by the DEI Committee,

Gordon Candow	Raquel Majeski (chair)
Michelle Collette (vice chair)	Deirdre Slavin – Mitchell
Damian Huggins	Fran Stanley
Susan Hughes	

EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michelle Collette, Earth Removal Stormwater
Inspector Meeting's 1st Tuesday of the Month
(978) 448-1105

mcollette@grotonma.gov

The first Earth Removal Bylaw, adopted in Groton in 1963, was amended in 1968 and again in 1984. The Advisory Committee was formed in 1968, when the Bylaw was first amended. The Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector, appointed by the Town Manager, works in conjunction with the Advisory Committee. Currently, three members are appointed by the Select Board for staggered terms of three years; and ex officio, one member is chosen annually by the Planning Board, and one by the Conservation Commission.

The duties of the Advisory Committee changed substantially in 1996 when Town Meeting adopted the first Erosion and Sedimentation Control By-law. This By-law was superseded in 2006 when the Town Meeting adopted the Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development By-law, Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton. The Committee became the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee at that time.

The Advisory Committee reviewed five (5) new Stormwater Management Permit applications in 2023 and monitored construction projects approved in previous years. During the Fall of 2023, there were many heavy rainfalls, some which caused significant flooding problems throughout the Town. The Committee worked with developers and homeowners to help mitigate and prevent the flooding problems.

The Advisory Committee works closely with the Select Board and Land Use Departments in its review of applications and monitoring construction sites. The Committee thanks the Town Departments, including the Select Board, Town Manager, DPW Director, Building Commissioner, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board for their continued support and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Savage, Chairman
Robert T. Delaney
Robert Hanninen

George Barringer, Planning Board Representative
Bruce Easom, Conservation Commission Representative
Michelle Collette, Stormwater Inspector

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

selectboard@grotonma.gov

Housing Partnership

The Housing Partnership is appointed by the Select Board to advise and support affordable housing initiatives. Since the early 1980s, the Department of Housing and Community Development envisions a role for municipal housing partnerships. Housing Partnerships sign off on a municipality's Local Action Units applications to DHCD.

Housing Partnerships are often the first point of contact for developers interested in pursuing Friendly 40B developments. Groton adopted a Friendly 40B policy in 2017 and the Housing Partnership is an integral part of the Select Board's process for considering Friendly 40B applications.

This year, the Housing Partnership has followed and supported two conventional 40B comprehensive permit applications:

Heritage Landing (Cow Pond Brook Road)

The Zoning Board of Appeals continues its review of the developer's comprehensive permit application. The initial proposal was for 40 housing units on Cow Pond Brook (Parcel 248-42). A November revision reduced the development size to 28 units. The developer continues to propose 100% homeownership and now all units will be single-family homes. Seven (7) units will be affordable to households earning up to 80% of the area median income (AMI).

Groton Farms (500 Main Street)

On November 1, 2023, the Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously approved the developer's comprehensive permit application. Since the 20-day appeals period passed without appeal, the developer is free to begin construction of this 200-unit rental development. 50 units will be affordable to households earning up to 80% of the area median income (AMI).

Now that the Groton Farms development has been approved, the Town is expected to meet its ten percent (10%) affordable housing goal.

The Housing Partnership is closely following the Commonwealth's rollout of the new Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for MBTA Communities (M.G.L. Chapter 40A Section 3A). MBTA Communities like Groton are expected to create a zoning district of by right multi-family housing in order to maintain eligibility for certain state funding. Affordable housing is allowed but not required by the MBTA Communities legislation. The Planning Board has contracted for assistance from the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission to advise the Planning Board of its options. Any new zoning must be approved by Town Meeting. The Commonwealth has approved the Town's interim compliance action plan. The deadline for full compliance is December 31, 2025.

As the name implies, the Housing Partnership encourages community input and collaboration – working with developers and other town boards to support affordable housing initiatives in the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cunningham, *Chair*
Anna Eliot, *Member*
Richard Perini, *Member*

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

invasive@grotonma.gov

2023 was a busy year for the Invasive Species Committee on a number of fronts:

Education/Outreach/Committee

- Added brochure for tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).
- Provided invasive species instruction to seventh grade science classes at the middle school. Coordinated with teachers to enhance curriculum on invasive species. Designed and led plant identification activity on school grounds.
- Collaborated with UMass Lowell Prof. Alison Hamilton on summer field study class work in Surrenden Farms and Town Forest.
- Added one new member, Ann Carpenter.
- Riverfest - Coordinated invasive plant scavenger hunt activity to promote youth education, distributed invasive species brochures.
- Grotonfest – Distributed invasive species brochures.
- Partnered with Leonna Veng, Americorp Volunteer for the Nashua River Watershed Association, to plan invasives work for spring 2024.
- Sponsored seminar at the Senior Center on the Spotted Lanternfly, an emerging invasive species threat in Massachusetts.
- Fielded numerous emails from town residents and provided guidance on invasive species identification and control.
- Assessed invasive plants at the Groton Police Station and Lost Lake Fire Station. Work is planned at Lost Lake Fire Station in Spring 2024.
- Established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town Forest Committee for future treatment in the Town Forest outside of wetlands buffer zones.
- Completed a Massachusetts Endangered Species Act review of planned work in Town Forest and received approval from Mass Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Research

- Two years into experiment to compare treatment methods of *Phragmites australis*, getting useful results.
- Continued work on 2022 Wild and Scenic River council grant to treat Japanese knotweed along the Nashua River at Surrenden Farms and the Campbell Well site, and research after-treatment recovery methods.
- Tested samples from phragmites stand in the middle of Carmichael Swamp. Found via DNA sequencing that stand is non-native *Phragmites australis*.

Invasives Control Work (over 70 hours of volunteer time)

- Continued treatment of Japanese knotweed at the Groton Country Club, Hayden Road Extension trail, Shattuck Homestead, Surrenden Farms, and Campbell Well site.
- Treated black swallowwort at Shattuck Homestead.
- Conducted three-year follow-up treatment of glossy buckthorn, Asian honeysuckle, and Asian bittersweet in Farmers and Mechanics Conservation Area.

- Continued treatment of *Phragmites australis* at Eliades Conservation Area.
- Conducted first treatment of *Phragmites australis* by Nashua River Rail Trail.
- Continued extraction of Japanese barberry and Asian bittersweet in the Town Forest
- Pulled Japanese stiltgrass near Town Forest parking lot.
- Treated tree-of-heaven at the Groton Electric Light Department building.

Members:

- Jonathan Basch (Vice-Chair)
- Brian Bettencourt
- Adam Burnett
- Ann Carpenter
- Richard Hewitt
- Olin Lathrop
- Ron Strohsahl
- Charlotte Weigel (Chair)
- Benjamin Wolfe



Photo by Steve Lieman

OLD BURYING GROUND COMMISSION

(978) 732-1893

kberry@grotonma.gov

The Old Burying Ground is overseen by the Park Commission with guidance from the Old Burying Ground Commissioners. As one of the most sacred and historic locations in the town, much care and concern is given to maintaining its setting as guided by the period it represents in Groton's History. Amongst the buried are 105 Groton Minutemen and Women who answered the call on 19 April 1775 and fought at Bunker Hill and other battles of the Revolutionary War. Members of Prudence Wright's Guard, a regiment of Groton women, acted as under cover spies while garnering information from British sympathizers and passing it on to the Committee of Safety.

History abounds at the Old Burying Ground. Simply read the plaques that describe the significance of the heroes interred there.

To honor the memory of those who served the town so notably, each December we join with "Wreaths Across America" in a wreath laying ceremony to which the names of those who braved the hazards of early life in Groton are remembered by having their names read.

We encourage you to visit. Once you do, you will see your hometown as never before.



Respectfully submitted,

Donald Black, 2024

Deborah Beal Normandin, 2024

Gail Chalmers, 2024

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

(978) 448-1111

Members: Phil Francisco (Chair), Charlotte Weigel (Vice Chair), James Allen, Bruce Easom, Ken Horton, Linda Loren, Patrick Parker-Roach, Alison Peterson, Andrew Scott, Jim Simko, David Southwick, Ginger Vollmar, Sue Fitterman (Alternate Member)

2023 Activities:

Education Subcommittee: Led by Phil Francisco, the Education Subcommittee developed a series of informational/educational seminars focused on Sustainability for Groton residents.

Our observation is that although many residents may be aware of the threat of global climate change, they may also feel unable to do something tangible at a personal or local level beyond basic recycling steps, etc. This series of seminars' goal is to arm residents with the information, examples (many of them local), and motivation they may need to help make Groton – and our broader community – more sustainable.

Beginning on May 4th, the Commission held eight interactive Sustainable Groton seminars in 2023 featuring 31 unique local and regional experts across multiple topics and an average attendance of approximately 40-50 citizens with a high of approximately 80. The seminars were all broadcast live and/or recorded by The Groton Channel and are available for streaming. People can find links to all the seminar recordings, presentation materials, planned seminar topics, speaker bios and additional information on the Sustainability Commission page on the Town website and consolidated [at this link](#). Together with data provided by visitors to our GrotonFest booth in September, these seminars have added over 200 unique contact names for us to reach out regarding future events and activities.

Our planned upcoming seminar sessions for the winter/spring of 2024 are as follows: (all start at 7pm at the Groton Center unless noted otherwise)

- Wednesday, February 7th: Greenhouse Gas Inventory Results and Next Steps
- Tuesday, March 5th: Stormwater and Snowmelt Runoff & Waste
- Wednesday, April 3rd: Food Choices
- TBD (target Saturday, May 4th or May 18th, rain-date on Sunday): Electric & Hybrid Vehicle “Petting Zoo”, morning/afternoon event, outdoor location TBD

Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee: Led by Charlotte Weigel, the Commission completed an initial benchmark inventory of Groton’s Town-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The purpose of the benchmark is to track and plan future progress toward meeting the Commonwealth’s objectives of reaching “Net Zero” emissions statewide by 2050 along with the state’s intermediate goals of a 33% reduction in net GHG emissions by 2025 and a 50% reduction by 2030. The commission provided a report of the results of the emissions inventory to the Select Board, Planning Board, GELD, the GDRSD School Committee, and multiple A-P Biology classes at GDRHS.

Next, the Commission is planning to present the results of the study to the public as part of the Sustainable Groton seminar series (scheduled on February 7th, 2024). And the Commission will be returning to the Select Board with suggested next steps involving the development of a Climate Action Plan.

Pollinator Habitat: Members of the Commission, led by Alison Dolbear Peterson, using authorized funding from the Town Manager, continued work on the refurbishment of the Pollinator Habitat Garden at the Groton Center. The Commission expects to complete this work by the fall of 2024, after which time the garden will only require simple maintenance.

The Pollinator Habitat Garden at the Groton Center is a conservation project to help offset the loss of pollinator habitat. It will be a long-term low maintenance habitat for native butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. It contains perennials, woody vines, and shrubs that provide three seasons of overlapping bloom times and is registered with the national Million Pollinator Garden Movement.



Work included additional plantings, replacement of damaged plants, removal of invasive plants, along with the addition of a sturdy picnic table and installation of an automated drip irrigation system.

Visitors to the Groton Center and others using the nearby conservation trails enjoy the garden daily from early spring to late fall. An August edition of the *Groton Herald* featured it in a photo-story, with *Groton-Dunstable Living* magazine expected to do likewise in the spring of 2024. In 2024, the Commission is planning to add the first element of a pollinator corridor, connecting from the Ice Line Trail to the rear of the pollinator habitat.

Tire Recycling: Led by Bruce Easom and using authorized funds from the Town Manager, the Commission, together with the Town Highway Department and FBS Tire Recycling based in Littleton, engaged in a Tire Collection and Recycling program that removed hundreds of old tires from our Town environment to be recycled, spanning three different events.

Old and unused tires are often found in homeowners' yards, work sheds, and regrettably, by the sides of our roads and along the banks of some of our rivers and streams. Old tires present more than just a public eyesore. Since they collect standing rainwater and snowmelt, they provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes in the spring and summer, contributing to mosquito nuisances and mosquito-borne disease, as well as leaching chemicals into the watershed.

The Tire Collection and Recycling program in 2023 comprised two one-day collection programs at the Town Transfer Station, on July 1st and November 18th, yielding 167 tires. Using authorized funds, we waived the standard \$4 per tire fee for dropping off tires for Groton residents. In a separate event, several Sustainability Commission members assisted with the clean-up and collection of 433 tires from a brook behind a private residence. The resident bore 50% of the recycling fees and the Town – via voluntary citizen donations – bore the other 50%.

In total, the program collected 600 tires which the Highway Department hauled to FBS to be recycled – which recovers both the rubber and the metals in the tires for reuse. Many of those collected were exactly what we were hoping to get – tires that had been sitting in yards collecting rain and mud and providing a home for mosquito propagation.

Meetings with Select Board: Representatives of the Commission met several times with the Select Board in 2023, discussing a variety of topics. They included: FY2024 funding request (9th March, with the FinComm), change in the NC4 documentation (12th June), the updated Sustainability Charge document (14th August), report out on the Town-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory results (2nd October), and the initial inter-organizational workgroup meeting, including the GELD Commission and GELD Manager (4th December).

Other Activities:

The Commission also engaged in the following activities during 2023:

- As part of an effort to create broader appeal for our mission, we created the new “Sustainable Groton” brand and logo for the Commission and our activities, officially launched at GrotonFest in the Fall (see page 1 header).
- We also started a “Sustainable Groton Advocate” program as part of the new branding work. This program is for individuals and organizations who commit to actively promote and/or attend our Commission functions or who document making sustainability-based changes in their homes, yards, and/or personal habits.
- For the first time in more than a decade, the Commission had a “Sustainable Groton” presence at GrotonFest in September with a tent that included multiple interactive elements and even a free raffle drawing of a rainwater collection barrel. The event resulted in adding two new “Groton Advocates” – one of whom (Linda Loren) is now a Commission member – and dozens of new contact names for the Commission.
- Grew the Commission to 12 members, plus an alternate, recruiting, and engaging Town residents who are highly interested and/or experts in various facets of sustainability for the future of the Town.
- For CY2024, we established or continued eight subcommittees/workgroups, each with an appointed chairperson. They include: *Climate Action Plan/NetZero 2050, Education Seminars, Grant & Fiscal Development, Pollinator Corridor & Habitat, Communications & Social Media, Tire Recycling, Electrification Advocacy/Energy Coaching*, and the *Sustainable Groton Advocate Program*.
- Authored approximately 10 articles and/or letters to the editor in the *Groton Herald* to provide advance notice of upcoming educational seminars, discuss important topics regarding sustainability and resilience, and to promote the work at the Pollinator Habitat Garden at the Groton Center.

- Commission members Charlotte Weigel, Ginger Vollmar and Phil Francisco served as Groton's representatives to the North Central Climate Change Collaborative (NC4). NC4 comprises municipal and civic leaders from across Massachusetts Congressional District 3 working on the front lines of climate change resistance, resilience, and adaptation. The mission of NC4 is to foster and strengthen regional municipal collaborative efforts to combat climate change through 1) shared projects, educational efforts, and best practices, and 2) informing state and federal legislative actions.
- Took part in the Groton Greenway River Festival with an information booth, where we handed out the 1-page brochures and discussed sustainability issues and ideas for Groton and the area with attendees.
- Attended meetings of, and liaised with, many other town committees and commissions, including GELD, Destination Groton, and the Planning Board, to advocate for sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

- [Phil Francisco](#), Chair

TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

selectboard@grotonma.gov

The Groton Town Forest is an approximately 511-acre parcel located in West Groton on the banks of the Nashua River. This land is a managed forest that is harvested in different areas periodically.

- In February 2023, the Town Forest Committee entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Invasive Species Committee to look to extract multiple invasives species within the Town Forest. Some Japanese Stiltgrass was identified near the parking area and was hand pulled by the Invasive Species Committee in the fall.
- Fire roads within the Forest were cleared of downed trees, and trails were maintained to allow for unimpeded access.
- Thanks to the help of the DPW, the holes in the driveway leading into the parking area were filled in and regraded.

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

Motorized vehicle use of all types is prohibited. Camping in the Town Forest is permitted with permission from the Committee.

The cutting of trails and building of 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. As a reminder, hunting is allowed and anyone using the Forest should be aware of the season and take necessary precautions.

The Committee would like to take a moment to thank longtime Member Carter Branigan for his many years of service and dedication to the Town of Groton and Town Forest Committee. Carter became a member of the Committee in 2006 and has spent the last 17 years dedicating many hours protecting the forest so many residents and visitors have been enjoying for years.

PLEASE-NO DUMPING

CARRY-IN, CARRY-OUT

Stephen L. Babin, Chairman
John P. Sheedy, Vice Chairman
Carter Branigan, Clerk

TRAILS COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

trails@grotonma.gov

<http://www.grotontrails.org>

This year marked the **25th anniversary of the founding of the Groton Trails Committee (GTC)** by the Select Board in 1998. In recognition of the work that has been done over the years to establish and maintain the 130-plus-mile trail system in the town, a **special challenge was issued to the townspeople**: to hike to and visit 25 places of great interest, chosen by the entire Committee. (It was a challenge to the Committee to agree on the 25!)

GTC members and volunteers worked on **238 maintenance and new projects** during the year. **Forty-four volunteers** (38 not on the Committee) participated in the projects. A total of 487 person-hours of effort was expended, with 27% of the total performed by supervised volunteers. GTC **chain sawed 163 trees** that had fallen across trails. Ten **trailhead posts** and eight **Conservation Commission property signs** were installed around the town.

Two major projects were completed: the **Middle School Cross Country running course** was restored and re-opened, and trails were developed on the **Casella Preserve** parcel between Nashua Road and the high school property.

Funding was obtained from MassTrails and from Groton's Community Preservation Act funds in 2022 to create an **accessible Nashua Riverwalk** that will connect with the **accessible John Tinker Trail** in the J. Harry Rich State Forest. However, we have been prevented from seeking the approval of the Groton Conservation Commission to construct this trail in the riverfront area because the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has expressed environmental concerns. We are appealing their decision.

Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) Update:

The SRRT is a 3.7-mile pedestrian and bike pathway under construction between Townsend Center and the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area in West Groton. Squannacook Greenways (SG) is the non-profit organization building the trail between the two towns. **SG has completed and opened Phases 1, 2 and 3, from Townsend center to the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area in West Groton - a total of 2.4 miles.** Phase 3 was completed in the spring of 2023.

Phase 4 construction was contracted and begun in December 2023, from the Crosswinds Drive northern intersection in Groton to the Harbor Pond in Townsend (1.0 miles). This final connecting segment crosses the Groton/Townsend town boundary behind the Harbor Village shopping plaza. Phase 4 work is being funded by a Mass Trails grant of \$150,000, a Community Preservation Act grant from the Town of Groton of \$30,000 and \$100,000 in legislative earmarks.

Friends of the **Nashua River Rail Trail** are continuing to encourage DCR to repair and upgrade the trail surface. There is a major need for this as the trail, which is 11 miles long in Massachusetts and crosses through four towns, has been well used in the 21 years since its construction in 2002. It has suffered from erosion and eruption due to tree roots in a number of areas. Meetings were held in 2023 with Groton's state senators and representatives along with

the new DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo and other DCR directors, but no definitive schedule for the work has been forthcoming to date.

The GTC met members of the public by manning a booth at the annual **GrotonFest** in September, and the annual **Riverfest celebration** by the Nashua River at the Petapawag boat launch in June. The GTC also assisted the Squannacook River Runners Club (SqRR) in their operation of the **25th Annual Town Forest Races** in October. Many Groton residents participate in these races. **SqRR makes a donation each year** from the race proceeds that provides the predominant source of funds for the work of the Trails Committee.

Five members resigned from the Committee during the year: Adam Burnett, Heidi Charlebois, Darlene Deschambeault, Sheila Devereaux and Corey Magliosi. Heidi served as our clerk for two years. We thank them all for their contributions during their time on the Committee.

Six new members joined the Committee in 2023: Ken Adams, Bob Fournier, Corey Magliosi, Britt McKinley, Tom Montilli and Kiirja Paananen. Kiirja re-joined after a four- year hiatus.



Respectfully submitted,

Ken Adams
Bob Fournier, **Co-Clerk**
Paul Funch, **Chair**
Steve Legge
Richard Lynch
Britt McKinley, **Co-Clerk**
Harris McWade

Tom Montilli
Wanfang Murray, **Vice Chair**
Jim Peregoy
Kiirja Paananen

WILLIAMS BARN COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1106

conservation@grotonma.gov

The Mission of the Williams Barn Committee is as follows: 1) To preserve and maintain the historical integrity of the Williams Barn as provided in the agreement with Massachusetts Historical Commission; 2) To establish a Learning Center for education in the areas of conservation, environmental studies, agricultural history, barn architecture and local history; 3) To encourage such other uses of the barn as may be of benefit to the community; 4) To cooperate with the Conservation Commission with respect to the use of the surrounding conservation land and trails; and 5) To raise necessary funds to fulfill the goals of the mission statement.

A Summary of the Committee's Accomplishments in 2023

The Williams Barn Committee spent a majority of this year attempting to come up with ideas for fundraising, as they were in dire need of funds to cover expenses. Many discussions were held, but ultimately the committee decided to apply for funding in the amount of \$5000 from the town at the 2023 Fall Town Meeting, which was gratefully received. Additionally, the table fee for vendors at the market was raised from \$10/market to \$15, with the understanding that this fee will increase once more for the 2024 season to \$20. As an incentive to pay ahead of time, it was decided vendors would receive discounts if they paid for the season.

In an effort to divide up committee tasks appropriately, each member of the committee was given a descriptive role. Roles were approved at the April 2023 meeting and are as follows:

Co-chairpersons (May Brackett, Steve Woodin): Presiding officers of the group.

Treasurer (Sandra Tobies): Financial administration, fundraising.

Secretary (Matt Novak): Meeting minutes, meeting agenda, organization of meetings. Manager of road signs for the Farmers Market.

Barn Maintenance Manager (Steve Woodin): Oversee barn repairs and maintenance of the building and surrounding property.

Social Media Liaison (May Brackett): Promotion of the committee/market on social media.

Vendor Coordinator (May Brackett): Recruitment of vendors, positioning/scheduling of vendors at the market, collecting of insurance information.

APPENDIX



Spring Town Meeting Warrant/Minutes

April 29, 2023

Fall Town Meeting Warrant/Minutes

October 28, 2023

Election Results

May 23, 2023 Annual Town Election Results

Special Town Election

November 7, 2023

Town Accountant Financials

MINUTES

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2023 SPRING TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Saturday, April 29, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

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

Introduction to Groton Town Meeting

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

What is Town Meeting?

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

What is a warrant?

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

How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive an electronic voting handset which is required to vote. The meeting typically acts on the articles in the order they are printed in the warrant. For each article, a main motion is made and seconded by voters and placed by the moderator on the floor for debate. Permission of the moderator is required to speak. The moderator presides and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and calls and declares all votes. After debate has ended, the moderator will call for a vote by use of the electronic voting handset. Please see page 3 of this Warrant for a full explanation of how Electronic Voting will work at Town Meeting.

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

² *Id.*

Who can attend?

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

How long is town meeting?

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

Explanation of a Consent Agenda

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

How Consent Agendas Work

As the first step to act on a consent agenda, the moderator will read the titles of the included articles. A voter who wishes to remove an article from the consent agenda for separate debate and vote should state "hold." The held article will be set aside and acted on after the vote on the consent agenda. After the meeting agrees on the contents of the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every motion included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail as a group. Voters should read the warrant and review the proposed consent agendas to identify articles they wish to remove for separate consideration.

Electronic Voting at Town Meeting

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



Voter Check-In

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

Test Vote

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

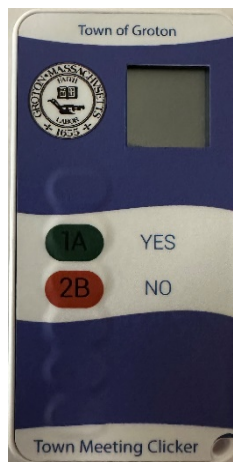
Proxy Voting Prohibited

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

Voting

When the Moderator announces it is time to vote:

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



Handset Display

The display on the handset:

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

Help Desk

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

Handset Return

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



Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

Parking – Universally accessible parking spaces are available in the parking lot in front of the Groton Dunstable 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. The van is wheelchair accessible. Your reservation can be made by calling the Senior Center at 978-448-1170. Seats will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Questions or concerns - If you or a member of your household has questions or would like to request a sign language interpreter, please contact the Select Board's Office at Town Hall at 978 448-1111 at least one week before the Town Meeting.

2023 SPRING TOWN MEETING OFFICIALS
MEETING DATE - APRIL 29, 2023

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator:

Michael Bouchard

Board of Selectmen:

John Reilly, Chair
Becky Pine, Vice-Chair
Matt Pisani, Clerk
Alison Manugian
Peter Cunningham

Finance Committee:

Bud Robertson, Chair
Colby Doody, Vice Chair
Gary Green
Mary Linskey
David Manugian
Michael Sulprizio
Scott Whitefield

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad
Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant

Town Clerk:

Dawn E. Dunbar

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on April 29, 2023 at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Performing Arts Center. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided. There is no quorum requirement for this Annual Town Meeting. 90 voters were in attendance for the meeting as of 9:00 AM.

Announcements:

The 2023 Annual Town Election will be held on May 23, 2023. The ballot will contain all town elected offices. There is one contested race on the ballot for the Office of Select Board. Precincts 1 and 3A will vote at The Center, 163 West Main Street, and Precincts 2 and 3 will vote at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School South Gymnasium, 344 Main Street. Early Voting by Mail and Absentee ballots are available for the town election. The last day to request a vote by mail ballot is Tuesday, May 16, 2023 by 5:00 PM. Specific information and options on how to request a vote by mail ballot can be found on the town's website at www.grotonma.gov. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions about the election, your voter status or polling location.

Procedures to be used on April 29:

- Wireless microphones will be used. If a voter cannot go to a microphone, one will be brought to the speaker.
- Copies of the Warrant and Town Meeting Information Packet were available in the lobby.
- There were 33 articles on the warrant with 30 Motions and 3 Consent Motions.
- The main proponent and opponent of an article would be allowed 7 minutes in which to present their argument.
- At the Fall Town Meeting, the voters approved the purchase of electronic handsets for recording votes. Handsets were used for this town meeting. The Moderator reviewed the handsets and held a test procedure to allow voters to test their handsets.

184 Voters were present at 9:10 AM

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

The Meeting took the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Bouchard was appointed by the Meeting as Deputy Moderator for a term of one year. The vote was unanimous. The Moderator administered the oath.

MOTION – Limit Debate

MOVER: Michelle Collette

I move that debate during this town meeting 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: 2/3's Majority

Vote of Motion to Limit Debate: Yes – 174; No – 24; Passed by 2/3's Majority

201 Voters were present at 9:18 AM.

The timekeepers were Hannah Moller and Megan Foster. The Moderator determined that the warrant was duly posted.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE WARRANT: Yes – 183; No – 15; Passed by 2/3's Majority

SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT
APRIL 29, 2023

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 Saturday, the twenty-ninth day of April, 2023 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the twenty-third day of May, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., at an adjourned session thereof at the following locations:

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

Vote for One	Board of Assessors	3 Years
Vote for One	Board of Health	3 Years
Vote for Two	Select Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	2 Years
Vote for Two	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Trustee of the Groton Public Library	1 Year
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	5 Years

ARTICLES LISTING

				Disposition
*	Article 1:	Hear Reports	7	Passed
*	Article 2:	Elected Officials Compensation	7	Passed
*	Article 3:	Wage and Classification Schedule	7	Passed
*	Article 4:	Appropriate FY 2024 Contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund	8	Passed
**	Article 5:	Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operating Budget	8	Passed
	Article 6:	Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget	9	Passed
	Article 7:	Revenue Dedication of Opioid Settlements to Special Purpose Stabilization Fund	12	Passed
	Article 8:	Funding for Destination Groton Committee	13	Passed
	Article 9:	Funding for Sustainability Commission	14	Passed
	Article 10:	Amend the Charge of the Sustainability Commission	14	Passed
	Article 11:	Election Equipment Purchase – Poll Pads	15	Passed
	Article 12:	Construct New Water Main to Address PFAS Issue at GDRSD High School	16	Passed
	Article 13:	Community Preservation Funding Accounts	17	Passed
	Article 14:	Community Preservation Funding Recommendations	17	Passed
	Article 15:	And Act Merging Certain Voting Precincts in the Town of Groton	20	Passed
	Article 16:	Amend Town Charter – Article 3, Section 3.2.2(v)	21	Failed
	Article 17:	Amend Town Charter – Article 4, Section 4.2(iii) and Section 4.2 (iv)	22	Failed
	Article 18:	Amend Chapter 128 of the General Bylaws – Dog Hearings	23	Passed
	Article 19:	Amend Zoning Bylaw – Accessory Apartment Clarifications	24	Passed
	Article 20:	Conservation Land Purchase	25	Passed
	Article 21:	Grant Conservation Restriction on Various Parcels	26	Passed
	Article 22:	Grant Conservation Restriction to Department of Fisheries and Wildlife	28	Passed
	Article 23:	Citizens’ Petition – Rezone 797 Boston Road	29	Failed
***	Article 24:	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	29	Passed
***	Article 25:	Transfer Within the Sewer Enterprise Fund	30	Passed
***	Article 26:	Transfer Within Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund	30	Passed
***	Article 27:	Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund	31	Passed
***	Article 28:	Prior Year Bills	31	Passed
***	Article 29:	Current Year Line-Item Transfers	31	Passed
***	Article 30:	Appropriate Funding to Offset Snow and Ice Deficit	32	Passed
***	Article 31:	Amend Funding Distribution for Middle School Track	32	Passed
***	Article 32:	Debt Service for the Middle School Track	33	Passed
***	Article 33:	Establishing Limits for Various Revolving Funds	33	Passed
		Budget Report of the Town Manager and Finance Committee to Town Meeting	35	
		Appendix A – Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Operating Budget	44	
		Appendix B – Fiscal Year 2024 Wage and Classification Schedule	61	

*Will be presented as one Consent Motion

**The Budget will be presented as one Motion

***Annual Consent Agenda. To be presented as one Motion

Article 1: Hear Reports

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

Select Board

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

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

Article 2: Elected Officials Compensation

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

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager. The Town Moderator is proposed to receive a salary of \$1,000 in FY 2024.

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2024 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to set the wage and classification schedule for the three (3) employees (Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, Human Resources Director and IT Director) covered by the Personnel Bylaw. Under the policy of the Select Board, these employees receive the same benefits as contained in the Town Supervisors' Union Contract. These employees will receive a 2% cost-of-living adjustment in Fiscal Year 2024.*

Article 4: *Appropriate FY 2024 Contribution to the OPEB Trust*

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

**Select Board
Town Manager**

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

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. The Select Board and Finance Committee have adopted a funding policy for this purpose. One of the funding goals is to commit to an annual appropriation to the Trust that would keep the Net Present Value Liability from growing until such time as the Town can begin to pay down the liability. In Fiscal Year 2024, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$185,000. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$185,000 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

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

MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONED

DEBATE: There was no debate and no holds.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY
VOTE ON CONSENT MOTION 1: Yes – 168; No - 19; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 5: *Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operating Budget*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2024), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Finance Committee
Select Board
Town Manager***

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

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

MOVED BY BUD ROBERTSON AND SECONED

DEBATE: There was no debate and no holds.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON CONSENT MOTION 2: Yes - 164; No – 36; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

Article 6: *Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Summary: *The following is the proposed Town Manager's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2024:*

Item #1 – Ambulance 1 Replacement **\$442,900** **Fire and EMS**

Summary: *Ambulance 1 will be due for replacement in 2024. The cost of the Ambulance is approximately \$442,900. To pay for this ambulance, the Town will borrow the total amount through State House Notes and pay it back over 5 years. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Town will appropriate \$105,951 from the EMS Fund to pay the first year's Debt Service.*

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

Item #2 – Command Vehicle **\$70,000** **Fire and EMS**

Summary: *In FY 2024, the Command Vehicle to be replaced is the vehicle that the Deputy Chief uses for emergency response and management of incidents.*

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

Item #3 – Loader **\$220,000** **Highway**

Summary: *The current loader is a 1995 model and is 25 years old. This is an important piece of equipment for the Highway Department as it performs many functions, including snow removal operations. This should be considered a scheduled replacement.*

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

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

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established eleven years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2024, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: 10 replacement computers; Replace aging servers and storage arrays; Investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; and network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage and improve door lock and security system maintenance.*

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

Item #5 – Municipal Building Repairs **\$25,000** **Town Facilities**

Summary: *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in the Town's building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in the*

municipal buildings. Furnaces, a/c units, flooring and painting are some of the small items this capital program handles.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #6 – Building Maintenance Van

\$60,000

Town Facilities

Summary: *This Van is used by the DPW's Maintenance Foreman to carry tools and other necessary items used in the maintenance of our buildings. The current van was purchased used (2003) four years ago and needs to be replaced. This is a vital and necessary vehicle for the maintenance of Town Facilities.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #7 – Property Improvements

\$25,000

Park Department

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

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #8 – Police Cruisers

\$125,142

Police Department

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

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #9 – Hazmat Storage Evidence Locker

\$40,000

Police Department

Summary: *A secure twelve by twenty Out Building for the purpose of securing hazardous evidence (narcotics and flammables) as well as large items of evidence. The out building will need to have a concrete foundation and floor. The building wall will be on block construction. The overhead and wall through doors will be of industrial grade steel construction.*

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

Item #10 – Golf Carts **\$25,000** **Country Club**

Summary: *In FY 2023, the Town replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with new 21 Yamaha gas powered carts and four Yamaha electric carts using a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of approximately \$25,000. This is the second of five payments.*

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

Item #11 – Driving Range Improvements **\$50,000** **Country Club**

Summary: *This item will pay for the replacement of driving range mats, addition of range targets, addition of poles and netting on the right side of the range, as well as, addressing drainage issues throughout the range which prevents maintenance in those areas.*

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

Item #12 – Greens Equipment **\$10,000** **Country Club**

Summary: *The Country Club needs to replace aging greens equipment. Some pieces age better than others and the maintenance staff attempt to use all the equipment until repairing it becomes cost prohibitive. The greens superintendent and course mechanic will determine the items needed most. The Town will enter into lease purchase agreements for the equipment and pay it off over five years.*

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

Town Manager

MOTION A: I move that Four Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$442,900) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase and equip a new Ambulance 1 for the Fire Department, and for the payment of all costs associated and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$442,900 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purchase.

MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED

DEBATE: Mr. Reilly provided an explanation of the article. There were no comments or questions.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 185; No – 26; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

MOTION B: I move that Six Hundred Ninety Thousand One Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$690,142) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the capital items as set forth under Article 6 in the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$70,000 be transferred from the Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; and the sum of \$620,142 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Item	Amount	Department
Command Vehicle	\$ 70,000	Fire and EMS
Loader	\$220,000	Highway
IT Infrastructure	\$ 50,000	Town Facilities
Municipal Building Repairs	\$ 25,000	Town Facilities
Building Maintenance Van	\$ 60,000	Town Facilities
Property Improvements	\$ 25,000	Park Department
Police Cruisers	\$125,142	Police Department
Hazmat Storage Evidence Locker	\$ 30,000	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$ 25,000	Country Club
Driving Range Improvements	\$ 50,000	Country Club
Greens Equipment	\$ 10,000	Country Club
Total	\$690,142	

MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Reilly reviewed the capital items being requested and gave a brief explanation.

A question was asked if they could vote on each item individually. The Moderator said that it was a package vote. The voter said that a lot of people had been struggling financially and hoped that the town realized that it might be time to keep older equipment a little bit while. Mr. Manugian asked if the country club revenue covered expenses and debt service. Mr. Haddad said that it did. Mr. Haddad said that it comes in as a general fund revenue and closed out to free cash. He said that the country club turned over a profit the previous fiscal year and was able to cover its expenses.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 168; No – 49; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

Article 7: *Revenue Dedication of Opioid Settlements to Special Purpose Stabilization Fund*

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws, to establish a special purpose stabilization fund, known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors, to be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of said Section 5B to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article, effective for Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023; and further, to transfer from Free Cash the amount of such judgments or settlements received by the Town to date to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Town of Groton is eligible to receive up to \$38,306 in Opioid Abatement funds pursuant to settlements reached between the Attorney General and companies and individuals that allegedly fueled the opioid crisis. 40% of the payments to be received by the state, will be directly passed on to its political subdivisions. The allocation of abatement funds will be made over a period of 17 years, ending in 2038. These funds can only be used by the Town for very specific purposes, namely opioid abuse prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. Accordingly, in order to give municipalities time to strategize how best to meet their community's needs, as well as aid in the long-term tracking, spending and reporting requirements, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is permitting towns to create a special purpose stabilization fund to which this revenue can be dedicated. To date, Groton has received \$4,990.48 of Opioid Settlement funds.*

MOTION: I move pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws, to establish a special purpose stabilization fund, known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors, to be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of said Section 5B and dedicate all of the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article, effective for Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023; and further, to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) \$4,990.48 received from opioid settlements to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article.

MOVED BY PETER CUNNINGHAM AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Cunningham said that there was a fair amount of press about this settlement adding that the funds received from the opioid settlement would be coming back to communities. He said that a special fund needed to be set up to place these funds in, in order to designate use of them.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 204; No – 8; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

Article 8: *Funding for Destination Groton Committee*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the purpose of providing funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Destination Groton Committee

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

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out its charge, which is to pursue a course of action intended to engage all Town stakeholders, including the business and non-profit communities, Town leaders, and Town residents in a series of public information forums in order to prepare for an increase in visitors to town while at the same time work to preserve its rural small-town charm. A portion of this funding will be used to hire consultants to assist in procuring grant funding to create tourism programming, strategic marketing, infrastructure and regional transportation mitigation.*

MOTION: I move that Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the purpose of providing funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all costs associated and related thereto.

MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Reilly said Mr. Sheldon from the Destination Groton Committee was present to make a presentation. Mr. Sheldon gave a presentation to the meeting.

A question was asked about the difference between the Destination Groton Committee and the Planning Board. Mr. Sheldon said that they had been before the Planning Board a few times and were hoping to work in conjunction with the Planning Board as they update the Master Plan. Mr. Sheldon said that they appreciated the fact that there were limited spaces for commercial

development but that wasn't within their purview. Mr. Petropoulos said he appreciated all the hard work done by this committee. He said that the request was an investment toward economic activity which would be repaid. He added it was important that requests like this be provided with more rigorous backup data. Mr. Neff asked Ms. Manugian why she voted not to support this request. Ms. Manugian said that her concern was similar to Mr. Petropoulos in that she didn't have a clear understanding of what this money was being used for. Mr. Amaral said this committee had done a tremendous job leveraging state funds available to them.

There were 236 voters present at 9:49 AM

A resident said that the amount being requested was rather small and urged them to increase their ask adding these funds would benefit everyone in Town. Mr. Francisco said that this committee had been working really hard and appreciated what they were trying to do to encourage the kind of regional nexus Groton was becoming. Mr. Hewitt said that this committee had evolved more into promoting Groton then preparing and asked if they wanted thousands of people coming to Groton. Mr. Sheldon said that when the Groton Business Association began their planning 3 years ago, they were looking at challenges and opportunities in front of them. He said that the Destination Groton Committee was working to further that report and findings.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 164; No – 73; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 9: *Funding for Sustainability Commission*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of providing funding for the Sustainability Commission to carry out the Charge of the Commission and all cost associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sustainability Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 2 Against – Manugian and Green)*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Sustainability Commission to pay for their tire recycling program, pollinator garden program and provide educational materials to residents in their endeavor to have informational/educational seminars that focus on Sustainability. At the direction of the Select Board in October, 2021, the Sustainability Commission added climate change and resilience to their purview. Beginning in 2022, the Commission added climate change work projects and a tire recycling program to their ongoing pollinator garden program. Continuing and bringing these projects to fruition requires funding. The Commission is seeking \$15,000 for the above-mentioned activities in FY 2024.*

MOTION: I move that Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of providing funding for the Sustainability Commission to carry out the Charge of the Commission and all costs associated and related thereto.

MOVED BY BECKY PINE AND SECONED

DEBATE: Ms. Pine said that the Sustainability Commission was asked a year ago to take on as part of their charge climate change. Mr. Francisco was present to provide a presentation on their request for funding.

Mr. Neff asked if an ID was requested when a tire was turned in. Mr. Francisco said that they were asked if they were a resident but not asked for ID. Mr. Guttromson said he was confused about the pollinator garden and asked why there was a separate request for something at the Center and he thought the tire initiative was redundant when most people leave their tires where they get new ones. Mr. Francisco said that the pollinator garden was separate from the Center adding it just happened to be on that property. He said that the tire initiative was shocking to them in that there were a lot of tires just sitting on the side of the road alone. He said that one property in town had 200 tires sitting adjacent to a stream. He said there were tires out there that were being turned in. Mr. Francisco said that the education program was mandated by the state adding that they needed to become zero emission by 2050. Mr. Parker Roach said that this amount at the local level was a no brainer to him. He said that the education program was an important piece. Mr. Sheldon said that this was an important initiative and was a reflection on their town. Mr. Gordon agreed that it was an important initiative and moved the question.

Mr. Easom said the voter made a statement and then moved the question. The Moderator said he missed the statement.

THE MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION WAS MOVED AND SECONDED.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 232; No – 13; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

MAIN MOTION VOTE OF ARTICLE 9

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 198; No – 51; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 10: *Amend the Charge of the Sustainability Commission*

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 20 of the April 28, 2008 Spring Town Meeting which created the Sustainability Commission by authorizing the Select Board, in conjunction with the Sustainability Commission, to create a new Charge of the Commission, including the number of members of the Commission and length of terms, and authorize the Select Board to amend said Charge and Membership from time to time as the Board deems appropriate at a duly posted meeting of the Select Board, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board
Sustainability Commission**

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

Summary: *The Sustainability Commission has been in existence for the past 13 years operating under the original Charge and membership as voted by the 2008 Spring Town Meeting. Sustainability has taken on a more and more important role in today's world. The focus of the Commission needs to be able to adapt to changing priorities. Unfortunately, since the Commission and Charge were voted on by Town Meeting, only Town Meeting can amend it. This can cause a delay in addressing issues. The purpose of this Article is to authorize the Select Board, working with the Sustainability Commission, to draft a Charge that can be amended from time to time by the Select Board. In addition, at the direction of the Select Board in October, 2021, the Sustainability Commission added climate change to their purview. Members were added to the Commission to work on this initiative. At present, the Commission is at maximum capacity, with one alternate member temporarily authorized. However, the work involved requires additional flexibility in the membership and the expertise members can bring.*

MOTION: I move to amend the vote taken under Article 20 of the April 28, 2008 Spring Town Meeting, which created the Sustainability Commission, by authorizing the Select Board, in conjunction with the Sustainability Commission, to create a new Charge of the Commission, including the number of members of the Commission and length of terms, and authorize the Select Board to amend said Charge and Membership from time to time as the Board deems appropriate at a duly posted meeting of the Select Board.

MOVED BY BECKY PINE AND SECONDED

DEBATE: Ms. Pine explained the intent of the article. She said that the focus of the Commission had changed with the need to look at climate change but because the Commission was formed by a town meeting vote, any changes needed to come back to town meeting. She said that the ask was to allow the Select Board to be able to revise the charge like all other committees in town.

A voter asked if the public was going to be able to see the vote tallies. The Moderator said that like a hand count, a vote would be taken and the moderator would announce the vote total. He said that he would not be displaying the tallies that day but would take the request under advisement.

A voter asked what the process would be for the Select Board to notify the Sustainability Commission of changes to their charge. Ms. Pine said that changes discussed were done in conjunction with one another and would continue that way. Mr. Francisco said that the two Boards had worked together on any proposed changes. Mr. Hargraves said he hadn't heard what the new charge was. Ms. Pine said that just like with all committees, they would like to be able to make changes without having to come back to town meeting. She said that the Sustainability Commission will most likely propose changes to the charge if this passed and discuss it with the Select Board at a duly posted meeting. Mr. Hargraves said it appeared to him that there was a hidden agenda. Mr.

Francisco said that there was no hidden agenda adding the request was to allow for more flexibility in adding to their membership. Mr. Funch said that he was confused why this was approved at a town meeting to begin with. He said that it appeared as though they were looking to change this so it was treated like all other committees. Ms. Pine said it may have been brought forward in 2008 as a citizen's petition and why the limitations were present.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 214; No – 54; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 11: Election Equipment Purchase – Poll Pads

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 Poll Pads for use by the Town Clerk to check-in voters at all elections and Town Meetings, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Clerk

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *The use of Poll Pads will help to accelerate the check-in process at Town Meetings and at Elections by taking the place of the paper check-in system we currently use. These tablets will allow the election worker to look up the voter by manually entering the first few letters of the voters first and last name or by scanning the bar code on the back of a driver's license or state issued ID. If an ID is scanned, the Poll Pad matches the name and date of birth of the person on the voter list with the name and date of birth it reads from the bar code. At Town Meetings, voters will have the ability to check-in at any staffed station as the Poll Pads automatically sync to one another via Bluetooth connectivity and not Wi-Fi, which eliminates any chance of checking in more than once. The Town Clerk's Office staff will also be able to electronically record voter turnout totals, load voter history into the State Voter Registration System post-election and run essential reports in a more time efficient manner. Over 200 cities and towns in the Commonwealth are currently utilizing this technology.*

MOTION: I move that Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$13,600) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase Poll Pads for use by the Town Clerk to check-in voters at all elections and Town Meetings, including all costs associated and related thereto.

MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Pisani explained the intent of the poll pads and the security behind the poll pads. Mr. Manugian asked if people would be allowed to register to vote same day. Ms. Dunbar, Town Clerk

said voters will not be able to register to vote same day. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked IDs were going to be required to vote. Ms. Dunbar said that they were not allowed by law to ask for an ID but that the voter could have theirs scanned if they preferred. Mr. Brown said that he had never had to wait to check in to vote and thought their current system seemed to work adding this seemed to be a high-tech solution to a problem that didn't exist. He asked if anyone had done a return on investment. Ms. Dunbar provided an example of when lines were long at a recent town meeting and explained the time savings that was anticipated. A resident asked if this was in addition to the current system. Ms. Dunbar said that this would get rid of the paper check in system they used now. She said that you didn't need an ID to be checked in. Mr. Parker Roach asked if the election workers were volunteers and if there was a savings. Ms. Dunbar said that the Election Workers were paid minimum wage and that any savings would be in a reduction of the number of election workers required to work an election. A resident asked about an estimated length of time the iPads would last. Ms. Dunbar said because they were only used for elections and town meetings, she saw them lasting a significant amount of time but didn't have exact answer. Mr. Brown said there would be an ongoing maintenance cost. Ms. Dunbar said there was an annual maintenance cost of approximately \$1,200.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 163; No – 95; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 12: Construct New Water Main to Address PFAS Issue at GDRSD High School

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money for the purposes of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street In Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources, and all incidental and related costs, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the Massachusetts General Laws; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This Article is for the extension of municipal drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and the surrounding properties in Dunstable on Groton Street and Kemp Street and on North Street in Groton. In 2021, the drinking water source was tested for PFAS/PFOS as required by the MassDEP. Measured levels at the High School were well over the Mass DEP's limits for potable drinking water and the drinking water source was removed from service. It appears that the surrounding properties have also been impacted by the PFAS contamination at the High School. A new water source for the High School and surrounding properties is necessary to address this issue. The

estimated cost of this project is \$16.5 million. The Town is seeking all available Federal and State Grants to offset the cost of this water main extension.

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate Sixteen Million Seven Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$16,780,000) for the purposes of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street in Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources, and all incidental and related costs, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the Massachusetts General Laws; and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow \$16,780,000 under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §8(5) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow all or a portion of said sum from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C of the General Laws and to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purpose.

MOVED BY PETER CUNNINGHAM AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Cunningham provided an explanation of the article. He said that PFAS and mitigation of it was evolving. Mr. Orcutt said that the Board of Water Commissioners voted unanimously to support this article.

A resident said that this was a big expectation of the town and asked if there were any definite grant opportunities, and if the town was going after the responsible parties. Mr. Cunningham said that DEP did go after the responsible party but they were no longer in existence. He said that none of this borrowing would be done before coming back to a future town meeting for a debt exclusion but instead was intended to start the conversation. Mr. Hurley asked if the testing done had been done for potable water or what was available. Mr. Orcutt said that prior to the HS being built it was determined that the large amount of bedrock didn't allow for municipal water. Mr. Guttromson said it was imperative that they solve the water problem. He said that he wanted to understand the reasoning behind the analysis settled upon. He also said that the motion before them showed they were appropriating the money. Mr. Cunningham said that the motion would show DEP that the town was prepared to mitigate this issue. He said that the PFAS issue was evolving all the time and they were trying to keep up with all the information before them. Mr. Guttromson said he was interested in seeing the analysis done. Mr. Cunningham said that where this was evolving, a final solution had not been determined yet. Mr. Haddad said that the school district hired an LSP and there were reports available. Mr. Haddad provided a history of the multiple analyses done. He said that the intent of the motion would get them in line with DEP for any potential funding solutions available to Groton. Ms. Young asked if the Town of Dunstable would be sharing in the cost of this and how she was surprised that the Town Manager was surprised to hear Dunstable had PFAS. She said it made her question the quality of the work being done by the consultant. Mr. Haddad said that the cost

would be split with the town of Dunstable because of the regional agreement. He said that he took full responsibility for the data and how he took Dunstable's word for them testing non-detect. He said that the most cost-effective solution was to have Pepperell supply the water but they had a major PFAS issue with their water. He said they had a great engineer working on this. Mr. Hoch said that he hadn't heard anything about on-site mitigation and thought it was premature for him to vote on this adding there may be other treatment alternatives. Mr. Orcutt said that DEP didn't like that option adding it would leave them as a public water supplier and didn't address the Dunstable wells that were contaminated. Ms. Stanley said that she supported this article adding it showed Groton's readiness to apply for and receive grants. Mr. Presti agreed with Ms. Stanley adding they were positioning themselves for future applications and funding. Mr. Orcutt said that one option was a zero-interest loan through the SRF adding they were also working to cut numbers as best they could while providing the level of solution they needed to. Mr. Cunningham said that they were exploring all funding options available to them to minimize the costs as much as possible as well as reaching out to their state and federal representatives. Mr. Petropoulos said they were being asked to open a line of credit and would be asked to vote on a final funding request. Mr. Cunningham said that was correct adding they would also need a debt exclusion vote to spend any money. Mr. Haddad said that this money would not be spent adding \$200K of ARPA funding was set aside to pay for engineering. A resident asked where the current water system ended. Mr. Haddad said that the water line currently ended on Hollis Street. Mr. Orcutt said that treatment systems in the home were a temporary solution as far as DEP was concerned not a permanent solution.

There were 279 voters as 10:55 AM.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 208; No – 56; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

Article 13: *Community Preservation Funding Accounts*

To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund: Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 20,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$106,991
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$106,991
Community Housing Reserve:	\$106,991
Unallocated Reserve:	\$728,937

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary so that the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during Fiscal Year 2024. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

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

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 20,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$106,991
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$106,991
Community Housing Reserve:	\$106,991
Unallocated Reserve:	\$728,937

MOVED BY BRUCE EASOM AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Easom said that article 13 was an annual housekeeping article where they took CPA revenue and placed them in their appropriate bins.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 220; No – 25; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 14: *Community Preservation Funding Recommendations*

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, 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 Massachusetts General Laws, and by authorizing the Select Board, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A:	Housing Trust Funds Request	\$200,000
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Summary: *This application is seeking \$200,000 in CPA funds to be used to help the Affordable Housing Trust meet its affordable housing goals. This application is requesting that the funding be transferred to the Affordable Housing Trust to be used for any and all allowable community housing purposes. Community housing funds can be used to acquire, create, support and rehabilitate and / or restore housing if acquired or created with CPA funds. The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 3 Abstentions – Easom, Eliot, Perkins)*

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-01 “Housing Trust Funds Request”.

MOVED BY BRUCE EASOM AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Alberghini asked what constituted affordable housing. Mr. Francisco explained that it was income based adding it was based on 80% of median income. Ms. Pine said that affordable housing units counted by the Commonwealth didn’t include any and all apartments. She said it had to have been created by a state program. Mr. Delaney asked what the money would be used for adding there was no plan. Mr. Francisco said that the principal idea was to use the money like the Conservation Commission was funded on an annual basis. He said it would allow them to move in a timely manner on potential properties. Mr. Presti said he was thrilled to see the Committee stepping up to look for ways to offer affordable housing for their community. A resident asked for an example of how the money would be spent.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 204; No – 35; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

CPC Proposal B:	Preservation of Lake Massapoag	\$4,000
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Summary: *This application is requesting \$4,000 in CPA funds to cover a portion of the 2023 rehabilitation/preservation costs for the Upper Massapoag Pond. The pond is currently overrun by invasive aquatic plants and the eighteen-acre cove portion of the pond located in Groton has added significant costs to the treatment. Both the Town of Tyngsboro and the Town of Dunstable have been supporting this project since it first started. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-02 “Preservation of Lake Massapoag”.

MOVED BY RICHARD HEWITT AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Hewitt said that the treatment of Lake Massapoag would be treated like Lost Lake was done. There were no questions.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 214; No – 20; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

CPC Proposal C:**Conservation Fund – FY 2024****\$400,000**

Summary: *The Conservation Commission is requesting \$400,000 in CPA funds to be added to the Town's Conservation Fund to help preserve open space, protect water resources and wildlife habitat, and preserve land for agricultural, recreational, and forestry activities. The Conservation Fund allows the Town to move quickly in the event a priority parcel becomes available. In the past, the Conservation Fund has been used to purchase Conservation Restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and fee ownership of conservation land in the Town. The Commission adheres to the Select Board's General Financial Guideline #6, which states the goal "to maintain a balance in the Conservation Fund of at least 2% of the Town's current line-item budget." 2% of the FY24 operating budget would be approximately \$983,720. As of April 1, 2023 the Conservation Fund balance was \$1,684,962. Of this amount, \$1,005,750 is expected to be used for land purchases already in process. With the rising cost of land, the need to augment the Fund is as crucial this year as ever. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

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

Finance Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Against – Green)*

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

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$105,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$295,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$400,000, to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-03 "Conservation Fund – FY 2024".

MOVED BY CAROLYN PERKINS AND SECONED

DEBATE: Ms. Perkins said that this money would be placed in the Conservation Fund for them to purchase critical land as it became available. A resident said that the numbers in the motion didn't add up to \$400,000. Mr. Easom said that the numbers should have been \$105,000 from Open Space Reserve and \$295,000 from Unallocated Reserve. The Moderator asked if the meeting would be okay with calling it a scrivener's error. There was no issue. A resident asked if a table Mr. Easom was referring to could be provided in the packet in the future.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 178; No – 60; **VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote**

CPC Proposal D:**Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond****\$80,000**

Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$80,000 in CPA funds to replace an existing baseball field located at Town Field (behind the Library) that has served the Town since the 1930's. The funds will be used towards excavating and removing infield grass and clay. The excavated area will then be laser graded in which the layout will meet the major league diamond standards. A new home plate, pitcher's mound, and left and right foul poles will be set. An irrigation only well will be drilled for*

irrigation purposes only. An irrigation system will be installed for the benefit of the entire playing surface. An electrical service will be installed in the existing maintenance shed. The full amount to be paid from the Open Space Reserve.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-04 “Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond”.

MOVED BY ANNA ELIOT AND SECONED

DEBATE: Ms. Eliot said that this referred to the baseball diamond behind the library located at Town Field. Mr. Guttromson asked what the usage of this field was and asked what why it needed to be a major league field. Mr. Black said it was used by both the Town baseball organizations and Lawrence Academy. He said it was a major league field and had been in existence since the 1930’s with no major rehab to it. Mr. Black said that the Town had a reciprocity agreement with Lawrence Academy also to use their fields.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 189; No – 46; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

CPC Proposal E:	Construct Softball Diamonds at Cutler Field	\$90,000
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Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$90,000 in CPA funds to build over the site of the former Little League regulation diamonds at Cutler Field in West Groton. The funds will be used towards excavating and removing infield grass and clay. The excavated area will then be laser graded in which two softball diamonds will be constructed in adherence with the proper guidelines and standards. This project will include all necessary materials required to construct the two softball diamonds. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

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

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-05 “Construct Softball Diamonds at Cutler Field”.

MOVED BY ANNA ELIOT AND SECONED

DEBATE: Ms. Eliot said that Cutler Field was in need to rehab to support the increase of girls softball players as well as girls lacrosse players. The president of the Youth Lacrosse League said they had been the stewards of Cutler Field over the years. He said he was in support of this article and looked forward to the opportunities available to all girls programs in Groton. Mr. Black said that pending modifications to Woitowicz field would allow the girls lacrosse program to be able to utilize those fields next spring.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 204; No – 25; **VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote**

CPC Proposal F:	Housing Coordinator – FY 2024	\$55,857
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Summary: *This application is requesting \$55,857 in CPA funding from the Community Housing category to fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator position (25-hours/week). The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Fifty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$55,857) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-07 “Housing Coordinator – FY 2024”.

MOVED BY RUSS BURKE AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Burke said that this funding was an annual funding request for the housing coordinator adding were fortunate to have a very capable individual in that position. He said that this was money well spent for such an important position in their community. There were no questions.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 197; No – 23; **VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote**

CPC Proposal G:	Squannacook River Rail Trail	\$90,000
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Summary: *Squannacook Greenways is requesting \$90,000 in CPA funding for construction of Phase 4 of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) from the northern Crosswinds Drive crossing of the MBTA Railroad right of way to the Groton/Townsend town line for a total distance of .25 miles. Construction of the SRRT is being conducted in phases due to environmental permitting requirements which limit construction activity to a period of between 11/15-3/15. Squannacook Greenways is also relying on DCR MassTrails grants to underwrite a large portion of construction costs and has been the successful recipient on three MassTrails grants: 2019, 2020 and 2022. Squannacook Greenways will be applying for the next round of grants and if successful will commence construction in 11/2023. The full amount to be paid from the Open Space Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Abstention – Cunningham)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2024-09 “Squannacook River Rail Trail”.

MOVED BY CAROLYN PERKINS AND SECONED

DEBATE: Ms. Perkins said this money was for Phase 4 of the Squannacook River Rail Trail. There were no questions.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 181; No – 34; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Community Preservation Committee

Article 15: *An Act Merging Certain Voting Precincts in the Town of Groton*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would merge Precincts 1 and 3A into one Precinct known as Precinct 1 as follows:

An Act Merging Certain Voting Precincts in the Town of Groton

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

Section 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Precinct 1 and Precinct 3A in the Town of Groton shall merge and become Precinct 1 of the Town of Groton.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Clerk

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *In 2021, and as a result of the 2020 Federal Census, boundary lines for Precincts 1 and 3 were adjusted due to shifts in population. The new boundary lines took effect on December 31, 2021 and are in effect for 10 years. During the 2021 process, the Massachusetts Legislature pre-empted the timeline used for reprecincting, and started redistricting simultaneously. The 2010 precinct boundaries were used to redistrict which affected part of Precinct 3. Because of this, the Town now has a sub-precinct, which you will see referred to as Precinct 3A and the Town was split into two (2) Representative Districts, the First Middlesex District and 37th Middlesex District. There are currently 236 Residents residing within the newly formed Precinct 3A. This article seeks Town Meeting permission to request Special Legislation to merge Precinct 3A into Precinct 1. This merger will reduce voter confusion and yield a cost savings to the Town as it would require less support during elections.*

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to merge Precincts 1 and 3A into one Precinct known as Precinct 1, as set forth under Article 15 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONED

DEBATE: There was no debate and no questions asked.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 202; No – 4; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 16: Amend Town Charter – Article 3, Section 3.2.2 (v)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would amend the Groton Town Charter as follows:

An Act Relative to the Charter in the Town of Groton

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

Section 1. The charter of the town of Groton, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the general laws, is hereby amended by striking out section 3.2.2(v) and inserting in place thereof the following:

3.2.2(v) sign all payroll and expense warrants; provided, however, that the select board, at its sole discretion, may delegate this authority to the town manager and one member of the select board by a vote of the board at a posted meeting.

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

provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

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

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The signing of the payroll and accounts payable warrants is the responsibility of the Select Board, as identified in M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 56. This responsibility serves as an oversight on the town treasury. On a bi-weekly basis, the warrants are delivered, usually with a large number of detailed expense and payroll items. Individual Select Board Member practices vary with respect to their detailed review of the warrants. It is recommended that the Charter be revised to authorize the Select Board to delegate the authority, at their discretion, to sign expense and payroll warrants to the Town Manager and one member of the Select Board. The Select Board can also revoke this delegation and impose limits on signing authority.*

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to amend Article 3, Section 3.2.2 (v), of the Groton Town Charter, as set forth under Article 16 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

MOVED BY BECKY PINE AND SECONED

DEBATE: Ms. Pine said this would authorize, for a period of time, the signing of the warrants by the Town Manager and one member of the Select Board. She said that they could do that now but would only be in 30-day increments. Mr. Manugian said that he understands it was an issue to get people together every two weeks to sign a warrant but it was important to have everyone checking this to know what is being paid. Ms. Pine said that the warrant would be still shared with every member of the Select Board as it is done now. She said this was only affecting the signatures on the warrant which had to be a wet signature. Mr. Neff asked why Ms. Manugian voted against this. Ms. Manugian said that she didn't think this change was necessary and was comfortable with how things were currently. A resident asked if more than one board member could be delegated to sign. Ms. Pine said that they had the authority to delegate one member adding this change would allow them to designate one member and the Town Manager for a period of more than 30 days. Mr. Harris said that if they kept making rolling changes to their Charter, in 10 years there would be no changes. He said he was reluctant to keep making changes outside of the 10-year review period. Ms. Pine said it was not just because of a potential vacation of a board member but a Monday holiday where they didn't meet. She said this would delay paychecks to staff which was the biggest risk.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 94; No – 107; VOTE DID NOT PASS BY Majority Vote

Article 17: Amend Town Charter – Article 4, Sections 4.2(iii) and 4.2(iv)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would amend the Groton Town Charter as follows:

An Act Relative to the Charter in the Town of Groton

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

Section 1. The charter of the town of Groton, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the general laws, is hereby amended by striking out section 4.2(iii) and 4.2(iv) and inserting in place thereof the following:

4.2(iii) appointing and removing department heads, officers and subordinates and employees and other appointed members of town government for whom no other method of appointment or removal is provided in this charter or by-law. Appointments made by the town manager shall be confirmed by the select board within 15 days of the date the town manager files notice of the action with the select board. Failure by the select board to confirm an appointment within 15 days shall constitute rejection of the appointment.

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

provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Deferred – Cunningham)*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The Charter Committee in 2017 amended the original Town Charter's appointing authority of the Town Manager by creating a cumbersome, unnecessary procedure of nominating appointments to the Select Board, instead of having the Town Manager appoint members of Town Government, subject to the ratification of the Select Board. It was a change that was not necessary, as the Select Board still has the ultimate authority on who serves in Town Government. They also changed the authority of the Town Manager to remove members of Town Government without the approval of the Select Board at a duly posted public meeting. This has the potential to embarrass volunteers and cause unnecessary drama. This proposal would return the appointing authority of the Town Manager back to the original wording in the Charter that was approved in 2010 that worked without issue or complaint for many years.*

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to amend Article 4, Sections 4.2(iii) and 4.2(iv), of the Groton Town Charter, as set forth under Article 17 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Pisani provided an explanation of the warrant article. Mr. Harris provided the same argument against doing Charter changes outside of the entire Charter review period. Mr. Petropoulos asked if this would allow the Town Manager to remove a member instead of having to go through the Board. Mr. Haddad said that was correct. Mr. Petropoulos said that nothing stopped the Town Manager from having a discreet discussion with a committee member and allowing them the opportunity to resign without it being brought in the public light. Mr. Haddad said that there was a distinction without a difference in nominating for appointment vs. appointing and having it ratified. Mr. Haddad said that he was asking to have this returned to the 2010 Charter wording which worked very well. Mr. Manugian said that the rationale for making this change in 2017 was to allow the individual the opportunity to be able to bring their removal forward.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 61; No – 123; VOTE DID NOT PASS BY Majority Vote

Article 18: Amend General Bylaws – Dog Hearings

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 128, Dogs, by amending Section 128-3, Enforcement, as follows (deleted text in ~~striketrough~~, new text underlined):

- H. Appeals. The Hearing Authority's ~~initial~~ decision shall become effective upon filing said decision with the Town Clerk with notice to the owner or keeper. ~~The owner or keeper of a dog may appeal the initial decision of the Hearing Authority to the Select Board within 10 days of the decision being filed with the Town Clerk. The Select Board shall review the decision in open session and determine whether or not to modify or uphold the decision. The Select Board may conduct a further hearing or accept additional evidence as the Board deems appropriate.~~ An owner or keeper may further appeal the ~~Select Board's final action~~ Hearing Authority's decision to the district court pursuant to MGL c. 140, § 157.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *Town Counsel has advised that our current internal appeal process deviates from state law and gives appellants technical arguments that may jeopardize the Town's decisions on appeal. This article seeks to eliminate the discrepancy between our appeal process and State law. State law affords dog owners a mechanism to appeal the Town's dog hearing decisions in district court, with an initial hearing before a district court magistrate that often resolves matters without the need for a full trial.*

MOTION: I move to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 128, Dogs, by amending Section 128-3, Enforcement, as set forth under Article 18 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Reilly said that this would take the Select Board out of the hearing process and allow a dog owner to go straight to district court.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 179; No – 20; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 19: Amend Zoning Bylaw – Accessory Apartment Clarifications

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows:

1. In Section 218-3 Definitions, amend the existing definition of Accessory Apartment by deleting the words “one bedroom” and inserting in their place the words “eight hundred (800) square feet of habitable floor area”.
2. Amend Section 218-9.4 Accessory Apartment as follows:
 - a. In Section 218-9.4.2 Attached Accessory Apartment, by inserting the words “of habitable floor area” in the first sentence after the words “eight hundred (800) square feet”.
 - b. In Section 218-9.4.2.k, by inserting the word “attached” in the first sentence before the words “accessory apartment”.
 - c. In Section 218-9.4.3 Detached Accessory Apartment, by deleting the words “detached-accessory apartment” in the first sentence and inserting in their place the words “detached accessory apartment not to exceed eight hundred (800) square feet of habitable floor area”.
 - d. In Section 219-9.4.3.a, by deleting the words “and j-l” and inserting in their place the words “j, and l”.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board:

Summary: *This article clarifies certain inconsistencies in the provisions regulating Attached and Detached Accessory Apartments in Section 218-9.4. Specifically, this article clarifies that all accessory apartments, whether attached or detached, shall have a maximum of 800 square feet of living area (i.e., habitable floor area). This article also modifies the definition of Accessory Apartment to be consistent with Section 218-9.4 by inserting the maximum living area provision.*

MOTION: I move to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218, Zoning, Sections 218-3, Definitions, and Section 218-9.4, Accessory Apartment, as set forth under Article 19 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

MOVED BY RUSS BURKE AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Burke said that the Planning Board held a public hearing on March 16, 2023 and voted unanimously to approve this article. He said the purpose of this article was for housekeeping purposes and to clear up some discrepancies. Ms. Campbell asked if there were any other restrictions on the 800 sqft citing accessibility purposes. Mr. Burke said they had used 800 sqft for accessory apartments for a long time adding the State's level was 900 sqft. Ms. Campbell asked why they wouldn't copy the State's square footage. Mr. Burke said that the sqft limit has never been asked to be reviewed adding it was the size they had used for years.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 161; No – 34; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

Article 20: Conservation Land Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Town's Conservation Fund the sum of \$601,500, for the purpose of acquiring for conservation and passive recreation purposes, by eminent domain, negotiated purchase, or otherwise, certain real property known as the "Casella Property", consisting of 119 acres, more or less, owned by the Casella Realty Trust as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts" prepared by Dillis & Roy Civil Design Group, dated 03/01/2023, which is on file in the Town's Conservation Commission Office, said parcel to be acquired by the Conservation Commission and held under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 8C, of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements under Chapter 132A, Section 11 and/or any other applicable statute for said acquisition; and further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary for said acquisition; and further, to authorize

the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction with respect to said parcel to a qualified entity under terms and conditions the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in best interest of the Town and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 184, Sections 31 through 33; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Conservation Commission has reached an agreement with the Casella Realty Trust to purchase a parcel of land, of approximately 119 acres, using Conservation Commission Funds. The Conservation Commission has applied for, and been awarded a LAND (Land Acquisition for Natural Diversity) Grant from the Commonwealth of MA to defray the cost of the purchase. While the Conservation Commission is able to spend monies from the Conservation Fund without a Town Meeting vote, the Commission needs Town Meeting approval to receive reimbursement from the LAND grant. The negotiated purchase price for this property is \$601,500 and the grant would reimburse approximately \$360,900 (approx. 60% of total project cost) to the Conservation Fund. This land has frontage on Nashua Road and is adjacent to the Reedy Meadow Conservation Area to the south, and the GDRSD High School property to the east. In addition to providing an extensive trail connection between Chicopee Row, Reedy Meadow Road, and Nashua Road, the Casella Property features exceptionally diverse habitats for its size. It is the last parcel of land with such habitats within the ring of development from Reedy Meadow Road to the south, Nashua Road to the west, Wyman Road to the north, and the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School to the east. This article asks the Town Meeting to endorse this purchase.*

MOTION: I move to appropriate from the Town's Conservation Fund the sum of \$601,500, for the purpose of acquiring for conservation and passive recreation purposes, by eminent domain, negotiated purchase, or otherwise, certain real property known as the "Casella Property", consisting of 119 acres, more or less, owned by the Casella Realty Trust, as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts" prepared by Dillis & Roy Civil Design Group, dated 03/01/2023, which is on file in the Town's Conservation Commission Office, said parcel to be acquired by the Conservation Commission and held under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 8C, of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements under Chapter 132A, Section 11 and/or any other applicable statute for said acquisition; and further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary for said acquisition; and further, to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction with respect to said parcel to a qualified entity under terms and conditions the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in best interest of the Town and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 184, Sections 31 through 33.

MOVED BY OLIN LATHROP AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mr. Lathrop provided the meeting with a presentation on articles 20-22 to provide a detailed explanation of the requests. He said that article 20 would allow for permission to accept the grant money and authorizes the Conservation Restriction (CR). He said article 21 would authorize the CR's and article 22 was to authorize the CR on the Brown Loaf parcel and transfer the Brown Loaf to Conservation. Ms. Collette said she wanted to commend the Commission for their comprehensive work on all this and for the partnerships that were beneficial to preserving open space in the town. Mr. Hurley said that he wanted to point out the trails that would be created by the purchase of the Casella property. Mr. Lathrop said that the trails would go from the High School to Nashua Road adding the cross-country team uses these trails. Mr. Funch asked why they weren't getting money for the CR's. Mr. Lathrop said there was never an intention to be paid for the CR's on property purchased with CPA funds. A resident asked if there was any impact to an abutter if the CR was created. Mr. Lathrop said there was not any impact to an abutter. Mr. Presti asked if the CR's would become accessible for alternate uses in the future if they were granted. He cited the future need of more revenue sources for the town. Mr. Wallens asked about the property that abutted the high school, about the PFAS issue and whether it could be used as a well site. Mr. Lathrop said there were no plans to put a well there adding they didn't know if the PFAS issue was an issue there also. Mr. Orcutt said that bedrock out there was between 10-20 feet and would not yield a well site. Mr. Gerath said that he thanked the Conservation Commission on behalf of the Conservation Trust. He said that the Casella property was of great recreational value to the Town and not great for residential value.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 179; No – 18; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 21: *Grant Conservation Restrictions on Various Parcels*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant conservation restrictions with respect to all or a portion of the parcels of land described below, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, of the Massachusetts General Laws:

1. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Chicopee Row (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-85.1), referred to as the "Unkety Well Site", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on June 27, 2011, in Book 57046 at Page 248;
2. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Chicopee Row (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-94), referred to as the "Torrey Woods Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 18, 1997, in Book 27992 at Page 315;
3. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Hawtree Way (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-63), referred to as the "Hawtree Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on October 24, 1997, in Book 27801 at Page 119;

4. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Chicopee Row (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-95), referred to as the "Floyd Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 13, 1973, in Book 12477 at Page 130;
5. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 243-17), referred to as the "Harrison Ripley Forest", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 31, 1986, in Book 17744 at Page 99;
6. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 244-26), referred to as the "Harrison Ripley Forest", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 31, 1986, in Book 17744 at Page 99;
7. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Sawtell Drive, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-9), referred to as the "Sawtell Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 2, 2003, in Book 41544 at Page 397;
8. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Sawtell Drive (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-14), referred to as the "Sawtell Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 2, 2003, in Book 41544 at Page 397;
9. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Kailey's Way (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-38), referred to as the "Groton Hills Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 24, 1996, in Book 26519 at Page 185;
10. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 243-31.1), referred to as the "Baddacook Pond East Shore", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on March 3, 2011, in Book 56554 at Page 226;
11. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 233-98.2), referred to as the "Fuccillo Land", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on November 30, 2009, in Book 53921 at Page 1;
12. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 233-98.1), referred to as the "Fuccillo Land", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on November 30, 2009, in Book 53921 at Page 1;
13. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Otter Lane (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-3), referred to as the "Heron Ridge Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 18, 1987, in Book 18766 at Page 24;
14. To the Groton Conservation Trust, the parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 224-15.1), referred to as the "Priest Family Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on February 13, 2020, in Book 74129 at Page 313;

15. To the Groton Conservation Trust, parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 224-18), referred to as the "Martins Pond Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on March 14, 2019, in Book 72329 at Page 472;
16. To the Groton Conservation Trust, parcel of land located off West Main Street (Groton Assessor's Parcel 106-31), referred to as the "Patricia Hallet Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on September 27, 2018, in Book 71675 at Page 143;
17. To the Groton Conservation Trust, parcel of land located off West Main Street (Groton Assessor's Parcel 106-32), referred to as the "Patricia Hallet Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on September 27, 2018, in Book 71675 at Page 143;

And further, to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation to authorize any of said conservation restrictions in accordance with Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *This article will satisfy the requirement of the LAND Grant to have all properties purchased with CPA funds protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR). With this requirement met, the Town will be eligible for the 60% reimbursement the LAND grant will provide to the Town for the purchase of the Casella Property. A Conservation Restriction, held by a different entity than the owner of the land, provides an additional level of protection for land set aside for conservation. Please see the Explanation narrative with its accompanying maps in your meeting packet for further information on the specifics of this warrant article.*

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant conservation restrictions with respect to all or a portion of the parcels set forth under Article 21 of the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, of the Massachusetts General Laws, and further, to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation to authorize any of said conservation restrictions in accordance with Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition.

MOVED BY OLIN LATHROP AND SECONED

DEBATE: There was no debate as it was discussed during the last motion.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 182; No – 14; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 22: *Grant Conservation Restriction to Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game*

To see if the Town will vote to modify the vote taken under Article 19 at the 2011 Spring Town Meeting and authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction with respect to all or a portion of the real property located off of Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-04) described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 21, 1999, in Book 30446 at Page 61, to the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further to authorize the Select Board to transfer the care, custody, and control of said parcel to the Conservation Commission after granting said conservation restriction to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Conservation Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *As part of the work to address the outstanding parcels needing conservation restrictions as required by the Community Preservation Act and LAND grant conditions, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) has expressed an interest in protecting the "Brown Loaf" parcel (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-04), by purchasing a Conservation Restriction on it. The Brown Loaf parcel is a 103 +/- acre parcel, located south of Lowell Road behind the GELD substation. This property was originally purchased by the Town, at the Spring Town Meeting in 1999, for general municipal purposes. Options were explored for the best development potential but none worked out. This resulted in a 2011 Spring Town Meeting (Article 19) authorizing the Select Board to transfer the parcel to the Conservation Commission. This article would allow the Town to negotiate the terms and award a CR to DFW, thereby recouping most of the funds it spent to purchase the property. Once the CR is completed, the Select Board will finalize the transfer of ownership of the parcel to the Conservation Commission.*

MOTION: I move to modify the vote taken under Article 19 at the 2011 Spring Town Meeting and authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction with respect to all or a portion of the real property located off of Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-04) described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 21, 1999, in Book 30446 at Page 61, to the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game,

upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further to authorize the Select Board to transfer the care, custody, and control of said parcel to the Conservation Commission after granting said conservation restriction to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONED

DEBATE: There was no debate as this was done under article 20.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 189; No – 8; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 23: *Citizens’ Petition – Rezone 797 Boston Road*

To see if the Town will vote to rezone the property situated at 797 Boston Road, which is shown on the Groton Assessor’s Maps as Parcel 133-49 and described in a deed recorded with Middlesex County South District Registry of Deeds in Book 45322 at Page 597, as Neighborhood Business (NB), allowing for the construction of an indoor pickleball facility, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Citizens’ Petition

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
James McLean	4 Little Hollow Lane	Roberta Fusari	331 Riverbend Drive
Alfred Von Campe	29 Worthen Drive	Kristen Von Campe	29 Worthen Drive
Michael J. Hutton	33 Overlook Drive	Karen Hutton	33 Overlook Drive
Catherine Pauly	42 Forest Drive	Kathy Pietras	9 West Street
David Fusari	331 Riverbend Drive	Robert E. Anderson	270 Whiley Road

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *The owner of this parcel wishes to change the zoning of the property from Residential–Agricultural (R-A) to Neighborhood Business (NB) to allow for the development of an indoor pickleball facility. The proposed facility would require the issuance of a Special Permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw.*

MOTION: I move to rezone the property situated at 797 Boston Road, which is shown on the Groton Assessor’s Maps as Parcel 133-49 and described in a deed recorded with Middlesex County South District Registry of Deeds in Book 45322 at Page 597, as Neighborhood Business (NB).

MOVED BY EILEEN HACKNEY AND SECONED

DEBATE: The Moderator asked the meeting if there were any objections for Mr. Van Dyne to address the meeting as a non-voter but as the property owner. There were no objections. Mr. Van Dyne provided a presentation to the meeting asking for support of the citizen's petition. Ms. Nancy Muller was present to present an opposition to the article.

Mr. Wilson said that the Planning Board held a public hearing on April 13, 2023 and on April 27, 2023 voted 4-1 to recommend approval of this zoning change.

Mr. Giger asked if the owner was obligated to construct a game site if this was approved. Mr. Van Dyne said he was not obligated but could put a 40B in there if the public wanted to see that there. Mr. Giger said he wanted to make it clear anything could happen at that site within Neighborhood Business. Mr. Van Dyne said that the Planning Board would have the last say during permitting. Mr. Guttromson said he was confused by the current zoning. Mr. Wilson said it was currently zoned R-A and the property owner was looking for a change to Neighborhood Business zoning. Ms. McQuaid said she would be happy to see a 40B there. Mr. Brown said the town needed more affordable housing. Mr. Mason said that he viewed this property as a highly desirable residential area and that any commercial tax revenue could be offset by the number of residences that could be built on that property. Mr. Van Dyne said that pickleball was his passion and didn't think a 40B was the highest and best use of this property. Ms. Lathrop provided some comments against this proposed rezone. She said this was for the larger reason and not the towns. She said they were talking about an increase in traffic. She said that N-B zoning required 65% impervious surface adding there was 75 parking spaces. A resident said that changing the rules wasn't fair. She said the property owner hadn't been a good steward of the land and thought they could work to do something better. She also cited the need for affordable residential housing. A resident said they needed to be careful about how they went about changes like this. A resident asked why this was different than typical procedures of the Planning Board. Mr. Wilson said that the Planning Board held a public hearing and voted on the proposed rezone. The Moderator said this came forward as a citizen's petition which required the signatures of 10 voters adding procedures were followed. Ms. Wagner said as a member of the Garden Club, the large triangle left in the intersection was adopted by the Garden Club with the State's permission. She said that she looked at the property on the 4th corner and thought the property should be left residential and a beautiful gateway for Groton. Mr. Francisco said that the property was zoned R-A as a purposeful design and not by accident. Ms. Deciccio shared a couple of points she found in the Master Plan trying to keep their rural character. Ms. Campbell said the sewer line was not extended to that corner because it was residential and not intended for commercial use. She said that there had been a housing proposal for that property at one point but nothing happened. Mr. Orcutt said the parcel was not in the sewer district adding if the applicant wanted to connect to sewer, they would need to come before the Commission. He said that they would need to go back to the water resource commission for additional water capacity. Ms. Castellucci said she was opposed to this rezone adding residents moved into the area because it was a residential area. Mr. Petropoulos said that a comprehensive study was done several years ago adding the study found that commercial use yielded the same revenue as a residential use. He asked to hear from the Planning Board as to why they voted in favor of this. Mr. Burke said that he voted in favor of this because of where the property was located, in between two major highways. He said that when they looked at zoning in terms of the permitting pathway for anything on that property, it

would require a special permit for use from Board of Appeals, a special permit from the Planning Board as well as site plan approval, and a fairly extensive set of performance standards to what could be built there. He said that they had the permitting regiment in place.

MS. COLLETTE MOVED THE QUESTION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION: Yes - 175; No – 10; MOTION PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION OF ARTICLE 23

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 45; No – 142; VOTE DID NOT PASS BY 2/3's Majority Vote

ARTICLES 24 THROUGH 33 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

Article 24: *Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Water Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article will request a transfer of funds from Water Surplus to help fund the Fiscal Year 2023 Water Department's Operational Expenses. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$75,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 25: *Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$100,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 26: *Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 Four Corners Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$75,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 27: *Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Cable Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Cable Advisory Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Cable Advisory Committee to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. As of the Printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$10,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 28: *Prior Year Bills*

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

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

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.*

Article 29: *Current Year Line-Item Transfers*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

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

Summary: *To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

Article 30: *Appropriate Money to Offset the 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 2023 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 23.*

Article 31: *Amend Funding Distribution for Middle School Track*

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money to pay additional costs of designing, constructing and equipping a new Middle School track, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing, including a borrowing to be repaid with Community Preservation Act funds, or otherwise provided, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: Article 7 of the 2021 Spring Town Meeting approved a bond of \$1.4 million to construct a new Middle School Track as part of the elementary school project. The Town has issued Bond Anticipation Notes on this approval and is paying interest. It is the Town's intent to permanently borrow these funds within the next two years. Article 9 of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting approved an additional \$1 million for this project as the original \$1.4 million was insufficient to construct the Track. The Town has yet to borrow this additional \$1 million. It was the Town's intent to issue a BAN for this \$1 million this June. That said, the Community Preservation Committee has decided that they have sufficient funding in their unallocated reserve to reduce the borrowing authorization of Article 9 by \$880,000 so only \$120,000 will need to be borrowed (instead of the \$1 million authorized).

Article 32: Debt Service for Middle School Track

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for debt service for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting and Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: This article appropriates the debt payments for the Middle School Track Project. The anticipated debt service for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$55,000. Funding for this article will come from the Unallocated Reserve of the Community Preservation Fund.

Article 33: Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to add or delete any revolving account and/or to set the FY 2024 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2024 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$50,000

Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$10,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONDED

DEBATE: There was no debate and no articles were held.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON CONSENT MOTION 3: Yes - 114; No – 6; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

MOTION TO DISSOLVE THE 2023 SPRING TOWN MEETING

MOVED AND SECONDED

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes - 92; No – 1; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

The 2023 Spring Town Meeting was dissolved at 1:52 PM on April 29, 2023.

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 10th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Matthew F. Pisani

Matthew F. Pisani, Clerk

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Member

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Member

OFFICERS RETURN

Groton, Middlesex

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

Constable

Date Duly Posted

BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2024

Pursuant to Article 6 “Finance and Fiscal Procedure”, Section 6.4 “The Budget”, of the Charter of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Manager are pleased to submit for your consideration the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. When preparing the Proposed Operating Budget, the goal was to submit a budget to Town Meeting that would maintain services in Fiscal Year 2024 at the same level as the current Fiscal Year, and support the Operating Assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. While this proved to be difficult, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Manager worked diligently and cooperatively to balance the proposed budget without the need of an Override of Proposition 2½.

In accordance with the Groton Charter and the Town’s Financial Policies, in October 2022, the Finance Committee and Select Board issued the following guidance to the Town Manager prior to the development of the initial Proposed Operating Budget:

1. The Town Manager shall prepare a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2024 with no proposed Override of Proposition 2½.
2. The Town Manager shall work with representatives of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and Nashoba Valley Technical School District to balance the budget.

To meet the challenge of balancing the Budget without the need of an Override, Local Receipts were thoroughly reviewed with an eye on increasing them to the maximum amount that could be anticipated in Fiscal Year 2024 and accepted by the Department of Revenue in approving the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2024. While the Town’s History is to be as conservative as possible when developing Local Receipts, balancing the Budget was the priority. Even though there was some serious apprehension pushing revenues to this extreme, this was a necessary step in order to meet the budgetary needs of the Town and the School District. Based on this, the Town is estimating an increase in local receipts of \$613,763 from \$4,808,620 to \$5,422,383, or 12.7%. This is the largest increase in local receipts in the past 15 years. Please consider the following:

1. **Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes** – The Town Budgeted \$1,778,290 in Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes in FY 2023. Needing to stretch this line item as much as possible, it is estimated that the Town will receive \$1,820,583 for FY 2024, or an increase of \$42,293 over FY 2023.
2. **Meals Tax/Room Occupancy Tax** – This has been an excellent revenue source over the last year. In Fiscal Year 2023, this line item was increased by \$100,000 and collections thus far in FY 2023

have exceeded this estimate. It is anticipated that the Town will collect an additional \$50,000 in FY 2024.

3. **Recreational Marijuana Revenue** – This is a new revenue line item for Fiscal Year 2024. Currently, two companies are in the process of receiving both local and state approvals to open Recreational Marijuana facilities in Groton. Both companies should be open sometime in Fiscal Year 2024. The Town will receive a 3% tax on total sales. A conservative estimate is that \$5 million in sales will be generated, which will provide the Town with \$150,000 in tax revenues for Fiscal Year 2024.
4. **Payments in Lieu of Taxes** – This line item has been increased by \$71,500 from \$300,000 in FY 2023 to \$371,500 in FY 2024 based on an anticipated receipt of \$25,000 for the new ticket surcharge agreed to by Groton Hill Music. In addition, Groton School has increased its voluntary donation to the Town by \$34,000, while Lawrence Academy and the Groton Electric Light Department have increased their voluntary donations by \$7,500 and \$5,000 respectively.
5. **Other Charges for Services** – This line item has been increased by \$9,000 to \$99,000 to reflect the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Dunstable for their reimbursement for Dispatch Services.
6. **Other Departmental Revenue** – This line item has been increased by \$25,000 to \$800,000 in anticipation of the reimbursement from the Enterprise Funds due to the anticipated increase in Health Insurance.
7. **Licenses and Permits** – Based on the anticipated redevelopment of the Deluxe Property and other subdivisions currently before the Planning Board for approval, this line item has been increased in FY 2024 by \$113,619, from \$315,681 to \$429,300 or 36%.
8. **Investment Income** – This line item has been increased by \$40,000 from \$50,000 to \$90,000, or 80% due to the higher interest rates we have been experiencing in the last year and the money the Town has on hand for the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project. While this will not continue in future fiscal years, it is a safe estimate in FY 2024
9. **Recreation Revenues** – Based on the last three years of the outstanding success of the Groton Country Club (the Town collected \$739,701 in Fiscal Year 2022), we are increasing this estimate by \$94,733 from \$605,267 to \$700,000, or 15.7%.

The Finance Committee and Town Manager have developed the following estimated revenues for Fiscal Year 2024:

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Budgeted FY 2023</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2024</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Property Tax*	\$ 35,383,886	\$ 36,550,003	\$ 1,166,117	3.30%
State Aid	\$ 1,077,749	\$ 1,183,073	\$ 105,324	9.77%
Local Receipts - Excluding Country Club	\$ 4,203,353	\$ 4,722,383	\$ 519,030	12.35%
Country Club Revenue	\$ 605,267	\$ 700,000	\$ 94,733	15.65%
Free Cash	\$ 619,994	\$ 662,827	\$ 42,833	6.91%
Other Available Funds	\$ 309,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 41,000	13.27%
 TOTAL	 \$ 42,199,249	 \$ 44,168,286	 \$ 1,969,037	 4.67%

*Includes 2½ percent increase allowed by law and \$18 million in new growth.

The first area that needed to be reviewed in preparing the Proposed Operating Budget is mandatory expenditures, followed by areas in the budget that are routine in nature. With regard to mandatory expenditures, two categories fit this definition, Pension and Health Insurance. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Town has been notified by the Middlesex County Retirement Board that the Pension Budget will decrease by \$44,630, from \$2,538,910 to 2,494,280, or 1.76%. Health Insurance will increase by \$164,987 from \$1,925,576 to \$2,090,563, or 8.57%.

The Town has seven (7) Collective Bargaining Units. All contracts will be entering the second year of three-year Agreements. All Unions have agreed to a 2% wage adjustment in FY 2024. Contractual salary and wage obligations to these employees, By-Law employees, and others with individual contracts will increase by \$168,739 in FY 2024. Two of the Unions (the Town Hall/Library Union and the DPW Union) are also eligible for a performance incentive that allows employees to receive an increase in their base pay of up to two (2%). In Fiscal Year 2024, this will likely account for an increase in wages of \$50,639. Finally, some employees are eligible for a one-time performance incentive of up to 2½% that is not added to their base. This will be paid from Free Cash. The Fiscal Year 2024 impact for this program is \$41,357. Please note that salaries and wages will increase by a total of \$260,735 in FY 2024, including one-time cash payments.

The Town will continue to see a significant increase in Excluded Debt for Fiscal Year 2024 as the Town continues to pay debt service on the Florence Roche Elementary School Project to cover both debt that has been permanently financed (\$28 million), as well as borrowed using bond anticipation notes (approximately \$27 million). For Fiscal Year 2024, Municipal Excluded Debt will increase from \$3,362,553 to \$4,506,102, an increase of \$1,143,549 or 34%. Excluded Debt from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District will decrease by \$15,731 or 3.7% from \$422,713 to \$406,982. Overall, Excluded Debt will increase in Fiscal Year 2024 by \$1,128,088, or 29.8% from \$3,783,842 to \$4,911,930.

For the last two years, the Country Club has been a success and a revenue generator for the Town of Groton. Fiscal Year 2022 was the most successful year the Country Club has ever had in terms of

revenue generation. In Fiscal Year 2022, the Club made a profit of \$118,086 (total expenses of \$621,615; total revenues of \$739,701). Over a three-year period, there has been no taxpayer subsidy for the operation of the Country Club, with the Club returning a profit to the Town of \$168,348. The Town will continue to manage the Club in the most cost-effective way to the benefit of the taxpayers.

There are two additional highlights in the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget that the Town Manager and Finance Committee would like to call to your attention. First, the position of Town Accountant has been reclassified and renamed Assistant Finance Director/Town Accountant based on a thorough review of the job description and duties required of the position. The salary for the newly titled position in Fiscal Year 2024 has been set at \$110,000. Second, the current DPW Director has notified the Town of his intention to retire in two years. The Town has instituted an “In-Training” Program whereby existing employees are trained to take over the Department Head Position when the current incumbent retires. This training program has been used to appoint the current Town Accountant, Town Treasurer/Tax Collector and Building Commissioner to great success. A DPW Director In-Training Program has been instituted in the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Operating Budget. A stipend of \$7,000 has been set aside in the Highway Budget to pay a current employee for the additional time spent training for the position of DPW Director, while still performing their regular duties.

The collaboration between the Town of Groton and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District continues to be strong. This collaboration has never been more important than in developing the FY 2024 Proposed Operating Budget. The initial Budget of the Town Manager provided to the Finance Committee and Select Board in December, 2022, had set aside an increase in the Assessment of \$1,218,398, or 5.01% based on the historical growth of the Assessment caused by the lack of a significant increase in State Aid. Unfortunately, due to an unprecedented increase in District expenses, including a 14% increase in out-of-District placements, a 3.2% increase in regular transportation costs, a significant increase in their Middlesex County Retirement Assessment, and increased utility costs and union obligations, the District’s Proposed Assessment for Fiscal Year 2024 was significantly higher than the amount of funding set aside in the Town Manager’s Proposed Budget. This required the Town and the District to reevaluate proposed increases in the budget to avoid an Override of Proposition 2½. To do this, several reductions were made in the Municipal Budget. The Town did not fund an additional Firefighter/EMT position in the Fire Department and a current vacancy in the Communications Department has been eliminated. Reductions were also made in minor capital and snow and ice removal costs. The Town will also realize an increase in revenues from the anticipated Fiscal Year 2024 Unrestricted Local Aid and PILOT payments from the two Private Schools and the Groton Electric Light Department. Based on this, the Town was able to set aside an additional \$400,000 for the Operating Assessment of the District, bringing the increase to \$1,618,398, or an increase of 6.65%. The School District also made significant reductions in its proposed FY 2024 Budget by eliminating positions and services allowing the Town to avoid an Override of Proposition 2½ and eliminating the need for further reductions in the Municipal Budget. As stated, the collaboration between the Town and the School District was a key factor in balancing the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Operating Budget.

With regard to the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, the Town has been informed that the number of Groton students attending the School has decreased from 45 to 41. The proposed Assessment for Nashoba Tech is \$762,656, a decrease of \$47,381, or 5.85%.

Section 6-5 of the Groton Charter requires the Finance Committee to provide a report that details the differences between the Town Manager's Proposed Budget and their final Proposed Budget. The following Chart shows the differences between the budget received by the Finance Committee from the Town Manager on December 31, 2022 and the budget that will be proposed to the 2023 Spring Town Meeting:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Department/Description</u>	<u>Original Proposed</u>	<u>Committee Approved</u>
1241	Building Inspector Expenses	\$ 23,750	\$ 21,750
1305	Police Department Minor Capital	\$ 11,420	\$ 6,420
1311	Fire Department Wages	\$ 1,142,499	\$ 1,112,490
1312	Fire Department Expenses	\$ 213,896	\$ 207,096
1370	Police & Fire Communications Wages	\$ 500,064	\$ 448,073
1400	NVRTHS Operating Expenses	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656
1410	GDRSD Operating Expenses	\$ 25,537,716	\$ 25,937,716
1504	Highway Department Minor Capital	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000
1542	Municipal Buildings Minor Capital	\$ 10,000	\$ -
1601	Council on Aging Wages	\$ 122,695	\$ 103,143
1661	Library Wages	\$ 343,002	\$ 314,504
2004	Short Term Debt - Principal - Non-Excluded	\$ 85,174	\$ 212,949
2005A	Short Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ 7,500	\$ 30,676
3010	Employee Benefits Health Insurance	\$ 2,115,563	\$ 2,090,563

The following is a breakdown of the Finance Committee's Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget by function:

<u>Category</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Dollar Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
General Government	\$ 2,293,398	\$ 2,349,147	\$ 55,749	2.43%
Land Use	\$ 460,356	\$ 492,508	\$ 32,152	6.98%
Protection of Persons and Property	\$ 4,833,510	\$ 4,737,597	\$ (95,913)	-1.98%
Department of Public Works	\$ 2,345,816	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 5,679	0.24%
Library and Citizen Services	\$ 1,892,083	\$ 1,945,270	\$ 53,187	2.81%
Sub-Total - Wages and Expenses	\$ 11,825,163	\$ 11,876,016	\$ 50,853	0.43%
Debt Service	\$ 3,651,258	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 1,329,449	36.41%
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,797,706	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 132,957	2.77%
Sub-Total - All Municipal	\$ 20,274,127	\$ 21,787,386	\$ 1,513,259	7.46%
Nashoba Tech	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ (47,381)	-5.85%
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$ 24,319,318	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 1,618,398	6.65%
Groton-Dunstable Excluded Debt	\$ 422,713	\$ 406,982	\$ (15,731)	-3.72%
Groton-Dunstable Debt	\$ 60,191	\$ 58,814	\$ (1,377)	-2.29%
Groton Dunstable Capital	\$ 577,026	\$ 552,203	\$ (24,823)	-4.30%
Sub-Total - Education	\$ 26,189,285	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 1,529,086	5.84%
Grand Total - Town Budget	\$ 46,463,412	\$ 49,505,757	\$ 3,042,345	6.55%

The total Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Operating Budget, including Regional School Assessments and excluded debt, is \$49,505,757, or an increase of 6.55%. This proposed budget is at the anticipated FY 2024 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 \$53,510,505. The Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Rate has been certified at \$15.64. Based on the Proposed Balanced Budget, the estimated Tax Rate in Fiscal Year 2024 is \$16.44, or an increase of \$0.80. In Fiscal Year 2023, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at the current average of \$633,985) is \$9,916. Under this proposed balanced budget, that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$10,423, or an increase of \$507. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2023 and FY 2024:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY 2023</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$ 35,383,886	\$ 36,550,003	\$ 1,166,117	3.30%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 14.13	\$ 14.49	\$ 0.36	2.55%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 8,958	\$ 9,186	\$ 228	2.55%
Excluded Debt	\$ 3,783,842	\$ 4,911,930	\$ 1,128,088	29.81%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.51	\$ 1.95	\$ 0.44	29.14%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 957	\$ 1,236	\$ 279	29.14%
Final Levy Used	\$ 39,167,728	\$ 41,461,933	\$ 2,294,205	5.86%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.64	\$ 16.44	\$ 0.80	5.12%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,916	\$ 10,423	\$ 507	5.12%

The Town Manager and Finance Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Select Board, Town Accountant Patricia DuFresne, Town Treasurer/Collector Hannah Moller, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Michael Hartnett, Town Clerk Dawn Dunbar, Principal Assessor Megan Foster, Human Resources Director Melisa Doig, Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank and all of the Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions for their outstanding work and cooperation in assisting in the preparation of the Proposed Operating Budget. In addition, the outstanding support and cooperation by Superintendent Dr. Laura Chesson, Business Manager Sherry Kersey and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee was extremely important in developing this budget.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad

Groton Town Manager

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Robertson, Chair

Colby Doody, Vice Chair

Gary Green

David Manugian

Scott Whitefield

Michael Sulprizio

Mary Linskey

Groton Finance Committee

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2024
REVENUE ESTIMATES**

	BUDGETED FY 2023		ESTIMATED FY 2024		CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	\$ 35,383,886	\$	36,550,003	\$	1,166,117
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	\$ 3,741,491	\$	4,911,930	\$	1,170,439
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID	\$ 1,077,749	\$	1,183,073	\$	105,324
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY	\$ 6,980	\$	-	\$	(6,980)
LOCAL RECEIPTS:					
General Revenue:					
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$ 1,778,290	\$	1,820,583	\$	42,293
Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Tax	\$ 350,000	\$	400,000	\$	50,000
Marijuana Revenue	\$ -	\$	150,000	\$	150,000
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	\$ 110,000	\$	110,000	\$	-
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 300,000	\$	371,500	\$	71,500
Other Charges for Services	\$ 90,000	\$	99,000	\$	9,000
Fees	\$ 385,446	\$	392,000	\$	6,554
Rentals	\$ 32,000	\$	40,000	\$	8,000
Library Revenues	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Other Departmental Revenue	\$ 775,000	\$	800,000	\$	25,000
Licenses and Permits	\$ 315,681	\$	429,300	\$	113,619
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 10,000	\$	20,000	\$	10,000
Investment Income	\$ 50,000	\$	90,000	\$	40,000
Recreation Revenues	\$ 605,267	\$	700,000	\$	94,733
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	\$ 6,936	\$	-	\$	(6,936)
Sub-total - General Revenue	\$ 4,808,620	\$	5,422,383	\$	613,763
Other Revenue:					
Free Cash	\$ 619,994	\$	662,827	\$	42,833
Capital Stabilization Fund for GDRSD	\$ 577,026	\$	253,407	\$	(323,619)
Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Capital Asset Stabilization Fund	\$ 538,000	\$	620,142	\$	82,142
EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve	\$ -	\$	525,951	\$	525,951
Community Preservation Funds	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Water Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Sewer Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Bond Surplus Transfer	\$ 15,224	\$	-	\$	(15,224)
Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$ 309,000	\$	-	\$	(309,000)
Sub-total - Other Revenue	\$ 2,059,244	\$	2,062,327	\$	3,083
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 1,647,167	\$	1,940,823	\$	293,656
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 837,839	\$	889,498	\$	51,659
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE	\$ 223,219	\$	230,137	\$	6,918
FOUR CORNER SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 79,134	\$	77,812	\$	(1,322)
STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE	\$ 241,095	\$	242,520	\$	1,425
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 49,865,328	\$	53,510,505	\$	3,645,177

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2024
TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS**

FY 2024 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET

General Government	\$	2,349,147
Land Use Departments	\$	492,508
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,737,597
Regional School Districts	\$	27,718,371
Department of Public Works	\$	2,351,495
Library and Citizen Services	\$	1,945,270
Debt Service	\$	4,980,707
Employee Benefits	\$	4,930,663

Sub-Total - Operating Budget \$ 49,505,757

A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	49,505,757
B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	690,142
C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS	\$	3,044,303
D. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REQUEST		

OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED

1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes	\$	-
2. Debt and interest charges not included	\$	-
3. Final court judgments	\$	-
4. Total Overlay deficits of prior years	\$	-
5. Total cherry sheet offsets	\$	25,054
6. Revenue deficits	\$	-
7. Offset Receipts	\$	-
8. Authorized deferral of Teachers' Pay	\$	-
9. Snow and Ice deficit	\$	-
10. Other	\$	-

E. TOTAL OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED	\$	25,054
F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES	\$	95,249
G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS	\$	150,000

TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES \$ **53,510,505**

FY 2024 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

Levy Limit	\$	36,550,003
Debt Exclusion	\$	4,911,930

A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY	\$	41,461,933
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$	1,183,073
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED	\$	5,422,383
D. OFFSET RECEIPTS	\$	-
E. ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$	3,380,789
F. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS	\$	-
G. FREE CASH	\$	662,827

OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS

1. Stabilization Fund	\$	-
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	620,142
3. GDRSD Capital Asset Fund	\$	253,407
4. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	525,951
5. Bond Surplus Transfer	\$	-
6. Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$	-

H. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS \$ 1,399,500

TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS \$ **53,510,505**

FY 2024 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) \$ **(0)**

APPENDIX A

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2024

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>							
MODERATOR							
1000	Salaries	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.21	0.00%
1001	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	0.02	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 65	\$ 145	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	0.22	0.00%
BOARD OF SELECTMEN							
1020	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1021	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1022	Expenses	\$ 2,023	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	1.40	0.01%
1023	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1024	Minor Capital	\$ 25,683	\$ 25,800	\$ 24,054	\$ 24,054	4.97	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 27,706	\$ 32,600	\$ 30,854	\$ 30,854	6.37	0.06%
TOWN MANAGER							
1030	Salaries	\$ 232,258	\$ 240,331	\$ 243,914	\$ 243,914	50.38	0.48%
1031	Wages	\$ 114,378	\$ 119,223	\$ 117,005	\$ 117,005	24.17	0.23%
1032	Expenses	\$ 41,993	\$ 24,700	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	2.50	0.02%
1033	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1034	Performance Evaluations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 388,629	\$ 384,254	\$ 373,019	\$ 373,019	77.04	0.74%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
FINANCE COMMITTEE							
1040	Expenses	\$ 210	\$ 215	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ 0.05	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ 69,641	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 30.98	0.30%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 69,851	\$ 150,215	\$ 150,220	\$ 150,220	\$ 31.03	0.30%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT							
1050	Salaries	\$ 96,408	\$ 101,125	\$ 115,615	\$ 115,615	\$ 23.88	0.23%
1051	Wages	\$ 50,864	\$ 52,906	\$ 54,491	\$ 54,491	\$ 11.25	0.11%
1052	Expenses	\$ 37,706	\$ 40,204	\$ 39,100	\$ 39,100	\$ 8.08	0.08%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 184,978	\$ 194,235	\$ 209,206	\$ 209,206	\$ 43.21	0.41%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS							
1060	Salaries	\$ 81,993	\$ 85,280	\$ 94,300	\$ 94,300	\$ 19.48	0.19%
1061	Wages	\$ 59,949	\$ 65,551	\$ 68,486	\$ 68,486	\$ 14.14	0.14%
1062	Expenses	\$ 23,373	\$ 45,215	\$ 47,374	\$ 47,374	\$ 9.78	0.09%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 165,315	\$ 196,046	\$ 210,160	\$ 210,160	\$ 43.41	0.42%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR							
1070	Salaries	\$ 138,946	\$ 139,455	\$ 147,363	\$ 147,363	\$ 30.44	0.29%
1071	Wages	\$ 74,924	\$ 79,042	\$ 80,256	\$ 80,256	\$ 16.58	0.16%
1072	Expenses	\$ 19,909	\$ 21,695	\$ 26,253	\$ 26,253	\$ 5.42	0.05%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 1,557	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 1.47	0.01%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 1,050	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 0.48	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 236,386	\$ 249,592	\$ 263,272	\$ 263,272	\$ 54.37	0.52%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
TOWN COUNSEL							
1080	Expenses	\$ 60,496	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 18.59	0.18%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 60,496	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 18.59	0.18%
HUMAN RESOURCES							
1090	Salary	\$ 82,822	\$ 87,984	\$ 94,300	\$ 94,300	\$ 19.48	0.19%
1091	Expenses	\$ 14,376	\$ 11,400	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,400	\$ 2.56	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 97,198	\$ 99,384	\$ 106,700	\$ 106,700	\$ 22.04	0.21%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
1100	Salary	\$ 115,193	\$ 121,981	\$ 121,627	\$ 121,627	\$ 25.12	0.24%
1101	Wages	\$ 58,730	\$ 61,269	\$ 63,115	\$ 63,115	\$ 13.04	0.13%
1102	Expenses	\$ 20,031	\$ 22,800	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	\$ 5.12	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 193,954	\$ 206,050	\$ 209,542	\$ 209,542	\$ 43.28	0.42%
GIS STEERING COMMITTEE							
1120	Expenses	\$ 3,975	\$ 10,800	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 1.71	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,975	\$ 10,800	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 1.71	0.02%
TOWN CLERK							
1130	Salaries	\$ 90,853	\$ 104,438	\$ 98,472	\$ 98,472	\$ 20.34	0.20%
1131	Wages	\$ 63,733	\$ 76,040	\$ 72,675	\$ 72,675	\$ 15.01	0.14%
1132	Expenses	\$ 5,547	\$ 9,867	\$ 13,600	\$ 13,600	\$ 2.81	0.03%
1135	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 160,133	\$ 190,345	\$ 184,747	\$ 184,747	\$ 38.16	0.37%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS							
1140	Stipend	\$ 6,065	\$ 21,795	\$ 20,430	\$ 20,430	\$ 4.22	0.04%
1141	Expenses	\$ 6,700	\$ 12,437	\$ 15,417	\$ 15,417	\$ 3.18	0.03%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,765	\$ 34,232	\$ 35,847	\$ 35,847	\$ 7.40	0.07%
STREET LISTINGS							
1150	Expenses	\$ 4,818	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,700	\$ 1.18	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,818	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,700	\$ 1.18	0.01%
INSURANCE & BONDING							
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 282,024	\$ 300,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 66.09	0.63%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ 3,089	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 2.48	0.02%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 6,449	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5.16	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 291,562	\$ 337,000	\$ 357,000	\$ 357,000	\$ 73.73	0.71%
TOWN REPORT							
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,364	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 0.31	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,364	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 0.31	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES							
1180 Expenses		\$ 55,011	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 13.42	0.13%
1181 Telephone Expenses		\$ 13,043	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 6.20	0.06%
1182 Office Supplies		\$ 24,835	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 3.51	0.03%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 92,889	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 23.13	0.22%
<hr/>							
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		\$ 1,992,084	\$ 2,293,398	\$ 2,349,147	\$ 2,349,147	\$ 485.18	4.65%
<hr/>							
LAND USE DEPARTMENTS							
CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
1200 Salary		\$ 69,481	\$ 73,971	\$ 73,351	\$ 73,351	\$ 15.15	0.15%
1201 Wages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1202 Expenses		\$ 6,260	\$ 7,565	\$ 8,770	\$ 8,770	\$ 1.81	0.02%
1203 Engineering & Legal		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1204 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 75,741	\$ 81,536	\$ 82,121	\$ 82,121	\$ 16.96	0.16%
<hr/>							
PLANNING BOARD							
1210 Salaries		\$ 84,016	\$ 89,236	\$ 89,453	\$ 89,453	\$ 18.48	0.18%
1211 Wages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1212 Expenses		\$ 9,877	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,950	\$ 2.06	0.02%
1215 M.R.P.C. Assessment		\$ 3,849	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ 0.87	0.01%
1216 Legal Budget		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 97,742	\$ 103,186	\$ 103,603	\$ 103,603	\$ 21.40	0.21%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS							
1220 Wages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1221 Expenses		\$ 666	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 666	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION							
1230 Wages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1231 Expenses		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
BUILDING INSPECTOR							
1240 Salaries		\$ 94,254	\$ 104,760	\$ 104,904	\$ 104,904	21.67	0.21%
1241 Wages		\$ 57,054	\$ 58,769	\$ 60,823	\$ 60,823	12.56	0.12%
1242 Expenses		\$ 6,334	\$ 3,700	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	4.49	0.04%
1243 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 157,642	\$ 167,229	\$ 187,477	\$ 187,477	38.72	0.37%
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR							
1250 Fee Salaries		\$ 41,430	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	8.05	0.08%
1251 Expenses		\$ 2,774	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.83	0.01%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 44,204	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	8.88	0.09%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR							
1260 Stipend		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.52	0.00%
1261 Expenses		\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	0.04	0.00%
1262 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	0.56	0.01%
BOARD OF HEALTH							
1270 Wages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1271 Expenses		\$ 308	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	0.33	0.00%
1272 Nursing Services		\$ -	\$ 14,455	\$ 17,798	\$ 17,798	3.68	0.04%
1273 Nashoba Health District		\$ 61,933	\$ 31,675	\$ 38,833	\$ 38,833	8.02	0.08%
1274 Herbert Lipton MH		\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1275 Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring		\$ 9,133	\$ 10,200	\$ 10,600	\$ 10,600	2.19	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 79,374	\$ 57,905	\$ 68,806	\$ 68,806	14.21	0.14%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES							
1280 Fee Salaries		\$ 1,090	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	0.66	0.01%
1281 Expenses		\$ 440	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.02	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,530	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	0.68	0.01%
TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 459,399	\$ 460,356	\$ 492,508	\$ 492,508	101.72	0.98%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</u>							
POLICE DEPARTMENT							
1300	Salaries	\$ 291,262	\$ 278,889	\$ 286,466	\$ 286,466	\$ 59.17	0.57%
1301	Wages	\$ 1,956,346	\$ 2,086,001	\$ 2,116,748	\$ 2,116,748	\$ 437.18	4.19%
1302	Expenses	\$ 185,392	\$ 214,450	\$ 215,370	\$ 215,370	\$ 44.48	0.43%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1.03	0.01%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 6,420	\$ 6,420	\$ 1.33	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,449,000	\$ 2,595,340	\$ 2,630,004	\$ 2,630,004	\$ 543.19	5.21%
FIRE DEPARTMENT							
1310	Salaries	\$ 235,000	\$ 260,754	\$ 276,595	\$ 276,595	\$ 57.13	0.55%
1311	Wages	\$ 1,035,806	\$ 1,220,616	\$ 1,112,490	\$ 1,112,490	\$ 229.77	2.20%
1312	Expenses	\$ 124,201	\$ 195,600	\$ 207,096	\$ 207,096	\$ 42.77	0.41%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,395,007	\$ 1,676,970	\$ 1,596,181	\$ 1,596,181	\$ 329.67	3.16%
GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION							
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
ANIMAL INSPECTOR							
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 0.43	0.00%
1331	Expenses	\$ 20	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 0.08	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,102	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 0.51	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER							
1340 Salary		\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.43	0.00%
1341 Expenses		\$ 40	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.08	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,122	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.51	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY							
1350 Salary		\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.83	0.01%
1351 Expenses		\$ 9,998	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	2.07	0.02%
1352 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 13,998	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	2.89	0.03%
DOG OFFICER							
1360 Salary		\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	3.61	0.03%
1361 Expenses		\$ 2,356	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.62	0.01%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 17,356	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	4.23	0.04%
POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS							
1370 Wages		\$ 453,495	\$ 500,359	\$ 448,073	\$ 448,073	92.54	0.89%
1371 Expenses		\$ 10,826	\$ 23,875	\$ 23,875	\$ 23,875	4.93	0.05%
1372 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 464,321	\$ 524,234	\$ 471,948	\$ 471,948	97.47	0.94%
TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY		\$ 4,343,906	\$ 4,833,510	\$ 4,737,597	\$ 4,737,597	978.48	9.39%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</u>							
NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL							
1400	Operating Expenses	\$ 807,474	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 762,656	\$ 157.51	1.51%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 807,474	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 762,656	\$ 157.51	1.51%
GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT							
1410	Operating Expenses	\$ 24,023,134	\$ 24,319,318	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 5,357.03	51.40%
1411	Debt Service, Excluded	\$ -	\$ 422,713	\$ 406,982	\$ 406,982	\$ 84.06	0.81%
1412	Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$ -	\$ 60,191	\$ 58,814	\$ 58,814	\$ 12.15	0.12%
1413	Out of District Placement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1414	Capital Assessment	\$ 217,298	\$ 577,026	\$ 552,203	\$ 552,203	\$ 114.05	1.09%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 24,240,432	\$ 25,379,248	\$ 26,955,715	\$ 26,955,715	\$ 5,567.28	53.41%
TOTAL SCHOOLS		\$ 25,047,906	\$ 26,189,285	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 5,724.79	54.92%
<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</u>							
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT							
1500	Salaries	\$ 113,785	\$ 120,523	\$ 120,293	\$ 120,293	\$ 24.84	0.24%
1501	Wages	\$ 685,051	\$ 743,115	\$ 743,323	\$ 743,323	\$ 153.52	1.47%
1502	Expenses	\$ 138,154	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	\$ 28.27	0.27%
1503	Highway Maintenance	\$ 73,852	\$ 90,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 16.52	0.16%
1504	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 3.10	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,010,842	\$ 1,110,538	\$ 1,095,516	\$ 1,095,516	\$ 226.26	2.17%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
STREET LIGHTS							
1510 Expenses		\$ 12,209	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.10	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,209	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.10	0.03%
SNOW AND ICE							
1520 Expenses		\$ 154,236	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	34.08	0.33%
1521 Overtime		\$ 291,882	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	28.91	0.28%
1522 Hired Equipment		\$ 55,369	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	7.23	0.07%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 501,487	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	70.22	0.67%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET							
1530 Salary		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1531 Expenses		\$ 2,499	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.62	0.01%
1532 Trees		\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
1533 Tree Work		\$ 8,322	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	6.20	0.06%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 10,821	\$ 14,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	7.13	0.07%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE							
1540 Wages		\$ 150,671	\$ 159,057	\$ 166,348	\$ 166,348	34.36	0.33%
1541 Expenses		\$ 263,725	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	55.96	0.54%
1542 Minor Capital		\$ 9,941	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 424,337	\$ 440,007	\$ 437,298	\$ 437,298	90.32	0.87%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL							
1550 Wages		\$ 140,322	\$ 150,995	\$ 154,315	\$ 154,315	\$ 31.87	0.31%
1551 Expenses		\$ 45,741	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 9.44	0.09%
1552 Tipping Fees		\$ 133,758	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 29.95	0.29%
1553 North Central SW Coop		\$ 3,088	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 1.21	0.01%
1554 Minor Capital		\$ 4,312	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1.03	0.01%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 327,221	\$ 352,531	\$ 355,851	\$ 355,851	\$ 73.50	0.71%
PARKS DEPARTMENT							
1560 Wages		\$ 15,817	\$ 17,481	\$ 17,571	\$ 17,571	\$ 3.63	0.03%
1561 Expenses		\$ 57,700	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 11.52	0.11%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 73,517	\$ 73,240	\$ 73,330	\$ 73,330	\$ 15.15	0.15%
<hr/>							
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		\$ 2,360,434	\$ 2,345,816	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 485.66	4.66%
 <u>LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES</u>							
COUNCIL ON AGING							
1600 Salaries		\$ 73,786	\$ 85,855	\$ 87,446	\$ 87,446	\$ 18.06	0.17%
1601 Wages		\$ 57,873	\$ 121,590	\$ 103,143	\$ 103,143	\$ 21.30	0.20%
1602 Expenses		\$ 15,517	\$ 11,054	\$ 12,254	\$ 12,254	\$ 2.53	0.02%
1603 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 147,176	\$ 218,499	\$ 202,843	\$ 202,843	\$ 41.89	0.40%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SENIOR CENTER VAN							
1610 Wages		\$ 42,865	\$ 54,331	\$ 74,808	\$ 74,808	\$ 15.45	0.15%
1611 Expenses		\$ 12,865	\$ 13,673	\$ 18,023	\$ 18,023	\$ 3.72	0.04%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 55,730	\$ 68,004	\$ 92,831	\$ 92,831	\$ 19.17	0.18%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER							
1620 Salary		\$ 5,192	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,120	\$ 6,120	\$ 1.26	0.01%
1621 Expenses		\$ 25	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 0.23	0.00%
1622 Veterans' Benefits		\$ 17,062	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5.16	0.05%
1623 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$ 22,279	\$ 37,100	\$ 32,220	\$ 32,220	\$ 6.65	0.06%
GRAVES REGISTRATION							
1630 Salary/Stipend		\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 0.05	0.00%
1631 Expenses		\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 0.16	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 0.21	0.00%
CARE OF VETERAN GRAVES							
1640 Contract Expenses		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 0.31	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 0.31	0.00%
OLD BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE							
1650 Expenses		\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 0.17	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 0.17	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
LIBRARY							
1660	Salary	\$ 411,697	\$ 428,544	\$ 441,807	\$ 441,807	\$ 91.25	0.88%
1661	Wages	\$ 290,240	\$ 342,055	\$ 314,504	\$ 314,504	\$ 64.96	0.62%
1662	Expenses	\$ 199,361	\$ 217,697	\$ 226,873	\$ 226,873	\$ 46.86	0.45%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 901,298	\$ 988,296	\$ 983,184	\$ 983,184	\$ 203.06	1.95%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS							
1670	Expenses	\$ 50	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 0.10	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 50	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 0.10	0.00%
WATER SAFETY							
1680	Wages	\$ 3,927	\$ 4,418	\$ 4,560	\$ 4,560	\$ 0.94	0.01%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ 2,907	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683	\$ 0.97	0.01%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ 1,323	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 1.86	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 5,250	\$ 16,325	\$ 18,243	\$ 18,243	\$ 3.77	0.04%
WEED MANAGEMENT							
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 12,562	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 4.54	0.04%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ 2,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 2.56	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,947	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	\$ 7.10	0.07%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB							
1700 Salary		\$ 162,122	\$ 170,414	\$ 172,675	\$ 172,675	\$ 35.66	0.34%
1701 Wages		\$ 176,746	\$ 193,000	\$ 237,305	\$ 237,305	\$ 49.01	0.47%
1702 Expenses		\$ 180,650	\$ 162,250	\$ 167,774	\$ 167,774	\$ 34.65	0.33%
1703 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 519,518	\$ 525,664	\$ 577,754	\$ 577,754	\$ 119.33	1.14%
TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES		\$ 1,668,758	\$ 1,892,083	\$ 1,945,270	\$ 1,945,270	\$ 401.76	3.85%
<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>							
DEBT SERVICE							
2000 Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded		\$ 1,229,153	\$ 2,112,000	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 386.22	3.71%
2001 Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded		\$ -	\$ 158,786	\$ 153,506	\$ 153,506	\$ 31.70	0.30%
2002 Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded		\$ 674,914	\$ 1,208,202	\$ 1,418,852	\$ 1,418,852	\$ 293.04	2.81%
2003 Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded		\$ -	\$ 82,021	\$ 77,474	\$ 77,474	\$ 16.00	0.15%
2004 Short Term Debt - Principal - Town		\$ -	\$ 85,174	\$ 212,949	\$ 212,949	\$ 43.98	0.42%
2005A Short Term Debt - Interest - Non Excluded		\$ 3,740	\$ 5,075	\$ 30,676	\$ 30,676	\$ 6.34	0.06%
2005B Short Term Debt - Interest - Excluded		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,217,250	\$ 1,217,250	\$ 251.40	2.41%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,907,807	\$ 3,651,258	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 1,028.69	9.87%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		\$ 1,907,807	\$ 3,651,258	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 1,028.69	9.87%
<u>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</u>							
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
GENERAL BENEFITS							
3000 County Retirement		\$ 2,385,255	\$ 2,538,910	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 515.15	4.94%
3001 State Retirement		\$ 177,094	\$ 181,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 38.21	0.37%
3002 Unemployment Compensation		\$ 9,891	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2.07	0.02%
INSURANCE							
3010 Health Insurance/Employee Expenses		\$ 1,749,313	\$ 1,925,576	\$ 2,090,563	\$ 2,090,563	\$ 431.77	4.14%
3011 Life Insurance		\$ 3,549	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 0.79	0.01%
3012 Medicare/Social Security		\$ 142,291	\$ 138,400	\$ 147,000	\$ 147,000	\$ 30.36	0.29%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,467,393	\$ 4,797,706	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 1,018.35	9.77%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		\$ 4,467,393	\$ 4,797,706	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 1,018.35	9.77%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>							
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS							
	Capital Budget Request	\$ 625,000	\$ 728,000	\$ 690,142	\$ 690,142	\$ 142.54	1.37%
	Offset Reciepts		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 22,346	\$ 22,346	\$ 25,054	\$ 25,054	\$ 5.17	0.05%
	Snow and Ice Deficit	\$ 80,000	\$ 168,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	State and County Charges	\$ 97,077	\$ 95,249	\$ 95,249	\$ 95,249	\$ 19.67	0.19%
	Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	\$ 273,169	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 30.98	0.30%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,097,592	\$ 1,063,635	\$ 960,445	\$ 960,445	198.36	1.90%
	GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	\$ 43,345,279	\$ 47,527,047	\$ 50,466,202	\$ 50,466,202	\$ 10,423	100.00%

024 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS

DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
WATER DEPARTMENT							
WD Salaries	\$ 145,271	\$ 151,444	\$ 152,121	\$ 161,518	\$ 166,505	\$ 166,505	3.09%
WD Wages	\$ 167,539	\$ 186,050	\$ 255,303	\$ 264,003	\$ 278,587	\$ 278,587	5.52%
WD Expenses	\$ 547,269	\$ 499,510	\$ 526,019	\$ 676,063	\$ 587,900	\$ 587,900	-13.04%
WD Debt Service	\$ 402,140	\$ 361,977	\$ 369,185	\$ 545,583	\$ 907,830	\$ 907,830	66.40%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,262,219	\$ 1,198,981	\$ 1,302,628	\$ 1,647,167	\$ 1,940,823	\$ 1,940,823	17.83%
SEWER DEPARTMENT							
Sewer Salaries	\$ 19,440	\$ 20,488	\$ 21,579	\$ 23,339	\$ 22,623	\$ 22,623	-3.07%
Sewer Wages	\$ 36,540	\$ 50,727	\$ 51,737	\$ 46,114	\$ 49,872	\$ 49,872	8.15%
Sewer Expense	\$ 633,821	\$ 534,552	\$ 683,919	\$ 734,494	\$ 783,578	\$ 783,578	6.68%
Sewer Debt Service	\$ 38,338	\$ 5,504	\$ 5,316	\$ 33,892	\$ 33,426	\$ 33,426	-1.37%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 728,139	\$ 611,271	\$ 762,551	\$ 837,839	\$ 889,498	\$ 889,498	6.17%
FOUR CORNERS SEWER DEPARTMENT							
Four Corners Sewer Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,361	\$ 2,361	100.00%
Four Corners Sewer Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,683	\$ 5,541	\$ 5,541	-27.87%
Four Corners Sewer Expense	\$ 20,619	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 71,451	\$ 69,909	\$ 69,909	-2.16%
Four Corners Sewer Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 20,619	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 79,134	\$ 77,812	\$ 77,812	-1.67%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT							
Cable Salaries	\$ 77,180	\$ 93,104	\$ 69,975	\$ 69,916	\$ 69,656	\$ 69,656	-0.37%
Cable Wages	\$ 53,999	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,827	\$ 65,235	\$ 58,510	\$ 58,510	-10.31%
Cable Expenses	\$ 61,355	\$ 58,737	\$ 52,535	\$ 88,069	\$ 91,971	\$ 91,971	4.43%
Cable Minor Capital	\$ 803	\$ 2,357	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 193,337	\$ 209,470	\$ 183,337	\$ 223,219	\$ 230,137	\$ 230,137	3.10%
STORMWATER UTILITY							
Stormwater Wages/Benefits	\$ -	\$ 31,330	\$ 74,091	\$ 78,095	\$ 79,520	\$ 79,520	1.82%
Stormwater Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	-75.00%
Stormwater Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,201	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	0.00%
Stormwater Compliance Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,616	\$ 49,000	\$ 35,978	\$ 35,978	-26.58%
Stormwater Disposal/Expenses	\$ -	\$ 27,537	\$ 5,800	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0.00%
Stormwater Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,000	\$ 51,022	\$ 51,022	121.83%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 58,867	\$ 173,708	\$ 241,095	\$ 242,520	\$ 242,520	0.59%
ALL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$ 2,204,314	\$ 2,116,492	\$ 2,476,779	\$ 3,028,453	\$ 3,380,789	\$ 3,380,789	11.63%

APPENDIX B**FACTOR: 1.0200**

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2024 (Effective July 1, 2023)**

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
4	Salary	41,459	51,307
	Wages	19.96	24.65
5	Salary	43,826	54,192
	Wages	21.09	26.08
7	Salary	50,676	64,190
	Wages	24.95	30.86
8	Salary	57,529	71,231
	Wages	27.66	34.04
9	Salary	58,915	72,903
	Wages	28.33	35.05
10	Salary Executive Assistant to Town Manager	67,568	85,279
	Wages	32.50	41.00
11	Salary Human Resources Director	70,502	89,828
	Wages	33.89	43.19
12	Salary	72,808	92,004
	Wages	35.03	44.24

APPENDIX B
Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2024 (Effective July 1, 2023)

FACTOR: 1.0200

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
13	Salary	75,408	95,710
	Wages	36.25	46.01
14	Salary	77,010	97,463
	Wages	37.03	46.86
15	Salary	79,505	98,354
	Wages	38.22	47.29
16	Salary	82,377	100,164
	Wages	39.61	48.15
17	Salary	92,289	114,170
	Wages	44.37	54.89
18	Salary	99,805	123,516
	IT Director Wages	47.98	59.38
19	Salary	102,425	126,736
	Wages	49.25	60.93
20	Salary	109,825	135,070
	Wages	52.81	64.93

APPENDIX B

NON-CLASSIFIED, TEMPORARY SEASONAL AND STIPEND POSITIONS

NON-STEP AND STIPEND POSITIONS

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Call Captain: Fire	26.14
Call Lieutenant: Fire	25.61
Call Firefighter	22.41
Call Emergency Medical Technician	22.41
Probationary Firefighter	18.67
Probationary Emergency Medical Technician	18.67
Call Fire Mechanic	62.73

MISCELLANEOUS

Veteran's Agent	6,000
Earth Removal Inspector	2,500
Dog Officer	17,500
Animal Inspector	2,082
Animal Control Officer	2,082
Town Diarist	1.00
Keeper of the Town Clock	1.00
Per Diem Van Driver	19.13 - 21.53
Park Ranger	Minimum Wage
Graves Registration Officer	250
Emergency Management Director	4,000
Election Worker: Warden	Minimum Wage
Election Worker: Precinct Clerk	Minimum Wage
Election Worker: Inspectors (Checker)	Minimum Wage

Country Club Seasonal Employees

Pro Shop Staff	MW *- 18.00
Pool Staff	MW - 18.00
Lifeguards	MW - 19.00
Swim Coaches	MW - 24.00
Camp Staff	MW - 18.00
Counselors	MW - 19.00
Buildings & Grounds	MW - 28.00
Library Shelves	MW - 19.00

* - Minimum Wage

NOTES

Town of Groton
Select Board
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Groton, MA 01450
PERMIT #3

RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA

MINUTES

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2023 FALL TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Saturday, October 28, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Attention Voters
Please bring this Document to Town Meeting

Introduction to Groton Town Meeting

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

What is Town Meeting?

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

What is a warrant?

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

How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive an electronic voting handset which is required to vote. The meeting typically acts on the articles in the order they are printed in the warrant. For each article, a main motion is made and seconded by voters and placed by the moderator on the floor for debate. Permission of the moderator is required to speak. The moderator presides and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and calls and declares all votes. After debate has ended, the moderator will call for a vote by use of the electronic voting handset.

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

² *Id.*

Who can attend?

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

How long is Town Meeting?

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

Explanation of a Consent Agenda

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

How Consent Agendas Work

As the first step to act on a consent agenda, the moderator will read the titles of the included articles. A voter who wishes to remove an article from the consent agenda for separate debate and vote should state “hold.” The held article will be set aside and acted on after the vote on the consent agenda. After the meeting agrees on the contents of the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every motion included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail as a group. Voters should read the warrant and review the proposed consent agendas to identify articles they wish to remove for separate consideration.



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. The van is wheelchair accessible. Your reservation can be made by calling the Senior Center at 978-448-1170. Seats will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Questions or concerns - If you or a member of your household has questions or would like to request a sign language interpreter, please contact the Select Board's Office at Town Hall at 978 448-1111 at least one week before the Town Meeting.

2023 FALL TOWN MEETING OFFICIALS

MEETING DATE – OCTOBER 28, 2023

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator:

None

Board of Selectmen:

Peter Cunningham, Chair
John Reilly, Vice-Chair
Alison Manugian, Clerk
Matt Pisani
Becky Pine

Finance Committee:

Bud Robertson, Chair
Colby Doody, Vice Chair
Gary Green
Mary Linskey
David Manugian
Michael Sulprizio
Scott Whitefield

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad
Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant

Town Clerk:

Dawn E. Dunbar

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on October 28, 2023 at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Performing Arts Center. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided. There is no quorum requirement for this Annual Town Meeting. 80 voters were in attendance for the meeting as of 9:00 AM.

Announcements:

An announcement was made about the Master Plan survey that is online.

The Moderator stated that there would be a Special Town Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The ballot will contain a single Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion question. The polls will be open from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Precinct 1 will vote at The Center, 163 West Main Street, and Precincts 2 and 3 will vote at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School South Gymnasium, 344 Main Street. Precinct 3A, effective September 27th, was officially merged into Precinct 1.

Early Voting by Mail and Absentee ballots are available for this special election. The last day to request a ballot by mail is Tuesday, October 31, 2023 by 5:00 PM. In-person early voting is also available for this election. Hours can be found in the Ballot Information Booklet you should have received in the mail and on the Town's website at www.grotonma.gov. Specific information and options on how to request a ballot by mail can also be found on the town's website. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions about the election, your voter status or polling location.

Procedures to be used on October 28:

- Wireless microphones will be used. If a voter cannot go to a microphone, one will be brought to the speaker.
- Copies of the Warrant and Town Meeting Information Packet were available in the lobby.
- There were 15 articles on the warrant with 15 Motions and 1 Consent Motions.
- The main proponent and opponent of an article would be allowed 7 minutes in which to present their argument.
- The Moderator performed a test of the handsets and explained the process for the handsets.

90 Voters were present at 9:07 AM

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

The Meeting took the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION – Limit Debate

MOVER: Michelle Collette

I move that debate during this town meeting 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: 2/3's Majority

Vote of Motion to Limit Debate: Yes – 72; No – 12; Passed by 2/3's Majority

The timekeepers were Hannah Moller and Megan Foster. The Moderator determined that the warrant was duly posted.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

**VOTE ON MOTION TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE WARRANT: Yes – 83; No – 3;
Passed by 2/3's Majority**

**FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT & MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2023**

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, 344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts in said Town on Saturday, the twenty-eighth day of October, 2023 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider all business before the Town Meeting, and on Tuesday, the seventh day of November, 2023, between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M., at a special adjourned session thereof at the following locations:

Precinct 1	The Groton Center	Precincts 2 & 3	Middle School South Gymnasium
	163 West Main Street		344 Main Street

to give their ballot for the following Question:

Question 1:

Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued for the purpose of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street in Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources and to improve the water systems of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell by expanding municipal fire protection, head off a potential PFAS plume spread, and increase water system resilience by establishing emergency interconnections between the three systems, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

YES _____ NO _____

ARTICLE LISTINGS

DISPOSITION**

Article 1	Prior Year Bills	6	Passed
Article 2*	Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Town Operating Budget	6	Passed
Article 3*	Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget	7	Passed
Article 4*	Transfer Money Into Capital Stabilization Fund	8	Passed
Article 5*	Transfer Money Into Stabilization Fund	8	Passed
Article 6*	Transfer Money Into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund	9	Passed
Article 7*	Transfer Money into the Special Purpose Opioid Stabilization Fund	9	Passed
Article 8*	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	10	Passed
Article 9	Amend Article - Article 12 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting (GDRSD – PFAS)	10	Passed
Article 10	Water Supply System at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street	11	Passed
Article 11	Adopt M.G.L., c.53, §9A - Nomination Papers for Cities or Towns	12	Passed
Article 12	Amend Town Charter – Article 6, Section 6.4.1	12	Passed
Article 13	Disposition of Parcel 249-51 Hoyts Wharf Road	13	Passed
Article 14	Disposition of Parcel 249-57 Cow Pond Brook Road	14	Passed
Article 15	Accept New Public Ways	15	Passed
	Report of the Town Manager to the 2023 Fall Town Meeting	17	

*Will be presented as one motion as a Consent Agenda

**SEE INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES BELOW FOR ACTUAL VOTE TOTALS

Article 1: *Prior Year Bills*

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

Select Board

Select Board: *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. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 17 for additional information related to this Article.*

MOTION: I move that the sum of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400) be transferred from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus for the payment of the following bill of a prior fiscal year:

Nashoba Analytical	\$400
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MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONED

DEBATE: There was no debate.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 4/5's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes – 96; No - 3; VOTE PASSED BY 4/5's Majority Vote

Article 2: *Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Town Operating Budget*

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget as adopted under Article 5 of the 2023 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 2024, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

Select Board

Town Manager

Select Board: *See Town Manager's Report for Recommendation Beginning on Page 17*

Finance Committee: *See Town Manager's Report for Recommendation Beginning on Page 17*

Summary: *The Fiscal Year 2024 Town Operating Budget was approved at the 2023 Spring Town Meeting in May, 2023. 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 2024 Operating Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 17 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 3: Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Summary: *The 2023 Spring Town Meeting approved the majority of the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget. Two items that were part of the Capital Budget were not funded in the Spring with the intent of bringing them to the Fall Town Meeting for Funding from the Town's FY 2024 Certified Free Cash as follows:*

Item #1 – Seal Police and Fire Station Parking Lots	\$30,000	Town Facilities
--	-----------------	------------------------

Summary: *Periodically parking lots need a coating to extend the life. The Fire Station was done once and will need to be done again as well as the Police Station. By keeping up with the parking lots it should give them an extra 10 years or so of life.*

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

Item #2 – Parking Lot Improvements	\$80,000	Country Club
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Summary: *The Club's parking lot is in need of resurfacing and striping.*

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

Article 4: Transfer Money Into the Capital Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money to be added to the

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

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *As of the printing of this Warrant, the Fund has a balance of \$102,911. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Capital Stabilization Fund equal to 1.5% of the total annual budget. The target amount for the Capital Stabilization Fund will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 17 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 5: *Transfer Money into the Stabilization Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *As of the printing of this Warrant, the balance in this fund is \$2,398,574. The financial management goal is to achieve and maintain a balance in the Fund equal to 5% of the total annual budget. The target amount for the Fund will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 17 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 6: *Transfer Money into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Town of Groton Capital Stabilization Fund for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

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

Summary: *As of the printing of the Warrant, the balance in this fund is \$9,240. This fund covers the Town of Groton's share of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee's long-range Capital Plan to address its capital needs. The target amount will be provided at Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 17 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 7: *Transfer Money into the Special Purpose Opioid Stabilization Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money to be added to the Special Purpose Opioid Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

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

Summary: *At the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, the Town voted to establish a special purpose stabilization fund in which to collect all Opioid Abatement Funds allocated to Groton by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Between 2022 and 2038, Groton is expected to receive approximately \$38,300 in statewide opioid settlements reached between the Attorney General and companies or individuals that allegedly fueled the opioid crisis. The funds that were received prior to the establishment of the new stabilization fund, \$4,990.48, were certified as part of the Town's Free Cash at 6/30/23 and therefore must be specifically appropriated for transfer to this new special purpose fund. Going forward, all new opioid settlement money received will be deposited directly into the Opioid Stabilization Fund. This fund will be used (consistent with state guidelines) for opioid use prevention, harm reduction, and treatment and recovery programs.*

Article 8: *Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Enterprise Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Water Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This Article will seek a transfer from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Department's General Expense for the Operating Budget for a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) Upgrade at the Baddacook Pond Treatment Facility. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 17 for additional information related to this Article.*

MOTION: I move that the Town take affirmative action on Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8, pursuant to the motions as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided however that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED

DEBATE: There were no holds and no debate.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON CONSENT MOTION: Yes – 88; No - 11; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 9: *Amend Article - Article 12 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting (GDRSD – PFAS)*

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 12 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting by adding the following additional language after the words “in said water supply sources”:

“and to improve the water systems of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell by expanding municipal fire protection, head off a potential PFAS plume spread, and increase water system resilience by establishing emergency interconnections between the three systems,”

and, further, to amend Article 12 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting by adding the following wording at the end of the Article: “provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by G.L. c. 59, §21C (Proposition 2½)”,

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended (5 In Favor, 1 Deferred – Green)

Summary: Article 12 of the Spring Town Meeting approved funding for the extension of municipal drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and the surrounding properties in Dunstable on Groton Street and Kemp Street and on North Street in Groton to address PFAS contamination at the High School. A new water source for the High School and surrounding properties is necessary to address this issue. Since that time, the Towns of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell have been working on a regional solution to both address the PFAS at the High School and expand municipal fire protection, head off potential PFAS plume spread and increase water system resilience. The Spring Town Meeting approved \$16.7 million for this project. Prior to spending any funds appropriated under Article 12, the Select Board is requesting that the debt service for this Article be subject to a Debt Exclusion pursuant to G.L. c.59, §21 (Proposition 2½).

MOTION: I move to amend Article 12 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting by adding the following additional language after the words “in said water supply sources”:

“and to improve the water systems of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell by expanding municipal fire protection, head off a potential PFAS plume spread, and increase water system resilience by establishing emergency interconnections between the three systems,”

and, further, to amend Article 12 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting by adding the following wording at the end of the Article: “provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by G.L. c. 59, §21C (Proposition 2½)”,

MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONDED

DEBATE: Tyler Schmidt of Environmental Partners and Mark Haddad, Town Manager gave a presentation to the meeting.

There were 126 voters present at 9:30AM.

Mr. Alberghini asked if there were already any water pipes going up Chicopee Row. Mr. Haddad said it would be an extension from the current water main on Hollis Street. Mr. Alberghini asked about the permits. Mr. Haddad said he didn’t anticipate any issues with obtaining the permits for Phase I. Mr. Alberghini asked how much money we were getting from the State toward the cost. Mr. Haddad said that they applied for SRF loans but had not been notified if they received it yet.

Peter Jeffrey said properties were tested on Kemp Street but asked about Reedy Meadow and Nashua Road properties. Mr. Haddad said that the GDRSD was required to hire an LSP (Licensed Site Professional) who had tested wells. He said anytime a property was found to have PFAS,

they extended their testing area. He said it appeared that the plume was heading North and not toward Nashua Road.

Michelle Collette said that the Board of Health voted unanimously to support this article.

Rick Muelhke asked for confirmation that nothing they were doing would stop the plume spread. Mr. Haddad said that the purpose of Phase 2 was to be able to add water to those properties that could be affected by the plume spread. Tyler Schmidt said that this wouldn't stop the plume but would bring drinking water to drinking water standards. Mr. Muelhke asked if the Fire Department had eliminated foam from their operation. Mr. Haddad said that they had.

Mike Manugian said one of the goals was to limit the plume spread and if something was being done to stop that. Tyler Schmidt said that this project was not designed to stop the plume spread but to provide clean drinking water. He said they were dealing with the effects of the plume but not the spread.

Paul Funch said he thought foam has been used around the Nashua Road area and asked if testing had been done around the Nashua Road and Reedy Meadow area. Chief McCurdy said that they don't have information on whether foam was used around that area. Paul Funch said Phase I should include additional testing of homes.

Greg Sheldon asked if they could speak to the federal delegation about funding. Mr. Haddad said that they spoke with Representative Trahan but was not holding out much hope on federal funding.

A resident asked what the total amount was. Mr. Haddad said that the total cost was \$16M. Groton's total would be \$9.1M for Phase I and \$3.1M for Phase 2 adding that Dunstable would be paying Groton back for its portion of the \$16M.

Andy George asked what if something happened to one of the wells. Tom Orcutt said that the properties highlighted in blue would get water from Groton, and red would be from Dunstable. He said that there would be closed value coming from Dunstable/Pepperell isolating the systems should it be needed.

John Sopka asked about the funding for Phase 2, it being divided 50% with Dunstable and what the benefit was to Groton. Mr. Haddad said that the benefit to Groton for Phase 2 was to add an additional main line in the event that the plume spreads. If it wasn't shared 50%, Groton would then be responsible for 77% per the regional agreement.

Linda Bicknell asked why Groton was applying for the entire amount. Mr. Haddad said that one community had to apply and that they had an agreement signed with Dunstable. She asked what happened if Dunstable didn't pay. Mr. Haddad said that they could sue Dunstable.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes – 96; No - 31; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

Article 10: *Water Supply System at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money for the design, bid specifications, bidding, construction, and construction administration of a water supply system at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street, to authorize the Town Manager 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 Water Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article will allow the Select Board to borrow \$1,225,000 for the design and construction of a water supply system at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street. The Town would borrow these funds contingent upon a successful award of a Mass Works Development Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Said funds shall not be expended unless the grant is awarded to the Town of Groton.*

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate One Million Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,225,000), to be expended under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners for the design, bid specifications, bidding, construction, and construction administration of a water supply system at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §8(5) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, 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.

MOVED BY TOM ORCUTT AND SECONDED

DEBATE: Mr. Haddad said that a provision of this article was that the Town was to receive a MassWorks Grant. He said he was very pleased to announce that they had received the grant adding that this would not cost the taxpayers. He congratulated Tom Orcutt on obtaining the grant.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: 2/3's MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes – 108; No - 8; VOTE PASSED BY 2/3's Majority Vote

Article 11: *Adopt M.G.L., c.53, §9A - Nomination Papers for Cities or Towns*

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 53, §9A, stating, in part, that the final date for obtaining blank nomination papers for nomination to city or town office shall be forty-eight week day hours prior to the hour on which nomination papers are required to be submitted to the registrars of voters for certification, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN CLERK

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The Town has for many years followed MGL c.53 §9A which sets certain provisions for obtaining nomination papers, which includes a deadline to obtain blank nomination papers for the local town election. The deadline set forth in the law is forty-eight (48) week day hours prior to the hour in which nomination papers are due to the Board of Registrars. This article seeks permission to formally accept this local option statute.*

MOTION: I move to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 53, §9A, stating, in part, that the final date for obtaining blank nomination papers for nomination to city or town office shall be forty-eight week day hours prior to the hour on which nomination papers are required to be submitted to the registrars of voters for certification.

MOVED BY PETER CUNNINGHAM AND SECONED

DEBATE: Mike Manugian asked what we were doing right now. Mr. Cunningham said they were formalizing current practice.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes – 119; No - 6; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 12: Amend Town Charter – Article 6, Section 6.4.1

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would amend the Groton Town Charter as follows:

An Act Relative to the Charter in the Town of Groton

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

Section 1. The charter of the town of Groton, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the general laws, is hereby amended by striking out section 6.4.1 and inserting in place thereof the following:

6.4.1 Budget Process - The select board, the town manager, the department of finance, and the finance committee shall meet annually not later than October 31 to determine the budgetary goals for the subsequent fiscal year. The town manager shall, after that meeting but not later than January 31, submit to the finance committee and the select board a proposed budget for the next fiscal year that shall be accompanied by a budget message, a summary, and supporting documents that follow the agreed-upon budget goals. The proposed budget shall be balanced.

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

provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board
Finance Committee
Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee
Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *The Charter requires the Town Manager to submit a balanced budget for the subsequent fiscal year to the Finance Committee and Select Board by December 31st. Unfortunately, this deadline does not allow the Town Manager to have a realistic assessment from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and the Nashoba Valley Technical Regional School District within the proposed budget as those two organizations do not complete their budget process until the Spring. By extending the deadline by one month, the Town Manager*

will have more time to work with the two Regional School Districts to provide a more realistic estimate in the Proposed Operating Budget.

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact special legislation to Amend Article 6, Section 6.4.1 of the Groton Town Charter, as set forth in Article 12 of the Warrant for the 2023 Fall Town Meeting.

MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED

DEBATE: There was no debate.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes – 118; No - 6; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 13: Disposition of Parcel 249-51 Hoyts Wharf Road

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell and/or lease for a period not to exceed 99 years, or otherwise dispose of the Town's interest in Parcel 249-51, either the entire parcel or a portion thereof, located on Hoyts Wharf Road and consisting of approximately 10.4 acres, and to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said land, and to petition the General Court for any special legislation necessary to authorize this disposition, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *Heritage Landing, LLC, developer of the proposed MGL 40B comprehensive permit project on Parcel 248-42, has proposed a residential homeownership development to include 40 houses, 10 of which will be deed restricted affordable units eligible to be placed on the Town of Groton's Subsidized Housing Inventory. To benefit its project, Heritage Landing, LLC seeks to have the Town of Groton permanently restrict a portion of the Town's publicly owned land on Parcels 249-51 and 249-57. The restricted area totals approximately 14.5 acres and will benefit Parcel 248-42. Said restriction will be permanent in duration and include a perpetual easement for the Groton Board of Health to ensure maintenance of the property in its agreed upon restricted state. The Select Board has been asked to execute a Grant of a Title 5 Nitrogen Loading Restriction and Easement on Nitrogen Credit Land. Heritage Landing, LLC has stated its intention to use the Nitrogen Credit Land to satisfy both Title 5 septic requirements and Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program requirements.*

MOTION: I move that this article be indefinitely postponed.

MOVED BY BECKY PINE AND SECONED

DEBATE: Becky Pine said that the developer asked that this be indefinitely postponed while they worked out some additional details.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes – 118; No - 8; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 14: Disposition of Parcel 249-57 Cow Pond Brook Road

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell and/or lease, for a period not to exceed 99 years, or otherwise dispose of the Town's interest in Parcel 249-57, either the entire parcel or a portion thereof, located on Cow Pond Brook Road and consisting of approximately 24 acres, and to take all necessary action to comply with the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the disposal of said land, and to petition the General Court for any necessary special legislation, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *Please see summary for Article 13 for an explanation of this Article.*

MOTION: I move that this article be indefinitely postponed.

MOVED BY BECKY PINE AND SECONED

DEBATE: There was no debate.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes – 121; No - 8; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

Article 15: Accept New Public Ways

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following ways as public ways, as recommended by the Planning Board and laid out by the Select Board:

Cherry Tree Lane, Fieldstone Drive, and Arbor Way, all as shown on a plan entitled "Road As-Built Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts for Academy Hills, LLC", prepared by Stamski and McNary, Inc, 1000 Main Street, Acton, Massachusetts, dated June 27, 2023, and on file with the Town Clerk;

And, further, to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain such land and easements for the creation, maintenance, and operation of a public way, including but not limited to easements for access, grading, drainage, sloping, construction, and utilities, in all or any portions of said ways and the parcels on said ways, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *To accept Cherry Tree Lane, Fieldstone Drive, and Arbor Way as public ways.*

MOTION: I move to accept Cherry Tree Lane, Fieldstone Drive, and Arbor Way as public ways, as set forth in Article 15 of the Warrant for the 2023 Fall Town Meeting.

MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONDED

DEBATE: Matt Pisani said that all requirements had been met in order to accept the roads as public ways.

Scott Wilson said that the planning board had voted to accept the roads as public ways and had met the requirements of the definitive plan and to the satisfaction of the planning board and DPW.

QUANTUM OF TOWN MEETING VOTE: MAJORITY

VOTE ON MOTION: Yes – 113; No - 8; VOTE PASSED BY Majority Vote

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the 2023 Fall Town Meeting at 10:01 AM. The Moderator called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

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 2nd Day of October in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Chair

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, Vice Chair

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Clerk

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Member

Matthew F. Pisani

Matthew F. Pisani, 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 2023 FALL TOWN MEETING

The 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant contains several warrant articles that seek appropriations, some of which will affect the Tax Rate and some of 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 2024 Tax Rate. In preparing for the Fall Town Meeting, the Select Board and Finance Committee reviewed the balances in the various reserve accounts. These accounts will either be used to fund the various articles, or money will be added to them to comply with the Town's Financial Policies. The balances as of September, 2023, are as follows:

Stabilization Fund:	\$	2,398,574
Capital Stabilization Fund:	\$	102,911
GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund:	\$	9,240
Unexpended Tax Capacity:	\$	235,261
Certified Free Cash:	\$	2,423,442
Water Surplus:	\$	803,000

The following is a summary of Warrant Articles Requesting funding:

Article 1: Unpaid Bills Requested: \$400

There is one unpaid bill from the Groton Water Department in the amount of \$400 owed to Nashoba Analytical. Since this is a Water Department Bill, it will be paid from Water Surplus.

Article 2: Amend the FY 2024 Town Operating Budget

This Article will request the following adjustments in the Operating Budget:

1. Select Board Expenses Requested: \$5,000

The Williams Barn Committee is requesting \$5,000 to assist them in carrying out their charge with maintaining the Williams Barn. They are seeking additional funding for items not currently covered by trust funds and grants. Specifically, these funds will be used for electricity, porta-potties, and other operational expenses. This funding, since it is a recurring expense, will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

2. Treasurer/Collector Salaries

Requested \$3,406

The Treasurer/Collector has opted out of the Town's Health Insurance Program. In an effort to reduce Health Insurance Expenses, the Town provides an incentive to employees who opt out of the Program. Employees receive 25% of the Town's cost for the Plan in which a particular employee is enrolled. This funding, since it is a recurring expense, will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

3. IT Wages

Requested: \$7,146

With the approval of the Select Board and Finance Committee, the IT Desktop Specialist's position was reclassified and the salary increased. This funding, since it is a recurring expense, will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

4. Building Inspector Wages

Requested: \$630

During the development of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, an error was made by the Town Manager in calculating the salary of the Land Use Administrative Assistant, resulting in a shortfall of \$630. This funding will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

5. Library Wages

Requested: \$2,600

The Commonwealth provides direct aid to public libraries. In Fiscal Year 2023, the Library received \$25,054 in direct State Aid. In order to qualify for this aid, Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L., c.78, s.19A) states that a municipality must appropriate a figure of at least the average of the last 3 years' municipal appropriations (MAR) to the library for operations, increased by 2.5%, in order to be certified for State Aid to Public Libraries. The FY 2024 Appropriation is \$2,600 short of reaching the MAR. According to the FY 2024 Cherry Sheet, the Groton Public Library is slated to receive \$29,051 in State Aid. This appropriation is necessary to qualify for this Aid. This funding, since it is a recurring expense, will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

6. Town Clerk Expenses

Requested: \$4,850

The Massachusetts Municipal Association, in partnership with Suffolk University, offers a Certificate in Local Leadership and Management Program. This program is designed for municipal employees looking to further their careers in municipal management. Classes cover topics including budgeting, human resources management, and strategic leadership. The Town Clerk, with the encouragement and support of the Town Manager, applied for and was accepted in the program. This funding will cover the cost of the program and mileage reimbursement. This funding will come from Free Cash.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

7. Town Clerk Wages

Requested: \$450

The Select Board has called for a Special Election on November 7, 2023 for the Town to consider a Proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion to cover the debt service for the new water main to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School to address PFAS. This funding is necessary to cover the overtime of the two Assistant Town Clerks to assist with the Special Election. This funding will come from Free Cash.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

8. Election Expenses

Requested: \$7,510

This funding is needed to cover expenses associated with the November 7th Special Election. This funding will come from Free Cash.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

9. Election Stipend

Requested: \$2,500

This funding is needed to cover the wages of Election Workers covering the November 7th Special Election. This funding will come from Free Cash.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

10. Planning Board Salaries

Requested: \$6,468

The Land Use Director/Town Planner has opted out of the Town's Health Insurance Program. (See explanation under Item #2, Treasurer/Collector Salaries). This funding, since it is a recurring expense, will come from Unexpended Tax Capacity.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

11. Fire Salaries

Requested: \$5,000

The Fire Chief has opted out of the Town's Health Insurance Program. (See explanation under Item #2, Treasurer/Collector Salaries). This funding, since it is a recurring cost, will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

12. Emergency Management Expenses

Requested: \$30,000

On September 8 and September 11, 2023, the Communication Tower and Radio Systems located at the Fire Station, Police Station, Gibbet Hill, Cow Pond and Hollingsworth and Vose were struck by lightning causing significant damage. The estimated cost of repairs is \$30,000. While an insurance claim could be filed, the Town has experienced a high number of claims over the last several years, causing a significant increase in the Town's insurance premium. In an effort to keep insurance costs down, it was determined that the Town would pay for these repairs from Free Cash.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

13. Town Manager Salaries

Requested: \$8,150

The Town Manager's Contract allows the Town Manager to buy back one week of vacation pay and provides for a performance incentive based on the Town Manager's Annual Review. In previous years, this funding was transferred into the Town Manager's Salary Account at the end of the Fiscal Year. Since this has been a recurring expense, it is proposed that it be properly budgeted at the onset of the year, instead of at the end of the year. This funding, since it is a recurring cost, will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

14. Debt Service

Requested: -\$179,144

The Town went out to the Bond Market in June, 2023 for Bond Anticipation Notes for the remaining funds necessary to complete the Florence Roche Elementary School. The Town did an interest only loan of \$27 million. When the budget was developed, it was anticipated that the short-term interest rate would be around 4% and the budget was set accordingly. However, the actual interest rate came in around 2.5%, reducing the budgeted amount by \$179,144.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Article 3: FY 2024 Capital Budget

Requested: \$110,000

In the Spring when the Capital Budget was submitted for approval, two items were held out and the Select Board and Finance Committee agreed to bring back those two items to the Fall Town Meeting for funding from Certified Free Cash. The two items are improvements to the Police and Fire Station Parking Lots (Seal Coating for \$30,000) and the repaving of the Country Club Parking Lot (\$80,000). The Capital Planning Advisory Committee had recommended this approach as part of the FY 2024 Capital Budget. This Funding will come from Free Cash.

Article 4: Transfer - Capital Stabilization Fund

Requested: \$638,244

The current balance in this fund is \$102,911. The Town's Financial Policies call for a balance in this Fund of 1.5% of the Operating Budget. If all the transfers and appropriations are approved under Article 2 of this Warrant, the total Fiscal Year Operating Budget will be \$49,410,322. This would require a Capital Stabilization Fund Balance of \$741,155. This Article will request a transfer of \$638,244 from Free Cash to add to this Fund.

Article 5: Transfer - Stabilization Fund

Requested: \$72,000

The current balance in the Stabilization Fund is \$2,398,574. Our Financial Policies state that this Fund should have a balance of five (5%) percent of our Operating Budget (\$49,410,322). This would require a balance of \$2,470,516. This Article will request a transfer of \$72,000 from Free Cash to add to this Fund.

Article 6: Transfer - GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund Requested: \$541,000

The current balance in the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund is \$9,240. The FY 2024 Capital Plan for the District is currently estimated at \$550,000. This Article will request a transfer of \$541,000 from Free Cash to be added to this Fund.

Article 7: Transfer - Special Purpose Opioid Fund Requested: \$4,991

From the Summary in the Warrant: At the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, the Town voted to establish a special purpose stabilization fund in which to collect all Opioid Abatement Funds allocated to Groton by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Between 2022 and 2038, Groton is expected to receive approximately \$38,300 in statewide opioid settlements reached between the Attorney General and companies or individuals that allegedly fueled the opioid crisis. The funds that were received prior to the establishment of the new stabilization fund, \$4,990.48, were certified as part of the Town's Free Cash at 6/30/23 and therefore must be specifically appropriated for transfer to this new special purpose fund. Going forward, all new opioid settlement money received will be deposited directly into the Opioid Stabilization Fund. This fund will be used (consistent with state guidelines) for opioid use prevention, harm reduction, and treatment and recovery programs.

Article 8: Transfer Money into Water Enterprise Fund Requested: \$150,000

From the Summary in the Warrant: This Article seeks the transfer of \$150,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Department's General Expense for the Operating Budget for a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) Upgrade at the Baddacook Pond Treatment Facility.

Article 10: 500 Main Street and Taylor Street Requested: \$1,225,000

From the Summary in the Warrant: This article will allow the Select Board to borrow \$1,225,000 for the design and construction of a water supply system at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street. The Town would borrow these funds contingent upon a successful award of a Mass Works Development Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Said funds shall not be expended unless the grant is awarded to the Town of Groton.

Should the Town Meeting agree with these appropriations, \$1,411,545 will come from the Town's Free Cash Account. In the Spring of 2024, the Town will need about \$300,000 from the Free Cash Account to cover Debt Service, OPEB Trust Fund and Department Head Performance Incentives, leaving a balance of \$711,897 in Free Cash. Based on final anticipated new Growth for FY 2024 and the Final Cherry Sheet Estimates received from the State, the Budget approved at Town Meeting is currently \$235,261 under the anticipated FY 2024 Levy Limit. For the line items that are reoccurring and will be funded through taxation, \$38,400 will come from this amount, which will leave the Town \$196,861 under the anticipated Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2024. The estimated tax rate at the Spring Town Meeting was \$16.44. Based on the proposed changes at the Fall Town Meeting, the anticipated tax rate is \$16.29. The following chart is a breakdown of the anticipated rate:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY 2023</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$ 35,383,886	\$ 36,581,274	\$ 1,197,388	3.38%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 14.13	\$ 14.42	\$ 0.29	2.05%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 8,958	\$ 9,142	\$ 184	2.05%
Excluded Debt	\$ 3,783,842	\$ 4,732,786	\$ 948,944	25.08%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.51	\$ 1.87	\$ 0.36	23.84%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 957	\$ 1,186	\$ 228	23.84%
Final Levy Used	\$ 39,167,728	\$ 41,314,060	\$ 2,146,332	5.48%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.64	\$ 16.29	\$ 0.65	4.16%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,916	\$ 10,328	\$ 412	4.16%

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad

Mark W. Haddad
Town Manager

Town of Groton
Select Board
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

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RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA

Town of Groton, MA
Annual Town Election: May 23, 2023
FINAL RESULTS: MAY 25, 2023

Election Turnout	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 3A	Total
Groton Registered Voters (April 11, 2023)	2905	2858	2757	207	8727
May 23, 2023 Voter Turnout	279	183	254	31	747
Turnout %	9.60%	6.40%	9.21%	14.98%	8.56%
Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 3A	Total
Board of Assessors					
	Vote for One		Three Year Term		
Garret C. Boles, Candidate for Re-election	218	143	186	29	576
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		2	2		4
<i>Steve White</i>		1			1
<i>Eric Garger</i>	2				2
<i>Robert Malerbi</i>	1				1
<i>Joe Twomey</i>	1				1
Blank	57	37	66	2	162
Total	279	183	254	31	747
Board of Health					
	Vote for One		Three Year Term		
Evan A. Thackaberry, Candidate for Re-election	218	139	195	26	578
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		2	2		4
<i>Gene Guttromson</i>		1			1
Blank	61	41	57	5	164
Total	279	183	254	31	747
Select Board					
	Vote for Two		Three Year Term		
Alison S. Manugian, Candidate for Re-election	207	103	164	25	499
Rebecca H. Pine, Candidate for Re-election	189	107	185	21	502
Guy Alberghini	76	65	64	10	215
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>	12	30	19	1	62
<i>Brian Mahony</i>			1		1
<i>Brian Murphy</i>			1		1
<i>Paul MacMillan</i>			2		2
<i>Josh Degen</i>			1		1
<i>Gail Chalmers</i>			1		1
Blank	74	61	70	5	210
Total	558	366	508	62	1494
Commissioner of Trust Funds					
	Vote for One		Three Year Term		
Martha R. McLure, Candidate for Re-election	227	142	198	27	594
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		2	2		4
Blank	52	39	54	4	149
Total	279	183	254	31	747

**May 23, 2023 Annual Town Election
Final Results - May 25, 2023**

Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 3A	Total
Groton Electric Light Commission					
	Vote for One		Three Year Term		
Eric S. Fisher, Candidate for Re-election	226	142	202	24	594
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		2	2		4
Blank	53	39	50	7	149
Total	279	183	254	31	747
Park Commission - 3 Year Term					
	Vote for Two		Three Year Term		
Mary A. Jennings	222	128	185	20	555
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Jeffrey Ohringer - (accepted write-in nomination)</i>	20	16	29	1	66
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		2	3		5
<i>Bob Hargraves</i>		1			1
<i>Mark Jarvis</i>	2	9	11	1	23
<i>Don Black</i>	1	1			2
<i>J. Michael Raftery</i>		1			1
<i>Jon Strauss</i>			2		2
<i>Gail Chalmers</i>			1		1
<i>Phil Francisco</i>			1		1
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>			1		1
<i>Barbara Shea</i>			1		1
<i>Wendy Good</i>			1		1
<i>Kate McEleney</i>			1		1
<i>Ken Bushnell</i>			1		1
<i>Greg Baker</i>			1		1
<i>SC Flynn</i>				1	1
<i>Josh Degen</i>				1	1
<i>Tom Delaney</i>				1	1
<i>Sheila Flynn</i>				1	1
<i>Kelli Walsh</i>	1				1
<i>Nadia Madden</i>	4				4
<i>Sue Adams</i>	1				1
<i>Anna Eliot</i>	1				1
<i>Alex Bonaventura</i>	1				1
Blank	305	208	270	36	819
Total	558	366	508	62	1494
Park Commission - 2 Year Term					
	Vote for One		Two Year Term		
Gail M. Chalmers, Candidate for Re-election	219	143	182	27	571
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Mark Jarvis</i>	1	3	4		8
<i>Jeffrey Ohringer</i>	3	1	1		5
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		1	2		3
<i>Nick Longo</i>			1		1
<i>Robert DeGroot</i>			1		1
<i>Ken Bushnell</i>			1		1
<i>Josh Degen</i>				1	1
Blank	56	35	62	3	156
Total	279	183	254	31	747

**May 23, 2023 Annual Town Election
Final Results - May 25, 2023**

Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 3A	Total
Planning Board					
	Vote for Two		Three Year Term		
Scott O. Wilson, Candidate for Re-election	204	117	185	24	530
Philip M. Francisco	186	127	170	25	508
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		3	3		6
<i>Kurt Benedict</i>			1		1
<i>Annika Nielson Ripps</i>	1				1
Blank	167	119	149	13	448
Total	558	366	508	62	1494
Sewer Commission					
	Vote for One		Three Year Term		
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Thomas Orcutt - (accepted write-in nomination)</i>	3	4	2		9
<i>Gene Guttromson</i>		1			1
<i>Brad Picrantonzi</i>		1			1
<i>Matt Pisani</i>		1			1
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		1	3		4
<i>Devin Patel</i>		1			1
<i>Sean Metras</i>			2		2
<i>Todd McGillivray</i>			1		1
<i>Jade Cloutier</i>			1		1
<i>Barbara Shea</i>			1		1
<i>Donald Black</i>			1		1
<i>Robert DeGrout</i>			1		1
<i>Rebecca Pine</i>				1	1
<i>Carl Flowers</i>				1	1
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>	4				4
<i>Rob Flynn</i>	1				1
<i>Neil Colecchio</i>	1				1
Blank	270	174	242	29	715
Total	279	183	254	31	747
Trustees of the Groton Public Library - 3 Year Term					
	Vote for Two		Three Year Term		
David J. Zeiler, Candidate for Re-election	206	133	197	25	561
Kathryn E. Bettencourt, Candidate for Re-election	217	143	199	26	585
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		2	3		5
<i>Jorge Skrowanek</i>			1		1
Blank	135	88	108	11	342
Total	558	366	508	62	1494
Trustees of the Groton Public Library - 1 Year Term					
	Vote for One		One Year Term		
Helena C. Altzman	217	142	200	26	585
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>		2	3		5
<i>Jorge Skovronik</i>			1		1
Blank	62	39	50	5	156
Total	279	183	254	31	747

Town of Groton, MA
Special Town Election: November 7, 2023
OFFICIAL RESULTS: 11/9/2023

Election Turnout	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Groton Registered Voters (October 18, 2023)	3151	2903	2813	8867
November 7, 2023 Voter Turnout	396	294	345	1035
Turnout %	12.57%	10.13%	12.26%	11.67%
Ballot Question #1	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
<p>Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued for the purpose of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street in Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources and to improve the water systems of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell by expanding municipal fire protection, head off a potential PFAS plume spread, and increase water system resilience by establishing emergency interconnections between the three systems, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?</p>				
YES	226	131	185	542
NO	170	163	160	493
BLANK	0	0	0	0

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, 2023						
					Fiduciary	
					Fund Types	
		Governmental Fund Types				
				Water, Sewer, Cable		Total
		Special	Capital	& Electric Light	Exp & Non-Exp	(Memorandum
	General	Revenue	Projects	Enterprise Funds	Trust Funds	Only)
Revenues:						
Property Taxes / SurTaxes	39,478,364	967,644				40,446,008
Motor Vehicle/Other Excise	2,346,250					2,346,250
Licenses and Permits	800,579					800,579
State / Fed Revenue	1,156,850	3,710,731	7,281,288	101		12,148,970
Charges for Servs/Fees/Rent	1,390,107	541,248		17,108,622		19,039,977
Penalties and Interest	180,735					180,735
Fines and Forfeits	11,786					11,786
Interest Earnings	421,136	46,540		66,043	2,583,635	3,117,354
Departmental and Other	1,191,581	128,100	12,000	10,891	2,457,367	3,799,939
Total Revenues	46,977,388	5,394,263	7,293,288	17,185,657	5,041,002	81,891,598
Expenditures:						
General Government	2,514,781	374,833				2,889,614
Public Safety	4,699,055	369,326				5,068,381
Education	26,189,285	457,505	12,435		115,962	26,775,187
Highway and Public Works	2,426,749	414,040	34,792	15,246,026		18,121,607
Culture, Recreation & Cit Svcs	1,943,220	130,529		217,638	330,811	2,622,198
Debt Service	3,614,162	8,835		620,339		4,243,336
Intergovernmental	95,249	0				95,249
Capital Outlay/Construction	448,721	712,107	34,461,863	51,000	591,000	36,264,691
Employee Benefits & Misc.	4,526,877					4,526,877
Prior Year Encumbrances	352,777					352,777
Total Expenditures	46,810,876	2,467,175	34,509,090	16,135,003	1,037,773	100,959,917
Excess of Revenues						
Over (Under) Expenditures	166,512	2,927,088	(27,215,802)	1,050,654	4,003,229	(19,068,319)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):						
Operating Transfers In	1,904,250	101,401	1,629,168	45,780	1,682,393	5,362,992
Operating Transfers Out	(1,426,589)	(2,404,680)	(61,003)	(39,292)	(1,431,427)	(5,362,991)
Proceeds of Bonds			213,640			213,640
						0
Total Other Sources (Uses)	477,661	(2,303,279)	1,781,805	6,488	250,966	213,641
Excess of Revenues and Other	644,173	623,809	(25,433,997)	1,057,142	4,254,195	(18,854,678)
Sources Over (Under)						
Expenditures and Other Uses	0	0	0	0	0	
Fund Balance, Beginning	3,794,640	3,540,049	24,162,523	2,351,356	27,245,769	
Adjust to Fair Market Value						
Prior Period Adjustment	(5,624)			7,561		1,937
Fund Balance, Beginning,						
as Restated	3,789,016	3,540,049	24,162,523	2,358,917	27,245,769	61,096,274
Fund Balance, Ending	4,433,189	4,163,858	(1,271,474)	3,416,059	31,499,964	42,241,596

Town of Groton, Massachusetts			
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures			
Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis)			
General Funds			
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023			
			Variance
	Final		Favorable
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	39,160,747	39,116,511	(44,236)
Motor Vehicle, Boat, Room & Meals Excise	2,128,290	2,346,250	217,960
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	300,000	361,853	61,853
Licenses, Leases, Fees and Permits	1,338,394	2,097,163	758,769
Intergovernmental (State Aid)	1,077,749	1,156,850	79,101
Charges for Services	90,000	93,523	3,523
Penalties and Interest	110,000	180,735	70,735
Fines and Forfeits	10,000	11,786	1,786
Interest Earnings	50,000	421,136	371,136
Departmental and Other	1,073,600	1,191,581	117,981
Total Revenues	45,338,780	46,977,388	1,638,608
Expenditures:			
General Gov	2,765,909	2,514,781	251,128
Public Safety	4,785,213	4,699,055	86,158
Education	26,189,285	26,189,285	0
Highway and Public Works	2,511,616	2,426,749	84,867
Culture, Recreation & Citizen's Services	1,979,752	1,943,220	36,532
Capital Expenditures/Special Articles	997,120	448,721	548,399
Debt Service	3,618,172	3,614,162	4,010
Intergovernmental (State Cherry Sheet Chgs)	95,249	95,249	0
Employee Benefits & Miscellaneous	4,550,663	4,526,877	23,786
Prior Year Encumbrances	652,820	352,774	300,046
Total Expenditures	48,145,799	46,810,873	1,334,926
Excess of Revenues Over			
(Under) Expenditures	(2,807,019)	166,515	2,973,534
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Operating Transfers In/Repurposed Funds	1,904,250	1,904,250	0
Available Funds: Encumbrances	652,820	352,774	(300,046)
Operating Transfers Out	(325,196)	(325,196)	0
Free Cash to Offset Tax Rate	0	0	0
Free Cash & Overlay Appropriated	804,705	724,048	(80,657)
Additional Overlay & Deficits to be raised	(229,560)	(229,560)	0
Total Other Financing			
Sources (Uses)	2,807,019	2,426,316	(380,703)
Excess of Revenue and Other Sources			
Over (Under) Expenditures and other Uses	0	2,592,831	2,592,831

FISCAL 2023
BUDGET VS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

	Appropriation	Res. Fund or	Balance	Balance
	or Bal/Fwd	Line Item Tx	to Fund	to FY 24
			Bal	
			Expended	
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
Moderator Salary	65.00		65.00	0.00
Moderator Expense	80.00		0.00	80.00
Selectmen Expense	6,800.00		2,960.11	0.89
Selectmen Expense Prior Year	240.00		239.00	1.00
Selectmen Minor Capital (Sewer SRF)	25,800.00		25,649.29	150.71
Town Manager Salaries	240,331.00	2,925.00	243,254.25	1.75
Town Manager Wages	119,223.00	(2,925.00)	111,392.14	3,405.86
Town Manager Expense	24,700.00	4,300.00	14,240.19	4,072.81
Town Manager Expenses Prior Year	2,576.00		1,731.00	845.00
Capital Exp Demo of 159 W Main St	30,000.00		457.90	0.00
Capital Exp Electronic Voting for Town Mtg	25,000.00		19,836.02	5,163.98
Finance Committee Expense	215.00		214.00	1.00
Reserve Fund	150,000.00	(49,400.00)		100,600.00
Town Accountant Salary	101,125.00		101,125.50	(0.50)
Town Accountant Wages	52,906.00	14.00	52,920.02	(0.02)
Town Accountant Expense/Audit	40,204.00	(14.00)	40,189.98	0.02
Assessors Salaries	85,280.00		85,280.10	(0.10)
Assessors Wages	65,551.00		65,073.15	477.85
Assessors Expense	45,215.00		29,011.66	16,203.34
Treasurer/Tax Collector Salary	139,455.00	2,280.00	141,733.03	1.97
Treasurer/Tax Collector Wages	79,042.00	(4,542.00)	74,499.40	0.60
Treasurer/Tax Collector Expense	21,695.00	2,900.00	24,545.95	49.05
Treasurer Bond Costs	2,300.00	(650.00)	500.00	1,150.00
Town Counsel Expense	90,000.00		58,576.58	26,240.42
Town Counsel Expense Prior Year	10,000.00		0.00	10,000.00
Personnel Board Salary	87,984.00		87,983.36	0.64
Personnel Board Expense	16,700.00		14,928.96	114.04
Personnel Board Expense Prior Year	2,000.00		450.00	1,550.00
				5,183.00
				1,657.00

Information Technology Salary	121,981.00	121,981.29	(0.29)	
Information Technology Wages	61,269.00	61,193.75	75.25	
Information Technology Expense	22,800.00	21,454.74	145.26	1,200.00
Information Technology Exp Prior Yr	2,677.89	2,294.69	383.20	
Information Technology Capital Exp FY22	40,000.00	22,514.55	0.45	17,485.00
Information Technology Capital Exp FY23	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
Postage, General Expenses	34,000.00	38,683.49	3,316.51	
Postage, General Expenses Prior Year	1,821.00	62.00	1,759.00	
Central Purchasing/Office Supplies	48,000.00	45,566.84	2,433.16	
Central Purchasing/Office Supplies Prior Yr	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Telephone Expense	30,000.00	25,433.28	3,166.72	1,400.00
Telephone Expense Prior Year	2,000.00	315.74	1,684.26	
Tax Title	7,100.00	500.00	6,600.00	
Town Clerk Salary	104,438.00	95,549.66	0.34	
Town Clerk Wages	76,040.00	81,648.02	91.98	
Town Clerk Expense	9,867.00	9,538.93	328.07	
Election/Registrar Wages	21,795.00	27,416.25	0.75	
Election/Registrar Expense	12,437.00	15,596.67	40.33	
Voting Machines	5,700.00	5,700.00	0.00	
Street Listing Expense	5,000.00	4,548.30	76.70	375.00
Conservation Commission Salary	73,971.00	73,972.03	(1.03)	
Conservation Commission Expense	7,565.00	4,597.38	2,903.62	64.00
Conservation Commission Expense Prior Year	209.84	205.45	4.39	
GIS Committee Expenses	10,800.00	3,000.00	7,800.00	
Planning Board Salary	89,236.00	89,237.19	(1.19)	
Planning Board Expense	9,950.00	8,843.53	356.47	750.00
Planning Board MRPC Assessment	4,000.00	3,846.05	153.95	
Capital Exp Master Plan	150,000.00	0.00	0.00	150,000.00
Board of Appeals Expense	1,500.00	50.00	1,450.00	
Municipal Buildings Wages	159,057.00	156,173.81	2,883.19	
Municipal Buildings Expense	270,950.00	257,887.94	8,239.06	4,823.00
Municipal Buildings Expense Prior Year	6,683.97	6,683.97	0.00	
Municipal Buildings Minor Capital	10,000.00	9,849.47	150.53	
Municipal Building Repair FY22	14,033.19	13,727.99	305.20	
Municipal Building Repair FY23	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	
ADA Improvements FY19	10,939.46	10,837.82	101.64	

Police Station Roof/Siding FY21	50,000.00	40,626.85	0.00	9,373.15
Capital Exp Building Maintenance Van	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00
Insurance and Bonding	300,000.00	286,667.34	13,332.66	
Insurance and Bonding Prior Year	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	
Insurance Deductible Reserve-GenLiab	12,000.00	10,059.87	364.13	1,576.00
Insurance Deductible Reserve-111F	25,000.00	3,743.93	21,256.07	
Insurance Deductible Reserve-111F Prior Yr	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	
Town Reports	1,500.00	1,471.59	28.41	
Total General Government	3,409,308.35	2,786,337.00	252,039.10	339,454.25

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

Police Department Salary	278,889.00	4,318.00	0.02	
Police Department Wages	2,092,704.00	(4,318.00)	20,951.18	
Police Department Expense	214,450.00		5,975.05	559.56
Police Department Expense Prior Year	3,409.00		2.51	
Police Department Cruisers Lease/Purchase	5,000.00		0.00	
Police Department Minor Capital	11,000.00		0.55	3,411.00
Police Department Security Update	25,000.00		0.00	25,000.00
Police Department New Cruisers FY23	114,000.00		237.75	
Fire Department Salaries	260,754.00		3,853.98	
Fire Department Wages	1,220,616.00	(30,000.00)	25,450.49	
Fire Department Expense	195,600.00	30,000.00	11,468.76	11,900.00
Fire Exp Prior Year	26,689.85		4,540.91	
Fire Department Eng 1 Refurb. FY22	163,200.30		0.00	28,717.76
Fire Dept. Chief's Vehicle FY22	11,769.91		36.35	
Fire Hydrant Charge West Groton	1.00		1.00	
Fire Hydrant Charge Groton	1.00		1.00	
Police & Fire Communications Wages	500,359.00	(55,000.00)	1,070.80	
Police & Fire Communications Expense	23,875.00		1,052.44	131.00
Police & Fire Communications Exp Prior Yr	275.00		162.60	
Dispatch Building Upgrade FY18	35,898.84		0.00	35,898.84
Dispatch Building Upgrade FY19	60,000.00		0.00	60,000.00
Dispatch Building Upgrade FY20	60,000.00		0.00	60,000.00
Building Inspector Salaries	104,760.00		1.68	

Building Inspector Wages	58,769.00	(3,700.00)	55,067.04	1.96
Building Inspector Expense	3,700.00	20,000.00	23,256.94	443.06
Salaries/Fees-Mechanical Inspector	39,000.00	15,800.00	54,800.00	0.00
Mechanical Inspector Expense	4,000.00	877.00	4,876.40	0.60
Sealer Weights & Measures Salary/Fees	3,200.00		680.00	1,920.00
Sealer Weights & Measures Expense	100.00			100.00
Animal Inspector/Animal Control Off. Salaries	4,164.00		4,164.16	(0.16)
Animal Inspector/Animal Control Off.Expense	800.00		540.96	259.04
Earth Removal Inspector Salary	2,500.00			0.00
Earth Removal Inspector Expense	200.00			200.00
Civil Defense Salaries	4,000.00		4,000.00	0.00
Civil Defense/Aux Police/EOC Expenses	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00
Dog Officer Salary	15,000.00		14,999.92	0.08
Dog Officer Expense	3,000.00		2,928.98	71.02
Dog Officer Expense Prior Year	639.53		639.53	0.00
Total Protection Persons and Property	5,557,324.43	(22,023.00)	5,228,780.60	77,802.67
SCHOOLS				228,718.16

Nashoba Valley Tech High School Assmt	810,037.00		810,037.00	0.00
Minuteman Regional Vocation Technical	0.00			0.00
Groton Dunstable Reg School District Assmt	25,379,248.00		25,379,248.00	0.00
Total Schools	26,189,285.00	0.00	26,189,285.00	0.00

PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES

General Highway Salary	120,523.00	150.00	120,669.82	3.18
General Highway Wages	743,115.00	7,110.00	750,224.05	0.95
General Highway Expense	136,900.00	8,800.00	136,528.60	8,569.40
General Highway Prior Year Exp	1,005.91		291.90	714.01
General Highway Road Maintenance	90,000.00		81,711.57	8,288.43
General Highway Road Maintenance Prior Yr	1,689.30		1,583.70	105.60
General Highway Minor Capital	20,000.00	(260.00)	5,525.64	249.36
General Highway James Brook Maint. FY19	50,000.00			0.00
General Highway Loader FY23	220,000.00		193,555.20	0.00
				26,444.80

Snow & Ice Overtime	171,937.10	171,937.10	0.00	
Snow & Ice Expense	272,714.40	268,099.55	4,614.85	
Snow & Ice Hired Equipment	45,348.50	45,348.50	0.00	
Street Lighting	15,000.00	12,201.57	2,798.43	
Waste Disposal Wages	150,995.00	145,953.76	5,041.24	
Waste Disposal Consulting	5,850.00		5,850.00	
Waste Disposal Expense	45,686.00		7,024.52	
Waste Disposal Expense Prior Year	145.00	38,661.48	0.00	
Waste Disposal Tipping Fees	145,000.00	139,667.75	4,903.25	429.00
Waste Disposal Tipping Fees Prior Year	5,873.40	5,873.12	0.28	
Waste Disposal Minor Capital	5,000.00	4,717.39	282.61	
Waste Disposal Mini Loader FY23	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	
Tree Department Expense	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	
Tree Department Tree Work	11,500.00	9,515.17	1,984.83	
Graves Registration Salary	250.00	250.00	0.00	
Graves Registration Expense	760.00	750.00	10.00	
Care of Veterans' Graves	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	
Total Public Works & Facilities	2,323,792.61	2,197,710.87	50,440.94	91,440.80

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Board of Health Engineering Consult	10,200.00	10,133.00	0.00	67.00
Board of Health Eng Consult Prior Yr	1,067.00	1,067.00	0.00	
Board of Health Expense	1,575.00	983.35	591.65	
Board of Health Expense Prior Yr	33.00	33.00	0.00	
County Assessments	46,130.00	51,483.24	1.76	
Council on Aging Salaries	85,855.00	87,985.52	0.48	
Council on Aging Wages	121,590.00	116,034.59	405.41	
Council on Aging Expense	11,054.00	12,384.25	498.75	171.00
Senior Center Van Wages	54,331.00	62,341.85	4.15	
Senior Center Van Expenses	13,673.00	16,822.51	1,350.49	
Veterans' Agent Salary	6,000.00	6,000.02	(0.02)	
Veterans' Agent Expense	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00	
Veterans' Benefits	30,000.00	18,919.15	11,080.85	
Veterans' Benefits Prior Year	948.00	948.00	0.00	

Total Health & Human Services	383,556.00	16,851.00	385,135.48	15,033.52	238.00
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LIBRARY AND CITIZENS' SERVICES

Library Salaries	428,544.00		426,345.50	2,198.50	
Library Wages	342,055.00		331,618.48	10,436.52	
Library Expense	217,697.00		214,167.50	70.68	3,458.82
Library Expense Prior Year	2,565.00		1,262.41	1,302.59	
Library Emergency Exit	19,000.00		0.00	0.00	19,000.00
Library Bldg Envelope	18,000.00		0.00	0.00	18,000.00
Library Parking Lot FY22	45,000.00		40,227.48	0.00	4,772.52
Library Security Alarm	15,000.00		0.00	0.00	15,000.00
Library Fire Alarm	50,000.00		0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Country Club Salaries	170,414.00	453.00	170,866.08	0.92	
Country Club Wages	193,000.00	44,000.00	234,595.03	2,404.97	
Country Club Expenses	162,250.00	31,720.00	193,968.53	1.47	
Country Club Pool Improvements	110,000.00		0.00	0.00	110,000.00
Country Club Golf Carts Lease	25,000.00		25,000.00	0.00	
Parks Department Wages	17,481.00		13,803.76	3,677.24	
Park Department Expense	55,759.00		55,271.88	487.12	
Park Department Expense Prior Year	1,075.00		1,075.00	0.00	
Parks Property Improvements FY23	30,420.00		30,410.06	9.94	
Care of the Old Burying Ground	800.00		0.00	800.00	
Town Forest Expense FY11	2,800.00		0.00	0.00	2,800.00
Town Forest Expense FY21	5,000.00		0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Celebrations/Commemorations	500.00		262.76	237.24	
Great Ponds Advisory Gen Expenses	12,385.00		12,001.29	0.00	383.71
Weed Harvesting/Great Ponds Expense	22,000.00		22,000.00	0.00	
Water Safety Wages	4,418.00		2,520.00	1,898.00	
Water Safety Expense	11,907.00		11,887.35	19.65	
Total Library and Citizens' Services	1,963,070.00	76,173.00	1,787,283.11	23,544.84	228,415.05

DEBT SERVICE

Principal Long-Term Debt	2,270,786.00		2,267,786.06	2,999.94	
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Interest Long-Term Debt	1,332,573.00	1,332,573.00	0.00
Short-Term Debt Prin/Int	15,057.37	13,802.53	1,254.84
Total Debt Service	3,618,416.37	0.00	3,614,161.59
			4,254.78
			0.00

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

County Retirement Assessment	2,538,910.00	2,538,910.00	0.00
Health & Life Insurance	1,929,396.00	(99,653.00)	15,031.23
Health & Life Insurance Prior Yr	55.00	55.00	0.00
Unemployment Compensation	10,000.00	18,300.00	893.00
OPEB Unfunded Liability	181,000.00	181,000.00	0.00
Medicare Employer Contribution	138,400.00	15,310.00	0.30
Total Employee Benefits	4,797,761.00	(66,043.00)	4,707,932.47
			15,924.53
			7,861.00

WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Water Department Salaries	164,518.00	163,247.53	1,270.47
Water Department Wages	270,003.00	269,338.65	664.35
Water Department Expense	742,063.00	573,697.73	167,715.27
Water Department Expense Prior Year	20,750.00	10,719.20	10,030.80
Water Infrastructure BAN Payment	40,000.00	39,292.00	708.00
Water Department Debt Service	505,583.00	444,946.99	60,636.01
Total Water Department Enterprise	1,742,917.00	0.00	1,501,242.10
			241,024.90
			650.00

SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Sewer Department Salaries	23,339.00	23,103.72	235.28
Sewer Department Wages	46,114.00	45,907.24	206.76
Sewer Department Expense	834,494.00	781,027.08	53,116.92
Sewer Department Expense Prior Year	5,756.00	2,420.18	3,335.82
Sewer Dept: Debt Service (incl. betterments)	5,111.00	5,111.14	(0.14)
Total Sewer Department Enterprise	914,814.00	0.00	857,569.36
			56,894.64
			350.00

4 CORNERS SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Sewer Department Salaries	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sewer Department Wages	7,683.00	7,683.00	0.00
Sewer Department Expense	146,451.00	128,224.24	18,226.76
Sewer Dept: Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Sewer Department Enterprise	154,134.00	0.00	18,226.76
			0.00

CABLE DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Cable Department Salaries	69,916.00	69,290.01	625.99
Cable Department Wages	65,235.00	62,574.34	2,660.66
Cable Department Expense	98,068.00	85,773.69	12,294.31
Cable Department Minor Capital	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Cable Department Enterprise	233,219.00	0.00	15,580.96
			0.00

STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND

Stormwater Department Salaries		77,629.16	65.84
Stormwater Department Wages	77,695.00	60,267.58	25,132.42
Stormwater Department Expense	112,400.00	21,172.64	727.36
Stormwater Department Expense Prior Year	21,900.00	0.00	0.00
Stormwater Department Minor Capital	51,000.00	51,000.00	0.00
Stormwater Department Minor Cap Prior Yr	51,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total Stormwater Enterprise Fund	313,995.00	0.00	25,925.62
			78,000.00

CAPITAL PROJECTS

	Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures	Bal to FY24
Complete Streets	39,823.57		34,792.10	0.00
Radio Upgrade Public Safety	(250,311.55)	86,486.84	3,452.45	(167,277.16)
Ladder Truck FY18	4,498.38		4,498.38	0.00
DPW Vehicles FY19/FY22	(205,168.39)	59,174.81		(145,993.58)

Lost Lake Fire Protection	7,001.56	7,001.56	0.00	0.00
Four Corners Sewer	6,382.67		0.00	6,382.67
Senior Center Building	25,597.32	844.79	0.00	24,752.53
FloRo School Constr FY22	25,734,222.52	7,692,207.04	26,967,398.54	6,459,031.02
Highway Garage FY19	2,198.43	2,198.43	0.00	0.00
Library Roof FY19	26,313.41		0.00	26,313.41
Fire Engine #3 FY20	318.30	318.30	0.00	0.00
Communication Towers	0.00	585,680.00	585,680.00	0.00
Fire Engine #5 FY22	77,860.00		0.00	77,860.00
Chapter 90 Highway Funds	(205,191.42)	637,074.26	464,549.64	(32,666.80)
Water Well Improvements	(163,914.74)	38,810.59		(125,104.15)
Whitney Manganese Plant	(640,188.73)	83,216.98	5,775,468.73	(6,332,440.48)
Whitney Well #3	(309,353.26)	8,573.99	778,583.55	(1,079,362.82)
500 Main Street Water Mains	0.00	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00
Total Capital Projects	24,150,088.07	9,203,224.51	34,624,786.47	0.00 (1,271,473.89)
GRAND TOTAL	75,751,680.83	9,192,504.51	84,443,838.71	(296,346.63)

**SPECIAL REVENUE
FISCAL 2023**

Note: Bal. forward to 2024 incl. encumbrances for incomplete projects; Unalloc Rsrv incl. operating
TSV

Community Preservation Fund	Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures	Bal to FY24
Unallocated Reserve	860,848.53	1,048,675.23	1,468,187.38	441,336.38
Community Housing Reserve	510,259.03	251,140.37	64,043.50	697,355.90
Historic Resource Reserve	277,214.93	149,739.32	133,929.05	293,025.20
Open Space Reserve	79,191.26	149,739.32	183,000.00	45,930.58
Totals	1,727,513.75	1,599,294.24	1,849,159.93	1,477,648.06

GIFTS

Highway Department Gift	2,323.71	3,650.00	715.88	5,257.83
Fire Department SAFE Gift Fund	55.97	1,847.85	1,903.82	0.00
Fire Department Gift Fund	12,983.05	1,700.00	601.94	14,081.11

Police Department Gift Fund	12,146.84	950.00	2,723.27	10,373.57
DARE Program Gift Fund	563.65			563.65
GLA Sargisson Beach FY14 Gift	5,000.00			5,000.00
Civil Defense/Emergency Mgmt Fund	1,100.34		1,100.34	0.00
Library Gift Fund	51,996.53	2,057.44	3,708.86	50,345.11
Council on Aging Gift Fund	19,619.20	16,858.00	11,164.50	25,312.70
GLA Weed Control Gift	3,767.36			3,767.36
Library Tarbell Paintings Gift	39,989.06	500.37	2,475.00	38,014.43
SargBeachLifeguardsFY17	975.63			975.63
K-9 Gift Fund Police Dept.	5,633.66		2,310.60	3,323.06
COA Women in Need Gift	1,000.00			1,000.00
Community Emerg. Relief	1,060.00	2,657.88	74.97	3,642.91
Williams Barn Gift	2,308.74	2,121.00	3,460.78	968.96
OBG Bentley Gift	3,000.00			3,000.00
Care of Old Burying Ground Gift	452.23			452.23
Diversity Education & Training Gift	9,686.80			9,686.80
Dog Pound Gift	1,987.95	100.00		2,087.95
Community Children's Fund	8,175.09	10,761.49	10,212.28	8,724.30
Pavillion Maintenance Gift	236.00			236.00
Smith Fountain Gift	2,017.94			2,017.94
Sargission Beach/Canoe Launch Fund	6,168.21			6,168.21
Cable TV Programming Gift Fund	2,401.74		40.97	2,360.77
Greenway Committee Gift	10,700.74	2,032.00	738.00	11,994.74
Parks Basketball Court Maint. GDYBL	2,008.55			2,008.55
C-Lab/Insko Monitoring Gift	1,406.51			1,406.51
Flagpole Solar Maintenance	550.00			550.00
Country Club Gift	3,380.00	10,320.00	12,080.00	1,620.00
Lost Lake Dam Gift Fund	100,533.85			100,533.85
Sustainability Committee Gift Fund	0.00	100.00		100.00
Trails Committee Gift Fund	5,823.91	900.00	833.62	5,890.29
Recycling Gift Fund	2,793.17			2,793.17
LostLakeKnopsPondGift	3,430.00			3,430.00
Swim Team Gift Fund	19.02			19.02

BOS Gift Fund	138,524.75	31,000.00	51,208.56	118,316.19
Totals	463,820.20	87,556.03	105,353.39	0.00
GRANTS				446,022.84
<i>State Grants</i>				
Glass Pulverizer Trf Station FY19	101.34		101.34	0.00
CCG Car Charging Stations	4,800.00		4,800.00	0.00
Main St Paving Earmark FY22	(37,500.00)	37,500.00		0.00
DEP Car Charging Stations FY22	(21,684.79)		6,325.09	(28,009.88)
Communication Towers Devt Grant	(243,627.76)	402,726.00	159,098.24	0.00
911 Support & Incentive FY23	0.00	293,110.93	293,110.93	0.00
911 Support & Incentive FY22/16	(40,729.71)	58,966.29	18,236.58	0.00
FY22/14 911 Training Grant	(4,716.96)	5,114.96	398.00	0.00
Fire Department SAFE Grant	9,382.09	5,858.00	13,238.37	2,001.72
FY23/22/21 Fire Dept Equip Grant	(14,245.76)	14,245.76	13,824.00	(13,824.00)
DEP Recycle IQ	418.00		418.00	0.00
DOT Wrapp Grant	0.00	347,836.85	347,836.85	0.00
Conservation WHIP grant	1,875.00		1,875.00	0.00
FY22/20 911 EMD Grant	(310.00)	310.00		0.00
James Brook Grant	21.41			21.41
Library: LIGMEG grant	116,412.16	26,590.21	26,103.85	116,898.52
Arts Council Grant	8,733.42	7,975.88	7,888.00	8,821.30
Elder Programs Grant	11,492.27	38,124.00	30,290.73	19,325.54
Med Box Grant Police	3,048.88			3,048.88
MA Wildlife Habitat Mgmt FY22	(15,500.00)	20,950.00	5,450.00	0.00
Polling Hours Grant	2,271.78	3,030.00		5,301.78
911 Training Grant FY23	0.00	6,646.52	9,459.84	(2,813.32)
FY23 EMD Grant	0.00	1,575.00	1,575.00	0.00
QDS Software Conversion Grant	0.00	15,000.00		15,000.00
SMRP Recycling Grant	7,747.21	6,650.00	8,515.00	5,882.21
Green Communities Grant FY21	2,149.00	74,544.75	99,393.00	(22,699.25)

IT InfraGrant FY17, 20	1,421.25			1,421.25
IT CyberSecurity Grant FY17	8,195.77			8,195.77
BOH Equip Grant	136.99	1,029.80	1,166.79	0.00
Comm Foundation Trails Riverwalk	0.00	1,500.00		1,500.00
Federal Grants				
W&S Nashua River Trails Grant		1,250.00		1,250.00
Fire SAFER Grant	1,234.83			1,234.83
Police Vests Grant	149.38			149.38
US Cares HHS Grant FY20	233.95		233.95	0.00
COVID FEMA Tests Extension	(30,048.15)	30,048.15		0.00
Municipal Road Safety Grant FY22/21	(2,301.68)	4,585.04	2,283.36	0.00
Invasive Species Grant	1,270.00		1,244.17	25.83
Muni Road Safety Grant FY23	0.00	5,258.99	6,779.94	(1,520.95)
ARPA Projects Direct Fed	994,625.25	1,692,559.94	1,613,869.02	1,073,316.17
ARPA Projects State Earmark	(50,000.00)	125,000.00	36,536.61	38,463.39
Totals	715,055.17	3,227,987.07	2,710,051.66	0.00
				1,232,990.58

REVOLVING

	Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures	Bal to FY24
Affordable Housing Marketing/Monitoring	10,912.19			10,912.19
Revolving: Handicap Parking Fines	130.00			130.00
Revolving: Boat Tax	780.25	1,710.75	2,009.05	481.95
Revolving Bldg Rent for Maint.		31,929.19	28,665.58	3,263.61
Revolving: Home Recycling	4,612.49	958.13	3,750.00	1,820.62
Revolving: Drug Forfeiture	15,919.76		1,779.67	14,140.09
Revolving : Insurance Claims		4,536.33		4,536.33
Revolving: Erosion Control	2,961.67	12,821.00	8,697.25	7,085.42
Revolving: Conservation Land Mgmt	13,481.72	125.00		13,606.72
Revolving: Glass Plant Maintenance	6,583.50	8,782.25		15,365.75
Sr. Center Fitness Equipment	4,078.51	3,265.00		7,343.51
Revolving: COA Programming	803.00	20,024.55	19458.01	1369.54
Revolving: COA Bldg Monitoring		715.00		715.00

Cons593: Academy Hill LLC	522.67	5.25		527.92
Cons593: NESSP Temple	70.99	0.06	71.05	0.00
ZBA593:Heritage Financial		5,000.01		5,000.01
ZBA593:Heritage Legal		7,500.01		7,500.01
ZBA593: Groton Farms Civil Eng		15,656.44		15,656.44
PB593: Academy Hill		2,329.19	2,329.19	0.00
PB 593: Chamberlains Mills	66.49	0.68		67.17
PB 593: Batten Woods	405.21	4.07		409.28
PB 593: Bluestone Ln	1,787.23	17.96		1,805.19
PB 593: 128 Main St Groton Inn	4,330.19	43.50		4,373.69
PB 593: Indian Hill Music	524.42	11,114.51	11,637.50	1.43
PB593: 63 Gratuity Road		14,503.02	2,815.00	11,688.02
PB 593: Crossroads Plaza	46.70	0.04	46.74	0.00
PB 593: Monarch Path	2.90			2.90
43D 593: Mt. Laurel Development	1,892.14	19.02		1,911.16
PB593: Village Meadows	508.92	5.10		514.02
PB 593: Hayes Woods	8,548.72	68.38	6,290.00	2,327.10
PB593: Village at Shepley Hill	2,469.18	10,017.78	11,976.86	510.10
ZBA593 Groton Farms Traffic		9,216.15	8,000.00	1,216.15
PB593: Noble Monarch		2,503.02		2,503.02
ZBA593: Groton Farms Legal		10,010.72		10,010.72
	81,438.85	172,882.11	107,525.90	0.00
				146,795.06

RECEIPTS RESERVED

TNC Distribution DPU	1,499.20	341.70		1,840.90
Town Forest	74,358.26			74,358.26
EMS	475,013.92	407,604.81	100,000.00	782,618.73
Sale of Tarbell School	1,584.00			1,584.00

EMS Repts Res. includes \$300,000 encumbered for FY 2024

552,455.38	407,946.51	100,000.00	0.00	860,401.89
Interest &		Disbursements &	Transfers	

NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS

	<u>Bal. Forward</u>	<u>+ Market Adj</u>	<u>- Market Adj</u>	<u>In or Out</u>	<u>Bal to FY24</u>
Samuel Green Trust	162,343.48	14,895.09			177,238.57
Joseph Shepley Trust	374,177.94	34,330.97			408,508.91
Barr Eye Trust	3,213.09	294.80			3,507.89
Dalrymple Eye Trust	13,561.21	1,244.24			14,805.45
Waters Trust	7,305,379.53	670,271.52			7,975,651.05
Robbins Library Trust	3,773,870.20	346,254.11			4,120,124.31
Library Book Fund Trust	208,831.75	19,160.41			227,992.16
Lecture Fund Trust	5,781,218.11	530,429.10			6,311,647.21
Shepley Fountain Trust	3,213.07	294.80			3,507.87
Spaulding Trust	1,294.75	118.79			1,413.54
Blood Cemetery Perpetual Care	1,294.72	118.79			1,413.51
Sawyer Library Trust	6,656.50	610.74			7,267.24
Butler School Fund	15,318.65	1,405.50			16,724.15
Groton Commons Fund	12,868.19	1,180.66			14,048.85
Robertson Onners Fund	39,915.39	1,756.27			41,671.66
Robbins Scholarship Fund	21,458.89	1,968.84			23,427.73
Twomey Scholarship Fund	46,961.63	2,185.77			49,147.40
VanHoogan Scholarship	90,755.90	4,029.75			94,785.65
Bertozzi Scholarship	180,698.78	9,107.85			189,806.63
Belitsky Scholarship	21,815.47	1,068.14			22,883.61
Thomas Hartnett Memorial Scholarship Fund	20,430.37	1,083.20			21,513.57
Social Justice Trust Fund	19,628.31	1,190.95			20,819.26
DiePietro Memorial Schol.	0.00	1,850,832.04			1,850,832.04
Champney Cemetery Perpetual Care	1,294.73	118.79			1,413.52
	18,106,200.66	3,493,951.12	0.00	0.00	21,600,151.78

EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS

<u>Bal. Forward</u>	<u>Revenue, Interest + Market Adj</u>	<u>Disbursements & - Market Adj</u>	<u>Bal to FY24</u>
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Samuel Green Trust	981,336.72	39,117.74	75,378.61	945,075.85
Joseph Shepley Trust	407,321.66	21,622.14	16,614.48	412,329.32
Barr Eye Trust	2,270.22	141.72		2,411.94
Dalrymple Eye Trust	31,325.39	1,359.11		32,684.50
Waters Trust	1,035,599.52	155,060.74	98,049.33	1,092,610.93
Robbins Library Trust	642,742.33	83,754.42	80,875.98	645,620.77
Library Book Fund Trust	78,287.19	6,320.82	4,123.67	80,484.34
Lecture Fund Trust	929,923.58	128,107.65	91,234.65	966,796.58
Shepley Fountain Trust	3,858.41	204.36		4,062.77
Spaulding Trust	567.19	43.33		610.52
Blood Cemetery Perpetual Care	5,488.96	238.27		5,727.23
Lawrence Library Trust	87,199.64	7,823.23		95,022.87
Sawyer Library Trust	2,193.44	194.11		2,387.55
Butler School Fund	3,825.82	386.41	593.24	3,618.99
Groton Commons Fund	5,664.08	431.57		6,095.65
Robertson Onners Fund	16,177.09	1,335.05	1,568.00	15,944.14
Robbins Scholarship Fund	8,385.88	677.87		9,063.75
Twomey Scholarship Fund	2,055.20	925.12	750.00	2,230.32
VanHoogan Scholarship	4,821.20	1,400.41		6,221.61
Bertozzi Scholarship	2,747.37	3,045.86	1,000.00	4,793.23
Belitsky Scholarship	582.45	842.96	500.00	925.41
Thomas Hartnett Memorial Scholarship Fund	608.37	461.79	500.00	570.16
Social Justice Trust Fund	6,406.64	449.36	1,500.00	5,356.00
DiePietro Memorial Schol.	0.00	19,460.32		19,460.32
Champney Cemetery Perpetual Care	3,136.09	145.10		3,281.19
TREAD	0.00	5,079.69		5,079.69
OPEB	768,287.51	255,983.21		1,024,270.72
Avenue of Flags	3,463.02	34.79		3,497.81
Groton Scholarship	15,924.46	12,676.01	13,000.00	15,600.47
Turtle Study Trust	26,376.29	264.97		26,641.26
Turtle MainTrust	29,541.39	296.76		29,838.15

RentAssist/Kiley Donation	101,401.05	50,000.00	101,401.05	50,000.00
Affordable Housing Trust - Unrestricted Funds	46,002.86	151,677.93		197,680.79
General Stabilization	2,090,977.84	298,029.99		2,389,007.83
Conservation Commission	648,333.67	1,096,030.07	652,083.42	1,092,280.32
Capital Stabilization	566,991.49	627,052.13	753,000.00	441,043.62
GDRSD Cap Stabilization	579,744.39	258,767.24	577,026.00	261,485.63
	9,139,568.41	3,229,442.25	2,469,198.43	0.00
				9,899,812.23

Note: Capital Purchase Stabilization Fund Balances include amounts encumbered to FY24 for Capital Expenditures

AGENCY FUNDS	Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures	Bal to FY24
Payroll Deductions	94,524.46	962,268.51	946,909.81	109,883.16
Police Details Payable	(284.20)	208,559.38	210,136.40	(1,861.22)
Fire Details Payable	0.00	1,711.00	1,711.00	0.00
ALS Services Payable	7,975.00	72,800.00	70,850.00	9,925.00
ALS Billing Fees Payable	1,564.91	20,264.29	19,860.91	1,968.29
State Sales Tax Payable	967.79	7,453.93	6,964.47	1,457.25
State Firearms Permits Payable	2,712.50	12,562.50	11,200.00	4,075.00
Deputy Collector Payable	8,766.50	26,760.74	18,365.59	17,161.65
Due to Municipalities Recycling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEBS Payable for Driveway	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Turtles Kanniard Homes	9,049.64	90.92		9,140.56
Performance Bond: 39 Anthony Dr Keenan	522.51	5.25		527.76
Performance Bond: Chamberlain Mills	3,957.32	4.27		3,961.59
Performance Bond: GT Smith Moose Trail	1,043.50	10.48		1,053.98
Performance Bond: H&V Trailer	1,500.00	2.10		1,502.10
Performance Bond: Enwright Champney St	0.00	500.83		500.83
Road Opening Bond Wojtas	522.36	5.25		527.61
Trailer Bond: Pinnacle 120 Boston Rd	5.04			5.04
Performance Bond: H&V Trailer	1,632.72	34.52		1,667.24
Hummingbird Lane Rocky Hill	106,876.49	1,073.69		107,950.18

Perf Bond Bluebird Lane	125,197.71	1,254.73		126,452.44
PerfBond Oriole Dr Moulton	282,308.53	2,836.05		285,144.58
TrailerBond Shepley Hill Constr	5,000.15	50.23		5,050.38
Kiley Habitat Protection Turtles	11,000.00	106.24		11,106.24
Tight Tank Bond 72 Maplewood	0.00	1,000.42		1,000.42
West Groton Water District	8,676.16	183,382.83	138,135.74	53,923.25
Mass Toss	16,107.10	47,475.63	58,750.04	4,832.69
	699,626.19	1,550,213.79	1,482,883.96	766,956.02



Miranda is an eight year old American Bulldog and trained as a therapy dog. She joined the department in 2017, and is set to retire June 30, 2024.

Bane is a 5 year old Black Lab trained in search and rescue and narcotics detection. He joined the department in 2019, when he was just 10 months old.

