

TOWN OF GROTON



2024 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT





THE FLORENCE ROCHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Town of Groton would like to express its gratitude to the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee, the Select Board, the Finance Committee, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health, and the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee for their support of this project.

We extend a special thank you to the members of the Florence Roche Building Committee: Mark Haddad, Dr. Laura Chesson, Fay Raynor, Marlena Gilbert, Alison Manugian, Colby Doody, Jake Lewan, Luke Callahan, Sherry Kersey, and Brian O'Donoghue.

We also want to acknowledge the efforts of the Owners Project Manager's, David Saindon, Eileena Long, Brian Johnson and the LeftField team for their excellent management of this project. The Town of Groton sincerely thanks Meryl Nistler, Marylee Mercy, Steve Michener and the talented team at StudioG Architects for their exceptional design of this remarkable building. Additionally, we appreciate Tripp Mcelroy, Jonathan May, John Roche, and the dedicated Gilbane Construction team for their extraordinary commitment and hard work.

The Town of Groton would like to thank the taxpayers of the Town of Groton for supporting this project.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLESEX COUNTY

www.grotonma.gov

“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, 2024: 10,484

Registered Voters as of December 31, 2024: 8,903

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





Dedication

The Town of Groton proudly dedicates the 2024 Annual Town Report to the following individuals who will forever have a Lasting impact on our hearts and community.

Their dedication, service, and contributions, along with their unwavering commitment to making Groton a better place to live will be remembered and cherished.

In Memoriam



Brian Barbieri

1963 – 2024

In Memoriam



Earl Carter

1939-2024

In Memoriam



Patricia Karchl

1933 – 2024

In Memoriam



Claire Macy

1935-2024

In Memoriam



Richard Perini

1946 – 2024

In Memoriam



Geraldine Perry

1938 – 2024

In Memoriam



George Wheatley

1932 – 2024

2024 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

Nationally Accredited Senior Center

January, 2024

Nora Gromann

February 26, 2024

Arbor Day

May 5, 2024

Memorial Day

May 24, 2024

Bob DeGroot Day

June 24, 2024

Marion Stoddart Day

October 25, 2024

EAGLE SCOUTS/GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARDS

Christopher Pincott Day

May 5, 2024

Troop 3- 100th Anniversary

June 8, 2024

EMPLOYEE PROCLAMATION

Steele McCurdy

May 17, 2024

SELECT BOARD

Alison S. Manugian, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

John F. Reilly, Member

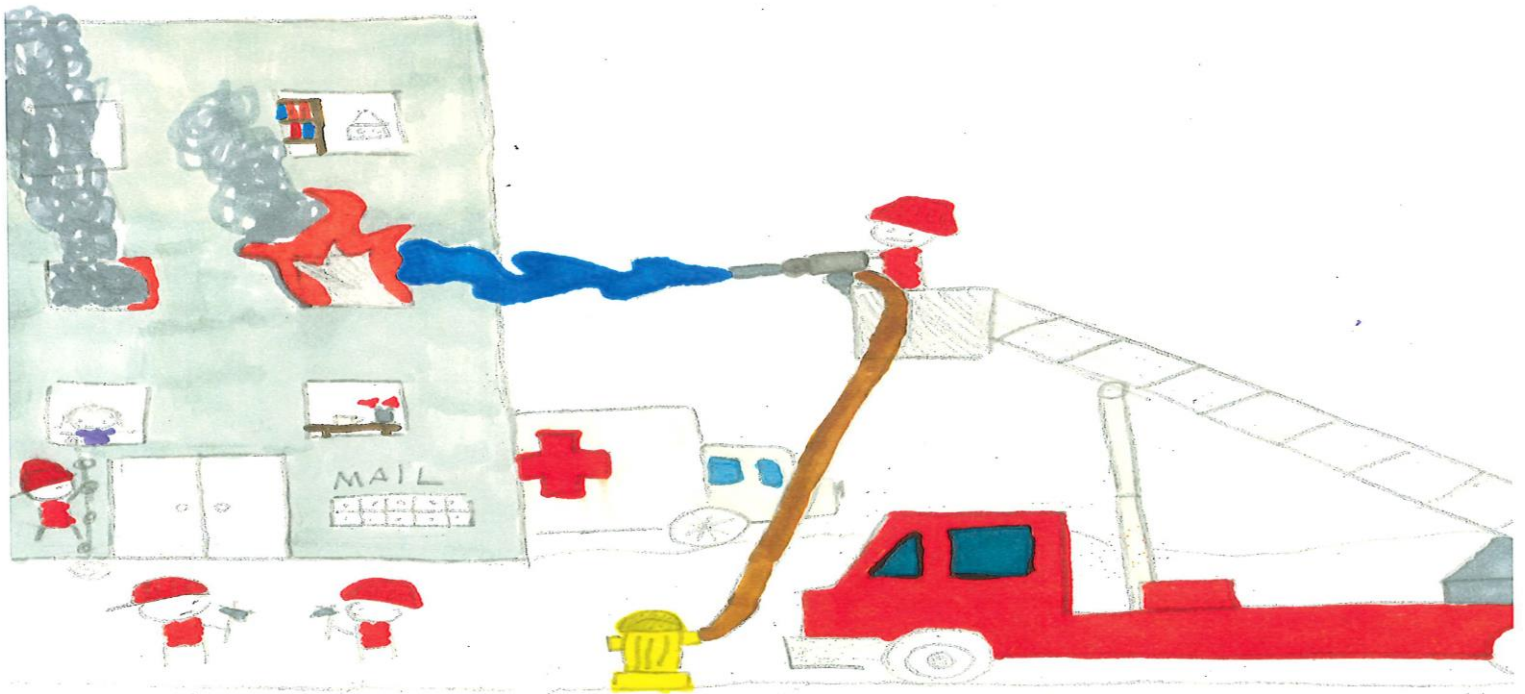
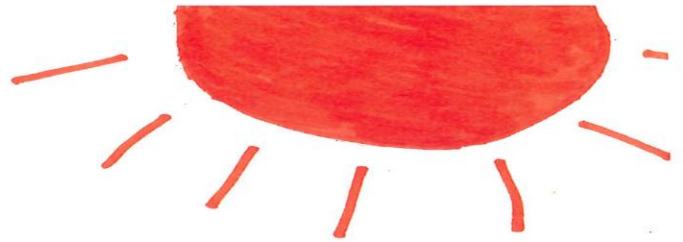
Matthew F. Pisani, Member

Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager

Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk

Thank Our First Responders- They're Our Heroes Without Capes

Thank you
first responders!



We held our Second Annual Town Report Contest this year, inviting students from the community to submit their artwork expressing gratitude to our first responders. Congratulations to our winner, Deacon Krubsack, who is 10 years old.

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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

Senator John Cronin
Worcester and Middlesex District
24 Beacon Street, Room 218
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-1230
john.cronin@masenate.gov

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL

COURT Senator Danillo Sena
37TH Middlesex District
24 Beacon Street, Room 39
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-2014
Danillo.Sena@mahouse.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	16 978-448-1121

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS (in alphabetical order)

ASSESSORS, BOARD OF

Donald Black	2025
Garrett Boles	2026
Jennifer Moore	2027

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS

Rodney R. Hersh	2025
Eric Fisher	2026
Kevin J. Lindemer	2027

GDRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Rosanna Casavecchia	2025
Yasmeen Cheema	2025
Catherine Awa	2026
Fay Raynor	2027
Rohit Bhasin	2027

HEALTH, BOARD OF

Robert Fleischer	2025
Evan Thackaberry	2026
Michelle Collette	2027

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Donald Black	2025
Leslie Colt	DHCD
Daniel C. Emerson	State Appt'd
John Sopka	2029
Vacancy	

MODERATOR

Jason Kauppi	2025
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PARK COMMISSIONERS

Brian Edmonds	2025
*Brenden Mahoney	2025
Mary Jennings	2026
Jeffrey Ohringer	2026
Anna Eliot	2027

*Resigned/Retired

**Deceased

PLANNING BOARD

Russell Burke	2025
George Barringer	2025
David Bonnett	2025
Scott O. Wilson	2026
Lorayne Black	2027
Paul Hathway	2027

SELECT BOARD

Matthew Pisani	2025
John F. Reilly	2025
Alison S. Manugian	2026
Rebecca H. Pine	2026
Peter S. Cunningham	2027

SEWER COMMISSIONERS

James L. Gmeiner	2025
Eric Berg	2027
Vacancy	

TRUST FUNDS, COMMISSIONERS

Rachael Bielecki	2025
Martha McLure	2026
Joseph E. Twomey	2027

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mark Gerath	2025
Jennifer Petersen	2025
Heidi Reichert-Robes	2025
David Zeiler	2026
Kristen Von Campe	2027
Helena Fruscio Altzman	2027

WATER COMMISSIONERS

Greg R. Fishbone	2025
James L. Gmeiner	2026
John J. McCaffrey	2027

OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

TOWN MANAGER

Mark W. Haddad 2025

TOWN COUNSEL

Mirick O'Connell 2025

POLICE CHIEF

Micahel Luth 2025

FIRE CHIEF

Arthur Cheeks 2027

OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

ADA COORDINATOR

Michelle Collette 2025

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2025

John Greenhalgh 2025

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Jodee Coke 2025

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Robert Garside 2025

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Daniel Britko 2025

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR

Charlotte Steeves 2025

CONSTABLES

Brian O. Downes 2025

Michele Giso 2025

Frederick Correia 2026

George Moore 2027

COUNCIL ON AGING DIRECTOR

Nicole Sarvela 2025

COUNTRY CLUB GM/HEAD

GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Shawn Campbell 2025

DATABASE COORDINATOR

Vacancy

DOG OFFICER

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2025

John Greenhalgh 2025

EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR

Michelle Collette 2025

ELECTION WORKERS

Judith Anderson 2025

Alicia Black 2025

Jennifer Cacciola 2025

Carole Clark 2025

Michelle Collette 2025

Joan Croteau 2025

Janis Discipio 2025

Michael Discipio 2025

Daniel Emerson 2025

Alberta Erickson 2025

Lindsey Goranson 2025

Andreas Hartmann 2025

Aneeqa Hashimi 2025

Valerie Heim 2025

Jacquelyn Jackson 2025

Barbara Keast 2025

Margaret Knight 2025

Michael Koza 2025

Michael LaTerz 2025

Stephen Legge 2025

Dennis Levesque 2025

*Resigned/Retired

**Deceased

		GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER	
Cindy Martell	2025	Deborah Beal Normandin	2025
Paula Martin	2025		
Richard Marton	2025		
Kate Mceleney	2025	HARBOR MASTER	
Sarah Miller	2025	Michael F. Luth	2025
Lynda Moore	2025		
Emily Navetta	2025	HAZ-MAT COORDINATOR	
Sue Norberg	2025	Arthur Cheeks	2025
Lisa O'Neill	2025		
Ellen Paxton	2025	HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY & ACCOUNTIBILITY OFFICER	
Donna Piche	2025	Melisa Doig	2025
Nancy Pierce	2025		
David Posner	2025	HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR	
Katrina Posner	2025		
Diana Rice	2025	Melisa Doig	2025
Suzanne Sanders	2025		
Harold Sandford	2025		
Connie Sartini	2025	IT DIRECTOR	
William Seldon	2025	Michael Chiasson	2025
Stuart Shuman	2025		
David Sontag	2025	KEEPER OF THE TOWN CLOCK	
John Sopka	2025	Paul Matisse	2025
Fran Stanley	2025		
Alberta Steed	2025	LAND USE DIRECTOR / TOWN PLANNER	
Virginia Steward	2025	Takashi Tada	2025
Ramona Tolles	2025		
Jeffrey Upton	2025	LOCAL LICENSING AGENT	
Bronwen Wallens	2025	Michael F. Luth	2025
Charlotte Weigel	2025		
Lois Young	2025	MEASURER OF WOOD AND BARK	
		Evan C. Owen	2025
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR			
Edward Doucette	2025	MOTH SUPERINTENDENT	
John Dee III (Alternate)	2025	R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2025
EXECUTIVE ASSISITANT TO THE TOWN MANAGER		NIMS COORDINATOR	
Kara Cruikshank	2025	Michael F. Luth	2025
FENCE VIEWER		PARKING CLERK	
George Moore	2025		
		Dawn Dunbar	2025
FIELD DRIVER			
George Moore	2025	PLUMBING AND GAS INSPECTOR Norm Card	2025
		Jeremy Pierce (Alternate)	2025
		PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR	
		Megan Foster	2025

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

POLICE DEPARTMENT**Deputy Chief**

Rachel Bielecki 2025

Matrons

Jessica Watson 2025

Officers

Andrew Davis 2025

Cassie O'Connor 2025

Dale Rose 2025

Derrick Gemos 2025

Gordon Candow 2025

Greg Steward 2025

Keving Henehan 2025

Michael Lynn 2025

Michael Masterson 2025

Patrick Timmins 2025

Peter Breslin 2025

Peter Violette 2025

Robert Wayne, Jr. 2025

Brian Underhill 2025

Paul Connell 2025

Reserve Officers

Frank Mastrangelo 2025

Michael Ratte 2025

PUBLIC WORKS**DIRECTOR** R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2025**ROAD KILL OFFICER**

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2025

SEALER WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Massachusetts Division of Standards 2025

SURVEYOR OF WOOD/LUMBER

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2025

ASST. FINANCE DIRECTOR/**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

Patricia Dufresne 2025

TOWN DIARIST

M. Constance Sartini 2025

Robert L. Collins 2025

Steve Lieman 2025

TOWN CLERK

Dawn Dunbar 2025

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Hannah Moller 2025

TREE WARDEN

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. 2025

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

Maureen Heard 2025

WATER SUPERINTENDENT

Thomas Orcutt 2025

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

Charles Vander Linden 2025

** Ricard Perini 2025

Becky Pine 2025

Phil Francisco 2026

Carolyn Perkins 2026

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Dawn Dunbar – Town Clerk	
Marvin Caldwell	2025
Jane Fry	2026
Gregory Baran	2027

CAPITAL PLANNING**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

David Manugian	2025
Michael O'Rourke	2025
Thomas Naughton	2026
Michael Sulprizio	2027
Jamie McDonald	2027

Alison Hamilton	2027
Jon Smigelski	2027

COUNCIL ON AGING

Nicole Sarvela	2025
Michelle Collette	2025
Harris McWade	2025
Alberta Erickson	2025
Carole Carter	2026
Lois Young	2026
Judith Polumbo O'Brien	2026
Dorothy Zale	2026
Tony Serge	2027
Pascal Miller	2027

COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Donald Black	2025
Connie Sartini	2025
Michael F. Luth	2025
Maureen Heard	2025
Jennifer Moore	2025
Karen Tuomi	2025

DESTINATION GROTON COMMITTEE

Brian Bolton	2025
Jeff Gordon	2025
Joni Parker- Roach	2025
Greg Sheldon	2025
Vacancy	

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Bruce Easom (Conservation)	2025
Russell Burke (Planning)	2025
Anna Eliot (Parks)	2026
Daniel Emerson (Housing Auth.)	2027
Aubrey Theall (Historical)	2027
Carolyn Perkins (SB)	2027
Richard Hewitt (SB)	2027

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Michelle Collette	2025
Gordon Candow	2025
Susan Hughes	2025
Raquel Majeski	2025
Deidre Slavin-Mitchell	2025
Fran Stanley	2025
Damian Huggins	2025
Vacancy	

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

George Barringer	2025
Peter Cunningham	2025
R. Thomas Delaney Jr.	2025
Stephen Legge	2025
Takashi Tada	2025
Gordon Row	2025
Kristen Von Campe	2025

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Manugian	2025
Michael Sulprizio	2025
Scott Whitefield	2026
Mary Linskey	2026
Norman "Bud" Robertson	2027
Gary Green	2027
Kristina Lengyel	2027

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Laurence Hurley	2025
Peter A. Morrison	2025
Kimberly Kuliesis	2025
Bruce H. Easom	2026
Olin Lathrop	2026

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Peter S. Cunningham	2025
Anna Eliot	2025
Richard Perini**	2025
Vacancy (2)	

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

Jonathan Basch	2025
Brian Bettencourt	2025
Adam Burnett	2025
Ann Carpenter	2025
Richard Hewitt	2025
Olin Lathrop	2025
Ron Strohsahl	2025
Charlotte Weigel	2025
Ben Wolfe	2025

LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCIL

Harris Mcwade	2026
Judith Romatelli	2026
Nancy Muller	2026
Haley Traverse	2026
Kathleen Phelps	2028
Leslie Lathrop	2030
Olive Cote	2030
Cynthia Davidson	2030

**LOWELL REGIONAL TRANSIT
AUTHORITY**

Nicole Sarvela	2025
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MBTA ADVISORY BOARD

John Reilly	2025
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**MONTACHUSETT JOINT
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Russell Burke (PB)	2025
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**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Russell Burke	2025
Peter Cunningham	2025

**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

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

Nicholas Degaitas	2027
Larry Hurley (Cons Com Rep)	2027

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Geoffrey Kromer	2025
Deb Busser	2025
Valencia Augusta	2025
Trish Winroth	2026
Kate Dennison	2026
Alberta Erickson	2027

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Alison Dolbear Peterson	2025
Ken Horton	2025
Bruce Easom	2025
David Southwick	2025
Linda Loren	2025
Phile Francisco	2025
Virginia Vollmar	2025
Charlotte Weigel	2025
Patrick Parker-Roach	2025
Sue Fitterman	2025
Vacancy	

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

Don Black	2025
Louis Dimola	2025
Charles Vander Linden	2025
Pascal Miller	2025
Hannah Moller	2025

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Jay Prager	2025
Bruce Easom	2025
Veronica O’Donnell (Associate)	2025
Leonard Green	2025
Gregg Baker (Associate)	2025
Daniel McLaughlin	2026
Tom Peisel (Associate)	2026
Jack Petropoulos	

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

Neil Colicchio	2025
Eric Fisher	2025
John Macleod	2025
Russell Harris	2025
Janet Sheffield	2025

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Brian Cartier	2025
Lisa Hicks	2025
Jennifer Rand	2026
Jennifer Moore	2026
David MacInnis	2027

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Barbara Cronin	2025
Melisa Doig	2025
Patricia Dufresne	2025
Paul McBrearty	2025
Rena Swezey	2025
Police Superior Off. Rep	2025
Police Rep.	2025
DPW Rep.	2025
Supervisors Rep	2025
Town Hall/Lib Rep.	2025

BOARDS, COMMITTEES,
AND COMMISSIONS
NOMINATED BY THE TOWN
MANAGER

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Sally Smith	2025
Shelly Sullivan	2026
Jessica MacGregor	2027
Peter MacGregor	2027
Vacancy	

BOARD OF SURVEY

Robert Garside – Bldg. Comm.	2025
Arthur Cheeks – Fire Chief	2025
Evan C. Owen	2025

COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY

Judith Anderson	2025
Robert Fleischer	2025
Molly Foster	2025
Lynne Pistorino	2025
Thomas Pistorino	2025
Alan Taylor	2025
Barbara Rich	2025

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2025
Michael F. Luth	2025
Arthur Cheeks	2025

CONDUCTORLAB COMMITTEE

Michelle Collette	2025
Mark Deuger	2025
Robert Hanninen	2025
Takashi Tada	2025
Veronica O'Donnell	2025

EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

George Barringer	2025
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2025
Robert Hanninen	2025
Bruce Easom	2025
Steven Savage	2025

GREAT POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Larry Hurley	2025
Remigiusz Kaleta	2025
James Luening	2025
Ronald Hersch	2025
Alexander Woodle	2025
Rick Salon	2025
Jesse Cotter	2025
Bob Elam	2025
Vacancy	

GREENWAY COMMITTEE

Adam Burnett	2025
Carol Coutrier	2025
Marina Khabituyeva	2025
David Pitkin	2025
Pete Carson	2025

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Thomas Horsman	2025
Michael Danti	2025
Robert Nason	2025
Aubrey Theall	2026
Joshua Vollmar	2027
Gus Widmayer	2027
Amanda Chang	2027

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

OLD BURYING GROUND COMMISSION

Don Black	2025
Debbie Beal Normandin	2025
Vacancy (3)	

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Tessa David	2025
R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.	2025
Jamie E. King	2025
Bart Yeager	2025
Nancy Ohringer	2025

SIGN COMMITTEE

Connie Sartini	2025
Mark W. Haddad	2025
Carolyn Perkins	2025

TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE

John Sheedy	2025
Ned Cahoon	2026
Leslie Row	2027

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Tom Montillo	2025
James Peregoy	2025
Paul Funch	2025
Stephen Legge	2025
Richard Lynch	2025
Brittain McKinley	2025
Kiirja Paananen	2025
Bob Fournier	2025
Josh LoPresti	2025
Dan Pierpont	2025
Thomas Guilick	2025
*Wangfang Murray	

**WEED HARVESTER
COMMITTEE**

James Leuning	2025
Erich Garger	2025
Jed Richards	2025
Cy Richards	2025
*Joshua Richards	2025
Vacancy (3)	

WILLIAMS BARN COMMITTEE

Lori "May" Brackett	2025
Bruce Easom	2025
Robert Kniffen	2025
Joseph Twomey	2025
Sandra Tobies	2025
Steve Woodin	2025
Matt Novak	2025
Christopher Darling	2025
Chris Furcolo	2025

*Resigned/Retired

** Deceased

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

2024 Annual Report of the Select Board

A budget crisis, a Town Meeting canceled because there was not enough room for all the voters who came, a failed override, the abrupt closure of our local hospital, a proposal to remove the West Groton dam, a citizen group's campaign to pressure Groton School and Lawrence Academy to increase their voluntary payments in lieu of taxes to the town – these were some of the noteworthy issues and events the Select Board faced in 2024.

Following projections in 2023 of a serious funding shortfall, representatives from the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee and both Groton and Dunstable Administrative and Finance groups began work on the FY2025 Budget months earlier than usual. In early 2024, all parties agreed that neither the towns or the School District would be able to maintain level services without an override of Proposition 2 ½. The Select Board voted to seek an override of \$5,500,000 to cover a projected three-year deficit.

While the Administrators, Select Boards and Finance Teams in both Groton and Dunstable worked in close collaboration with each other and the Groton-Dunstable School Committee to promote and explain the need for the override to both towns' taxpayers, the proposal met with significant opposition from voters in both towns.

Preparations were made to accommodate 900 people at Groton's Annual Town Meeting, scheduled on March 26, 2024 where the FY25 Budget would be voted on. (The highest Town Meeting attendance in the last five decades was about 615 people.) When an unprecedented crowd of more than 1100 people arrived, the meeting had to be cancelled. The rescheduled Town Meeting was held on May 18, 2024, in the Groton-Dunstable High School gymnasium, with a capacity of 1200 people plus overflow. However, by then, both Groton and Dunstable had rejected the override proposal at the polls on April 2, 2024; only 199 voters attended the May 18th Town Meeting.

The cost savings from the Select Board's 2023 decisions to join the Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center and to change health insurance providers minimized the impact of the failed override to the Town. The brunt of the failed override was felt by the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, which had to lay off approximately 24 full-time equivalent employees. The failed override did not solve the budget crisis; the projected shortfall is still with us as both towns begin the budgeting cycle for FY26.

Stagnant state education funding over the past two decades has been a major factor in creating the current budget shortfall. The Select Board has held several meetings with our state legislative delegation to help them understand our need for more revenue from the state. They have all been responsive, for which we are grateful. We have been especially pleased

with the successful efforts made by State Rep Margaret Scarsdale and Senators John Cronin (Groton) and Ed Kennedy (Dunstable) to bring more funding to our two towns.

Groton received grant funding from the Mass Dept of Ecological Restoration (DER) to study the feasibility of removing the Squannacook River Dam located next to Rivercourt Residences in West Groton. The dam needs some repair, and has been assessed as a safety risk by the Commonwealth of MA, so state funding is available for removing it. This idea engendered much discussion in town. Proponents of removal cite the lowered risk of dam failure and the value of restoring historic cold-water fisheries. Opponents of this project emphasize the aesthetic, recreational, and historic value of the impoundment pond as the center of West Groton. The pond would be drained if the dam is removed; what the land and ecology would look like at that point is unclear. Following completion of the DER feasibility study, the Fall Town Meeting voted to appropriate funds to determine the true costs to the town of both removing and repairing the dam, so that an informed decision about whether to remove or repair the dam can be made.

Over the summer, Steward Healthcare, owners of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center NVMC) in Ayer, filed for bankruptcy. The bankruptcy judge allowed Steward to close NVMC with only one month's notice. Starting on Sept 1, 2024, an ambulance trip from Groton to a hospital increased from a 10-20 minute drive to Nashoba to a 30-40 minute drive to facilities in Lowell, Concord, Leominster, or beyond. This means the two EMS/Firefighters staffing the ambulance are away from Groton for at least an hour, and often significantly more than that, leaving the Fire Station understaffed for other emergency calls that may come in.

To begin to address this situation, voters at the Fall Town Meeting approved the immediate hiring of two more Firefighter/EMTs. Groton joined regional efforts to press the Governor and State Legislature for financial assistance and Town Manager Mark Haddad and Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks are serving on a task force with State Rep Margaret Scarsdale to re-establish critical healthcare services in our area. Some promising possibilities have emerged from their work, but any permanent solution will take a long time to become operational.

As the impact of Groton's financial situation became clear, an adhoc group of townspeople began an effort to pressure our two private high schools to increase the amount of money they donate to the Town. By law, educational and other non-profit institutions are not required to pay property taxes. The Town Manager conducted a study that showed that Lawrence Academy and Groton School are among the small number (6, out of a total of 24) of private schools in Massachusetts that voluntarily contribute a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to the town. The Select Board has worked diligently over the years to build strong positive cooperative relationships with all of the non-profit organizations in Groton. We are grateful for the PILOT payments which Groton School, Lawrence Academy, and Groton Hill Music have given to the town and hope they will continue to increase their payments each year.

In addition to these issues and events, the Select Board continued managing the usual business of Town Government. We wished Fire Chief Steele McCurdy and Council on Aging Director Ashley Shaheen well as they moved on to new positions in other towns, and we enthusiastically promoted Art Cheeks to the position of Fire Chief, and hired Nicole Sarvela as our new Council on Aging Director.

Following Laura Chesson's retirement, Geoff Bruno was selected by the School Committee to become Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Superintendent in June. The new Florence Roche Elementary School opened its doors in September and the Middle School South building has been renamed as the Marion Stoddart Building.

The Select Board finalized a two-phase plan between the Towns of Groton and Dunstable to solve the problem of PFAS in the well water at and around the Groton-Dunstable High School. Work to secure funding, obtain permits, and do the necessary engineering/design work was completed in 2024 and construction of a water line along Chicopee Row began in early 2025.

Three different Affordable Housing projects in Groton were approved in 2024. The 200-unit Groton Center Farms Project on the former Deluxe property, the 40-unit Heritage Landing Project on Cow Pond Brook Rd, and the 24-unit project on the vacant '4th Corner' property will provide much-needed smaller housing units, both for rent and for purchase, at lower price points.

Several different long-term planning efforts to meet legal requirements and provide direction for Groton's future began in 2024. The Select Board empowered a Charter Review Committee to review our Town Charter and recommend any changes to the way we govern ourselves. The Planning Board continued work on a new Master Plan for the town. The Sustainability Commission has done an excellent job providing guidance on efforts to address Climate Change and reduce carbon emissions.

Peter Cunningham was elected to another term on the Board at the Town Election in May. The Select Board and Town Manager enjoyed a positive working relationship throughout the year. The Board would like to thank all of our dedicated employees who keep our town running and provide excellent service to townspeople. We would also like to thank the many, many residents who have stepped up to serve on the committees that guide Groton and contribute to creating the strong vibrant town we all love.

Becky Pine

Select Board Vice Chair



BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Megan Foster, Principal Assistant Assessor

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

Meetings as Posted

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 towns 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 FY2025. 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 FY2025 is \$15.25 per \$1000 of value.

Office hours continue to be Monday 8am to 7pm, Tuesday through Thursday 8am to 4pm and Friday 8am to 1pm. 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

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 6:30PM 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 2024, the Board of Health reviewed/granted the following permits:

▪ Subsurface sewage disposal system	
▪ New permits:	5
▪ Upgrade permits:	16
▪ Variances:	4
▪ Well	
▪ Permits	7
▪ Variances	0
▪ Habitable Lighting	
▪ Variances	3
▪ Tobacco control permits	7
▪ Trash hauler permits	5
▪ Stable licenses	19

Discussions regarding the contaminant PFAS were frequent in 2024.

On October 21, 2024 the Board adopted revisions to the following regulations: Chapter 322 – Tobacco, to be effective January 1st, 2025.

The Board of Health would like to thank Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Director, James Garreffi, Health Agent, Kalene Gendron and the Land Use Department staff at Town Hall for their continued support throughout the year. The actuality of supporting any Board of Health can be challenging. The Board appreciates the effort and professionalism with which these efforts are undertaken.

Respectfully submitted,

Evan Thackaberry, Chair

Michelle Collette

Robert Fleischer

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

Kalene Gendron, 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)

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health continues to serve the Groton Board of Health in meeting the challenges of environmental and public health needs in your community.

In 2024, the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH) continued to advance regional public health through the ongoing support of two key grants: the Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant and the Contact Tracing and Case Investigation (CT/CI) Grant.

Since 2022, the PHE Grant has enabled the onboarding of staff over time, including two Health Agents, an Education/Communication Specialist, and part-time staff to help with food inspections and manage the grant. This growing team has enhanced NABH's ability to provide inspections, community outreach, and health education, fostering a more robust and adaptable public health infrastructure across participating municipalities.

The CT/CI Grant has further supported NABH by funding a full-time Public Health Nurse, enabling enhancements to the regional public health database, and incorporating advanced analytical tools to improve data tracking and reporting.

Together, these grants have strengthened NABH's ability to meet evolving community needs, improving disease surveillance, emergency preparedness, and equitable access to high-quality public health services. Through a collaborative and resource-sharing approach, NABH has built a resilient and modern public health system that continues to effectively serve all member communities.

Environmental Health Department

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

Food Service Licensing and Inspections

56

This office licenses, inspects, responds to complaints and conducts follow-up on concerns in licensed operations. Our staff review plans for new/renovated facilities to ensure they are constructed in accordance with the Food Code.

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

Housing & Nuisance Investigation

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

Title 5 related work – On-site Sewage Disposal

We received 19 applications for soil testing (testing necessary for the design of a sewage disposal system) and witnessed 98 tests performed (perc tests and soil evaluation holes).

We received 13 applications for sewage disposal systems and reviewed 16 plans for new and replacement systems.

Our office prepared 21 sewage disposal system permits for the Board's review and approval: 5 for new construction and 16 for the replacement of failed systems.

We conducted 75 inspections during the construction of sewage disposal systems.

We reviewed 105 Title 5 inspection reports, and we were available to provide consultation to your residents on matters relating to sewage disposal systems.

Private Wells

Private wells are regulated by local regulation, and we issued 7 permits for new and replacement private water supply wells.

We reviewed water quality and quantity reports and interpreted the results for your residents. As water quality awareness has increased, we have assisted communities with systematic water testing programs (generally upon property transfer.)

Rabies Clinics

The number of residents attending our community clinics has dropped. Understanding the importance of service, we have modified our clinic offerings to ensure convenient access to a clinic.

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 respiratory diseases) 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 other 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.
- In conjunction with our Health Agents, we work with individuals in challenging living conditions (unsanitary, hoarded) to facilitate services to mitigate situations which would allow an individual to remain in their home.

Communicable Disease Number of Cases investigated:

Babesiosis	4
Calicivirus/Norovirus	1
Campylobacteriosis	1
Giardiasis	2
Group A streptococcus.....	1
Group B streptococcus.....	2
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	4
Influenza	76

Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	134
Pertussis (and other Bordetella species)	5
Salmonellosis.....	1
Shiga toxin producing organism	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	1
Tuberculosis (latent)	9

The Nashoba nursing staff provided monitoring and guidance to travelers and residents testing positive for TB infection (not contagious) **61** throughout the district this calendar year and have also been managing **2** active TB cases in the District since Spring/Summer 2024 and continue 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 etc.) in a variety of ways including:

- Monthly town nurse hours have been & continue to be offered throughout the district. Nashoba nursing staff conducted **136** total town nurse hour events this year, including **10** in Groton. Town nurse hours include an opportunity for blood pressure checks, blood sugar screenings, diet/nutrition information and teaching, medication review, and assistance with identifying and coordinating community resources and referral as needed. Districtwide flu clinics are held in the fall.
- Nashoba conducted seasonal flu clinics in each community to make vaccinations available to everyone, including homebound residents. In 2024 we administered **1256** flu shots to community members, including **72** 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.
- 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 offered availability to a grief support group, participated in the Triad meeting and offered programs on Tick Talk and Grief 101.
- 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

The Public Health Educator/Communications Specialist (PHE/CS) role has continued to evolve since its inception in Sept 2021 to best support the needs of the district. In the past year, the PHE/CS has been communicating timely and relevant public health information to towns and stakeholders and providing educational opportunities across the District with a social determinants of health (SDOH) lens. This work has included:

- Providing community educational opportunities to residents both independently and collaboratively with the PH nursing team based on community need- Harm reduction, emergency preparedness, etc.
- Overseeing and administering a grant and donation-funded community grief support program
- Offering and instructing adult mental health first aid certification courses for municipal staff, community volunteers, and other groups serving NABH region residents
- Providing education and advocacy related to harm reduction, treatment and de-stigmatization of substance use disorder
- Organizing technical assistance and resource-sharing meetings for municipalities related to opioid abatement settlement funds
- Collaborating with the new Shared Services Coordinator to build district understanding of the State's Blueprint for Public Health Excellence, maximize resources and identify opportunities for capacity building
- 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 explore and evaluate communication methods to reach as many community members as possible.
- Building and maintaining relationships with stakeholders through meetings and attending community events to represent NABH
- Finalizing an official agency "mission statement", approved by the NABH Executive Committee in 2024
- 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.
- 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 upon NABH website to keep info relevant and accessible
- Maintaining agency social media to reach more people in district with current, relevant, and seasonal public health information
- Co-organizing events to facilitate the exchange of information such as a springtime public health conference called "Bridges to Health: Building Thriving Community Partnerships"

COMMISSIONERS OF TRUST FUNDS

Karen Tuomi, Executive Director Meetings by Appointment

(978) 877-6787

COMMISSIONERS OF TRUST FUNDS

The Commissioners of Trust Funds continue to disburse funds from many of the Town's Trust Funds and two Gift Funds adhering to the guidelines established by the donors. The Town was pleased to accept a new Fund, the Peter Twomey Youth Center Fund, in November 2024. This Fund was gifted by the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District via a donation made by the late Joseph DiPietro. Also, this year, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts began providing free tuition to all residents attending community colleges. The Commissioners are in discussion for the best way to utilize the Frank Waters Vocational Education Fund being mindful of the intent of the Trust 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 Chloe MacMillan.

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 Svea Sullivan, Freya Webb and Caden Woolfrey,

Joseph DiPietro Scholarship Trust Fund

The Joseph DiPietro Scholarship recipients as selected by the principal and staff of the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School were Nitya Eswarren, Jouana Salib.

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 Amy Loveless.

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 Isabella Paul.

Frank F. Waters Vocational Education Scholarship Trust Fund

Ten students received scholarships of \$7000 toward their first year at a vocational education institution. These students were: Nicole Babumba, Daniel Belanger, Nicholas Bresnick, Douglas Burke, Joseph Devereau, Claudia Dutile, Shawn Hamill, Theodor Lincoln, Zoey Maxwell and Ethan White.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Bielecki, Commissioner

Martha McLure, Commissioner

Joseph Twomey, Commissioner

ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Jonathan D. Patterson, Manager

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

Meeting 2nd Monday 7:30pm

The Groton Electric Light Department turned one hundred and fifteen years old in 2024 with NEW BEGINNINGS. In 2024, GELD hired a new manager, Jonathan D. Patterson, after longtime manager, Kevin Kelly retired in early spring. Jon is no stranger to GELD – he has been an employee for over 15 years and has risen through the ranks and knows our electric distribution system extremely well.



Below is a summary of our 2024 operations, power supply, and rates. 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 partnered with Delorean (now known as Light Shift) 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. They were both operational beginning in July 2024. These systems are saving GELD ratepayers significant money already. We also expanded our partnership with MyMeter to include billing and online payments. Lastly, we completed construction of a covered storage facility and pole yard at our substation on Lowell Road; we also paved the driveway and the area surrounding the substation and the new storage facility.

Power Supply

In 2024, GELD continued facing high power and fuel costs due to natural gas supply and constraint issues. GELD's exclusive time-of-use rates, which focus on higher rates during peak times, have been in effect for one full year and are working to help offset higher capacity and transmission costs. A Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) was implemented in January and December to help offset higher energy costs in the winter months; although the Board voted to eliminate the PCA in February and March due to a milder than expected winter. The management team closely monitors the power markets to ensure the best hedging strategy possible. The Berkshire Wind Power Project had its thirteenth full year of operation producing power at 10.25% 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 17.57% of its capacity for 2024. The wind project in Hancock, Maine produced power at 25.04% of capacity in its eighth 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 (as defined by the state) remains between 40 and 50% carbon free.

Rates

KWh sales were up 4.71% in 2024 and up 3.55% for the five-year average. Our exclusive time-of-use rates were designed to help modify GELD's peak demand. We also implemented a "winter" time-of-use rate with a slightly lower rate during peak times and a slightly higher rate during non-peak times to help with home heating in the winter months. We continue to offer a 1.7 cents per kWh discount to customers who pay their bill by the 15th of the month and doubled the discount to celebrate the holidays for the bill received the first week in December. Compared to the 42 Massachusetts utilities, GELD's rates for 2024 landed right in the middle when looking at the average 750 kWh electric user; the two investor-owned utilities that service the surrounding towns, National Grid and Unitil, have rates that are 97% & 148% higher than Groton Electric respectively.

Thank you, Groton ratepayers and GELD's hardworking employees, for your loyalty to Groton's locally owned and operated Light Department and for helping to shape our new beginnings!

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan D. Patterson, Manager

Kevin J. Lindemer, Member

Rodney R. Hersh, Chairman

Eric S. Fisher, Clerk

GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices: 344 Main Street, Groton, MA
01450 (978) 448-5505 Fax: (978) 448-9402

Dr. Geoff Bruno, Superintendent of Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Submitted by Dr. Geoff Bruno, Superintendent of Schools



As your new Superintendent of Schools, I am excited to present the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District's 2024 report. Please take note of the short executive summary outlining some highlights in key areas from this school year. To learn more, you can access a more detailed narrative in the pages that follow. As we opened our doors this fall, including those on our new, state of the art Florence Roche Elementary School, our staff and students welcomed each other with a renewed focus on strengthening our sense of belonging and connection across our schools and communities. Thank you for taking the time to

review our annual report, and I am looking forward to meeting more of our community members as we continue to support all students and families in Groton and Dunstable!

Section 1: Curriculum and Instruction

Read about our new Curriculum Review Process and our focus on building belonging through best instructional practices.

Section 2: Finance and Operations

There are many projects that are underway in our district. The Florence Roche project reached substantial completion. The district continues to address high PFAS levels at the high school and surrounding neighbors with a permanent solution in the works. Free breakfast will be offered in the upcoming school year to compliment universal free lunch already provided. The district advocated for a multi-year operational override that ultimately did not come to fruition.

Section 3: Student Services

We continue our commitment to working collaboratively to engage in a continuous cycle of strengthening our systems and structures, while efficiently and effectively using resources, to support all of our students, staff and families.

Section 4: Technology and Digital Learning.

In our ongoing commitment to technological excellence and innovative learning, the Department of Technology & Digital Learning has undertaken a transformative year of strategic advancements. From refreshing technology at Florence Roche Elementary and upgrading educator laptops to strengthening cybersecurity and enhancing internet filtering, each initiative reinforces our dedication to a secure, resilient, and future-ready district.

Section 5: Human Resources

We are always seeking the best and brightest to join the Groton-Dunstable team. We feel fortunate to have recruited talented professionals who ensure that learners at all levels receive the supervision and support they need. While staffing challenges have grown in recent years, we remain confident that our strong academic environment and the opportunities we offer educators will continue to attract top talent.

SECTION 1: CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT



Submitted by Kristin DeFrancisco, Assistant Superintendent

This year we have many curriculum, instruction and assessment projects underway as well as professional development opportunities for staff. Read below for highlights

2024 Highlights

● Our seasons of professional development and learning that launched last year continue to grow in their offerings. Many of the workshops are staff led and this grew out of our ED CAMP all day professional development day in the fall. We had over 30 offerings, all led by staff. Some offerings helped to boost instructional strategies, while others focused on round table topics. We even had some dancing, singing, drawing, cooking and gardening to add in work life balance strategies. It was a great day.

- We continued to have think tanks to help teachers come together and lead district initiatives. This year our professional development and learning group and our curriculum, instruction and assessment group are thriving! An example of this growth is our newly approved curriculum review process. This process helps educators look through an inclusive lens and develop critical considerations to use while looking at current curriculum and if determined necessary, new curriculum options. The process will be piloted this spring in four different curriculum areas.
- Other groups that are working together include a Math Pathways group for grades 7 through 12 who are looking at ways to support growth for all learners. We have middle school educators working to grow opportunities for students to write across the curriculum. Fifth grade teachers are looking at a social studies program called Investigating History. The preschool will be looking at a curriculum to support themes at their learning centers
- 8 instructional strategies are helping us to focus on building belonging in the classroom. They are:
 - Using Teacher Language
 - Using Formative Assessment
 - Elevating Student Choice and Voice
 - Clear Learning Targets to Anchor Lessons
 - Student Ownership of Learning and Release of Responsibility

- Clear Routines and Expectations
- Removing Barriers to Learning
- Thoughtful Space and Classroom Design

With these instructional strategies in mind. The leadership team is engaging in learning walks so that we can support each other in building these practices so they become embedded in all we do.

Section 2: Finance and Operations Department

Submitted by Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations



2024

Highlights

- The FY24 budget concluded with actual expenses and obligations being very close to budget with very little surplus, and actual revenues slightly exceeded expectations.
- The Food Service program provided universal free lunch for all students for the entire year. The school district will be offering universal free breakfast in the 2024-2025 school year.
- The new Florence Roche Elementary Building is substantially complete will open in August 2024 on time.
- Middle School South was renamed the Marion Stoddart Building.
- A permanent solution to addressing the Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) detected in water sources at the High School has been developed. 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.
- Worked tirelessly and collaboratively with Town Manager in Groton, Town Administrator in Dunstable, Selectboards and Finance Committees to advocate for a multi-year operational override to balance the FY 25-27 GDRSD school budgets. The voters turned down the initiative at the ballot box, which led to the reduction of at least 24 full time equivalents totaling over \$2 million for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Advocated for purchases and projects to be funded to accomplish capital plan goals.

The FY24 budget year closed favorably for the district, ending with a very small surplus of unspent funds of \$19,456 (less than 0.01% of budget) of our total \$48,941,486 budget. Revenues however exceeded budget by \$244,707 (0.5%) primarily due to additional Medicaid reimbursements and interest income

received. These funds will help replenish Excess & Deficiency (E & D) funds that have been committed for the \$500,000 appropriation that was approved by the school committee and the towns to be used to balance the FY25 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 in the 2024-2025 school year, we will monitor performance and provide the support the program needs to continue to serve our students nutritious food options. The district will also be offering breakfast to all students for free in the upcoming school year.

The Florence Roche Elementary School Building Project is substantially complete and ready for students for the 2024-2025 school year. The project is under the approved budget with only a handful of punch list items to be completed at a later date. Kudos to Leftfield, LLC, the Owner's Project Manager, Studio G Architects, and Gilbane Building Company, General Contractor for a successful building project and a beautiful building.

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. The school district continues to contract with Tighe & Bond to coordinate water testing, reporting and anything regarding DEP compliance. The school district is testing neighboring homes' water in the plume areas, providing drinking water delivery or filtration system installation according to DEP regulations and compliance reporting to DEP as required. Thanks to the voters, the Town of Groton is overseeing the project to tie the high school and private homes into the public water supply by the summer of 2025.

Citizens of Groton successfully petitioned the school committee to rename the Middle School South after Marion Stoddard. Marion Stoddard is a local resident who led the charge to successfully clean up the Nashua River and is revered for her environmental preservation efforts.

The school committee and administration worked with the town manager and town administrator from our member towns, select boards and advisory/finance committees to advocate for a multi-year operational override based on budget projections that included FY25 – FY27. There were many public forums where voters were invited to ask questions and understand the cuts that would be made if the question failed at the ballot box. Unfortunately, in both communities the request failed and the school district followed through with the anticipated cuts of over 24 full time equivalent positions that totaled over \$2 million. The driving force for increasing the town assessments lies with our state funding, Chapter 70, being relatively stagnant for almost 20 years. The burden is being forced to the towns to support public education. In order to balance revenue requirements with academic and operational budgetary requirements, \$500,000 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:

- Completed installation of ductless mini splits at Swallow Union and few at Marion Stoddart Building to continue to improve temperature control in classrooms/learning environments.
- Installed new lights and audio equipment in the Performing Art Center in the Marion Stoddart Building.
- Replace a maintenance truck according to an established replacement plan.
- Floor tile replacement needed at Middle School North.
- PFAS funds needed to address DEP water contamination concerns.
- Support the technology refresh plan.

SECTION 3: STUDENT SERVICES



SUBMITTED BY JILL GREENE, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

2024 Highlights

- We maintained our focus on increasing the coordination of our Special Education, Behavioral Health, Social Emotional Learning, 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.
- To enhance our efforts, we began our multi-year participation in the Social Emotional Behavior (SEB) Academy to access professional development and consultation resources to further build and refine our MTSS systems.
 - We continued our partnership with Care Solace, a platform which helps individuals find mental health care, substance misuse assistance, and behavioral health supports. 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.
 - For the third consecutive year, we received Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education competitive SEL/Mental Health Grant funds providing us with additional resources to support the collaboration of school based teams, books and materials for students and staff, and multiple professional development/professional learning opportunities. Three major focuses of our use of these funds included obtaining professional development and materials for integrating Calm Corners spaces in classrooms in all schools, using the DESSA as a screener for social and emotional competencies, and using the Second Step, a social-emotional

- learning curriculum, preschool through grade 8. The DESSA screener and Second Step align in a way that helps teachers and counselors use the lessons to target identified areas for growth.

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:

- We launched using the new Massachusetts IEP form during Fall 2024. This is the first new version of the IEP in over 20 years, so a big change for everyone. After many years anticipating and planning for these changes, we are excited to now be using the new form and processes as of October 2024. The new form and processes have been designed to assist Teams to more effectively address the needs of students eligible for special education services. The revised form focuses attention on gathering more complete information about student's strengths, challenges, and individualized goals to develop a more personalized education program. Key advantages of the new form include:

Enhanced Collaboration: The form promotes better communication and collaboration between members of each student's IEP team.

Increased Clarity and Consistency: The form is designed to ensure clarity and consistency in the IEP process and in the implementation of state and federal requirements. This consistency will facilitate smoother transitions between grade levels. The new form is also designed to more explicitly outline and document planning for a student's transition to post-high school life.

More Comprehensive Documentation: The new IEP form offers a more detailed framework for documenting student progress, accommodations, specially designed instruction and services.

- To support our efforts to prepare for using the new IEP form and processes, we continued our participation in the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Individualized Education Program (IEP) Improvement Project Cohort. This participation provided the District with opportunities for an early preview of changes to IEP processes and documentation, and multiple resources for professional development/learning. We continued with our ongoing professional development series for special educators to prepare for using the new IEP form and processes with focuses
- 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



2024 Highlights

In 2024, the Department of Technology & Digital Learning replaced over 80 teacher laptops across the district, ensuring educators have up-to-date devices to support digital instruction and streamline administrative tasks. Additionally, the highly anticipated opening of the new Florence Roche Elementary School was a significant milestone, bringing cutting-edge technology designed to enhance both learning and security. The new building features interactive TouchView teaching panels in every classroom, 115 security cameras to support a safe school environment, and a state-of-the-art Extreme Wireless and

HPE/Aruba network to provide seamless connectivity for students and staff.

Beyond hardware upgrades, the department has remained at the forefront of digital safety and instructional integrity. We have strengthened access control measures across the district by implementing Kantech security doors and Raptor visitor management systems. We have also made strides in internet filtering and monitoring, leveraging our data on student device usage to assess engagement and minimize digital distractions, particularly in the partial 1:1 Chromebook program at the high school. These insights have informed appropriate decision-makers about responsible technology use, including the ongoing conversation about cell phones and social media access during the school day.

As we move forward, we focus on advancing technology infrastructure, strengthening cybersecurity measures, and empowering educators and students with the digital tools they need to succeed in an evolving educational landscape.

SECTION 5: HUMAN RESOURCES

Submitted by Justin Williams, Director of Human Resources

2024 Highlights

- Eleven (11) district employees retired.
- Provided wellness opportunities for staff throughout the year.



- Recognized staff for their accomplishments and longevity.
- Continue to explore new avenues to attract talented diverse staff to fill the District's vacancies.

2024 was met with difficult decisions as we attempted to navigate a budget shortfall. With that said we welcomed a number of new highly qualified staff members to fill vacancies across all levels of the district as some staff decided to explore other opportunities. We also saw the retirement of eleven (11) district employees, many of whom had been with the district for over 20 years and a select few surpassing the 30 year milestone. We continue to strive in making Groton-Dunstable a destination for top educators in our area.

Section 6: Extended Day and Community Services

Submitted by Megan Mastroianni, Director



2024 Highlights

- Proudly presented school musical productions of Shrek Jr and The Wizard of Oz 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 site locations this year. This growth has necessitated the before and after-school program to continue the use of new locations and expansions in order to support 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 134 middle school students in the fall production of Shrek Jr. and 45 Swallow Union 4th graders in the spring production of Wizard of Oz Jr. 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 Crafts that Care, a variety of Mixed Media Clubs, Debate Club, Karate, Creative Clay Workshop, Chess Club and Kids Test Kitchen. These along with old favorites like Dungeons and Dragons club, Flag Football, Ski Club, and Summer Strength and Conditioning, help give our students in grades K through 12 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



2024 Highlights

- 93.5% of our Graduating Seniors went on to a post-secondary academic opportunity. 85.5% of the class of 2024 went to a four year college/university, 7.5% to a two-year college/university, 5.5% went on to employment.
- 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. 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.
- Now that MCAS is no longer a state-mandated graduation requirement, we are putting together a committee to create our competency determination plan for GDRHS. This committee will also coincide with the work we are doing to streamline our Program of Studies. Both of these will allow us to ensure that GDRHS continues to provide ALL our students with multiple opportunities to be successful in and out of the classroom.
- We had 352 Advanced Placement (AP) Tests taken. 73% of the tests taken earned a three or better, which is the standard to receive college credit. 20% scored a 5 which is the highest score possible.
- 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 has also been able to grow our Cheer Team which now includes fall and winter . 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



2024 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, Mr. Fleming 7th & 8th grade and all of our amazing teachers, paras and support staff. It is because of all of these people that the Middle School has the success that it does.

In the fall of 2024 the Middle School South building underwent a name change. Its new name is the Marion Stoddart building. Named after Marion Stoddart herself who pioneered the project to clean the Nashua River. On October 25th we had a celebration with Mariona and our 5th grade students. [Honoring Marion Stoddart: A Legacy of Environmental Stewardship](#)

Advisory

We are in our third year of Advisory. Teachers continue to notice that students are engaged and feeling supported by an adult due to Advisory. 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

- **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.

We are going strong with our Core Values at the Middle school. This year based on the information we gained from the culture and climate survey we are having awards. A piece of the survey showed us that our students feel like students who misbehave get more attention than others. In an effort to address this concern each team is choosing two students to earn an OAK award. These students are the definition of what it means to take ownership of your education, be aware of yourself, others and who are kind to themselves and their peers.

'The picture below was recently painted by our Art teacher Ms. Wilson. You will find it in the Stoddart



Field Trips and Assemblies

We continue to bring speakers and assemblies to our student body.

Robin Hu, gave our 5th grade students a spinning demonstration with her Drop Spindles and her weaving wheel.

Chris Herron, [Chris Herron, Changing the Conversation](#)

Randy Pierce, [Future in Sight](#)

Eyes on Owls, [Eyes on Owls](#)

We will do another grade 8 DC trip and our 7th grade teachers are looking forward to going Camp Massapoag, part of the Lowell YMCA.

Thank you to our teachers for setting these up and to the MS PTO and Groton Trust for helping us with funding.

Section 9: Florence Roche Elementary School

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN O'DONOGHUE, PRINCIPAL



2024 Highlights

- Planning continued throughout the year in anticipation of moving into our new school.
- We met with staff members and families from Swallow Union during the year as part of the new school transition.
- In August of 2024, we moved into our brand new Florence Roche School!

We made a few classroom shifts this year as a result of a lower enrollment in first grade. In total, we had 24 classrooms across K-4. This was 1 less classroom from the 2022-2023 school year. The previous year's kindergarten class was smaller overall, so a reduction to 4 classrooms at grade one kept us in line with the school committee's recommended class size. Our future planning will include the addition of approximately 100 new students moving to us from Swallow Union for the 2024-2025 school year. The move will also include a large number of Swallow Union staff members joining us as well. We are excited to establish a new Florence Roche Community in 2024!

Our literacy and math interventionists provided targeted instruction to students as needed. We continue to use the DIBELS and IXL assessment tools to measure student growth and progress at multiple times throughout the year. Identified students receive small group instruction to support skill development. The annual MCAS assessments in grades 3 and 4 also provide us with student performance data. 48% of 3rd grade students were meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA and 48% of 3rd grade students were also meeting or exceeding expectations in math. In the 4th grade 52% of students were meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA while 55% were meeting or exceeding expectations in math. This data, along with the ongoing school based assessments will be used to support students' continued growth as measured by MCAS.

Grade 1 teachers piloted a social and emotional screening tool (DESSA) to measure their students' social competencies. This tool will be used in grades K-4 in the upcoming school year. In addition, grade levels will be teaching the Second Step social and emotional learning curriculum during the 2024-2025 school year. The DESSA screener and Second Step align in a way that helps teachers use the lessons to target identified areas for growth.

It was an exciting spring and end of year as we prepared to move into our new school. Staff members toured the building during the final stages of construction to get a look into their new work spaces. Seeing the building helped everyone to visualize classroom set ups and experience some of the new technology included in the project. We toured 900 or more incoming students and families through the building prior to our first official day in August. It was a long time coming, but we are thrilled to be finally moving into our new space.

Section 10: Swallow Union Elementary School

Submitted by Jill Jarvis, Principal



This year, Swallow Union began with a smaller cohort than in recent history, following the relocation of 100 students and 28 staff members to Florence Roche. As our buses rolled in, our dedicated staff was ready to welcome 210 students back to school, marking the start of an exciting new year. We remain deeply committed to maintaining our standard of excellence, focusing on our rigorous curriculum, a data-driven approach, and our team of expert educators who provide personalized, tiered, and targeted instruction and intervention for every student.

We are pleased to have Ms. Sarah Woods, School Counselor, join our Swallow Union family this year. Her contributions have been invaluable, providing vital social and emotional support to all students. Ms. Woods has also led the implementation of the Second Step program and the Bullying Curriculum across the school, helping to foster a positive and inclusive environment for all.

Highlights:

Swallow Union Elementary School has earned the prestigious [2024 Schools of Recognition](#) award from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), placing it among an elite group of just over 50 schools across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to receive this distinction. This accolade highlights Swallow Union's outstanding progress in meeting annual accountability targets, mainly through the success of all students and significant improvements among its lowest-performing students.

There is immense pride in these achievements. "These recognitions and high achievements are the direct result of dedicated and reflective practitioners, both past and present, who care deeply about students in and out of the classroom." Mrs. Jarvis continued, "We foster students' development of problem-solving minds, accepting productive struggles as part of the journey, how to overcome them, and ensuring they know just how much they belong in their classroom, school, and community."

Adding to its accolades, Swallow Union Elementary was ranked as the #3 elementary school in Massachusetts in the [2024 U.S. News & World Report rankings](#). Based on public data from the U.S. Department of Education, this prestigious recognition further underscores the school's outstanding commitment to academic excellence and its success in fostering an environment where all students can thrive.

Section 11: Boutwell Early Childhood Center

Submitted by Maggie Richardson, Director of Boutwell Early Childhood Center

2024 Highlights

Over the past year, Boutwell has continued to grow. In an effort to serve more children, we admitted additional community students as well as students receiving service delivery.



Our greatest focus has been on implementing the new Massachusetts IEP form during Fall 2024. We continue to expand our learning around this new process and procedures through ongoing professional development and learning.

We expanded our ChildFind processes this past year to focus on a holistic approach to developmental screening. We advertised our screening day to the general community as well as other preschools and daycares in Groton, Dunstable, and the surrounding towns, in order to reach more families who reside within the district.

As we continue our mission to be an inclusive preschool, we were grateful to be the recipient of books from SEPAC for our library. These books feature children and families with disabilities and are read to our preschoolers in order to expand our "Windows, Mirrors, and Doors" theme of our library.

Second Step, our social-emotional curriculum, is in its second year of implementation. We furthered our understanding and support of children's social-emotional needs by designing calm corners and calm cubes in each classroom. Children can practice daily identifying feelings and using calming strategies with the help of adults. We also applied for, and received a grant from GDEF for sensory paths, which will be another tool for children to use to support their social-emotional development.



An additional area of professional development is on Belonging, specifically what this concept means for children and their families at Boutwell. We identified our own strengths and areas for further development school wide in an effort to support children and their families as their first school experience.

Report Prepared by:

Dr. Geoff Bruno, Superintendent of Schools

Kristin DeFrancisco, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations

Jill Greene, Director of Student Services

Dr. Luke Callahan, Director of Technology & Digital Learning

Megan Mastroianni, Director of Extended Day and Community Services

Justin Williams, Director of Human Resources

Stephen Sierpina, Principal, Groton-Dunstable Regional High School

Wendy Salvatore, Principal, Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School

Brian O'Donoghue, Principal, Florence-Roche Elementary School

Jill Jarvis, Principal, Swallow Union Elementary School

Maggie Ross Richardson, Boutwell Early Childhood Center

NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

100 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886

Phone: (978) 692-4711

**Superintendent: Denise Pigeon, Ed.D.
Slotnick**

Principal: Jeremy

About NVTHS

A cornerstone of the community for over half a century, Nashoba Valley Technical High School (NVTHS) is a four-year public regional technical high school serving students from Ayer, Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, and Westford.

2024 NVTHS School Committee Membership

Charlie Ellis, Littleton (Chairman)

Karen Chapman, Townsend (Vice-Chairman)

Alicia Mallon, Westford (Secretary)

Chris Prehl, Ayer

John Ellenberger, Groton Alternate

Cory Prehl, Ayer Alternate

Ed Mullen, Littleton Alternate

Lawrence MacDonald, Chelmsford

Sandra Proctor, Pepperell

Jodie Murphy, Chelmsford

Paula Baldassari, Pepperell

Patricia Wojtas, Chelmsford

Brian Fulmer, Shirley

Harrison Mayotte, Chelmsford Alternate

Sheldon Chapman, Townsend

Robert Flynn, Groton

Abbie Mathew, Westford Alternate

2024 NVTHS Student Representatives to the School Committee

Madison Dawes, TV Media/Theatre Arts-Early
College, Groton

Samuel Hesketh, Carpentry, Westford

Nora Riel, Culinary Arts, Chelmsford

Mitchell Tierney, Electrical Technology, Chelmsford

Rachel Vincent, Health Assisting, Townsend

Overview of Mission and Vision

Nashoba Valley Technical High School (NVTHS) is dedicated to providing high quality academic and technical education, preparing students for successful college and career paths in a dynamic technological landscape. The school fosters a safe, inclusive environment that encourages a diverse student population to become engaged and productive community members. NVTHS aims to develop well-rounded individuals who are Respectful, Responsible, Resilient, Resourceful, and Ready for their future.

Key Highlights at NVTHS in 2024

- **Strong Enrollment:** The continued growth of Nashoba Valley Technical High School's enrollment demonstrates a strong interest in career and technical education. During the 2023-2024 school year, NVTHS reached a total enrollment of 757 district students, a total enrollment increase of 42 students from previous year. This upward trend reflects the increasing demand for skilled trade professionals.
- **Facility Expansion:** A new 7,000-square-foot addition to the NVTHS facility opened in the fall of 2024. This state-of-the-art instructional space, funded by a \$3.75 million Commonwealth of Massachusetts grant, houses the Programming and Web Development, Engineering, and Robotics technical programs.
- **Technical Program Enhancements:** Expansion of instructional space for the fastest-growing technical programs, Electrical Technology and Veterinary Science, began this year, supported by a \$2.5 million Commonwealth of Massachusetts grant. The Cosmetology program rebuild is also underway, with an anticipated opening in the spring of 2025. This renovated program will include a new salon open to the public.
- **Community Engagement:** NVTHS students actively participate in community service projects, providing valuable services to district towns and gaining real-world experience. In 2024, projects ranged from building sheds for local recreation departments to participating in the construction of a new home through Habitat for Humanity.

Chapter 74 Technical Programs

NVTHS offers a diverse range of 18 immersive career and technical programs across three clusters, providing students with ample opportunities to explore their passions and develop in-demand skills:

- **Construction & Transportation (47% of student body):** This popular cluster provides hands-on training in fields such as Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Technology, Carpentry, Electrical Technology, and Plumbing Technology.
- **Health & Services (31% of student body):** Students interested in helping others can explore programs like Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, Early Childhood Education, Health Assisting, Dental Assisting, and Veterinary Assisting.
- **Arts & Technology (22% of student body):** This cluster caters to creative and tech-savvy students with programs like Programming and Web Development, Television and Media Production, Design and Visual Communications, Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Robotics.

This diverse program offering ensures that students with a wide array of interests can find a pathway that aligns with their talents and career aspirations. NVTHS is committed to providing students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the 21st-century workforce.

Academic Excellence and Early College Opportunities

Nashoba Valley Technical High School provides a comprehensive academic foundation alongside its Chapter 74 career and technical programs. Students can pursue a variety of academic pathways, including:

- **Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, and College Preparatory Courses:** NVTHS offers rigorous coursework in all core academic subjects, allowing students to challenge themselves and prepare for the workforce and higher education.
- **Early College Program:** In partnership with Middlesex Community College, this program provides a unique opportunity for students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Beyond core academics, NVTHS offers a well-rounded education with electives in foreign language, music, theatre arts, and more. These courses are available to interested students throughout their four years at NVTHS.

Extracurricular Activities

NVTHS continues to offer a wide range of extracurricular activities, including a comprehensive athletic program with varsity teams in various sports. Students can also participate in numerous clubs, such as Student Council, National Honor Society, SkillsUSA, and many other groups.

NVTHS: A Resource for Lifelong Learning

NVTHS is a lifelong learning resource, extending its career and technical education beyond its high school program. Through the state's Career and Technical Initiative (CTI), NVTHS offers evening and weekend adult workforce training, allowing adults to retrain for in-demand jobs (e.g., electrical, plumbing, advanced manufacturing, and automotive technology), upskill for career advancement, or explore new career paths. These programs strengthen individuals and the regional economy by helping adults adapt to evolving workforce demands and achieve their career goals.

Looking Ahead

NVTHS remains committed to adapting to the evolving needs of the workforce and providing students with the skills and knowledge necessary for future success. The school will continue to invest in facilities, expand program offerings, and foster strong community partnerships to ensure that students are well-prepared for their future endeavors.

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

2024 Community Survey

Of the 900+ survey respondents, 75% use the library at least monthly, with 42% visiting weekly or daily. The most popular activities are checking out traditional print materials (88%), attending programs (48%), and borrowing non-traditional items (35%). The best times to visit were Sundays and Saturday afternoons. Summer Sundays would be residents' first choice for expanded hours. Customer service and overall library ratings were overwhelmingly positive (94% and 96% excellent/good, respectively).

Survey Feedback

"GPL is one of the best things about living in Groton!" "You all are AMAZING...GPL is a MAJOR selling point to this town!!" "IMO, a robust public library is one of the most important services the Town of Groton can provide its residents." "I use the library often. I find every aspect awesome...I am so grateful for our town library!" "The library staff is excellent..." "The Groton Public Library is an absolute gem...I feel so fortunate to live in a town with such a strong and thriving public library."

Service Improvements

We continue to improve services to better serve our community. This year, we expanded our Library of Things collection, offered a greater variety of programs at different times, increased in-library classes and resources for homeschoolers, improved road access communication, boosted our social media presence, added new meeting room chairs, improved the historic skylight, and resolved Wi-Fi issues.

Strategic Planning

We updated our five-year long-range strategic plan for FY2026-2030, available online at gpl.org/about/reports-planning. During the process, we revised GPL's core statements:

- **Mission:** The Groton Public Library fosters literacy, enriches lives, and strengthens the community. We bring people, information, and ideas together.
- **Vision:** A vibrant and welcoming place where all come to learn, discover, create, and connect.

- **Values:** Literacy, Lifelong Learning, and Education. Free, Open, and Equitable Access. Intellectual Freedom, Confidentiality, and Privacy. Joy, Discovery, and Creativity. Kind, Quality Service. Community Connections and Partnerships.

Record-Breaking Program Attendance

20,959 people attended 1,255 library programs this year, a 14% increase compared to last year! If we included self-directed activity kits and recorded program views, the numbers would be 1,294 programs with over 27,000 participants. Our biggest event was the Summer Reading Kick-Off FanFest in June, which attracted hundreds of kids, teens, and families to the library for a fun afternoon of festivities.

Adult Enrichment

We offered 688 adult programs on a wide variety of topics to appeal to our community's diverse interests. This includes our lifelong learning series exploring Asian and African art, dynamic monthly concerts, and thought-provoking Let's Talk conversations. Our hands-on art classes are some of our most popular events, and we often have long waiting lists. Book clubs, films, language groups, and special interest gatherings round out the many adult enrichment opportunities at the library.

Engaging Teens

Teen program attendance (3,733) and book checkouts (9,937) were both up 34% over last year! Nearly 500 teen volunteer hours were logged, up 7% from 2023. In addition to our ever-popular Llama Lounge afternoons on middle-school half-days, there were over 200 other programs for 5th-12th graders.

Inspiring Literacy

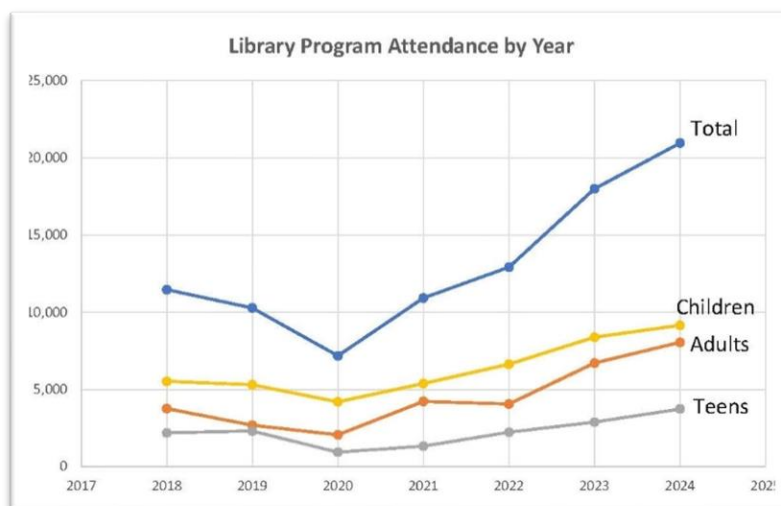
Our Children's Department has been busy promoting literacy and fostering community connections. Homeschooling families now have even more support with our new weekly classes and the Educate Station online curriculum database. It was a joy to welcome Florence Roche first graders to the library this fall. Our Third Annual Bookmark Contest for K-5 students was a big hit, with 142 entries. We offered 350 programs and attracted 9,166 kids and their families to the library.

By the Numbers

- Visitors: 94,354, up 14% over 2023
- Meeting Room Use by Local Groups: 1,636
- Physical Items Checked Out: 161,305
- Digital Materials Borrowed: 43,827 (ebooks, audio, music, video)
- Highest Use Database: Encyclopedia Britannica Online, with 19,568 searches
- Total Research Database Searches: 125,264, up 16% over 2023

Reaching Community

In 2024, the library team actively engaged the community through outreach at the Groton Center, local schools, PTYC, and numerous community events and cooperative programs. We also served as a community hub, hosting school classes, a special firefighter storytime, partnering for the GrotonFest Winter Art Fair, and providing meeting and study rooms for individuals and groups.



Summer Reading

Our Summer Reading Program makes reading fun with activities, challenges, and prizes. Our librarians visit schools each June to promote the program and its benefits. They emphasize how reading helps kids and teens prevent learning loss, maintain reading skills, and stay engaged throughout the summer.

Groton Reads

Groton's 2024 Community Read was Brendan Slocumb's musical mystery *Symphony of Secrets*. The library had captivating stories for readers of all ages. Bonnie Garmus's *Lessons in Chemistry* was the most popular book for adults, while Kayvion Lewis's *Thieves' Gambit* enthralled teens. Dav Pilkey's ever-popular *Dog Man* led the pack for young readers.

25th Anniversary Celebration

In March 2024, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the library building's renovation and expansion with commemorative bookmarks, photo displays, and a video interview featuring former and current library directors reflecting on the library's facility and usage changes over time.

Respectfully submitted,

The Groton Public Library Board of Trustees:

Helena Altsman, Chair

David Zeiler, Member

Mark Gerath, Vice-Chair

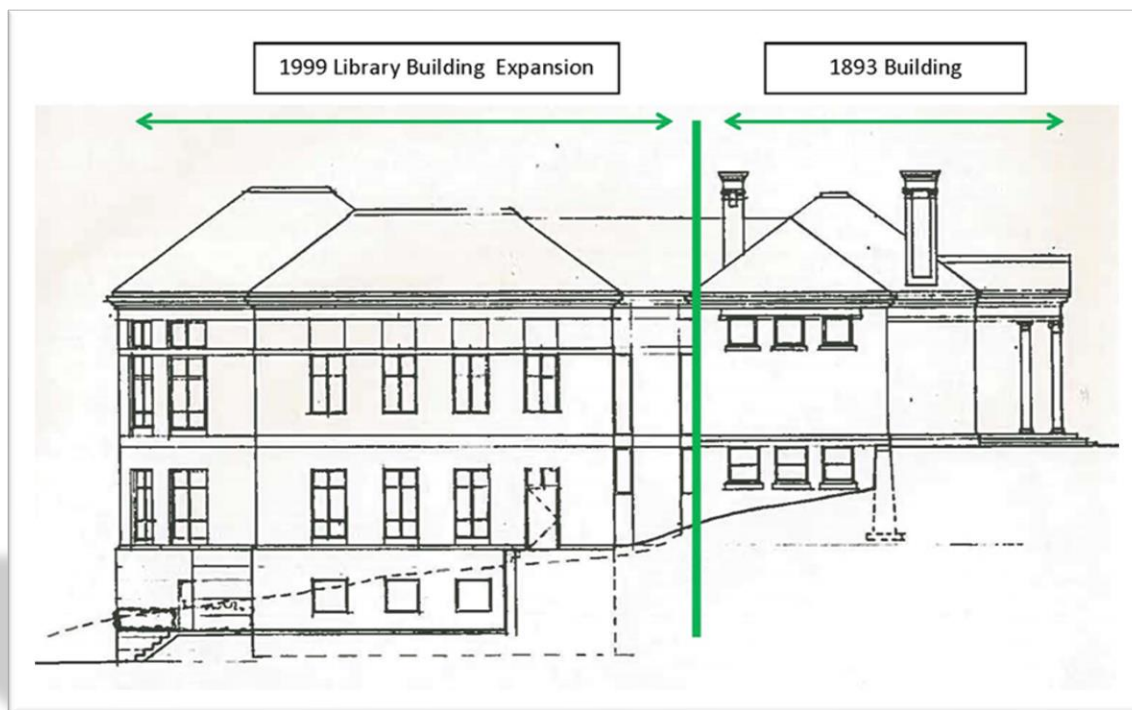
Kate Bettencourt, Member through 10/9/2024

Jennifer Petersen, Clerk

Heidi Robes, Member appointed 12/9/2024

Kristen von Campe, Member

25th Anniversary of the Library Building's Renovation and Expansion (1999)



PARK COMMISSION

Katie Berry, Park Administrator

Meetings 1st Tuesday of the Month, Town Hall, 173 Main Street
(978) 448-1109

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,

Brian Edmonds (Chair), 2025

Anna Eliot (CPC Representative), 2027

Jeffrey Ohringer, 2026

Mary Jennings, 2026

Rob Foley, 2025



Photo By Steve Lieman

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

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 majority vote of Town Meeting. The Subdivision Regulations, Site Plan Review Regulations, Shared Driveway Regulations, Scenic Roads Regulations, and Town Center Overlay District Design Guidelines were adopted or revised by majority votes of the Planning Board after duly advertised public hearings. 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 2024, the Planning Board received the following applications:

Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans	3
Site Plan Review	6
Preliminary Subdivision Plans	2
Definitive Subdivision Plans	1
Definitive Plan Modification	1
Special Permits	4

In 2024, the Planning Board devoted considerable time and effort updating the Master Plan, which will be completed in early 2025. Voters in the 2024 Fall Town Meeting adopted three zoning bylaw amendments pertaining to firearms retail establishments, accessory dwelling units, and solar parking canopies.

The Planning Board held 26 public meetings in 2024. Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law as revised during the COVID-19 pandemic, 18 of the meetings were held remotely on Zoom. Eight meetings were held in person. All meetings were broadcast on the Groton Channel and recorded for on-demand viewing.

The Planning Board wishes to thank two former members for their service. Alyson Bedard's term ended in May 2024. Russell Burke resigned at the end of December 2024 after 16 years and many outstanding contributions to planning and zoning in Groton.

The Planning Board was pleased to welcome a new member, Paul Hathaway, in May 2024.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Wilson, Chair

Paul Hathaway, Member

Lorayne Black, Vice Chair

David Bonnett, Member

Phil Francisco, Clerk

Russell Burke, Member

George Barringer, 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

The Sewer Commission is pleased to make the following report for the calendar year ending December 31, 2024 to the sewer rate payers and the citizens of the Town of Groton.

In 2024, the Groton Sewer Commission continued working with the Pepperell DPW and is ready to finalize the new IMA. The new IMA will benefit the Town of Groton with new structured billing and will include more services to the Town of Groton. The Pepperell DPW has also taken on the task of investigating I&I and continues to help reduce I&I in the Town of Groton.

In FY2024, the Commission held several public hearings for new sewer connections, change of use applications and sewer district expansion requests in the Center Sewer District.

Groton's flows to the Pepperell Treatment Plant were estimated for CY24 due to the flow meter at Nod Road being out of service. The site improvements have started at Nod Road Pump Station and the flow meter has been replaced and is providing accurate flow reads. A new bypass was installed for future bypassing which the station does not currently have and some other site improvements will include new fencing, grading improvement and an extension of the driveway for better access.

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
2024	(Flow meter out of service)		

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. Town Meeting approved the request to extend the Four Corners Sewer District for an over 55 housing development.

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	6,969 avg gpd
2024	2,431,000 gallons	or	6,660 avg gpd

This year Mr. Orcutt resigned from the BOSC and we would like to thank him for all his time and valuable information he provided over the years. We also would like to take this time to welcome Mr. Berg to the BOSC as the new Vice Chair and we look forward to working with him.

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

Eric A. Berg, Vice-Chairman

Thomas Orcutt, (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

2024 was a very busy year for the Clerk's Office. Outside of the regular services we provide year-round, the Clerk's Office was busy administering five (5) elections and attending to three (3) town meetings.

The Town held two (2) Annual Town Meetings in 2024, all of which were held at the Groton Dunstable Middle School Auditorium and a Special Town Meeting, which was held at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School. The Spring Town Meeting exceeded capacity limit, which left the Moderator no choice but to dissolve the meeting even before it started. 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>Total Groton Voters</u>	<u>% Voter Turnout</u>
Spring Town Meeting	March 26, 2024	800+	8944	8.1%+
Special Town Meeting	May 18, 2024	199	9001	2.2%
Fall Town Meeting	October 5, 2024	197	9165	2.1%

There were two (5) elections conducted in 2024. 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>
Presidential Primary	March 5, 2024	32.81%
Special Town Election	April 2, 2024	42.79%
Annual Town Election	April 23, 2024	14.51%
State Primary	September 3, 2024	19.03%
General Election	November 5, 2024	79.42%

The office administered the town census to 5,399 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, 2024 is 10,484, 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, 2024 has 8,903 registered voters. Of that number, 68.4% of voters are registered as Unenrolled, 20.1% of voters are registered as Democrats, 10.5% 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 2023 and previous years.



In 2024, the Office administered the oath of office to all of our appointed and elected officials, qualified 49 public commissioners, performed 451 notarial services, registered

1,185 dogs, and processed approximately 470 transactions on behalf of the Department of Public Works. Acting as the Town's Register of Vital Records, the office recorded 86 Births, 70 Deaths and 55 Marriages in 2024. 39 new and 21 renewed "Doing Business As" business registrations were recorded. The Office processed approximately 46 formal public information requests, and many, many additional "informal" requests and election related information requests.

In 2024, 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	\$11,895.00
Vital Records/Other Town Clerk Revenue	\$16,195.10
Transfer Station Transactions	\$14,560.00
Total	\$42,650.10

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 2024. We would not have been able to get through the number of elections we had this year without their help and support. Much of what we do requires help from so many and we are not successful without all of you. It's been our privilege to serve the people of Groton during 2024 and we look forward to what 2025 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

The Board of Water Commissioners is pleased to make the following report for the calendar year ending December 31, 2024 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 your drinking water to be sure we remain in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection's regulations. In the calendar year 2024, the GWD has collected and analyzed more than one thousand water samples at the source wells and in the water distribution system. Lead and Copper sampling and reporting was a significant focus for the Groton Water Department in 2024. New Federal Regulations requiring municipalities to document and report our water service line inventories. This reporting is required in-order to review all service line materials that may contain lead and then develop a plan to remove/replace them with non-lead service lines. Groton is very pleased that it has no "full" lead service lines and is compliance with the revised Federal Regulatory requirements. All water quality results can be found simply by going to our website at grotonwater.org.

In February of 2024, the preliminary start-up of our new Whitney Pond Water Treatment Facility was initiated and after all the testing parameters completed and approval from MassDEP. This new water treatment facility was placed into operation in the month of March. The new Water Treatment Facility has the capability to process water from all three Whitney Pond Wells at a rated capacity of approximately 1,200 gallons per minute. This rate will serve the Groton community and water users well into the future without requiring future expansion upgrades. This facility was awarded an Energy Grant from the State and had the roof retrofitted with panels to reduce our energy demands on the electrical grid.

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. This new source Was placed on-line in the Spring of 2024. Overall, water consumption in 2024 was normal to other previous years even as we entered a period of no rainfall August through October. Seasonal variations have become the "norm" and we do our best adapting to these changes. Multiple water sources allow the system to better handle these fluctuations and demands for our customers.

The Groton Water Department continues to work on our Water Meter Replacement Program. The Water Department is now using State-of-the-Art cellular based meter reading equipment, commonly referred to as “Smart” Meters. Smart water meters allow our customers to view their water consumption in real time, sign-up for Emergency Leak Alerts as well as Freeze Alerts. Please go to our website at grotonwater.org to get additional information. There is no charge for this additional service.

Statistical Information - Period ending December 31, 2024:

Total Gallons of water pumped	173,721,832	Gallons per Year
Ave. Daily Consumption	475,950	Gallons per Day
Max. Daily Consumption – July 14 th	991,000	Gallons
Customer Accounts	2,239	
Water Mains	53.6	Miles
New/Replaced Water Mains	0.7	Miles
Total Hydrants (Public and Private)	407	Hydrants
Hydrants added to the system	10	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 2024

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 2024 (period ending 6-30-2024).

General Fund: The General Fund ended the year with a favorable fund balance, generating \$2,757,118 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. 2024) committed to spend approximately \$1,562,822 of that Free Cash on FY25 needs. This spending was earmarked for Public Safety Wages/Gear/Benefits (\$192,582), a study of the Squannacook Dam (\$160,250), weeds management in the Groton Lakes (\$88,500), unanticipated legal costs (\$40,000), debt service (\$34,890) and various other general government one-time costs (\$146,600). \$900,000 will be used to replenish Stabilization Fund reserves. This leaves a Free Cash balance of \$1,194,296 available for appropriation at the FY25 Spring Town Meeting. The Town decided to regionalize its Public Safety Dispatch service which resulted in a budget savings of more than \$450,000 for FY25. Local Receipts in the amount of \$8,012,544 were received in FY24, an increase of more than \$1.2 Mil (or 18%) over FY23. This very robust result was due largely to interest earnings which brought in a surplus of more than \$1 Mil over what was budgeted. A combination of relatively high interest rates and extra cash on deposit for the school construction project contributed to this result. Interest earnings will decline in FY25 as that large construction project nears completion. License/Permit revenue generated \$527,284 (123% of budgeted revenue) and the Country Club brought in \$866,731 (124% of budgeted revenue). The Town’s property tax collections remained strong and consistent throughout FY24 bringing in just under \$41 Million (99% of budget).

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. Most of these deficits were fully resolved by 9/30/2024. 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. \$3,016,935 of ARPA funding was spent thru 6/30/24, and the remaining \$368,185 was spent before 12/31/2024.

Community Preservation Fund: As of November of 2024, Groton has received a 25.71% State match (or \$266,397) on FY24 local surcharge collections of \$1,036,100. The CPA fund balance as of 6/30/24 was \$1,851,359. CPC funds are utilized to preserve open space and historic assets as well as to develop affordable housing and recreational facilities.

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 FY24, spending approximately \$4,129,325 on the construction for the new Manganese Treatment Plant, and \$83,214 on construction for the new well at Whitney Field which closes out that project.

Reserves: The Town’s Stabilization Fund closed the year at \$2.579 million and the Capital Stabilization Funds at \$771,583 (with \$683,500 of that balance reserved for expenditures in FY25). The level of reserves in these accounts are managed so as to meet appropriate target balances as established in the Town’s Financial Management Policies: 6.5% of the annual line- item budget.

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 steady year with respect to permit and dollar volume of construction. In particular, renovations to attics and basements continued as well as a significant increase in new Single Family Homes in 2024. This was due to the new Stretch Energy Code that went into effect 7/1/24. Commercial volume increased with the renovation of 26 Powderhouse (Lawrence Academy) as well as work at Union Congregational Church at 218 Main St.

The Building Dept is looking forward to another strong year in 2025 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	2022	2023	2024
Value of Construction	\$53,533,283.00	\$82,948,296.47	\$41,011,888.89
Permit Fees Collected	\$550,236.00	\$508,586.96	\$469,282.56
Permits Issued	598	572	458
Inspections Performed	823	807	785
RESIDENTIAL			
Single Family Homes	23	6	18
Two Family Homes	6	9	13
Multi-Family	0	0	0
Additions	42	42	26
Renovations	294	314	246
Accessory Buildings/Pools	31	22	25
Demolitions	8	17	12
Solar	9	21	14
COMMERCIAL			
New	4	0	0
Additions	0	1	1
Renovations	16	9	2
Accessory Buildings	15	2	0
Demolitions	4	1	1
Communication Towers/Solar	8	3	3
Annual Certificates	82	84	85
Home Occupations Certs	39	24	20
Electric			
Permit Fees Collected	\$73,459.00	\$77,725.99	\$51,984.58
Permit Issued	518	516	425
Inspections Performed	749	912	661
Gas			
Permit Fees Collected	\$17,270.00	\$15,339.90	\$13,352.20
Permit Issued	228	199	168
Inspections Performed	222	216	175
Plumbing			
Permit Fees Collected	\$31,630.00	\$30,469.70	\$22,684.00
Permit Issued	212	233	189

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 2,300 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 2024, the Commission held 23 open meetings and reviewed 11 Notices of Intent, 27 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.

The Conservation Commission presently oversees 2,365 acres of Town-owned conservation land. Two new properties were purchased in 2024. The first parcel is in West Groton and was purchased with a generous donation from a resident. The 95-acre parcel (former ‘Lyman’ land) was officially named the ‘C.L. Bennett Conservation Area’, providing connections to other permanently protected parcels that make up ‘The Throne’. The second parcel (former ‘Noonan Land’) is off of Gratuity Road with frontage along the Nashua River. The 7.4-acre parcel has yet to be named, but it protects a stretch of important riparian habitat along the Nashua River within an ‘Area of Critical Environmental Concern’. Our subcommittee, the Stewardship Committee, continues to help manage these properties. This year, the Stewardship Committee began inviting abutters on site walks to help foster community engagement in land management and conservation efforts.

The Committee continues to support the work of other Boards and Committees including the Trails Committee, the Parks Department (Cow Pond Brook Parking area and Carol Wheeler Park), the Stewardship Committee (helping plan the extension of the Pollinator Pathway) and ongoing coordination with the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee, the Affordable Housing Trust, and the Groton Lakes Association. The Groton Conservation Commission looks forward to continuing their commitment to land management and stewardship in the coming new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce H. Easom, Chair, (since 2024)
Larry Hurley, Vice-Chair (since 2017)
Kimberly Kuliesis, (since 2024)
Alison Hamilton, (since 2020)

Peter Morrison, Clerk (since 1991)
John Smigelski, (since 2012)
Olin Lathrop (since 2016)
Charlotte Steeves (Conservation Administrator)

COUNCIL ON AGING

Nicole Sarvela, Director

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

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am – 4:00pm / Board Meetings 2nd 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) operates within The Groton Center and serves as a central hub for community building and Social Services. The COA employs a Full Time Director, Community Engagement Specialist and Outreach Coordinator/Van Dispatch, a Part Time Departmental Assistant, 9 Van Drivers, a Building Monitor and over 100 volunteers who provide office and programing assistance.

The COA provides a wide-range of programing daily including, fitness classes, community luncheons, educational opportunities, art instruction, social engagement and more. The Groton COA hosted 733 members, 17,918 times in 2024 for these types of programs and events.

In addition to our daily programing, we also provide members 60 and older with invaluable social service support; resources and referrals, SHINE counseling (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone), support groups, health screenings, medical equipment loan program, AARP Tax assistance, Meals on Wheels, financial assistance (Fuel Assistance, SNAP, etc.) and transportation. The Groton COA provided 4,289 rides to 140 Groton residents in 2024. The Groton COA Staff meet quarterly with Emergency Services and Nashoba BOH to provide continued support and identifying Groton residents in need.

The Groton Center also serves as a space for Community and Private Group Meetings/Events; in 2024 we hosted over 100 Groton groups and residents.

In 2024 we began the process of becoming a Dementia Friendly Community; providing education, advocacy, and support for those living with a Dementia diagnosis, loved ones and the community at large. We hosted our first annual Artisan Marketplace in late October, opening our doors to the community, showcasing local, Senior Artisans.

We created an extensive Resource Guide that is available both online on our website and in office, available to anyone in need.

Thanks to our dedicated and knowledgeable staff, volunteers and engaged community members The Groton Center continues to be a valued and respected resource for the Town of Groton and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Sarvela
COA Director

Council on Aging Staff

Director, Nicole Sarvela

Community Engagement Specialist, Nändi Munson

Outreach Coordinator/Van Dispatch, Nickole Boardman

Departmental Assistant, Kristine Fox

COA Board:

Pascal Miller, Chair

Tony Serge, Vice Chair

Judith Palumbo O'Brien, Secretary

Carole Carter

Michelle Collette

Berta Erickson

Harris McWade

Lois Young

Dottie Zale

Van Drivers:

Peter Cunningham

Robert Hamilton

Michael Kalil

Hank Montanari

Eddie Wenzell

PK Simmons

Lynn Holdsworth

Rich Marton

Sam Palmer

Building Monitor, Charlie DeStefano

Maintenance/Custodian, Clayton Rutherford III



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

DPW

It is with mixed emotions that I submit my last Town report for the DPW of Groton. For the last 39 years it has been eventful as well as challenging, fun and entertaining, exhausting and frustrating but also rewarding. I have learned so much since a start as a laborer, growing and advancing, to where I am now. Having learned so much over the years, it is my hope what I have built will continue and thrive. I have seen lots of change, good and bad, but I am certain the Town will continue to grow, even with the knowledge that many challenges will always lie ahead. It has been a privilege to work, and live here, and will continue to make Groton my home. I feel I have left our department well equipped and established to carry it into the future. Our director in training program has been grooming Brian Callahan to take over for me and I feel he has the temperament to lead the department into the future.

This year also saw, and will see, other retirees go through the doors. Jim Emslie, former fire fighter and long-term employee retired Jan 1 of 2025. Troy Conley, 39-year employee, my current foreman, will also leave us this year in early July. Troy has been a wealth of knowledge and common sense that has helped me tremendously over the decades we worked together.

Sadness also wracked the department this year. A current employee, Jessee Johnson, passed suddenly and was a loss for us as a friend and a worker as well as a devoted father to his three children. Also lost was retired employee Brian Barbieri and Groton resident. Both will be missed as long-term employees and friends.

The successful operations of this department are due to all the hard-working employees, who are the backbone of the DPW. The Town would be at a loss without such a dedicated group of hard-working people. My accomplishments throughout the years are, and always will be, due to their hard work and dedication, and for that I am forever grateful. My sincere thanks, as always, go out to them for doing a great job.

I would also like to thank the Town Manager as well as all the other Department Heads and Staff, for the day-to-day support to help us do our jobs efficiently. With out their support, none of us can do our jobs. There are also so many that are the behind the scene who support us all, with their back up and support of all the other departments it makes our jobs easier and more effective. It is a tremendous team we have here in Town and I have been so proud to be part of it.

Highway Division

The Highway Department is the strength of the DPW and continues its commitment to maintain and upgrade the

roads and infrastructure of the Town. In 2024 various projects were completed with several road ways being resurfaced. We are fortunate that our state funding for roadwork and other projects continues to allows the resources to upgrade our road and sidewalk system. And as always, we will use each dollar as carefully as possible. Our road maintenance program helps guide us

through the choices of road repairs to make the most of our resources. Roads resurfaced last year included Old Ayer Road, Farmers Row, Chicopee Row, Whitman Road, as well as roads in the lost lake area. Other items of interest are drainage repairs and improvements, intersection improvements, as well as other preventive measures for increasing pavement life. Sidewalk improvements were made on Lowell Road as well as West Main Street and Peabody Street. These were partially funded by the complete street grant program. We also work closely with the Parks department to identify and make plans to increase our recreation areas.

Tree Warden

This year planting of new trees was carried out in multiple areas of town kicking off with our Arbor Day Tree at Ace Hardware on Main Street. 15 + trees were planted in various areas replacing and or enhancing our tree canopy for the next generations to come. With over 125 miles of roads, our trimming is widespread and ongoing. Ground trimming as well as aerial bucket work with the removal of dead and dying trees is an ongoing project. Our roadside mower was out most of the summer clearing and mowing. We were able to trim with ground crews and mow over 25 miles of roadway. We also did extensive hand cutting and pruning of trees and invasive along the roadway during the summer to open our roads back up to increase visibility as well as remove dead and diseased trees. The local Light Department has expanded their aerial trimming program and with their help and crew were are able to do more work together than before.

Transfer Station

With a steady recycling rate above average for the area we continue to bring our revenues up and our disposal costs down. This department continues to evolve by adding new products to bring to the markets. With continued support from the Town, grants from DEP and the creativity from employees and consultants, it is still my hope that in the everchanging recycle market this will give us an edge to produce more products for less, hence increasing our service and revenue for the town. This department is a near break even enterprise and an example for other towns to follow when it comes to recycling.

Building Maintenance

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

- 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 all Town Hall buildings.
- Janitorial duties are completed at the sites above as well.

Respectfully submitted
One last time
R Thomas Delaney Jr
DPW Director

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Arthur Cheeks, Fire Chief
Center Station, 45 Farmers Row
General Calls: (978) 448-6333 Cell Phone Emergency: (978) 448-5555
Emergency: 911
fire@grotonma.gov

2024 has been quite a whirlwind for the Groton Fire Department. The department faced several new obstacles and none more important than filling the role of Fire Chief with the departure of Chief McCurdy after fourteen years of service to the town and community. The process for establishing his successor began in late May and concluded in July with the appointment of Chief Arthur Cheeks who served as the Fire Department's Deputy Chief for the last five years.

The Fire Department continued to lead the charge in recruiting new Call/Volunteer Firefighters which yielded eight new call/vol firefighters who completed the 6 month training program in July. Those eight new firefighters have been engaged and eager to assist in providing service to the residents of the Town of Groton.

The Groton Fire Department also saw new challenges in the form of a significant increase in calls for service as well as the closure of Nashoba Valley Medical Center. The Department responded to a total of 1706 incidents. These ranged from general service calls, emergency medical requests, structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, and hazardous materials incidents. This was a 16% increase in calls for service from 2023.

The biggest challenge however came with the closure of Nashoba Hospital. This local hospital provided a huge service to our community members. It allowed the Groton Ambulance crews to expediently deliver patients for medical evaluation and stabilization thus minimizing pre-hospital care times. In 2023 over 84% of the ambulance transports were to Nashoba Hospital with an average total time for each medical transport call around 23 minutes. With our community hospital gone, the Groton Fire Department, committed to providing the Town of Groton with a high quality of pre-hospital care, now transports a high number of patients to hospitals outside of our immediate area creating a staggering increase in total transport calls times now averaging over 1 hour 40 minutes resulting in increased delays in response to simultaneous or subsequent calls for service.

The Groton Fire Department is committed to provide the best quality care to the residents of the Town of Groton. With that we will continue to explore areas for improvement by remaining vigilant and innovative in our training and education. The department members are dedicated to service to our community and take tremendous pride in being a part of the Town of Groton and living up to the values and oath of the Groton Fire Department badge.

Pride, Service, & Dedication

Art Cheeks
Fire Chief



Fire Chief, Arthur Cheeks

Sr. Administrative Assistant, Diane Aiello

Lieutenant James Crocker

Lieutenant Derek Maskalenko

Lieutenant James Foley

Lieutenant Steven Savage

Lieutenant Karl Lundgren

Lieutenant Tyler Shute

Firefighters/EMTs

Maurice Bechara

Peter Kokolski

Nathan Bernier

Lev Kuznetsov

Christopher Braun

Brandon Lambert

John Brooks

Paul McBrearty

Brad Cain

Grant McCullagh

Anthony Cianci

John McKeever

Daniel Coelho

Cody McNayr

Aaron Doherty

Declan Nash

David Dubey

Matthew Pisani

James Foley

Michael Poulin

Bryan Gardner

Matthew Prentice

Kyle Girard

Christopher Quigley

Jason Grennell

Andrew Saball

Richard Gutierrez

Walter Shaw

Heather Hall

Daniel Shreve

Elsa Heil

Teigan Sousa

Samuel Heil

Stephen Uram

Thomas Kneeland

Tobias Wells

Christopher Young

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.

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 Manger/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 2024.

The Commission consists of seven members. Currently two vacancies remain. David MacInnis was appointed late in the year for a three-year term expiring in June 2027. The Historic Districts Commission would like to thank Peter Benedict for his many years of service.

Throughout 2024, the Historic District Commission continued to convene in person every month on the third Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

The HDC approved six new sign permits and granted twelve 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,

Brian Cartier, (Chair 2025)

Lisa Hicks, (2025)

Jennifer Rand, (2026)

Jennifer Moore, (2026)

David MacInnis, (2027)

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 (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) that have been beneficial. We also had mandatory Harassment training for all of our Department Heads through MIIA. We received \$7,514.00 in MIIA Rewards for these trainings and seminars.

BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

This was our first-year transitioning from Minuteman Nashoba Health Group to MIIA. We had to have two open enrollments for both active employees and retirees. Both enrollments went smoothly. MIIA offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that employees are able to use and speak with an advisor for help and information on stress, mental health, work life resources etc. that are available at no cost.

RECRUITMENT

This was a busy year for recruitment. We hired a Patrolman, Per Diem Van Driver, Truck Driver/Laborer, Community Fire Chief, Park Ranger, Circulation Library Assistant, Custodian II, GCC Summer Staff, and Fire Fighters. 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

Since joining MIIA we have been able to take advantage of the Wellness and Cost Savings Programs such as on-line and in person programs. We received \$7,300 in grant money for stand-up desks and walking pads. I send out information to keep our employees healthy and informed. This past year we had several on-line programs that employees participated in. We offered a program called Walktober and had a lot of participation and a 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 2024 the department handled about 1,110+ help desk tickets we received. This year we finished our move of police dispatching from on-site to the Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center. We replaced and upgraded most of our firewalls in our town this year to now fully support two factor authentication for remote users. We added an additional point of sale unit at town hall to continue moving those systems together. Artificial Intelligence training has begun as we roll out staff training on utilizing AI tools to benefit our jobs in 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 2024 the Department responded to approximately 33,000 calls for service which included: 3269 motor vehicle stops, 303 criminal complaint/summons, and 68 arrests.

The Department saw some personnel changes during 2024. Two openings that were created through attrition were filled by Officers Ian Pereira and Tyler Melanson. Both officers graduated the Full-time Recruit Officer Training Course at Northern Essex Community College. They will participate in an intensive field training program and be on patrol in the Spring of 2025.

The Department applied for and received approximately \$70,000 in grants for safety equipment replacement and traffic enforcement.

Comfort Dog, Miranda, retired after seven years of providing support services to the community. We wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

The Emergency Communications Department merged with the Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) located in Pepperell. In addition to Groton the Patriot RECC provides emergency communications for the towns of Ashby, Dunstable, Pepperell, and Townsend. There had been a great deal of planning, coordination, and cooperation in order to achieve this merger. Two part-time Departmental Assistants were hired to manage the front desk traffic and communications.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael F. Luth

2024 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:	Robert Wayne
Patrol Officers:	Paul Connell, Peter Breslin, Dale Rose, Michael Lynn, Gregory Steward, Peter Violette, Casey O'Connor, Michael Masterson, Brian Underhill
Reserve Officers:	Michael Ratte, Frank Mastrangelo
K-9:	Bane
Comfort Dog:	Miranda
Administrative:	Jessica Watson, Sr. Administrative Assistant Joan Tallent, Administrative Assistant
Departmental Assistants:	Edward Bushnoe and Johnna Brissette



Photo: Comfort Dog, Miranda

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

Cash & Fund Balances						Year-End Balance
						<u>June 30, 2024</u>
<u>Fund Description:</u>						
<u>General Fund</u>						
	ARPA Grant Funds					\$ 567,390
	BAN Proceeds Funds					\$ 2,012,610
	BOND Proceeds Funds					\$ 13,175,499
	All Other General Fund Accounts (incl. petty cash)					\$ 11,878,643
						\$ 27,634,142
<u>Other Funds</u>						
	Trust Funds (a)					\$ 27,693,225
	TREAD Trust					\$ 17,366
	Stabilization- Town					\$ 2,579,368
	Conservation					\$ 1,479,028
	Capital Stabilization- Town					\$ 760,665
	Capital Stabilization- GDRSD					\$ 307,037
	OPEB Trust					\$ 1,362,242
	Performance Bonds & Planning Board 593's					\$ 932,972
	Affordable Housing Trust					\$ 454,560
	Arts & Flags Agency					\$ 10,036
	Turtle Study & Maintenance					\$ 57,048
	Contractor Habitat Protection					\$ 20,451
	Regional Scholarship Committee					\$ 697
						\$ 35,674,693
<u>Enterprise Designated Funds</u>						
	Sewer Enterprise					\$ 452,512
	Water Enterprise					\$ 76,847
	Stormwater Utility					\$ 729
<u>Groton Electric Light Designated Funds</u>						
	Consumer Deposits					\$ 281,780
	Insurance Reserve					\$ 151,228
	Depreciation Reserve					\$ 318,187
						\$ 751,195
<u>Total Cash & Fund Balance, June 30, 2024</u>						\$ 64,590,118

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 increased in Fiscal 2024 with the addition of Fire Truck (\$800,000).

Although the Florence 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 2026 or potentially Fiscal Year 2027.

While the Florence Roche Construction Project will not be permanently borrowed the Town will be required to pay it's first principal payment towards the final borrowing in Fiscal 2026.

Town paid \$241,204.30 in non-exempt debt service (principal and interest), which is in keeping with the Town's policy of maintaining approximately \$250,000- \$300,000 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 \$465,796, which is excluded debt and becomes an addition to the annual tax rate.

(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	\$370,000.00	\$110,712.52	\$480,712.52
2913	DPW Garage- New in FY21	2/20/2020	2/15/2040	\$4,307,000	Exempt	\$217,000.00	\$106,684.50	\$323,684.50
2914	Library Roof- New in FY21	2/20/2020	2/15/2040	\$1,055,000	Exempt	\$53,000.00	\$26,117.00	\$79,117.00
2980	Florence Roche #1 NEW- FY22	8/17/2021	8/15/2041	\$7,330,000	Exempt	\$260,000.00	\$214,150.00	\$474,150.00
2916	Florence Roche #2 NEW- FY23	6/21/2022	4/1/2047	\$18,655,000.00	Exempt	\$750,000.00	\$790,950.00	\$1,540,950.00
2999	Senior Center	11/27/2018	6/30/2039	\$5,130,000	Exempt	\$220,000.00	\$170,237.50	\$390,237.50
					Total Exempt	\$1,870,000.00	\$1,418,851.52	\$3,288,851.52
2915	Fire Truck 2020- New in FY21	02/20/2020	2/15/2039	\$473,000	Non-Exempt	\$25,000.00	\$11,776.00	\$36,776.00
2978	Fire Ladder Truck	11/27/2018	11/15/2037	\$875,000	Non-Exempt	\$45,000.00	\$25,031.26	\$70,031.26
2979	Lost Lake Fire Protection	11/27/2018	11/15/2038	\$1,375,000	Non-Exempt	\$70,000.00	\$40,656.26	\$110,656.26
2994	Project Eval Report	11/1/2003	2/1/2024	\$330,000	Non-Exempt	\$13,506.23	\$10.95	\$13,517.18
					Total Non-Exempt	\$153,506.23	\$77,474.47	\$230,980.70
	Summary for General Fund				Total for General Fund	\$2,023,506.23	\$1,496,325.99	\$3,519,832.22
					<i>crossfoot</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	\$38,500.00	\$138,500.00
	Summary for GELD				Total Non-Exempt for GELD	\$100,000.00	\$38,500.00	\$138,500.00
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
CPC								
012	Surrenden Farm (final year)	7/6/2007	12/15/2021	\$5,015,000	Non-Exempt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	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>	
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	\$1,810.42	\$18,457.92
2911	Old Ayer Rd	10/26/2007	10/1/2025	\$155,960	Non-Exempt	\$8,352.50	\$908.33	\$9,260.83
9994	Project Eval	11/1/2003	2/1/2024	\$330,000	Non-Exempt	\$4,995.45	\$4.05	\$4,999.50
	Summary for Sewer				Total Non-Exempt for Sewer	\$29,995.45	\$2,722.80	\$32,718.25
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
Water								
2997	Water SRF Loan 2	12/14/2006	7/15/2026	\$1,234,434	Non-Exempt	\$69,945.00	\$5,448.09	\$75,393.09
2909	Water System	11/23/2004	8/1/2024	\$4,417,366	Non-Exempt	\$279,221.90	\$671.25	\$279,893.15
	Summary for Water				Total Non-Exempt for Water	\$349,166.90	\$6,119.34	\$355,286.24
					<i>crossfoot</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
					FY23 Totals-	\$2,502,668.58	\$1,543,668.13	4,046,336.71
					<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, 2024

	Collected (a)		Uncollected @
	During Fiscal 2024		June 30, 2024
Fiscal 2024			
Real Estate	40,605,229		405,908
Community Preservation Act	1,135,615		9,319
Water District	197,408		663
Personal Property	388,514		5,473
Motor Vehicle Excise	1,843,810		90,812
Fiscal 2023			
Real Estate	191,354		128,639
Community Preservation Act	-		2,636
Water District	-		1,610
Personal Property	222		2,358
Motor Vehicle Excise	372,456		150,427
Fiscal 2022			
Real Estate	58,322		21,768
Community Preservation Act	-		437
Water District	-		374
Personal Property	-		473
Motor Vehicle Excise	10,765		7,265
Other Selected Tax Collector Data:			
Penalties, Interest on Taxes Collected	123,415		
Payments In Lieu of Taxes Collected	420,058		
Tax Title Collections	68,960		
Tax Deferral Collections	-		
Scholarship Donations Collected	8,300		
TREAD Donations	12,720		
Local Meals Tax	263,134		
Local Room Occupancy	207,533		
Cannabis Excise	11,040		
Water/Sewer Liens Collected	6,341		
Boat Excise Tax Collected	1,131		
Municipal Lien Certificates Fees	8,445		
	Collected (a)		Uncollected @
	During Fiscal 2024		June 30, 2024

Note: 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 is currently one vacancy.

The Zoning Board of Appeals met to consider six applications in 2024. There were three variance applications. One variance was approved and the other two were withdrawn. There were two Special Permit applications. One of these was approved and the other one was withdrawn. There was one 40B Comprehensive Permit Applications, known as Heritage Landing, which was approved with conditions.

Variances – 3

Special Permits – 2

Comprehensive Permits – 1

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Prager, (2025) Chairman

Thomas Peisel, (2026) Vice Chairman

Daniel McLaughlin, (2026) Clerk

Bruce Easom, (2025) Full Member

Jack Petropoulos, (2027) Full Member

Gregg Baker, (2025) Associate Member

Veronica O'Donnell, (2025) Associate Member

Leonard Green, (2025) Associate Member

Amanda Urmann, Assistant

GROTON'S APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Affordable Housing Trust

Cable Advisory Committee

Community Preservation Committee

Complete Streets Committee

Conductorlab Oversight Committee

Destination Groton Committee

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 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.

This year, the Housing Trust has investigated potential land purchases, coordinated with other boards, and learned more about leveraging local funds by participating in a tax credit development. The Housing Trust continued to explore the feasibility of developing the Hoyts Wharf Parcel – a town owned property – for affordable housing. Due to environmental constraints, the Hoyts Wharf Parcel can only support a small-scale project. Increasingly, the financing of affordable housing is either very small-scale – such as the prospective Hoyts Wharf Parcel development – or of a size to attract significant outside funding through low-income tax credits (LIHTC).

The Housing Trust received \$200,000 in CPC funding in 2023, \$400,000 in 2024, and is requesting an additional \$400,000 for 2025. 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.

Looking ahead, the Housing Trust expects to participate in the update of the Town’s Housing Production Plan and anticipates an upcoming Town Meeting vote on new MBTA Communities zoning (M.G.L. Chapter 40A Section 3A). The deadline for full compliance is December 31, 2025.

The Housing 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.

We regret the passing of fellow member Richard Perini. We on the Housing Trust greatly benefited from his construction expertise and ‘get it done’ approach. We greatly miss his company and commitment to affordable housing.

Respectfully submitted,

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



Photo Credit: Steve Lieman

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 2024, the two channels aired a total of 566 locally-produced programs - totaling over 526 hours of unique content. Programming included meeting coverage, sports, concerts, lectures, events, news, and original shows created and hosted by Groton residents.

Over the course of the last year, we have made an effort to increase our social media presence - utilizing these platforms to help share content with the community by posting every video that we air on our channels directly to social media for easier access.

We are also very excited to announce that, through our most recent license negotiations, Verizon customers can now enjoy high definition programming. Our Public & Educational channel is now available in HD on Verizon channel 2140. Though anyone can still enjoy our HD content across both channels when viewing online or through the Cablecast app on your smart devices.

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

Eric Fischer, Vice-Chair

Neil Colicchio

Janet Sheffield

Russ Harris

& Ashley Doucette, Program Director

-

The Groton Channel - Verizon Channel 40 & 2140/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)

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 \$1,372,135 in funds from the local surtax, state fund match, and interest during FY2024, and received \$266,397 in FY2024 state match funds on November 15th, 2024.

Ongoing CPC Projects

- Housing Trust Funds Request - To be used to help the Affordable Housing Trust meet its affordable housing goals. - CPC Request: \$200,000
- 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). - CPC Request: \$90,000

Projects approved for FY 2025

- Conservation Fund, FY 2025 - To help preserve open space, protect water resources and wildlife habitat, and preserve land for agricultural, recreational, and forestry activities. - CPC Request: \$400,000

- Cow Pond Play Fields – To be used to create a master plan utilizing data and site assessments. - CPC Request: \$30,000
- Milestone Markers Restoration – To restore 2 of the 27 milestone markers. - CPC Request: \$8,950
- Prescott School Building Assessment – To perform a building condition assessment report on the Prescott school. - CPC Request: \$100,000
- SRRT – Phase II Permitting – To pay for design and permitting of the next phase of the Squannacock River Rail Trail (SRRT). - CPC Request: \$30,000
- Bancroft Castle Preservation Study – To have a study on the structural integrity of the masonry remains. - CPC Request: 16,240
- Property Security, Safety and Preservation – To increase the safety of, and repair the Boutwell House. – CPC Request: \$69,600
- 2023-2024 Housing Funding Request – To create and support Affordable Housing. - CPC Request: \$400,000
- Housing Coordinator – To fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator. – CPC Request: \$62,660
- Tools and Equipment for Building Trails – To fund special tools that will allow trail building, repair, and enhancement. – CPC Request: \$12,195

Respectfully submitted,

Representing Conservation Commission: Bruce Easom
 Representing Park Commission: Anna Eliot
 Representing Historic Commission: Aubrey Theall

Representing Housing Authority: Dan Emerson
 Representing Planning Board: Russell Burke
 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 was extended to the Senior Center. And in the Town Center, a sidewalk on Lowell Road was constructed from Main Street to the Gibbet Hill Grill. These two sidewalk projects were completed in 2024.

In 2024, Complete Streets Committee members contributed to the Walkability Study that was conducted through a grant from the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) and to the updated Master Plan prepared by the Planning Board.

The Complete Streets Committee will continue to pursue grant funding and other opportunities to implement Groton's Complete Streets Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Complete Streets Committee:

George Barringer, Chair

Kristen von Campe

Peter Cunningham

Robert T. Delaney

Deanna Kass

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 towns 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 2024: At the beginning of the year, the Conductorlab Oversight Committee, along with the consultant firm Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) of Raynam, MA, continued their review of the Draft Permanent Solution Statement which was submitted by Honeywell/WSP in 2023. CEC's review identified several concerns about the report mostly related to site characterization, indoor air sampling, and emerging contaminants known as PFAS. In February 2024, the committee and CEC met with Honeywell/WSP representatives and presented the concerns. Honeywell/WSP representatives agreed to review and address these concerns. This proved to be a rather long and arduous undertaking on the part of Honeywell/WSP. In November, Honeywell/WSP presented the committee with a report entitled Conductorlab Permanent Solution Statement Report – Appendix G Supplemental Information. The report is lengthy (200+ pages) and highly technical and addresses the committee's concerns. The committee and CEC spent the remainder of the year reviewing the report. With regards to the PFAS concern, the committee was advised that Honeywell/WSP discussed the matter with MassDEP and has agreed to conduct additional sampling for these constituents. If PFAS is detected at the Conductorlab Site, the condition will be addressed under a new Release Tracking Number.

As the year concluded, the committee and CEC were making plans to meet in 2025 to further discuss the new information. The committee anticipates further discussions with Honeywell/WSP as the Draft PSS is finalized and submitted to MassDEP.

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 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 Brian Bolton, Joni Parker-Roach, and Heather Puksta.

Destination Groton Committee Activities 2024

- The DGC submitted a Letter of Support to the Affordable Housing Trust; Trails Committee; Historical Commission; Sustainability Commission in their request for CPC FY25 funding.
- Presented DGC Budget/Agenda for the year to the Town Select Board, Finance Committee, and Town Meeting.
- DGC members participated in five Planning Board sponsored Master Plan Public Forums.
- DGC participated in a Small Towns Collaborative (1st Middlesex District) presentation before the Joint Legislative Committee on Community Development Listening Tour.
- Participated in MRPC Town Center Walkability Study and State Advancing Arts/Culture/Economic Dev. Webinar
- In 2024 the DGC website received 6301 views (top 32%) 3,179 marketing emails 36% open rate/26% click rate.
- To date we have received over 400 respondents to our Town wide online residential survey. 83% supported a ten-year effort to secure funding to address both infrastructure challenges/economic opportunities.
- DGC/GBA spring Business Forum: Creating Business Opportunities for Economic Growth (85 attendees)
- Submitted a series of State, local and private grant applications to promote Groton and America's 250th.
- Received Letters of Support from several Town and regional organizations and elected officials including: Groton Hill Music, Historical Commission, Groton Inn, Trails Committee, DEI Commission, Groton Business Association, Montachusett Regional Planning Association, Senator Cronin, Representatives Scarsdale and Sena.
- Hired a professional Social Media Influencer to promote Groton's many attractions. So far nearly 600,000 views!

- Interviewed candidates to fill a committee vacancy. Heather Puksta is our newest member.
- MRPC submitted its Retail Leakage Report which analyzed economic data and identifies \$60M+ in commercial spending that occurs out of Town as part of our effort to draft a 10-Year Town Center Strategic Vision Plan.
- MRPC interviewed twelve town and business leaders on the potential for Town Center growth.
- DGC was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Commissioners of the Trust Funds to produce an audio tour of historic town center sites and sponsor a lecture as part of celebrating America's 250th.
- DGC was awarded \$25,000 MA Downtown Initiative grant to conduct a Traffic Mitigation Plan for Town Center.
- DGC was awarded \$50,000 Rural Development Fund grant to conduct a Town Center Vision Plan.
- DGC/GBA fall Business Forum: Envisioning the Future of Town Center (80 attendees).
- Established a DGC Gift fund and have to date received two major donations: \$3,500 from Lawrence Academy and \$10,000 from Groton School.
- MRPC has qualified DGC to receive federal EDA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) grants.
- DGC produced four quarterly Newsletters.
- Since FY 23, DGC has received \$36,500 in Town funds and attracted \$178,200 in grants and sponsorship funding.
- The DGC formally met 50 times in 2024 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.

Opportunities to Celebrate our Diversity as a Community

The committee partnered with local committees and organizations within the town to celebrate and recognize the following holidays and celebrations: Juneteenth, Hispanic Heritage Month, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Black History Month. The committee also partnered with the Groton Public Library for an author meetup and book discussion from Jonathan Cocoran to celebrate LGBTQ+ month. The committee partnered with Prescott Community Center to display Groton's connection with Black history through history posters. The committee plans to add Lunar New Year to the calendar of events.

All events have brought awareness to The Commissioners of Trust Funds and collected donations for Catie's Closet.

Lawrence Academy has formed a land acknowledgement working group which includes Becky Pine, Michelle Collette, Elea Kemler, and faculty from LA. The focus of the group will be to support the town's initiatives, developing a land acknowledgment, and developing a curriculum.

Research-based Observations and Recommendations to the Select Board

The committee unanimously passed a motion to Becky Pine and the Select Board to recommend that single stalled bathrooms be changed to multi use bathrooms and moving forward construction of town buildings should have multi gender/ multi use bathroom stalls.

Respectfully,

The DEI Committee

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

selectboard@grotonma.gov

Role of the Housing Partnership

The Housing Partnership is appointed by the Select Board to advise and support affordable housing initiatives. Since the early 1980s, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) has envisioned a role for municipal housing partnerships. Housing Partnerships sign off on a municipality's Local Action Units applications to EOHLC.

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.

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.

This year

Heritage Landing, a site along Cow Pond Brook Road, received a comprehensive permit on July 1, 2024. Heritage Landing will have twenty-eight (28) homeownership units. Seven (7) of those homes will be affordable to households earning up to 80% of the area median income (AMI).

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 to maintain eligibility for certain state funding. Affordable housing is allowed but not required by the MBTA Communities legislation. The Planning Board is expected to bring a proposed zoning district to the Annual Town Meeting this spring. The deadline for full compliance is December 31, 2025.

Passing of Richard Perini

The Housing Partnership regrets the passing of Richard Perini who served on the Partnership as well as the Affordable Housing Trust for several years. Richard Perini valued affordable housing and he worked to make opportunities for others to have safe and decent homes.

Respectfully submitted,

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

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

invasive@grotonma.gov

2024 was a very productive year for the Invasive Species Committee.

Education/Research

- Completed work for Wild and Scenic River Council grant for treatment of Japanese knotweed plants at two locations along the Nashua River
 - Committee members grew white wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*) and big-leaved aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*) from seed and planted > 200 of the seedlings in the treatment area
 - Planted 75 native shrubs for site restoration
 - Performed ongoing knotweed treatments
 - Issued final report on the Grant Activities (June 27, 2024)
- Presented invasive species instruction to seventh and eighth grade science classes at the Groton-Dunstable middle school - coordinated with teachers to enhance curriculum on invasive species, designed and led plant identification activity on school grounds.

Outreach

- Participated in Riverfest in June 2024 - coordinated invasive plant scavenger hunt activity to promote youth education
- Coordinated invasive plant discussions with the Garden Club and the Parks Commission concerning Carol Wheeler Park
- Fielded numerous emails from town residents and provided guidance on invasive species identification and control
- Designed and printed informational signs to be posted at invasive species treatment locations

Invasives Mapping and Control

- Invasive Species Treatments > 70 hours of field work volunteer time:
 - Treated Ash trees at Petapawag boat launch for Emerald Ash borer
 - Treated Japanese knotweed at the Groton Country Club, the Hayden Rd. extension trail, the Campbell Well Site, on Rte. 111 (across from the General field) and at the Petapawag boat launch
 - Treated Japanese knotweed and black swallowwort at Nipmuck Meadows (Shattuck Homestead)

- Treated bittersweet and dame's rocket at Hayden Rd.
- Treated Phragmites reed in Eliades conservation area, along the Priest Family Conservation Area driveway and along the Nashua River rail trail
- Treated Japanese barberry in the Town Forest, alone and collaboration with the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA)
- Removed burning bush and treated Ailanthus at the lost lake fire station
- Treated Bittersweet and honeysuckle in the St Regis Paper mill parcel (collaboration with Conservation Commission and NRWA)
- Treated Japanese Knotweed behind the GELD municipal building

Members:

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

Figure 1. Before (left) and after (right) treatment of knotweed along the Nashua River.

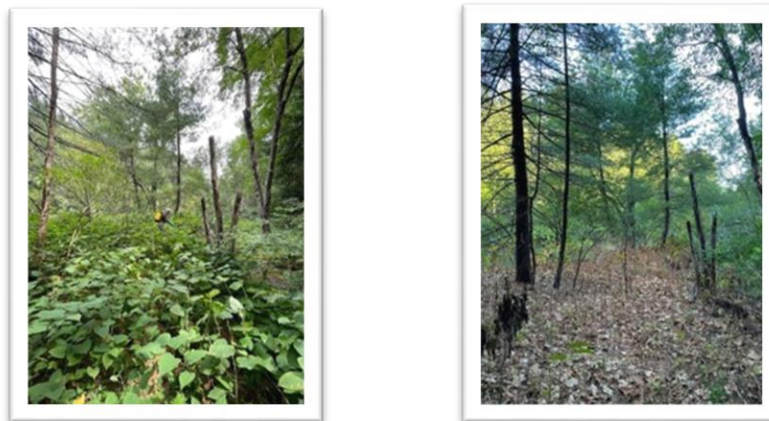


Figure 2. Before (left) and after (right) restoration with native deer tongue grass along the Nashua River



OLD BURYING GROUND COMMISSION

(978) 448-1100

townclerk@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, 2025

Deborah Beal Normandin, 2025

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

(978) 448-1111

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

Education Subcommittee: Led by Phil Francisco, this subcommittee presented eight education events during 2024. The topics covered were (in chronological order): Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Stormwater & Snow Melt, Sustainable Food Choices, Electric Vehicles at Spring GrotonFest, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Presentation at Groton Public Library, GrotonFest Fall booth, Heat Pumps, and Climate Action in Groton. Education will continue in 2025 with at least five events.

Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee: New in 2024. Led by Charlotte Weigel.

- Studied Climate Action Plans developed by other Mass. communities and identified the pathways these communities had taken to complete these plans.
- Advocated for the formation of a Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) to investigate the attitudes of Groton's residents, businesses and municipal leaders toward local action on climate change
- Under the aegis of the CAWG and with other CAWG members
 - Met with 14 groups within the town
 - Developed a survey on Climate Action, collected results from over 300 residents
 - Summarized results indicating strong support for local climate action.
- Presented the results to the Select Board which voted unanimously to put a climate resolution on the warrant for the spring town meeting
- Began work on an Energy Manager grant from MassSave in concert with Harvard, Ayer and Shirley.

Tire Recycling Subcommittee held three events and collected 214 tires in 2024. The number of tires collected at each event is holding steady, so this team will hold three events in 2025.

Pollinator Garden and Pathway Working Group: The Pollinator Garden is fully planted and is in maintenance mode. A shed for tools and supplies was obtained and installed with grant money awarded by the Council On Aging. The Groton Trails Committee purchased and installed an informative, colorful sign with information about pollinators and why habitat gardens for them are so important.

Work began on the new Pollinator Pathway. With the help of funding from the Community Preservation Committee grant, we had property lines surveyed, installed a wire fence, rototilled soil and added compost; planted approximately 90 native plants including shrubs, vines, groundcovers and perennials. At year end, planting for the pathway is approximately 50% complete. The rest of the planting will be from native seedlings grown over the winter, and additional plants to be purchased in May 2025.

Communications/Social Media Subcommittee: During 2024, this subcommittee created a website through the MassEnergyize platform, SustainableGroton.org. Buildout of the site with more content will continue and mature in 2025. HubSpot and our Facebook page were used for continued outreach and communication, along with postings on other Groton-based social media sites and the Groton Herald

Grants Subcommittee: The Commission received two grants: \$3,600 from the Community Preservation Committee for the new Pollinator Pathway and a Commissioners of Trust Funds grant for interns to research how new plantings could support endangered pollinators. We applied for an Energy Efficiency grant from the DOER which was not awarded.

Energy Coaching Subcommittee: The Energy Coaching program was initiated in 2024 with certification of one coach in January and a second coach in May. A total of 20 households were coached in 2024. GELD's support for the program was solicited, and a link to the program was added to the GELD website.

Advocates Subcommittee: The new Sustainable Groton Facebook page has been very successful with 177 members currently, 30 of whom are certified "Advocates". A "meet and greet" for Advocates was held on 11/2/24 to discuss future actions.

Regional Advocacy: The Commission advocated successfully for the Select Board to sign a resolution opposing the expansion of private jet facilities at Hanscom Field. The resolution was sent to Gov. Healey in June.

Respectfully submitted,
- Phil Francisco, Chair

Photo Credit: Steve Lieman



TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

selectboard@grotonma.gov

The Groton Town Forest is an approximately 511-acre parcel located in West Groton abutting both the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers. It was established in 1922 as a memorial to lives lost in The Great War. The Forest provides a space for multiple uses including trails for walking, biking and XC skiing; birdwatching is popular and hunting is allowed. With special permission, Scouting groups may camp and trail races and mock fox hunts are held each year. The Committee encourages people to reach out with requests for special access.

All motorized vehicles including e-bikes are prohibited from the Town Forest.

Trails in the Town Forest are maintained by the Trails Committee; no building or clearing of trails including with leaf blowers is allowed.

The Committee began the process of formalizing a Forest Stewardship Plan with the help of our local Service Forester from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This process will continue during 2025.

The Committee membership changed in 2024. We would especially like to thank outgoing chair and long-term member Steve Babin for his dedication and service over many, many years.

Leslie H. Row, Chair

Ned Cahoon, Vice Chair

John P. Sheedy, Secretary/Clerk

TRAILS COMMITTEE

(978) 448-1111

trails@grotonma.gov

<http://www.grotontrails.org>

The **Nashua Riverwalk** project in the J. Harry Rich State Forest was finally approved by the **Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation** after two years of delays. An existing riverside trail was improved to be an accessible trail (stonedust surface) and an adjacent equestrian path was retained. We obtained funding for the trail from **MassTrails** and from Groton's **Community Preservation Act (CPA)**. This trail is adjacent to the Tinker Trail, the first accessible trail built in Groton in 2015, and runs along the Nashua River Oxbow. Special educational signage and a picnic table at a scenic overlook will be installed in 2025. We obtained funding for the signage from grants from **Freedom's Way Natural Heritage Area**, the **Nashua River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council**, the **Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts**, and Groton's **CPA**.

We developed new trails on the **Conservation Commission's** newly acquired **Casella Preserve** that lies between Nashua Road and the regional high school. These trails provide a continuous trail connection from the High School to Longley Rd.

We performed a major upgrade of the **Stoddart Trail**, which connects with the **New England Forestry Foundation's (NEFF) Groton Place** parcel, to deal with water and erosion issues. This trail is located off Long Hill Road. We installed several sections of geo-grid covered with gravel and built two equestrian-capable bridges. Nearby landowners helped to fund the project.

Similar major upgrading of trails was performed in the **Keyes Woods** parcel (which is owned by NEFF and is adjacent to the Groton School) and in the **Sawtell** parcel (owned by the Conservation Commission and is off Chicopee Row). Geo-grid and gravel was put down in areas that are frequently very wet, and equestrian-capable bridges were built by **Scouts Arthur Johnson and George Woods, performing their Eagle rank projects**.

The **Squannacook River Rail Trail (SQRT)** is a 3.7-mile pedestrian and bike pathway between Townsend Center and the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area in West Groton. **Squannacook Greenways (SG)** is the non-profit organization that leased the right-of-way, designed the trail, obtained permits, obtained funding, and built the trail between the two towns. **SG finished this many-years-long project in June**. The **West Groton Rail Trail Committee** (subcommittee of the Trails Committee) was chartered in December. SG and WGRTC are currently in the early design stages to extend the SQRT from Bertozzi to the railroad bridge that connects to Ayer just south of the Groton Town Forest.

We obtained **CPA** funds to purchase **tools and equipment** needed to build and maintain trails in Groton. The Town of Groton also offered **half of the space in a shed** at the town field behind the library for storing our tools and equipment. The shed was cleaned out with volunteer effort. The Town of Groton provided electrical service to the shed and built work benches for our use.

Other work accomplished during 2024 includes the following:

- GTC members and 42 community volunteers worked on **223 maintenance and new trail projects** during the year. A total of 645 person-hours of effort was expended, with 31% performed by community volunteers. The GTC maintains a **Groton Trails Network list server of 456 people** who are interested in knowing about our projects, and who can volunteer to help when they can.
- GTC **chainsawed 150 trees** that had fallen across trails. **Brush and grass were mowed** on 19 parcels. Distance and directional **signage** was designed, ordered, and installed in various parts of the town. New trailhead posts and replacements for decayed ones were installed.
- A **state earmark** for \$7,500 was obtained by the Destination Groton Committee and offered to the GTC for trail-related signage across the town.
- Two members of the GTC took a **chainsaw safety course** offered at the MassTrails Conference. This course is required to use chainsaws on public lands in Groton.
- The GTC assisted the **Friends of the Nashua River Rail Trail** in clearing the equestrian path that is adjacent to the trail in Groton and Pepperell. This work will continue in 2025. We also assisted FoNRRT with clearing leaves off the NRRT in the spring and fall.
- We repaired sinkholes and fences at **McLain's Woods field**.
- We planted rhododendrons and native wildflowers in **Wharton Plantation**, near the trailhead on Old Dunstable Road.
- We leveled and stabilized bog bridges at **Groton Hills**.
- We repaired a bog bridge in the **Duck Pond** parcel.

The GTC met members of the public by staffing booths at the annual **Spring GrotonFest, Fall GrotonFest**, and the annual **Groton Greenway River Festival** by the Nashua River at the Petapawag public boat launch in June. The GTC also assisted the Squannacook River Runners Club (SqRR) in their operation of the **26th Annual Town Forest Trail Races** in October. Many Groton residents participate in these races. **SqRR makes a donation each year** from the race proceeds that provides a major source of funds for the work of the Trails Committee.

Three members resigned from the Committee during the year: Ken Adams, Harris McWade, and Wanfang Murray. We thank them for their contributions during their time on the Committee, and particularly Wanfang, who served for more than eight years, has been an enthusiastic participant, and has been Vice Chair for the last 3-1/2 years.

Two new members joined the Committee in 2024, Josh LoPresti and Dan Pierpont.

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

2024:

- Estella Johnston returned as the farmers market intern through a grant from the Trust Funds
- The annual Colonial Days field trip took place on May 29 and 30 with 3rd grade students from Florence Roche and Swallow Union visiting the Williams Barn. Members of the Groton Womans Club and local craftsmen demonstrate some of the skills, crafts, and games of colonial New England to augment their classroom studies. The event is presented by the **Groton Womans Club** and runs in conjunction with a visit to the one-room Sawtell Schoolhouse, presented through the **Sawtell School Association**
- WBC took part in the Memorial Day parade
- Farmers Market started July 5th and went until October 11th. We have live music (thanks to trust funds) and over 10 vendors. This year we decided to bring in food truck vendors.
- WBC had booths at both **Spring and Fall GrotonFests**
- The town helped the WBC with a utility fund for the 2024 fiscal year that assisted with funding minor repairs, toilet rentals, and the donation box
- Donation box built and installed by Christopher Darling
- **Groton Womans Club** hosted their annual Greens Sale inside the barn
- The Thanksgiving market was a big success. WBC assisted the **Groton Grange** in raising funds for the Grange's Bradbury Smith Memorial Scholarship.
- May Brackett resigned from the committee in November. May served the Williams Barn for 7 years as an intern, committee member and co-chairperson. We thank her for her long service and wish her much luck and success.

Members: Stephen Woodin (chair), Sandra Tobies, Christopher Darling, Matt Novak, Joe Twomey, Bruce Easom, Bob Kniffin, Chris Furcolo

APPENDIX



Spring Town Meeting Warrant/Minutes

March 26, 2024

Special Town Meeting Warrant/Minutes

May 18, 2024

Fall Town Meeting Warrant/Minutes

October 5, 2024

All Election Results

March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Results

April 2, 2024 Special Town Election Results

April 23, 2024 Annual Town Election Results

September 3, 2024 State Primary Results

November 5, 2024 State Election Results

Photo Left to Right: Town Counsel and Chair Alison Manugian

MINUTES

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2024 SPRING TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Tuesday, March 26, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

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

Introduction to Groton Town Meeting

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

What is Town Meeting?

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

What is a warrant?

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

How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive an electronic voting handset which is required to vote. The meeting typically acts on the articles in the order that 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.

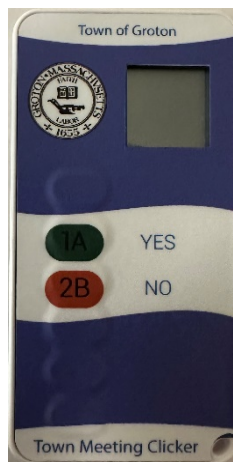
Proxy Voting Prohibited

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.

**SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 26, 2024**

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 Tuesday, the twenty-sixth day of March, 2024 at Seven O'clock in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the twenty-third day of April, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., at an adjourned session thereof at the following locations:

Precinct 1	The Groton Center 163 West Main Street	Precincts 2 & 3 Middle School South Gymnasium 344 Main Street
------------	-------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------

to give their ballots for:

Vote for One	Board of Assessors	3 Years
Vote for One	Board of Health	3 Years
Vote for One	Select Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for Two	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Moderator	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	1 Year
Vote for Three	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Trustee of the Groton Public Library	1 Year
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	5 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	4 Years

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*Will be presented as one Consent Motion

**CPA Funding Recommendations will be presented as One Consent Motion

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

2024 SPRING TOWN MEETING OFFICIALS
MEETING DATE – MARCH 26, 2024

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator:

Ed McNierney

Board of Selectmen:

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

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 Dunbar

Proceedings:

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM on March 26, 2024 at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Performing Arts Center. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided. There is no quorum requirement for this Annual Town Meeting. 800 voters were in attendance for the meeting as of 7:00 PM.

Announcements:

The Moderator stated that there would be a Special Town Election on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The ballot will contain a single Proposition 2 ½ override question. The polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 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. A reminder that Precinct 3A, effective September 27, 2023, 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 was today, March 26, 2024 by 5:00 PM. In-person early voting is also available for this election through Friday, March 29th at the Town Clerk's Office. Specific 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. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions about the election, your voter status or polling location.

The Meeting took the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Daisy Scouts.

The meeting was dissolved by the Moderator at 7:15 PM due to maximum capacity of 800 voters being reached, as determined by the Fire Chief and Building Commissioner with additional estimated 300 voters in line still to check in. It was decided that the Select Board would meet and schedule a date to hold a Special Town Meeting to consider the articles contained in this warrant.

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 2025.*

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2025 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 2025.*

Article 4: *Appropriate FY 2025 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 2025, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$190,000. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$190,000 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

Article 5: *Fiscal Year 2025 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 (2025), 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.*

Article 6: Fiscal Year 2025 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 2024 and thereafter, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2025 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 2025:*

Item #1 – Extrication Tools – “Jaws of Life”	\$92,500	Fire and EMS
-----------------------------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------

Summary: *The current auto extrication tools “Jaws of Life” are approaching 15 years old. With a life expectancy of 10-15 years, these tools are at the tail end of their serviceable time which will require replacement. As the new car technologies and materials constantly evolve, older “jaws” simply do not have the power to cut some modern systems. These tools are primarily used for motor vehicle crashes and have applicable usages in the industrial or construction setting.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #2 – Pick-Up Truck	\$55,000	Highway
--------------------------------	-----------------	----------------

Summary: *This is a scheduled replacement. The average life of a pick-up truck is approximately 7 years. By replacing one vehicle every couple of years, this will allow the fleet to stay in good shape. They are front line pick-ups used for day to day operations as well as snow plowing.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #3 – Brush Mower/Field Mower \$70,000 Highway

Summary: *This item is scheduled for replacement while it still has value. This should be considered a scheduled replacement.*

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

Item #4 – Dump Truck \$285,000 Highway

Summary: *This item is a scheduled replacement. These vehicles are front line trucks responsible for plowing and sanding, as well as normal construction duties. The Town will borrow this amount of money and pay it off over five years.*

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

Item #5 – IT Infrastructure \$40,000 Town Facilities

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established twelve years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2025, 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; network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage and improve door lock and security system maintenance.*

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

Item #6 – Municipal Building Repairs \$25,000 Town Facilities

Summary: *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in our municipal building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in the Town's buildings. With a set line item which is separate from minor capital, the DPW can be flexible and change its priorities instead of just doing it because it is on a list. Furnaces, a/c units, flooring and painting are some of the small items this capital program could handle with the flexibility needed.*

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

Item #7 – Police Station HVAC**\$65,000****Town Facilities**

Summary: *The current HVAC System at the Police Station is the original system from when the building was constructed in 1999. In 2025 it will be almost 25 years old and in need of replacement. This should be considered a scheduled replacement.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #8 – Baler/Maintenance**\$25,000****Transfer Station**

Summary: *Due to a fire at the Transfer Station in June, 2021, the 2004 baler was replaced by a newer model with insurance funding. This has now allowed the Town to remove the purchase of a new baler from the capital plan. The money set aside for the baler in FY 2025 will be spent to overhaul and update the newer baler providing for a longer life and not require the Town to replace it for several more years.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #9 – Carpeting**\$50,000****Library**

Summary: *All 20-year-old carpeting was replaced in 2018 EXCEPT in the Children's Room and Main Meeting Rooms, because they were replaced in 2009. These three large spaces are the busiest, most-used, and most stain-prone rooms. In FY2025, these carpets will be 15 years old (expected life 10 years). Carpet squares cost a bit more than broadloom, but make the most sense in such high traffic, high spill, highly busy crafting/activity/refreshment/programming meeting spaces. Despite regular cleaning, stains are visible all over the meeting rooms in particular. Carpet tiles can be replaced easily if stains cannot be removed or if fixed shelving or furniture is changed.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #10 – Property Improvements**\$50,000****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. Since FY 2015, the Town has appropriated \$25,000 each year so that 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 to much success. In FY 2025, the Park Commission has*

requested \$50,000 to deal with some substantial capital expenditures, including the paving work needed at Carol Wheeler Park, which has been quoted at \$11,500-\$11,900.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #11 – Police Cruisers

\$133,025

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. Unmarked cars are rotated in the same fashion.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #12 – Police Pick-Up Truck

\$77,000

Police Department

Summary: *This piece of equipment will benefit the department in that, as a multi-purpose vehicle with a four wheel drive platform, it can be utilized for snow removal, specialized equipment transport, provide accessibility to remote areas, and it will give us the ability to evacuate people in emergencies. This vehicle can be used to assist Emergency Management with transportation of generators and shelter equipment.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #13 – Electronic Control Devices – “Tasers” \$12,673

Police Department

Summary: *Current Electronic Control Devices are at end-of-life and not serviceable. The total cost of the ECD replacement is \$95,692. The Police Department applied for and received a JAG grant in the amount of \$45,000. The Town would be responsible for 4 payments of \$12,673 (beginning in FY 2025) for a total cost to the Town of \$50,692.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #14 – Golf Carts **\$25,553** **Country Club**

Summary: *In FY 2023, the Town replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with 21 new 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 third of five payments.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #15 – Greens Equipment - Ventrac **\$10,918** **Country Club**

Summary: *In FY 2024, the Town purchased a Ventrac unit using a five year lease-to-purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$10,918. This is the second payment of five payments. The Ventrac unit is a most versatile piece of equipment. The attachments already in use include units for plowing, aeration, seeding, landscaping and mowing difficult terrain. This vehicle is used on a daily basis.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #16 – Greens Equipment – Hauler Pro X **\$20,000** **Country Club**

Summary: *This is a superintendent utility cart that will replace one of the two carts currently used to travel the course for maintenance. This utility cart provides a bedload capacity of 500 lbs. for material. The two current utility carts are over a decade old and are becoming unreliable. This vehicle is used on a daily basis.*

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

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #17 – Greens Equipment – Truckster XD **\$13,500** **Country Club**

Summary: *This is a heavy payload 4x4 utility truck that will allow the transfer of up to 3,500 lbs. of debris, sand and loam to and from areas of the Course. This utility cart will replace the other utility cart in the Club's fleet that is over a decade old and is becoming unreliable. This vehicle will be used on a daily basis in the Spring and Fall when course cleanup is a daily occurrence. During the Summer months, it will be used for various Course projects. This vehicle will be paid for over five years.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #18 – Ventrac Attachments **\$18,000** **Country Club**

Summary: *The Ventrac unit is an attachment driven unit. The following attachments will be purchased and used for Course maintenance: Tough Cut Deck - \$6,000 – This deck will allow for the*

cutting back of all the overgrown areas of the course. It is expected that this attachment will be used often during the first season and continually when needed to maintain areas that have been improved; Stump Grinder - \$5,000. This attachment will focus on clearing out dead trees and overgrown areas of the course. The stump grinder will remove enough of a stump to clear the area and in some cases allow for reseeding. The expectation is that this attachment would be used a minimum of twenty (20) times annually; Trencher - \$7,000 - This attachment will install new irrigation lines on the course. There are several irrigation projects planned over the next several seasons.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #19 – Greens Equipment – Greens Mower \$10,000 Country Club

Summary: *This item will replace the current greens mower. The old mower will be converted to a tee & collar unit, and the old tee & collar unit will be converted to a greens roller unit. Ideally, the Club will purchase a new mower every five years. This is the first of four payments for this equipment.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #20 – HVAC \$23,000 Country Club

Summary: *The HVAC systems in both the Function Hall and the Groton Publick House (GPH) have been aging to the point that replacement parts are no longer available or are cost prohibitive. The Club has been installing one (1) AC unit per year into the Function Hall and GPH Building over the past three years. This request will complete the process of ultimately having five (5) units in the Function Hall and two units in the GPH Building.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #21 – Building Repairs & Painting \$20,000 Country Club

Summary: *This funding will be used to paint the exterior of the Golf Shop, replace trim board, and install rubber flooring for the high traffic area inside the golf shop. In addition, it will also be used to replace the deck outside of the Golf Shop.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #22 – Function Hall Bathroom Repairs**\$10,000****Country Club**

Summary: *This funding will be used to install hand dryers in the Function Hall bathrooms, as well as repaint both bathrooms in the Function Hall, and replace the partitions in the Function Hall bathrooms.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #23 – Retaining Walls**\$15,000****Country Club**

Summary: *Using the same blocks that were installed several years ago for the pool perimeter, the Country Club will replace the stone wall next to the deck at the Publick House Building and add a small section that has been experiencing washout next to the Publick House Building.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Town Manager

Article 7: Transfer From GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund to Cover MNHG Obligations

To see if the Town will vote to repurpose and appropriate the sum of \$263,424 in Fiscal Year 2024 from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of paying the Town of Groton's obligations to the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group, said funds to be used to pay the Town's run out claims for self-insured Active plans and self-insured Medicare plans, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *In an effort to close the anticipated projected Fiscal Year 2025 budget deficit, the Town Manager recommended, and the Select Board approved, that the Town leave the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group (MNHG), the joint purchasing group that supplies health insurance for Town employees and join the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) for this purpose. While this decision lowered the anticipated FY 2025 projected deficit by approximately \$118,000, there is not enough funding left in the MNHG Trust to cover the so-called runout claims (those claims incurred before June 30, 2024, but billed after June 30th). The Town is responsible for setting aside enough funding to cover this expense, estimated to be approximately \$340,000. Unused money in the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD) Capital Stabilization Fund will be used to offset some of this expense. GDRSD's Capital Assessment for FY 2025 came in lower than anticipated, leaving the current balance in*

that fund at \$263,424. This balance will be repurposed to cover a portion of the Minuteman Nashoba run out claims obligation with the rest of the funding (\$75,894) coming from leftover ARPA funds that were set aside for another project that is no longer needed.

Article 8: *Revoke Cable Enterprise Fund in Fiscal Year 2025*

To see if the Town will revoke the provisions of Chapter 44, §53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, ceasing the Community Cable Department as an enterprise fund effective in Fiscal Year 2025, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *At the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, the Town voted to create a Cable Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2016. At the time, Cable Revenues were strong and had a healthy level of reserves. However, since 2019, more residents have moved away from cable to various streaming services and the Town has seen a steady decrease in Cable Fees, so the Cable Enterprise has had to depend more on its Excess and Deficiency Account to balance the budget. There are no longer enough reserves to continue functioning as an Enterprise. To address this and determine the best course of action to continue to provide Local Cable Access while dealing with the loss of revenues, in Fiscal Year 2025, the Town will create a “Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund”. Creation of this fund, similar to the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, will allow the Town to collect the fees received from the two cable carriers servicing Groton and put them in this Reserve Account for the exclusive use of the Local Cable Access Department. This Article will revoke the Enterprise Fund. Article 9 will create the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund.*

Article 9: *Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund Acceptance*

To see if the Town will accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53F¾, to establish a special revenue fund known as the Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, said fund to begin operation for Fiscal Year 2025, which begins on July 1, 2024, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *See explanation in the Article 8 Summary.*

Article 10: *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 2024 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 Unanimously*

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 programing, strategic marketing, infrastructure and regional transportation mitigation. The Committee is seeking \$15,000 for the above-mentioned activities in FY 2025.*

Article 11: *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 Committee and all cost associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sustainability Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Sustainability Commission to pay for their tire recycling program, climate action program, pollinator garden program, building and delivering trained energy coaching and a central, online repository of information for townspeople, Sustainable Groton Advocates citizens' program, and to 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 \$9,600 for the above-mentioned activities in FY 2025.

Article 12: 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:	\$ 27,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$106,250
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$106,250
Community Housing Reserve:	\$106,250
Unallocated Reserve:	\$716,250

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 2025. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

Article 13: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2024

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:	Sustainable Groton Funding	\$3,600
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Summary: *The Sustainability Commission is requesting \$3,600 in order to create and plant a native plant pollinator corridor along the back of the Groton Center property. The 80-foot-long planting pathway will connect the pollinator garden to the Ice Line Trail. The pollinator corridor will consist of a pedestrian walkway with a border of native pollinator plants and benches. The pollinator habitats at the Groton Center help to offset the loss of habitat and support sustainable environments, contributing to biodiversity. The full amount to be paid from the Open Space Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Article 14: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2025

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2025, 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:	Conservation Fund – FY 2025	\$400,000
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Summary: *The Conservation Commission is requesting \$400,000 to be added to Groton's Conservation Fund in order to preserve land for open space, agricultural recreation, and forestry activities, as well as to protect water resources and wildlife habitat. The Conservation*

Fund allows the Town to move quickly when 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 within Groton. To Fund this Project, \$100,000 will come from the Open Space Reserve and \$300,000 to come from the Unallocated Reserve.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal B: Cow Pond Play Fields \$30,000

Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$30,000 to design a master plan for the large area owned by the Town of Groton between Cow Pond Brook Road and Hoyts Wharf Road. The area is currently used by athletic groups and residents. This proposal will utilize the data and site assessments conducted using previously approved CPA funds in 2022 and build upon it to create the Master Plan and concept design. The Park Commission will also incorporate input provided through a survey of Town residents. 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 Abstained – Hewitt)*

CPC Proposal C: Milestone Markers Restoration \$8,950

Summary: *The Groton Historical Commission is requesting \$8,950 to restore 2 of the 27 milestone markers that radiate from Main Street, leading to the Town center. The stones are historical assets, having been installed in approximately 1902. The project will fund the necessary restoration of damaged milestone markers. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal D: Prescott School Building Assessment \$100,000

Summary: *The Groton Town Manager, in conjunction with the Capital Planning Advisory Committee and the Friends of Prescott, are proposing to perform a building condition assessment report for the Prescott School, located at 145 Main Street, to determine the functional adequacy of the primary facilities in the short- and long-term future to preserve the historic structure. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Against – Eliot)*

CPC Proposal E:**Outdoor Fitness Court****\$237,500**

Summary: *In the Spring of 2023, the Town of Groton applied for and received a \$50,000 2024 Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts Fitness Campaign Grant Award. This Campaign is part of a national movement to make world-class fitness free and accessible in public spaces across the country. The National Fitness Campaign (NFC) is a for-profit wellness consulting firm. NFC's mission is to make "world class fitness free" to support healthy communities across America. This grant provides seed funding for the construction/installation of an Outdoor Fitness Court. Working cooperatively with the Groton Park Commission it was determined that the best location for the Outdoor Fitness Court is at 32 Playground Road, also known as Town Field, behind the Groton Public Library, adjacent to the outdoor basketball court. The funds requested are representative of the costs over and above the \$50,000 grant and will be utilized to complete the project. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal F:**SRRT – Phase II Permitting****\$30,000**

Summary: *Squannacook Greenways, Inc. is requesting \$30,000 in funding to pay for the design and permitting of the next phase of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT). Phase I currently extends from Depot Street in Townsend to the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in West Groton, for a distance of 3.7 miles. The proposed Phase II will be to continue the rail trail from the Bertozzi WMA to Cutler Field in West Groton for a distance of 2.1 miles along the scenic Squannacook River. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommend (6 In Favor, 1 Abstained – Easom)*

CPC Proposal G:**Bancroft Castle Preservation Study****\$16,240**

Summary: *The Groton Historical Commission is requesting \$16,240 to commission a study by a qualified masonry preservation firm as to the structural integrity of the masonry remains of the Bancroft Castle atop Gibbet Hill. In addition, this study would outline a strategy to preserve those remains to the maximum extent practically and economically possible. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal H: Property Security, Safety and Preservation \$69,600

Summary: *The Groton Historical Society is requesting \$69,600 in order to make updates and repairs to the Boutwell House. These include the addition of demand security lighting, metal railings along a walkway, repairs to deteriorated windows and entryways, and assessment of the existing sprinkler system. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal I: 2023-2024 Housing Funding Request \$400,000

Summary: *The Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) is requesting \$400,000 from the Community Housing Reserve in order to continue its work of creating and supporting Affordable Housing in Groton. This money will allow the AHT to respond quickly if property suitable for Affordable Housing comes onto the market. Community Housing Funds can be used to acquire, create, support, rehabilitate and/or restore affordable 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 Unanimously*

CPC Proposal J: Housing Coordinator – FY 2025 \$62,660

Summary: *This application is requesting \$62,660 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 Unanimously*

CPC Proposal K: Tools and Equipment for Building Trails \$12,195

Summary: *The Groton Trails Committee is requesting \$12,195 to purchase needed special tools and equipment for them to conduct their work. While it's not associated with any particular trail construction project(s), the special tools and equipment will be used to improve the Committee's overall efficiency, and thereby its capacity, for building, repairing, and enhancing trails in the Groton Trail Network (GTN). The GTN comprises trails on land owned by nonprofits (Groton Conservation Trust, New England Forestry Foundation), the Town of Groton (Groton Conservation Commission), and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Department of Conservation and Recreation). The CPA Funds will be*

used to build, repair (for safety and/or erosion control) and enhance (for safety and/or new users) trails that are used by the public. To Fund this Project, \$5,000 will come from the Open Space Reserve and \$7,195 will come from the Unallocated Reserve.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee

Article 15: ***Extend Center Sewer District***

To see if the Town will vote to extend the “Groton Center Sewer District” as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, to include the property shown on Assessors’ Map 115, Lot 25-0 (6 Fairway Drive) but only for the exclusive use of 6 Fairway Drive, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner’s proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Board of Sewer Commissioners: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to expand the Center Sewer District to include 6 Fairway Drive, Groton. This article, if approved, will make Sewer available for the exclusive use of 6 Fairway Drive.*

Article 16: ***Extend Four Corner Sewer District***

To see if the Town will vote to extend the “Four Corners Sewer District”, as established by the vote under Article 12 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, to include the property shown on Assessors’ Map 133, Lot 49-0 (797 Boston Road) but only for the exclusive use of 797 Boston Road, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner’s

proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: *2 In Favor, 3 Deferred – Cunningham, Pine and Reilly*
Finance Committee: *No Position*
Board of Sewer Commissioners: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to expand the Four Corners Sewer District to include 797 Boston Road, Groton. This article, if approved, will make Sewer available for the exclusive use of 797 Boston Road.*

Article 17: Citizens’ Petition – Return to Voice Vote and/or Voter Card Count at Town Meeting

To see if the Town will vote to no longer use electronic voting and instead revert back to voice and voter card count at Town Meetings, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Citizens’ Petition

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Guy L. Alberghini	215 Main Street	Tom Sweeny	53 Northwoods Road
Richard Chiriboga	460 Lowell Road	Pamela Wolfe	423 Lost Lake Drive
Bryan Richard	22 Winding Way	Judy Craig	220 Hemlock Park Drive
Eric Hillenberg	87 Northwoods Road	Robert Melvin	231 Mill Street
Raymond Roy	38 Ridgewood Avenue	Karen Boucher	38 Ridgewood Avenue

Select Board: *Not Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *At the current time votes are entered into the voting system by way of clickers. When a petition needs to be passed by either a simple majority vote or two thirds of the vote did it really pass? For example say there are 200 votes. For a simple majority 101 votes would be needed to pass. Inside the system recognizes that 200 votes had been cast and needs 101 to pass. If the system only got 75 yes as well as 125 no votes. In less than a second the software will calculate that it needs 26 more to pass. The software will then reconfigure the vote results to show 101 yes votes and 99 no votes and looks like it passed. If this petition is passed, the votes at Town Meeting will bring back the voice vote as well as the vote by raising the card.*

Article 18: Citizens' Petition – Reduce Statutory Speed Limit from 30 MPH to 25 MPH

To see if the Town will vote to amend Groton Traffic Rules and Orders, Article XI Speed Regulations, Town of Groton Speed Limits, by adopting MGL, c. 90, §17C Sections 193 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. Mass.gov: "Section 193 allows a municipality to opt-in to Section 17C of Chapter 90 of the MGL, thereby reducing the statutory speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on any or all city or town-owned roadways within a thickly settled or business district. The legislation also requires cities and towns to notify MassDOT of these changes," or to take any other action relative thereto.

Citizens' Petition

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Russell Harris	25 Longley Road	James A. Barisano	15 Longley Road
Deborah E. Johnson	25 Longley Road	Karen Tucker-Barisano	15 Longley Road
John MacLeod	81 Kemp Street	Paul Murray	85 Wharton Row
Jamie Christenson	189 Forge Village Road	June F. Cloutier	532 Longley Road
Eric M. Graham	64 Champney Street	David E. Butz	532 Longley Road

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *At the Groton Master Plan Public Session held at the Groton Center, the Barrett Planning Group recently revealed that the risk of death to a pedestrian hit by a vehicle is 18% at 20 miles per hour, 50% at 30 miles per hour and 88% at 40 miles per hour. The Foundation for Traffic Safety reports: "Results show that the average risk of severe injury for a pedestrian struck by a vehicle reaches 10% at an impact speed of 16 mph, 25% at 23 mph, 50% at 31 mph, 75% at 39 mph, and 90% at 46 mph. The average risk of death for a pedestrian reaches 10% at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25% at 32 mph, 50% at 42 mph, 75% at 50 mph and 90% at 58 mph. Risks vary significantly by age. For example, the average risk of severe injury or death for a 70-year old pedestrian struck by a car traveling at 25 mph is similar to the risk for a 30-year old pedestrian struck at 35 mph. Groton has many roads with no sidewalks or bike lanes. Vehicles traveling on Groton's roads routinely exceed the posted speed limits by five to ten miles per hour. This commonsense solution, which has been adopted by eighty Massachusetts cities and town, including towns adjacent to Groton, will reduce the risk of injury and death to those walking, jogging and on bicycles. From Mass.gov: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/speed-limits-in-thickly-settled-or-business-districts> "If a municipality opts-in, it will not supersede any existing posted speed limit. The legislation only affects streets that are currently governed by a statutory speed limit. If an existing special speed regulation is in place, it will continue to govern." "MassDOT recommends that if a municipality opts-in to MGL c. 90, §17C, that it does so on a city- or town-wide basis to avoid potential confusion for drivers. However, cities and towns do have the option to opt-in on a street-by-street basis. Once a municipality has opted-in to MGL c. 90, §17C, it is required to notify MassDOT."*

ARTICLES 19 THROUGH 28 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

Article 19: *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 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 is a placeholder in the event the Water Department needs funds to complete the current Fiscal Year. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is not anticipated that funding will be required and this Article will be indefinitely postponed.*

Article 20: *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 2024 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 2024 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$52,500 will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 21: *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 2024 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 2024 Four Corners Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$20,000 will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 22: *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 2024 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 2024 budget. As of the Printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$10,000 will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 23: *Prior Year Bills*

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

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.*

Article 24: *Current Year Line-Item Transfers*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2024 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 2024 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

Article 25: *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 2024 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 24.*

Article 26: *Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2024*

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 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 service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting appropriated an additional \$1,000,000 for the project. Using FY 2024 Funds, the Community Preservation Committee will pay \$124,590 (\$120,000 for principal and \$4,590 for interest) in debt service. In addition, they will pay an additional \$20,000 towards un-borrowed construction costs. To fund this appropriation, \$124,590 will come from the Fiscal Year 2024 Unallocated Reserve and \$20,000 will come from the Fiscal Year 2024 Open Space Reserve.*

Article 27: Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2025

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 2025 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This Article appropriates the debt service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 7 of the May 21, 2021 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$1,405,374 for the project. In FY 2025, the Community Preservation Committee will pay \$235,072 in debt service (\$175,672 in principal payment and \$59,400 in interest payment) for this appropriation. To fund this appropriation the entire amount will come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Article 28: *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 2025 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2025 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	\$40,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$20,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

or to 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 is currently set forth in the Town's Bylaw for said purpose.*

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 4th Day of March in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

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

BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2025

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 2025 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. Developing this Budget has been unlike any other, with unprecedented circumstances impacting Groton and its finances. Balancing the Fiscal Year 2024 was extremely difficult with significant cuts made by the Town of Groton and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Manager took proactive measures early in the summer to address the impending challenges in Fiscal Year 2025.

The Town Manager’s Tri-Comm Working Group made up of representatives from the Select Board, Finance Committee, Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee and Town and School Administrations worked together with the specific task of reviewing the issues impacting the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. The Working Group conducted a detailed review of current spending, developed preliminary revenue projections and spending assumptions, and developed a three-year Financial Plan for the Town of Groton. The outcome of the work showed that the Town would be facing a major Budget Deficit over the next three fiscal years.

Working cooperatively, the Town of Groton and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District have worked towards finding viable solutions to address the anticipated deficits. Maintaining the excellent services that the Community relies on was of utmost importance in developing the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget. That said, the financial strain caused by the lack of sustained revenue sources, including the lack of support from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, no longer receiving Federal Funding (ARPA, CARES Act, ESSER II) that was used to balance the Budget in Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023, and the use of non-recurring revenue sources by the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, has made it increasingly difficult to balance the budget without making drastic and devastating cuts. In order to ensure that Groton continues to thrive and provide the services that its residents deserve, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Manager find themselves in a position where an override of Proposition 2½ must be considered. An override of Proposition 2 1/2 would allow the Town to bridge the financial gap and provide the necessary resources to sustain the quality services that have become synonymous with Groton. While it is understood that this is a difficult decision, it is firmly believed that it is the right one to secure a brighter future for Groton and the School District.

In accordance with the Groton Charter and the Town’s Financial Policies, the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Process is the ninth year where the Select Board and Finance Committee have provided direction prior to the development of the proposed budget. The Select Board and Finance Committee met with the

Town Manager prior to the issuance of the initial budget instructions to review objectives and develop specific goals that would be followed during the development of the Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget. At the budget guidance development meeting in October, the Select Board and Finance Committee voted unanimously to provide the following direction to the Town Manager:

1. One Budget shall be balanced with no proposed Override of Proposition 2½.
2. The second budget shall be a level services budget (*maintains services at the FY 2024 level and does not add any new services*) that proposes a potential override of Proposition 2½ to eliminate a projected three-year deficit.
3. The Town Manager shall collaborate with representatives of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and Nashoba Valley Technical School District to create these two budgets.

In order to comply with this guidance in a comprehensive, understandable and professional manner, the main budget that was presented to the Finance Committee for consideration was the Level Services Budget. The Level Services Budget required an Override of Proposition 2½. The purpose of presenting the Budget in this manner was to allow the Finance Committee and Select Board to have a baseline understanding of the current level of services being provided. It represented the continuation of existing services without any changes or adjustments. It served as a starting point for evaluating the financial needs of Groton. After a thorough review of the Level Services Budget, the Finance Committee and Select Board determined that an Override of Proposition 2½ was necessary to maintain services.

Revenue estimates for Fiscal Year 2025 were consistent with the five-year average in the various categories, including a slight increase in Unrestricted Local Aid from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts based on Governor Maura Healey's proposed budget. In addition, New Growth was estimated at \$20 million, which will generate an additional \$301,800 in tax revenues in Fiscal Year 2025. Due to the unprecedented increase in Estimated Receipts in Fiscal Year 2024 (over a 12% increase), a more conservative approach was taken in Fiscal Year 2025. Local receipts have been increased by \$130,563 from \$5,497,383 to \$5,627,946, or 2.4%. Given the major increase in Fiscal Year 2024, it would not be prudent or fiscally responsible to expect the same kind of increase two years in a row. The following is a summary of what is anticipated in the major Estimated Receipts for FY 2025:

1. **Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes** – The five-year average is \$1,823,309. Based on this, Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes have been budgeted at \$1,820,583 in FY 2025.
2. **Meals Tax/Room Occupancy Tax** – This has been an excellent revenue source over the last couple of years. In Fiscal Year 2024, the estimate was increased by \$50,000. After reviewing what was received during the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2024, this Receipt has been level funded at \$400,000 for Fiscal Year 2025.

3. **Recreational Marijuana Revenue** – Unfortunately, the opening of the two recreational marijuana facilities were delayed, with one opening in October, 2023 and the other not expected to open until July, 2024. Based on this, the amount estimated in FY 2024 (\$150,000) will not come to fruition and this Receipt was reduced to \$75,000 in FY 2025.
4. **Payments in Lieu of Taxes** – This Receipt has been increased by \$18,500 to \$390,000 based on the success of the ticket surcharge agreed to by Groton Hill Music.
5. **Other Charges for Services** – This Receipt has been decreased by \$84,000 based on the decision of the Groton Select Board to join the Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center in FY 2025 and Dunstable will no longer be making this payment for Dispatch Services to Groton.
6. **Other Departmental Revenue** – This Receipt has been increased by \$50,000 to \$854,063 in anticipation of the reimbursement from the Enterprise Funds increasing due to an anticipated increase in intergovernmental cost share.
7. **Investment Income** – Due to an increase in interest rates and the prudent investment of Town funds, this Receipt has been increased by \$125,000 to \$225,000 in FY 2025.
8. **Recreation Revenues** – Based on the last four years of outstanding success of the Groton Country Club, this Receipt has been increased by \$50,000 to \$750,000 in FY 2025.

The following chart shows what we expect to receive in revenues that can be used to fund the Proposed Operating Budget:

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Budgeted FY 2024</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2025</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Property Tax*	\$ 36,832,663	\$ 38,055,280	\$ 1,222,617	3.32%
State Aid	\$ 1,116,143	\$ 1,145,967	\$ 29,824	2.67%
Local Receipts - Excluding Country Club	\$ 4,797,383	\$ 4,877,946	\$ 84,626	1.76%
Country Club Revenue	\$ 700,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 50,000	7.14%
Other Available Funds	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL	\$ 43,796,189	\$ 45,179,193	\$ 1,387,067	3.17%

*Includes 2½ percent increase allowed by law and \$20 million in new growth.

In developing the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, a review of mandatory expenditures is warranted, as well as areas in the budget that are routine in nature. With regard to mandatory expenditures, two categories fit this definition, Pension and Health Insurance. With regard to the Pension Budget, Middlesex County has informed the Town that its Assessment in Fiscal Year 2025 will increase by 6.36%, or by \$158,739 from \$2,494,280 to \$2,653,019. With regard to Health Insurance, in FY 2025, given the financial situation and in an effort to find efficiencies and cost savings, the Town needed to examine its membership with the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group (MNHG). The Town has been a

member of MNHG since 1991. Membership in this group for many years was very advantageous. However, as rates have increased a number of members have left the group and moved to other collaboratives, in most cases the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA). In Fiscal Year 2024, due to high claims from some of the members and a number of other members leaving the group, Groton received a 13.5% increase in rates. An increase at this level is unsustainable and caused more members to leave the group. The Town of Groton needed to protect itself and consider other alternatives. To that end, the Town reached out to MIIA with the intent of joining them for Health Insurance in FY 2025 (the Town currently has its property, casualty, automobile and workers compensation insurance with MIIA). Pursuant to M.G.L., c. 32B, the Town worked with its Insurance Advisory Committee (made up of representatives from the Unions, Bylaw Employees and Retirees) seeking a recommendation from them to join MIIA. The employees of the Town, as has been the case over the years, stepped to the plate to help the Town achieve budget stability and voted unanimously to allow the Town to leave MNHG and join MIIA. The Select Board voted unanimously to make this change. Based on this decision, instead of seeing a double digit percentage increase in Health Insurance, this budget will only increase by 3.38%, or by \$70,588 from \$2,090,563 to \$2,161,151.

The Town now has six (6) Collective Bargaining Units (with the move to join the Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center, the Communications Union will be disbanded). All contracts will be entering the final year of three-year deals. All Unions have agreed to a 2% wage adjustment in FY 2025. Based on the Agreements with the Town's Collective Bargaining Units, along with the employees that have contracts, salaries and wages will increase by \$231,964 in FY 2025.

The Town continue to see an increase in Excluded Debt for Fiscal Year 2025 as it pays 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 2025, Municipal Excluded Debt will increase from \$4,326,958 to \$4,649,077, an increase of \$322,119 or 7.4%. Excluded Debt from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District will decrease by \$22,280, or 5.5% from \$406,982 to \$384,622. Overall, Excluded Debt will increase in Fiscal Year 2025 by \$299,804, or 6.3% from \$4,732,786 to \$5,032,590. In addition, the FY 2025 Budget continues the practice to stabilize debt service within the Levy Limit at approximately \$250,000 - \$300,000 annually. The Town continues to follow the plan by using the Excess and Deficiency ("Free Cash") Account to pay down the Principal and Interest on the Police and Fire Radio Project with the intent of paying that off in FY 2025. In addition, Free Cash will be used to make the third payment for the Dump Truck approved in 2022. Finally, FY 2025 will be the first year that Town begins to pay for the Fire Truck that was approved at the 2022 Spring Town Meeting. Last year, \$243,625 was used for these purposes and committed \$230,980 from taxation to cover non-excluded Debt Service. In FY 2025, Free Cash will continue to be used for the same items (\$132,170). The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2024 and FY 2025:

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>
Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ 153,506	\$ 165,000
Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ 77,474	\$ 110,364
Short Term Debt - Principal	\$ 212,949	\$ 123,526
Short Term Debt - Interest	\$ 30,676	\$ 8,644
Total	\$ 474,605	\$ 407,534
Less Free Cash Offset	\$ 243,625	\$ 132,170
Total In-Levy Taxation for Debt Service	\$ 230,980	\$ 275,364

For the last three years, the Country Club has been a success and a revenue generator for the Town of Groton. Fiscal Year 2023 was the most successful year the Country Club has ever had in terms of revenue generation. In Fiscal Year 2023, the Club made a profit of \$119,713 (total expenses of \$674,656; total revenues of \$794,369). It is expected that the Country Club will continue performing at this level in Fiscal Year 2025

Health Insurance is not the only area in the Municipal Budget where the Town was able to realize a savings in Fiscal Year 2025. As part of the top to bottom review of all Town Operations to find ways to improve the delivery of services, find economies and potential consolidations to offset the FY 2025 Deficit, a detailed review of the Communications Department was undertaken. In 2022, the Town hired Municipal Resources, Inc. to conduct a study of the dispatch operation and provide recommendations to improve the overall operation. One of the recommendations was to “seek additional communities to join the Town’s Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC)”. The best way to address this was to join another RECC. After a thorough review of options and looking at ways to improve the Town’s operations, the Select Board approved joining the Patriot RECC. Patriot is currently made up of Pepperell, Townsend and Ashby. It operates out of the Pepperell Police Station and has been in operation for the last three years. Groton and Dunstable Dispatch Operations will transfer to the Patriot RECC effective July 1, 2024.

Currently, the Town of Groton receives approximately \$260,000 annually in State 911 Grants to supplement Groton’s RECC operating expenses, as well as \$84,000 from the Town of Dunstable. Of the total Grant, the Town uses approximately \$120,000 each year to offset Wages within the Communications Department. Based on the States’ support of this proposed merger, Groton’s Patriot RECC Assessment will be paid for by the Development Grant at 100% for the first three years, 50% in year four, and 25% in year five. In FY 2025, this decision will save the Town \$464,314 in expenses. One issue that needs to be addressed with this merger is that there will no longer be anyone to greet the public at the Police Station as the current Dispatchers will be relocated to Pepperell. To address this, additional administrative support to cover the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to assist the Public has been added to the Budget at a cost of \$84,133, including benefits.

At the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, the Town voted to create a Cable Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2016. At the time, Cable Revenues were strong and had a healthy level of reserves (\$210,037) in their E&D Account at the end of FY 2016). At the time, it made sense to create the Enterprise to cover all of

their expenses, including all overhead costs. The overhead costs, including Health Insurance, Retirement Assessment, Medicare and Life Insurance, are paid back to the General Fund to cover those funds appropriated in the Town's Operating Budget. Cable Revenues come from a surcharge on Cable Bills. From FY 2017 through FY 2019, the Enterprise kept a healthy amount of reserves and was operating as a successful Enterprise Fund. However, since 2019, more residents have moved away from cable to the various streaming services and the Town has seen a steady decrease in Cable Fees and the Cable Enterprise has had to depend more on its Excess and Deficiency Account to balance the budget. The following is a summary of the Cable Enterprise from FY 2017 through FY 2023 showing the Actual Expenses and the ending certified Excess and Deficiency Fund:

<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Certified</u> <u>E & D</u>
2017	\$ 217,032	\$ 231,477
2018	\$ 191,636	\$ 245,762
2019	\$ 195,203	\$ 258,810
2020	\$ 193,337	\$ 220,828
2021	\$ 209,470	\$ 174,891
2022	\$ 183,337	\$ 127,260
2023	\$ 217,638	\$ 63,329

Since 2019, as fees have totaled an average of \$165,000 annually, the Cable Enterprise has had to use approximately \$60,000 from their E&D Account to balance their budget. Fiscal Year 2024 is the last year where they have enough cash to balance their budget without running a deficit. There will not be enough funding between cable revenues and the Excess and Deficiency Fund (E&D) to balance the Cable Budget in FY 2025. That said, the services provided by the Local Cable Access Department are valued and important services to Groton residents. Not only does the Cable Department provide excellent coverage of various meetings and events in Town, but it also provides important information for Groton residents. To address this and determine the best course of action to continue to provide Local Cable Access while dealing with the loss of revenues, a "Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund" will be created if approved by Town Meeting. Creation of this fund, similar to the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, will allow the Town to collect the fees received from the two cable carriers servicing Groton and put them in this Reserve Account for the exclusive use of the Local Cable Access Department. For Fiscal Year 2025, since there will not be enough to fund the Cable Budget at the beginning of the year (only available funds can be transferred from a Reserve Account), the Town will use its Free Cash Account to fund the Local Access Cable Budget in FY 2025. This will allow the Reserve Account to build a sufficient balance to fund the Department in FY 2026. Use of Free Cash will also allow the Town to continue providing Cable Services. The Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Local Access Cable Department Budget is \$155,442 and will be funded from Free Cash. The General Fund will pay for the overhead costs (approximately \$63,000) as it does for all other Town Departments.

Developing the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Groton Dunstable Regional School District Assessment started in July, 2023 in conjunction with the Town Manager's Tri-Comm Working Group. By starting the process so early, the Town and School District were able to plan accordingly for Fiscal Year 2025.

Various budget drivers, including increases in the Middlesex County Retirement Assessment (6.5%), Health Insurance (10%), Residential and Private School Tuitions (12.75% each), Utilities (10%) and Wages (currently under negotiations), put the District in an exceedingly difficult position in FY 2025. Based on a thorough review of anticipated State Aid and other revenue sources, the Assessments from Groton and Dunstable would need to increase substantially to allow the District to meet its obligations and continue to provide an outstanding education for our children. The initial estimate for the Groton Assessment was \$30,142,258, an increase of \$4,180,693, or 16.11%. It is important to state that the increased assessment is required to maintain the current program offerings. There are no new services being considered or proposed. That said, based on the decision of the School Committee to reduce the dependency on using their Excess and Deficiency Fund over a couple of years, phase out full day kindergarten tuition over a couple of years, and reduce anticipated staff needs to accommodate the Groton Students coming back to Groton from the Swallow Union Elementary School to the new Florence Roche Elementary School, the District has been able to reduce its original anticipated Assessment by \$1,400,316 to \$28,741,942. The proposed Assessment would increase by \$2,804,226, or 10.81%. With regard to the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, it is anticipated that Groton's enrollment will increase by nine students (from 41 in FY24 to 50 in FY25). Groton's projected enrollment portion of the Budget will increase from 5.73% in FY 24 to 6.61% in FY 25. Based on this, Groton's Assessment will increase by 204,063 in FY 2025 from \$762,656 to \$966,719, or 26.76%.

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, 2023 and the budget that will be proposed to the 2024 Spring Town Meeting:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Department/Description</u>	<u>Original Proposed</u>	<u>Committee Approved</u>
1212	Planning Board Expenses	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,625
1273	Board of Health - Nashoba Health District	\$ 38,833	\$ 43,081
1280	Sealer of Weights and Measures Fee Salaries	\$ 2,837	\$ -
1281	Sealer of Weights and Measures Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 3,262
1400	Nashoba Valley Tech Operating Assessment	\$ 962,656	\$ 966,719
1410	GDRSD Operating Assessment	\$ 29,392,165	\$ 28,741,942
1414	GDRSD Capital Assessment	\$ 550,000	\$ 295,767

The following is the total proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Level Services Operating Budget proposed for Town Meeting consideration (compared with Fiscal Year 2024):

<u>Category</u>		<u>FY 2024</u>		<u>FY 2025</u>		<u>Dollar Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
General Government	\$	2,388,159	\$	2,472,927	\$	84,768	3.55%
Land Use	\$	499,606	\$	520,749	\$	21,143	4.23%
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,772,597	\$	4,515,079	\$	(257,518)	-5.40%
Department of Public Works	\$	2,351,495	\$	2,389,516	\$	38,021	1.62%
Library and Citizen Services*	\$	1,947,870	\$	2,192,957	\$	245,086	12.58%
Employee Benefits	\$	4,930,663	\$	5,174,990	\$	244,327	4.96%
Sub-Total	\$	16,890,390	\$	17,266,217	\$	375,828	2.23%
Debt Service - Excluded	\$	4,326,957	\$	4,649,077	\$	322,120	7.44%
Debt Service - In Levy Only	\$	474,605	\$	407,534	\$	(67,071)	-14.13%
Sub-Total - All Municipal	\$	21,691,952	\$	22,322,828	\$	630,877	2.91%
Nashoba Tech	\$	762,656	\$	966,719	\$	204,063	26.76%
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$	25,937,716	\$	28,741,942	\$	2,804,226	10.81%
Groton-Dunstable Excluded Debt	\$	406,982	\$	384,622	\$	(22,360)	-5.49%
Groton-Dunstable Debt	\$	58,814	\$	60,534	\$	1,720	2.92%
Groton Dunstable Capital	\$	552,203	\$	295,767	\$	(256,436)	-46.44%
Sub-Total - Education	\$	27,718,371	\$	30,449,584	\$	2,731,213	9.85%
Grand Total - Town Budget	\$	49,410,323	\$	52,772,412	\$	3,362,090	6.80%

*In FY 2025, Library and Citizen Services includes the Cable Access Department for the first time

Based on this Proposed Budget and the guidance provided to the Town Manager to propose an override that would eliminate a projected three-year deficit, the Town Manager's Tri-Comm Working Group had developed budget projections for both the Municipal Budget and the Assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD). Factors, including salary increases, pension increases, health insurance increases, utility expenses, anticipated State Aid (both unrestricted local aid and Chapter 70 and 71 School Funding), new growth and estimated receipts were considered. After this thorough analysis, the following Three Year Projection (FY 2025 through FY 2027) was developed:

Town of Groton**Summary of Projected Revenues and Expenditures**

General Fund Revenues	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Property Tax Levy	41,565,448	43,087,871	45,504,776	46,912,790
State Aid Cherry Sheet	1,116,143	1,145,967	1,165,043	1,184,501
Estimated Local Receipts	5,497,383	5,623,883	5,677,569	5,732,329
Available Funds/Other Financing Source	2,217,637	2,321,460	2,321,460	2,321,460
Enterprise (for Indirects)	336,486	315,664	321,977	328,417
Total General Fund Revenues	50,733,097	52,494,845	54,990,825	56,479,497
Total Revenue Percentage Change		3.5%	4.8%	2.7%

General Fund Expenditures				
General Government	2,388,159	2,472,927	2,519,726	2,567,551
Land Use	499,605	520,749	531,838	543,185
Public Safety	4,772,597	4,515,079	4,600,296	4,687,167
Regional Schools	27,718,371	30,699,754	33,093,439	35,829,711
Department of Public Works	2,351,495	2,389,517	2,433,734	2,478,903
Library and Citizen Services	1,947,870	2,192,957	2,239,917	2,287,972
Employee Benefits	4,930,663	5,174,990	5,483,218	5,810,559
Debt Service	4,801,562	5,056,611	6,519,225	6,512,851
Total Town Budget	49,410,322	53,022,584	57,421,393	60,717,899
State Assessments	95,249	101,443	101,443	101,443
Other Amounts Raised	982,606	1,081,078	1,081,078	1,081,078
Total General Fund Expenditures	50,488,177	54,205,105	58,603,914	61,900,420
General Fund Surplus/(Shortfall)	244,920	(1,710,260)	(3,613,089)	(5,420,923)
Total Expenditures Percentage Change		7.4%	8.1%	5.6%

The Level Services Budget will create a deficit of \$1,710,260 in Fiscal Year 2025, with a three year projected deficit of \$5,420,923. Based on this and in compliance with the Guidance, the Town Manager proposed and the Select Board and Finance Committee agreed to seek an **Override of \$5,500,000** in Fiscal Year 2025 to eliminate the projected three year deficit. Depending on new growth and potential increases in both estimated receipts and State Aid, this amount may last four or five years. The Finance Committee, Select Board, Town Manager and School District Administration will continue to refine these estimates with an eye on cost savings and efficiencies to stretch the override for as many years as possible. The following is the revised Three Year Projection with an Override of \$5,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2025:

Town of Groton

Summary of Projected Revenues and Expenditures

General Fund Revenues	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Property Tax Levy	41,565,448	48,587,871	51,142,276	52,691,227
State Aid Cherry Sheet	1,116,143	1,145,967	1,165,043	1,184,501
Estimated Local Receipts	5,497,383	5,623,883	5,677,569	5,732,329
Available Funds/Other Financing Source	2,217,637	2,321,460	2,321,460	2,321,460
Enterprise (for Indirects)	336,486	315,664	321,977	328,417
Total General Fund Revenues	50,733,097	57,994,845	60,628,325	62,257,934
Total Revenue Percentage Change		14.3%	4.5%	2.7%

General Fund Expenditures				
General Government	2,388,159	2,472,927	2,519,726	2,567,551
Land Use	499,605	520,749	531,838	543,185
Public Safety	4,772,597	4,515,079	4,600,296	4,687,167
Regional Schools	27,718,371	30,699,754	33,093,439	35,829,711
Department of Public Works	2,351,495	2,389,516	2,433,734	2,478,903
Library and Citizen Services	1,947,870	2,192,957	2,239,917	2,287,972
Employee Benefits	4,930,663	5,174,990	5,483,218	5,810,559
Debt Service	4,801,562	5,056,611	6,519,225	6,512,851
Total Town Budget	49,410,322	53,022,583	57,421,393	60,717,899
State Assessments	95,249	101,443	101,443	101,443
Other Amounts Raised	982,606	1,081,078	1,081,078	1,081,078
Total General Fund Expenditures	50,488,177	54,205,104	58,603,914	61,900,420
General Fund Surplus/(Shortfall)	244,920	3,789,741	2,024,411	357,514
Total Expenditures Percentage Change		7.4%	8.1%	5.6%

The following Chart shows how the \$5,500,000 will be disbursed over the next three years should the Override be approved:

	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>
Levy - No Override	\$ 38,055,280	\$ 39,383,662	\$ 40,754,679
Other Revenues	<u>\$ 9,406,974</u>	<u>\$ 9,486,049</u>	<u>\$ 9,566,707</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 47,462,254	\$ 48,869,711	\$ 50,321,386

Anticipated Budget \$ 49,171,404

Deficit* \$ 1,709,150

New Levy Using Override Funds \$ 41,135,541
Other Revenues \$ 9,486,049

Total Revenues \$ 50,621,590

Anticipated Budget \$ 52,482,800

Deficit \$ 1,861,210

New Levy Using Override Funds \$ 44,458,095
\$ 9,566,707

Total Revenues \$ 54,024,802

Anticipated Budget \$ 55,742,309

Deficit \$ 1,717,507

Override Requested \$ 5,500,000

FY 2025 Need \$ 1,709,150

FY 2026 Need \$ 1,861,210

FY 2027 Need \$ 1,717,507

Remaining Balance** \$ 212,133

*Please note that the actual deficit in FY 2025 is \$1,710,260, but it is offset by \$1,110 in bond proceeds.

**Please note that by adding the entire amount of the override (\$5,500,000) in FY 2025 the levy will increase by an additional \$145,381, leaving a balance in FY 2027 of \$357,514

The following chart shows the projected tax impact should the override pass over the next three years, with an additional chart showing the total tax bill increase when you take into consideration previously approved excluded debt:

NO OVERRIDE				OVERRIDE				Override Cost
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Average Tax Bill</u>	<u>Increase Per Year</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Average Tax Bill</u>	<u>Increase Per Year</u>		
2024	\$ 13.36	\$ 9,284		\$ 13.36	\$ 9,284			\$ -
2025	\$ 13.80	\$ 9,590	\$ 306	\$ 14.42	\$ 10,021	\$ 737		\$ 431
2026	\$ 14.16	\$ 9,840	\$ 250	\$ 15.47	\$ 10,751	\$ 730		\$ 480
2027	\$ 14.54	\$ 10,104	\$ 264	\$ 16.48	\$ 11,453	\$ 702		\$ 438
Total Increase		\$ 820				\$ 2,168		

Over three years, the average tax bill with an override will increase by \$1,349 or an average of \$449 per year.

Breakdown of Tax Increase

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Normal Prop 2½ Increase</u>	<u>Override Increase</u>	<u>Existing Excluded Debt</u>	<u>FloRo Excluded Debt</u>	<u>PFAS Excluded Debt</u>	<u>Total Increase</u>	<u>Total Average Tax Bill</u>
2025	\$ 306	\$ 431	\$ 21	\$ 41	\$ -	\$ 799	\$ 11,286
2026	\$ 250	\$ 480	\$ (7)	\$ 183	\$ 82	\$ 988	\$ 12,273
2027	\$ 264	\$ 438	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 702	\$ 12,974

- Based on FY 2024 Property Values
- Accounts for \$20 million in New Growth in FY 2025
- Accounts for \$23 million in New Growth in FY 2026
- Accounts for \$22 million in New Growth in FY 2027
- Based on Home Valued at \$694,934

The total Level Services Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget, including the proposed Assessments of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, and excluded debt, is \$52,772,412, or an increase of 6.80% and will require an Operational Override of Proposition 2½. When you take into consideration the proposed Capital Budget, Enterprise Fund Budgets and additional appropriations raised on the recap sheet, the total Level Services Budget is \$57,545,902. Based on the Level Services Budget with an approved override, the estimated Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$16.24, or an increase of \$1.15, of which \$0.62 is attributable to the override. In Fiscal Year 2024, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at \$694,934) is \$10,487. Under this proposed Level Services Budget (including the override), that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$11,286, or an increase of \$799, of which \$431 is attributable to the override. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2024 and FY 2025, including the Override:

	Actual		Proposed		Dollar	Percent	
	FY 2024		FY 2025		Change	Change	
Levy Capacity Used	\$	36,607,742	\$	38,055,280	\$	1,447,538	3.95%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$	13.36	\$	13.80	\$	0.44	3.29%
Average Tax Bill	\$	9,284	\$	9,590	\$	306	3.29%
Override	\$	-	\$	1,710,260	\$	1,710,260	100.00%
Tax Rate on Override	\$	-	\$	0.62	\$	0.62	100.00%
Average Tax Bill	\$	-	\$	431	\$	431	100.00%
Excluded Debt	\$	4,732,786	\$	5,032,590	\$	299,804	6.33%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$	1.73	\$	1.82	\$	0.09	5.20%
Average Tax Bill	\$	1,202	\$	1,265	\$	63	5.20%
Final Levy Used	\$	41,340,528	\$	44,798,130	\$	3,457,602	8.36%
Final Tax Rate	\$	15.09	\$	16.24	\$	1.15	7.62%
Average Tax Bill	\$	10,487	\$	11,286	\$	799	7.62%

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 2025
REVENUE ESTIMATES**

	BUDGETED FY 2024		ESTIMATED FY 2025		CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE*	\$ 36,832,663	\$	38,055,280	\$	1,222,617
OVERRIDE FUNDS	\$ -	\$	1,710,260	\$	1,710,260
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	\$ 4,732,786	\$	5,032,590	\$	299,804
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID	\$ 1,116,143	\$	1,145,967	\$	29,824
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY	\$ 244,920	\$	-	\$	(244,920)
LOCAL RECEIPTS:					
General Revenue:					
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$ 1,820,583	\$	1,820,583	\$	-
Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Tax	\$ 400,000	\$	400,000	\$	-
Marijuana Revenue	\$ 150,000	\$	75,000	\$	(75,000)
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	\$ 110,000	\$	110,000	\$	-
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 371,500	\$	390,000	\$	18,500
Other Charges for Services	\$ 99,000	\$	15,000	\$	(84,000)
Fees	\$ 392,000	\$	400,000	\$	8,000
Rentals	\$ 40,000	\$	55,000	\$	15,000
Library Revenues	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Other Departmental Revenue	\$ 800,000	\$	854,063	\$	54,063
Licenses and Permits	\$ 429,300	\$	429,300	\$	-
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 20,000	\$	10,000	\$	(10,000)
Investment Income	\$ 90,000	\$	225,000	\$	135,000
Recreation Revenues	\$ 700,000	\$	750,000	\$	50,000
Miscellaneous Recurring	\$ 75,000	\$	94,000	\$	19,000
Sub-total - General Revenue	\$ 5,497,383	\$	5,627,946	\$	130,563
Other Revenue:					
Free Cash	\$ 818,137	\$	698,133	\$	(120,004)
Capital Stablization Fund for GDRSD	\$ 253,407	\$	295,767	\$	42,360
Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Capital Asset Stabilization Fund	\$ 620,142	\$	723,500	\$	103,358
EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve	\$ 525,951	\$	350,000	\$	(175,951)
Community Preservation Funds	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Water Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Sewer Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Bond Surplus Transfer	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Sub-total - Other Revenue	\$ 2,217,637	\$	2,067,400	\$	(150,237)
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 2,090,822	\$	2,310,267	\$	219,444
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 889,499	\$	1,250,475	\$	360,976
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE	\$ 230,137	\$	-	\$	(230,137)
FOUR CORNER SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 77,811	\$	98,040	\$	20,229
STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE	\$ 242,520	\$	247,851	\$	5,331
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 53,929,802	\$	57,546,075	\$	3,616,273

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2025
TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS**

FY 2025 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Proposed Budget

General Government	\$	2,472,927
Land Use Departments	\$	520,749
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,515,079
Regional School Districts	\$	30,449,584
Department of Public Works	\$	2,389,516
Library and Citizen Services	\$	2,192,957
Debt Service	\$	5,056,611
Employee Benefits	\$	5,174,990

Sub-Total - Operating Budget \$ 52,772,412

A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	52,772,412
B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	902,144
C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS	\$	3,590,968
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	\$	29,107
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	\$	29,107
F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES	\$	101,443
G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS	\$	150,000

TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES \$ **57,546,075**

FY 2025 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

Levy Limit	\$	39,765,540
Debt Exclusion	\$	5,032,590

A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY	\$	44,798,130
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$	1,145,967
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED	\$	5,627,946
D. OFFSET RECEIPTS	\$	-
E. ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$	3,906,632
F. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS	\$	-
G. FREE CASH	\$	698,133

OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS

1. Stabilization Fund	\$	-
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	723,500
3. GDRSD Capital Asset Fund	\$	295,767
4. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	350,000
5. Bond Surplus Transfer	\$	-
6. Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$	-

H. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$	1,369,267
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TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS \$ **57,546,075**

FY 2025 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) \$ **0**

APPENDIX A

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2025

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>							
MODERATOR							
1000	Salaries	\$ 65	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.21	0.00%
1001	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	0.02	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 65	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	0.23	0.00%
BOARD OF SELECTMEN							
1020	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1021	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1022	Expenses	\$ 2,960	\$ 11,800	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	1.42	0.01%
1023	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1024	Minor Capital	\$ 25,649	\$ 24,054	\$ 24,054	\$ 24,054	5.03	0.04%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 28,609	\$ 35,854	\$ 30,854	\$ 30,854	6.45	0.06%
TOWN MANAGER							
1030	Salaries	\$ 243,254	\$ 252,064	\$ 258,863	\$ 258,863	54.15	0.48%
1031	Wages	\$ 111,392	\$ 117,005	\$ 141,837	\$ 141,837	29.67	0.26%
1032	Expenses	\$ 14,240	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	2.53	0.02%
1033	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1034	Performance Evaluations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 368,886	\$ 381,169	\$ 412,800	\$ 412,800	86.35	0.77%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
FINANCE COMMITTEE							
1040	Expenses	\$ 214	\$ 220	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ 49,400	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	31.38	0.28%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 49,614	\$ 150,220	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	31.38	0.28%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT							
1050	Salaries	\$ 101,126	\$ 115,615	\$ 118,163	\$ 118,163	24.72	0.22%
1051	Wages	\$ 52,920	\$ 54,491	\$ 56,679	\$ 56,679	11.86	0.11%
1052	Expenses	\$ 40,199	\$ 39,100	\$ 50,523	\$ 50,523	10.57	0.09%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 194,245	\$ 209,206	\$ 225,365	\$ 225,365	47.14	0.42%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS							
1060	Salaries	\$ 85,280	\$ 94,300	\$ 96,186	\$ 96,186	20.12	0.18%
1061	Wages	\$ 65,073	\$ 68,486	\$ 69,829	\$ 69,829	14.61	0.13%
1062	Expenses	\$ 29,012	\$ 47,374	\$ 47,032	\$ 47,032	9.84	0.09%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 179,365	\$ 210,160	\$ 213,047	\$ 213,047	44.56	0.39%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR							
1070	Salaries	\$ 141,733	\$ 150,769	\$ 153,977	\$ 153,977	32.21	0.29%
1071	Wages	\$ 74,499	\$ 80,256	\$ 82,940	\$ 82,940	17.35	0.15%
1072	Expenses	\$ 24,546	\$ 26,253	\$ 28,637	\$ 28,637	5.99	0.05%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 500	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	1.49	0.01%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 500	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	0.48	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 241,778	\$ 266,678	\$ 274,954	\$ 274,954	57.51	0.51%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
TOWN COUNSEL							
1080	Expenses	\$ 58,577	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	18.83	0.17%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 58,577	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	18.83	0.17%
HUMAN RESOURCES							
1090	Salary	\$ 87,983	\$ 94,300	\$ 96,936	\$ 96,936	20.28	0.18%
1091	Expenses	\$ 14,927	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,400	2.59	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 102,910	\$ 106,700	\$ 109,336	\$ 109,336	22.87	0.20%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
1100	Salary	\$ 121,981	\$ 121,627	\$ 124,810	\$ 124,810	26.11	0.23%
1101	Wages	\$ 61,194	\$ 70,261	\$ 73,459	\$ 73,459	15.37	0.14%
1102	Expenses	\$ 21,455	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	5.19	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 204,630	\$ 216,688	\$ 223,069	\$ 223,069	46.66	0.41%
GIS STEERING COMMITTEE							
1120	Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	1.74	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	1.74	0.02%
TOWN CLERK							
1130	Salaries	\$ 95,550	\$ 98,472	\$ 98,591	\$ 98,591	20.62	0.18%
1131	Wages	\$ 81,648	\$ 73,125	\$ 81,040	\$ 81,040	16.95	0.15%
1132	Expenses	\$ 9,539	\$ 18,450	\$ 13,900	\$ 13,900	2.91	0.03%
1135	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 186,737	\$ 190,047	\$ 193,531	\$ 193,531	40.48	0.36%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS							
1140	Stipend	\$ 27,416	\$ 22,930	\$ 33,053	\$ 33,053	6.91	0.06%
1141	Expenses	\$ 15,597	\$ 22,927	\$ 21,088	\$ 21,088	4.41	0.04%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 43,013	\$ 45,857	\$ 54,141	\$ 54,141	11.32	0.10%
STREET LISTINGS							
1150	Expenses	\$ 4,818	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,950	\$ 5,950	1.24	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,818	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,950	\$ 5,950	1.24	0.01%
INSURANCE & BONDING							
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 286,667	\$ 320,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 330,000	69.03	0.61%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ 10,060	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	2.51	0.02%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 3,744	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.23	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 300,471	\$ 357,000	\$ 367,000	\$ 367,000	76.77	0.68%
TOWN REPORT							
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,472	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,472	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES							
1180	Expenses	\$ 68,297	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 13.60	0.12%
1181	Telephone Expenses	\$ 15,954	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 6.28	0.06%
1182	Office Supplies	\$ 25,433	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 3.56	0.03%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 109,684	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 23.43	0.21%
<hr/>							
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 2,077,874	\$ 2,388,159	\$ 2,472,927	\$ 2,472,927	\$ 517.27	4.58%
<hr/>							
<u>LAND USE DEPARTMENTS</u>							
<hr/>							
CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
1200	Salary	\$ 73,972	\$ 73,351	\$ 79,070	\$ 79,070	\$ 16.54	0.15%
1201	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1202	Expenses	\$ 4,597	\$ 8,770	\$ 8,270	\$ 8,270	\$ 1.73	0.02%
1203	Engineering & Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1204	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 78,569	\$ 82,121	\$ 87,340	\$ 87,340	\$ 18.27	0.16%
<hr/>							
PLANNING BOARD							
1210	Salaries	\$ 89,237	\$ 95,922	\$ 97,696	\$ 97,696	\$ 20.44	0.18%
1211	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1212	Expenses	\$ 8,844	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,625	\$ 9,625	\$ 2.01	0.02%
1215	M.R.P.C. Assessment	\$ 3,846	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,041	\$ 4,041	\$ 0.85	0.01%
1216	Legal Budget	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 101,927	\$ 110,072	\$ 111,362	\$ 111,362	\$ 23.29	0.21%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS							
1220	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1221	Expenses	\$ 50	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,335	0.28	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 50	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,335	0.28	0.00%
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION							
1230	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1231	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
BUILDING INSPECTOR							
1240	Salaries	\$ 104,758	\$ 104,904	\$ 107,030	\$ 107,030	22.39	0.20%
1241	Wages	\$ 55,067	\$ 61,453	\$ 63,935	\$ 63,935	13.37	0.12%
1242	Expenses	\$ 23,257	\$ 21,750	\$ 24,897	\$ 24,897	5.21	0.05%
1243	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 183,082	\$ 188,107	\$ 195,862	\$ 195,862	40.97	0.36%
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR							
1250	Fee Salaries	\$ 54,800	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	8.16	0.07%
1251	Expenses	\$ 4,876	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	0.73	0.01%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 59,676	\$ 43,000	\$ 42,500	\$ 42,500	8.89	0.08%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR							
1260	Stipend	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.52	0.00%
1261	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ 300	0.06	0.00%
1262	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	0.59	0.01%
BOARD OF HEALTH							
1270	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1271	Expenses	\$ 983	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	0.33	0.00%
1272	Nursing Services	\$ -	\$ 17,798	\$ 17,798	\$ 17,798	3.72	0.03%
1273	Nashoba Health District	\$ 51,483	\$ 38,833	\$ 43,081	\$ 43,081	9.01	0.08%
1274	Herbert Lipton MH	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1275	Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring	\$ 9,133	\$ 10,600	\$ 13,834	\$ 13,834	2.89	0.03%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 69,599	\$ 68,806	\$ 76,288	\$ 76,288	15.96	0.14%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES							
1280	Fee Salaries	\$ 680	\$ 3,200	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1281	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,262	0.68	0.01%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 680	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,262	0.68	0.01%
<hr/>							
TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 496,083	\$ 499,606	\$ 520,749	\$ 520,749	108.93	0.97%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</u>							
POLICE DEPARTMENT							
1300	Salaries	\$ 283,207	\$ 286,466	\$ 305,889	\$ 305,889	\$ 63.98	0.57%
1301	Wages	\$ 2,067,435	\$ 2,116,748	\$ 2,222,071	\$ 2,222,071	\$ 464.80	4.12%
1302	Expenses	\$ 207,915	\$ 215,370	\$ 264,552	\$ 264,552	\$ 55.34	0.49%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1.05	0.01%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 7,588	\$ 6,420	\$ 12,984	\$ 12,984	\$ 2.72	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,571,145	\$ 2,630,004	\$ 2,810,496	\$ 2,810,496	\$ 587.88	5.21%
FIRE DEPARTMENT							
1310	Salaries	\$ 256,900	\$ 281,595	\$ 292,712	\$ 292,712	\$ 61.23	0.54%
1311	Wages	\$ 1,165,166	\$ 1,112,490	\$ 1,160,261	\$ 1,160,261	\$ 242.70	2.15%
1312	Expenses	\$ 202,231	\$ 207,096	\$ 212,146	\$ 212,146	\$ 44.38	0.39%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,624,297	\$ 1,601,181	\$ 1,665,119	\$ 1,665,119	\$ 348.30	3.09%
GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION							
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
ANIMAL INSPECTOR							
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 0.44	0.00%
1331	Expenses	\$ 270	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 0.08	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,352	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 0.52	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER							
1340	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.44	0.00%
1341	Expenses	\$ 270	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.08	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,352	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.52	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY							
1350	Salary	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.84	0.01%
1351	Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	2.09	0.02%
1352	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,000	\$ 44,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	2.93	0.03%
DOG OFFICER							
1360	Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	3.66	0.03%
1361	Expenses	\$ 2,929	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.63	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 17,929	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	4.29	0.04%
POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS							
1370	Wages	\$ 444,288	\$ 448,073	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1371	Expenses	\$ 20,382	\$ 23,875	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1372	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 464,670	\$ 471,948	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY		\$ 4,696,745	\$ 4,772,597	\$ 4,515,079	\$ 4,515,079	944.44	8.37%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</u>							
NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL							
1400	Operating Expenses	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 966,719	\$ 202.21	1.79%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 966,719	\$ 202.21	1.79%
GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT							
1410	Operating Expenses	\$ 24,802,222	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 28,741,942	\$ 28,741,942	\$ 6,012.08	53.27%
1411	Debt Service, Excluded	\$ -	\$ 406,982	\$ 384,622	\$ 384,622	\$ 80.45	0.71%
1412	Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$ -	\$ 58,814	\$ 60,534	\$ 60,534	\$ 12.66	0.11%
1413	Out of District Placement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1414	Capital Assessment	\$ 577,026	\$ 552,203	\$ 295,767	\$ 295,767	\$ 61.87	0.55%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 25,379,248	\$ 26,955,715	\$ 29,482,865	\$ 29,482,865	\$ 6,167.07	54.64%
TOTAL SCHOOLS		\$ 26,189,285	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 30,449,584	\$ 30,449,584	\$ 6,369.28	56.44%

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT							
1500	Salaries	\$ 120,670	\$ 120,293	\$ 122,664	\$ 122,664	\$ 25.66	0.23%
1501	Wages	\$ 750,224	\$ 743,323	\$ 753,789	\$ 753,789	\$ 157.67	1.40%
1502	Expenses	\$ 136,529	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	\$ 28.64	0.25%
1503	Highway Maintenance	\$ 81,712	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 16.73	0.15%
1504	Minor Capital	\$ 5,526	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 3.14	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,094,661	\$ 1,095,516	\$ 1,108,353	\$ 1,108,353	\$ 231.84	2.05%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
STREET LIGHTS							
1510	Expenses	\$ 12,202	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 3.14	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,202	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 3.14	0.03%
SNOW AND ICE							
1520	Expenses	\$ 171,937	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 34.51	0.31%
1521	Overtime	\$ 268,100	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 29.28	0.26%
1522	Hired Equipment	\$ 45,349	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 7.32	0.06%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 485,386	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 71.12	0.63%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET							
1530	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1531	Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 0.63	0.01%
1532	Trees	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 0.31	0.00%
1533	Tree Work	\$ 9,515	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 6.28	0.06%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,515	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 7.22	0.06%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE							
1540	Wages	\$ 156,174	\$ 166,348	\$ 162,845	\$ 162,845	\$ 34.06	0.30%
1541	Expenses	\$ 257,888	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	\$ 56.68	0.50%
1542	Minor Capital	\$ 9,849	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5.23	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 423,911	\$ 437,298	\$ 458,795	\$ 458,795	\$ 95.97	0.85%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL							
1550	Wages	\$ 145,954	\$ 154,315	\$ 157,651	\$ 157,651	\$ 32.98	0.29%
1551	Expenses	\$ 38,661	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 9.56	0.08%
1552	Tipping Fees	\$ 139,668	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 30.33	0.27%
1553	North Central SW Coop	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 1.22	0.01%
1554	Minor Capital	\$ 4,717	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1.05	0.01%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 334,850	\$ 355,851	\$ 359,187	\$ 359,187	\$ 75.13	0.67%
PARKS DEPARTMENT							
1560	Wages	\$ 13,804	\$ 17,571	\$ 17,922	\$ 17,922	\$ 3.75	0.03%
1561	Expenses	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 11.66	0.10%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 69,076	\$ 73,330	\$ 73,681	\$ 73,681	\$ 15.41	0.14%
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TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		\$ 2,432,601	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 2,389,516	\$ 2,389,516	\$ 499.83	4.43%
 <u>LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES</u>							
COUNCIL ON AGING							
1600	Salaries	\$ 87,986	\$ 87,446	\$ 162,023	\$ 162,023	\$ 33.89	0.30%
1601	Wages	\$ 116,035	\$ 103,143	\$ 55,733	\$ 55,733	\$ 11.66	0.10%
1602	Expenses	\$ 12,384	\$ 12,254	\$ 12,700	\$ 12,700	\$ 2.66	0.02%
1603	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 216,405	\$ 202,843	\$ 230,456	\$ 230,456	\$ 48.21	0.43%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SENIOR CENTER VAN							
1610	Wages	\$ 62,342	\$ 74,808	\$ 76,611	\$ 76,611	\$ 16.03	0.14%
1611	Expenses	\$ 16,823	\$ 18,023	\$ 21,023	\$ 21,023	\$ 4.40	0.04%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 79,165	\$ 92,831	\$ 97,634	\$ 97,634	20.42	0.18%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER							
1620	Salary	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,120	\$ 6,242	\$ 6,242	\$ 1.31	0.01%
1621	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 0.23	0.00%
1622	Veterans' Benefits	\$ 18,919	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5.23	0.05%
1623	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$ 24,919	\$ 32,220	\$ 32,342	\$ 32,342	6.77	0.06%
GRAVES REGISTRATION							
1630	Salary/Stipend	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 0.05	0.00%
1631	Expenses	\$ 750	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 0.16	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,000	\$ 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%
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%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.17	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
LIBRARY							
1660	Salary	\$ 426,346	\$ 441,807	\$ 453,630	\$ 453,630	\$ 94.89	0.84%
1661	Wages	\$ 331,618	\$ 317,104	\$ 355,706	\$ 355,706	\$ 74.40	0.66%
1662	Expenses	\$ 214,238	\$ 226,873	\$ 219,966	\$ 219,966	\$ 46.01	0.41%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 972,202	\$ 985,784	\$ 1,029,302	\$ 1,029,302	\$ 215.30	1.91%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS							
1670	Expenses	\$ 263	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 0.10	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 263	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 0.10	0.00%
WATER SAFETY							
1680	Wages	\$ 2,520	\$ 4,560	\$ 4,560	\$ 4,560	\$ 0.95	0.01%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ 2,887	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683	\$ 0.98	0.01%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,900	\$ 10,900	\$ 2.28	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,407	\$ 18,243	\$ 20,143	\$ 20,143	\$ 4.21	0.04%
WEED MANAGEMENT							
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 4.60	0.04%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ 12,001	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 2.59	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 34,001	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	\$ 7.19	0.06%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB							
1700	Salary	\$ 170,866	\$ 172,675	\$ 177,727	\$ 177,727	\$ 37.18	0.33%
1701	Wages	\$ 234,595	\$ 237,305	\$ 243,941	\$ 243,941	\$ 51.03	0.45%
1702	Expenses	\$ 193,969	\$ 167,774	\$ 167,774	\$ 167,774	\$ 35.09	0.31%
1703	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 599,430	\$ 577,754	\$ 589,442	\$ 589,442	\$ 123.30	1.09%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT							
1710	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,048	\$ 71,048	\$ 14.86	0.13%
1711	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,219	\$ 61,219	\$ 12.81	0.11%
1712	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,175	\$ 18,175	\$ 3.80	0.03%
1713	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1.05	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155,442	\$ 155,442	\$ 32.51	0.29%
TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES		\$ 1,943,292	\$ 1,947,870	\$ 2,192,957	\$ 2,192,957	\$ 458.71	4.06%
<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>							
DEBT SERVICE							
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$ 2,267,786	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 423.58	3.75%
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 153,506	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 34.51	0.31%
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ 1,332,573	\$ 1,418,852	\$ 1,340,252	\$ 1,340,252	\$ 280.35	2.48%
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 77,474	\$ 110,364	\$ 110,364	\$ 23.09	0.20%
2004	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town	\$ -	\$ 212,949	\$ 123,526	\$ 123,526	\$ 25.84	0.23%
2005A	Short Term Debt - Interest - Non Excluded	\$ 13,803	\$ 30,676	\$ 8,644	\$ 8,644	\$ 1.81	0.02%
2005B	Short Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ -	\$ 1,038,105	\$ 1,283,825	\$ 1,283,825	\$ 268.54	2.38%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,614,162	\$ 4,801,562	\$ 5,056,611	\$ 5,056,611	\$ 1,057.71	9.37%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		\$ 3,614,162	\$ 4,801,562	\$ 5,056,611	\$ 5,056,611	\$ 1,057.71	9.37%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</u>							
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
GENERAL BENEFITS							
3000	County Retirement	\$ 2,538,910	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 2,653,019	\$ 2,653,019	\$ 554.94	4.92%
3001	OPEB	\$ 177,094	\$ 185,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 39.74	0.35%
3002	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 195,465	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2.09	0.02%
INSURANCE							
3010	Health Insurance/Employee Expenses	\$ 1,811,069	\$ 2,090,563	\$ 2,161,151	\$ 2,161,151	\$ 452.06	4.01%
3011	Life Insurance	\$ 3,642	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 0.80	0.01%
3012	Medicare/Social Security	\$ 153,710	\$ 147,000	\$ 157,000	\$ 157,000	\$ 32.84	0.29%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,879,890	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 1,082.48	9.59%
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TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		\$ 4,879,890	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 1,082.48	9.59%
 <u>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>							
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS							
	Capital Budget Request	\$ 663,000	\$ 800,142	\$ 901,971	\$ 901,971	\$ 188.67	1.67%
	Offset Reciepts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 25,054	\$ 29,051	\$ 29,107	\$ 27,107	\$ 6.09	0.05%
	Snow and Ice Deficit	\$ 168,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	State and County Charges	\$ 95,249	\$ 98,662	\$ 101,443	\$ 101,443	\$ 21.22	0.19%
	Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	\$ 43,020	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 31.38	0.28%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 994,363	\$ 1,077,855	\$ 1,182,521	\$ 1,180,521	\$ 247.35	2.19%
<hr/>							
GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET		\$ 47,324,294	\$ 50,488,178	\$ 53,954,933	\$ 53,952,933	\$ 11,286	100.00%

FY 2025 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
WATER DEPARTMENT								
	WD Salaries	\$ 151,444	\$ 152,121	\$ 163,248	\$ 166,505	\$ 176,650	\$ 176,650	6.09%
	WD Wages	\$ 186,050	\$ 255,303	\$ 269,339	\$ 278,587	\$ 300,075	\$ 300,075	7.71%
	WD Expenses	\$ 499,510	\$ 526,019	\$ 573,697	\$ 737,900	\$ 637,300	\$ 637,300	-13.63%
	WD Debt Service	\$ 361,977	\$ 369,185	\$ 478,239	\$ 907,830	\$ 1,196,241	\$ 1,196,241	31.77%
100	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,198,981	\$ 1,302,628	\$ 1,484,523	\$ 2,090,822	\$ 2,310,267	\$ 2,310,267	10.50%
SEWER DEPARTMENT								
	Sewer Salaries	\$ 20,488	\$ 21,579	\$ 23,104	\$ 22,623	\$ 24,300	\$ 24,300	7.41%
	Sewer Wages	\$ 50,727	\$ 51,737	\$ 45,907	\$ 49,872	\$ 57,195	\$ 57,195	14.68%
	Sewer Expense	\$ 534,552	\$ 683,919	\$ 781,027	\$ 783,578	\$ 1,142,338	\$ 1,142,338	45.78%
	Sewer Debt Service	\$ 5,504	\$ 5,316	\$ 5,099	\$ 33,426	\$ 26,642	\$ 26,642	-20.30%
200	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 611,271	\$ 762,551	\$ 855,137	\$ 889,499	\$ 1,250,475	\$ 1,250,475	40.58%
FOUR CORNERS SEWER DEPARTMENT								
	Four Corners Sewer Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,361	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	100.00%
	Four Corners Sewer Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,683	\$ 5,541	\$ 6,355	\$ 6,355	14.68%
	Four Corners Sewer Expense	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 128,224	\$ 69,909	\$ 88,985	\$ 88,985	27.29%
	Four Corners Sewer Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
300	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 135,907	\$ 77,811	\$ 98,040	\$ 98,040	26.00%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT								
	Cable Salaries	\$ 93,104	\$ 69,975	\$ 69,290	\$ 69,656	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Wages	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,827	\$ 62,574	\$ 58,510	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Expenses	\$ 58,737	\$ 52,535	\$ 85,774	\$ 91,971	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Minor Capital	\$ 2,357	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
400	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 209,470	\$ 183,337	\$ 217,638	\$ 230,137	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
STORMWATER UTILITY								
	Stormwater Wages/Benefits	\$ 31,330	\$ 74,091	\$ 77,629	\$ 79,520	\$ 84,851	\$ 84,851	6.70%
	Stormwater Expenses	\$ 27,537	\$ 57,416	\$ 81,441	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	0.00%
	Stormwater Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ 42,201	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	0.00%
500	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 58,867	\$ 173,708	\$ 210,070	\$ 242,520	\$ 247,851	\$ 247,851	2.20%
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$ 2,116,492	\$ 2,476,779	\$ 2,903,275	\$ 3,530,790	\$ 3,906,632	\$ 3,906,632	10.64%

APPENDIX B**FACTOR: 1.0200**

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2025 (Effective July 1, 2024)**

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
4	Salary		
	Wages	42,288	52,333
5	Salary		
	Wages	20.36	25.14
7	Salary		
	Wages	44,703	54,192
8	Salary		
	Wages	21.51	26.60
7	Salary		
	Wages	51,690	65,474
8	Salary		
	Wages	25.45	31.48
8	Salary		
	Wages	58,680	72,656
9	Salary		
	Wages	28.21	34.93
9	Salary		
	Wages	60,093	74,361
10	Salary		
	Wages	28.90	35.75
10	Salary Executive Assistant to Town Manager		
	Wages	68,919	86,985
11	Salary		
	Wages	33.15	41.82
11	Salary		
	Wages	71,912	91,625
12	Salary		
	Wages	34.57	44.05
12	Salary Human Resources Director		
	Wages	74,264	93,844
12	Salary		
	Wages	35.70	45.18

APPENDIX B
Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2025 (Effective July 1, 2024)

FACTOR: 1.0200

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
13	Salary	76,916	97,624
	Wages	36.98	46.93
14	Salary	78,550	99,412
	Wages	37.76	47.79
15	Salary	81,095	100,321
	Wages	38.99	48.23
16	Salary	84,025	106,000
	Wages	40.40	50.96
17	Salary	94,135	116,453
	Wages	45.28	55.99
18	Salary	101,801	125,986
	IT Director Wages	48.94	60.57
19	Salary	104,474	129,271
	Wages	50.23	62.15
20	Salary	112,022	137,771
	Wages	53.86	66.23

APPENDIX B

NON-CLASSIFIED, TEMPORARY SEASONAL AND STIPEND POSITIONS

NON-STEP AND STIPEND POSITIONS

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Call Captain: Fire	26.66
Call Lieutenant: Fire	26.12
Call Firefighter	22.86
Call Emergency Medical Technician	22.86
Probationary Firefighter	19.04
Probationary Emergency Medical Technician	19.04
Call Fire Mechanic	63.98

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	19.51 - 21.96
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 *- 19.00
Pool Staff	MW - 19.00
Lifeguards	MW - 20.00
Swim Coaches	MW - 25.00
Camp Staff	MW - 19.00
Counselors	MW - 20.00
Buildings & Grounds	MW - 29.00
Library Shelves	MW - 20.00

* - Minimum Wage

MINUTES

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MAY 18, 2024

**Groton-Dunstable High School Gymnasium
703 Chicopee Row, Groton, Massachusetts 01450**

Beginning Saturday, May 18, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

***THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 15 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. As this is a Special Town Meeting, there is a quorum requirement of two (2%) percent of the Town's Registered Voters in order for the Meeting to commence.

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 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 that 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 for 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.

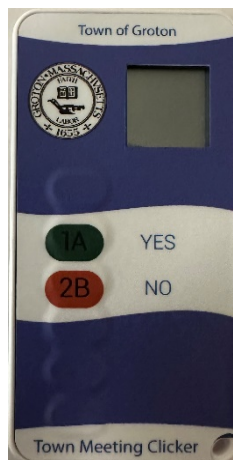
Proxy Voting Prohibited

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 High School. There is a ramp providing access from the parking lot to the front door of the High School.

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

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 in the main lobby of the High School.

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

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

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

MAY 18, 2024

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 High School Gymnasium in said Town on Saturday, the eighteenth day of May, 2024 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider the following:

				DISPOSITION
*	Article 1:	Hear Reports	6	PASSED
*	Article 2:	Elected Officials Compensation	6	PASSED
*	Article 3:	Wage and Classification Schedule	6	PASSED
*	Article 4:	Appropriate FY 2025 Contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund	7	PASSED
*	Article 5:	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	7	PASSED
*	Article 6:	Transfer Within the Sewer Enterprise Fund	7	PASSED
*	Article 7:	Transfer Within Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund	8	PASSED
*	Article 8:	Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund	8	PASSED
*	Article 9:	Prior Year Bills	8	PASSED
*	Article 10:	Current Year Line-Item Transfers	9	PASSED
*	Article 11:	Appropriate Funding to Offset Snow and Ice Deficit	9	PASSED
*	Article 12:	Debt Service for the Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2024	9	PASSED
*	Article 13:	Debt Service for the Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2025	10	PASSED
*	Article 14:	Establishing Limits for Various Revolving Funds	10	PASSED
**	Article 15:	Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Operating Budget – Consent Motion 1B-14	11	PASSED
	Motion 1A	GDRSD Operating Budget	11	PASSED
	Article 16:	Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget	11	PASSED
	Article 17:	Transfer from GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund to Cover MNHG Obligations	17	PASSED
	Article 18:	Revoke Cable Enterprise Fund in Fiscal Year 2025	18	PASSED
	Article 19:	Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund Acceptance	18	PASSED
	Article 20:	Funding for Destination Groton Committee	19	PASSED
	Article 21:	Funding for Sustainability Commission	19	PASSED
	Article 22:	Acquire Land for Chorine Booster Station	20	PASSED
	Article 23:	Community Preservation Funding Accounts	20	PASSED
	Article 24:	Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2024	21	PASSED
***	Article 25:	Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2025	21	SEE PAGES 31-37 FOR VOTES
	Article 26:	Extend Center Sewer District	25	PASSED
	Article 27:	Extend Four Corner Sewer District	25	PASSED
		Budget Report of the Town Manager and Finance Committee to Town Meeting	27	
		Fiscal Year 2025 Revenue Estimates	30	
		Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy Calculations	31	
		Appendix A – Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget	32	
		Appendix B – Fiscal Year 2025 Wage and Classification Schedule	49	

*Will be presented as one Consent Motion

**Budget will be presented as one Consent Motion

***CPA Funding Recommendations will be presented as one Consent Motion

2024 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OFFICIALS

MEETING DATE – MAY 18, 2024

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator:

Ed McNierney

Board of Selectmen:

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

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 Dunbar

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM on May 18, 2024 at the Groton-Dunstable High School Gymnasium. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided. There is a quorum requirement of 176 for this Special Town Meeting. The Select Board and Town Moderator met at 8:30 AM and voted unanimously to reduce the quorum to 50 voters based on Section 15 of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022. The Moderator was in agreement with this. 159 voters were in attendance for the meeting as of 9:00 AM.

Announcements:

The Moderator reviewed the vote taken by the Select Board to reduce the quorum to 50 and reviewed the rules for the meeting concerning voters and non-voters. The Moderator reviewed the warrant, the consent motions contained within the warrant, and stated that he expected to complete the meeting this morning.

The Moderator asked for unanimous consent to appoint the Deputy Moderator, Edward McNierney for a one term. There was no objection to this and the Town Clerk swore in Mr. McNierney.

There were 199 voters present as of 9:07 AM.

The Moderator reviewed instructions for the use of the electronic voting handsets. A test of the handsets was conducted.

The Moderator called for a moment of silence. 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.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO LIMIT DEBATE.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion to Limit Debate: Yes – 188; No – 17; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

The timekeepers were Hannah Moller and Takashi Tada. The Moderator determined that the warrant was duly posted and entertained a motion to waive the reading of the warrant.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE WARRANT.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Waive the Reading of the Warrant: Yes – 176; No –21; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 14 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

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 2025.*

Article 3: *Wage and Classification Schedule*

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2025 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 2025.*

Article 4: *Appropriate FY 2025 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 2025, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$190,000. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$190,000 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

Article 5: *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 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 is a placeholder in the event the Water Department needs funds to complete the current Fiscal Year. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is not anticipated that funding will be required and this Article will be indefinitely postponed.*

Article 6: *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 2024 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 2024 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$52,500 will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 7: *Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 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 2024 Four Corners Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$20,000 will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 8: *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 2024 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 2024 budget. As of the Printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$10,000 will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 9: 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.*

Article 10: Current Year Line-Item Transfers

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2024 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 2024 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

Article 11: 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 2024 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 24.*

Article 12: Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2024

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 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 service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting appropriated an additional \$1,000,000 for the project. Using FY 2024 Funds, the Community Preservation Committee will pay \$124,590 (\$120,000 for principal and \$4,590 for interest) in debt service. In addition, they will pay an additional \$20,000 towards un-borrowed construction costs. To fund this appropriation, \$124,590 will come from the Fiscal Year 2024 Unallocated Reserve and \$20,000 will come from the Fiscal Year 2024 Open Space Reserve.*

Article 13: *Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2025*

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 2025 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This Article appropriates the debt service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 7 of the May 21, 2021 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$1,405,374 for the project. In FY 2025, the Community Preservation Committee will pay \$235,072 in debt service (\$175,672 in principal payment and \$59,400 in interest payment) for this appropriation. To fund this appropriation the entire amount will come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Article 14: *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 2025 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2025 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	\$40,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$20,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

or to 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 is currently set forth in the Town's Bylaw for said purpose.*

The Deputy Moderator chaired the meeting through this motion.

CONSENT MOTION #1 – Articles 1 through 14

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 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.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONDED.

The Chair read the name of each article.

DEBATE: There were no holds and no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Consent Motion #1 for Articles 1-14: Yes – 172; No - 29; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 15: *Fiscal Year 2025 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 (2025), 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 (5 In Favor, 1 Opposed – Green)*

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.*

Article 15: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Operating Budget

MOTION 1: Groton Dunstable Regional School District

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION A: I move that the sum of Twenty-Seven Million Four Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty Dollars (\$27,476,540) be hereby raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by lines 1410 through 1413 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION (1A) WAS MOVED BY BUD ROBERSTON AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Robertson provided the meeting with a presentation on the budget and how they ended up where they were today. The Town is anticipating an increase of 3.17% in new revenue for FY25. Mr. Robertson reviewed the minimal increases in State Aid received by both the Town and the Schools. Local Aid has only increased by a net percentage of 1.32% and School Funding has only grown by .48% from 2015-present. He said that they have petitioned their State Legislature to find ways to help communities. He explained how inflation was a huge driving factor. Mr. Robertson said that the Town regionalized their communications operations with Patriot RECC which yielded a savings of over \$300K in the municipal Public Safety Budget. Mr. Robertson said that the overall budget since the Annual Town Meeting held on March 26, 2024 had been reduced enough to yield a budget surplus of \$619K. He said that the Select Board and Finance Committee have voted to provide a one time “operational grant” to the school district of \$619K to help them cover some of their one-time costs in FY25 such as unemployment costs and water needed because of the PFAS issue.

**Mr. Jack Petropoulos moved that they separately consider line item 1413 - Operating Grant of \$619K.
THE MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED.**

Mr. Petropoulos said that they were going to be asked to vote on their Regional School Assessment and also a \$619K grant all under one motion. He said that his motion was to break this down this motion into two distinct questions. He said that this grant was highly unusual and breaks the intent of their Regional Agreement, as Dunstable was not contributing toward its portion of the grant. He said the grant only postpones pains for another year.

Mr. Robertson said that they needed to fully understand what this motion means. The Moderator said this motion was to have two main motions. Mr. Keoseian said he wanted to applaud Mr. Petropoulos for clearly explaining the need to separate this.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Separate This Motion: Yes – 117; No - 112; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Mr. Robertson moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$619,000 to fund line 1413 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

Mr. Robertson said that this additional operational grant money was going to be used to cover one-time expenses otherwise the school would need to cut an additional 6-8 staff personnel. He said he understood the Dunstable issue, but thought the schools needed to fund their children's education.

Ms. Collette said she was speaking in favor of providing this grant to the school district and applauded the Select Board for thinking of ways to help. She said it was time to pay it forward and agreed it was for the children's education. Mr. Easom asked if they approved this, if it would affect the tax rate. Mr. Haddad said it would increase the tax rate by .21 cents. Mr. Easom said he would like to see them honor the regional agreement. Ms. Lathrop said she was more inclined to vote for this if Dunstable contributed. Mr. Lindemer asked if this was setting a precedent that Groton was always going to bail Dunstable out. Mr. Alberghini said they should adhere to the Regional Agreement and thought they were using the children as political pawns. Ms. Frank said that voting no on this was not making the children a political pawn adding the schools were hurting and scrambling. She asked for a yes vote to provide them additional time.

Mr. Cunningham said he appreciated the concerns raised but said they had a situation of unprecedented inflation and lack of state aid before them. He said this wasn't precedent setting adding the money was available to help the schools who were hurting.

Mr. Sheldon said that they loved their kids, schools and town and thought they could do something extraordinary to get the attention of the State that they needed to do something to help local towns. Mr. Sopka said that they should support the education of their children. He said that they Select Board and Finance Committee have spent an exorbitant amount of time looking at this and discussing all of this. A resident asked how the money was going to be spent. Superintendent, Dr. Chesson said that they money would be earmarked to PFAS mitigation and unemployment costs and that a memorandum of agreement had been put into place stating all this. Mr. Haddad said that the anticipated unemployment costs would be \$800K and \$150K in PFAS costs. He said that he recommended this grant to help with the costs associated with both of these one-time operational costs. A resident asked for clarification on how the money was going to be used to save teachers jobs and cover unemployment.

Ms. Manugian said that this was a case of their revenue and expenditures not balancing. Ms. Manugian shared the vote that was taken by the Select Board prior to bringing this forward to the Town Meeting. She said it was

not a request they were making lightly but would provide them with an additional year to assess all of these budget and funding issues.

Mr. Petropoulos said he didn't think the \$619K was a do or die for the PFAS mitigation. He said that the money for mitigation was already in the budget but asked if this would be used to free up that money to cover teacher salaries. Mr. Haddad said that was correct adding it allowed the school district the ability to not have to further reduce the number of teachers for this next school year.

Mr. Lathrop moved the question. The motion was seconded.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote On Motion to Move the Question: Yes – 197; No - 42; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

Vote on Main Motion to Appropriate \$619,000 to Fund Line Item 1413: *That the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$619,000 to fund line 1413 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.*

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote On Main Motion: Yes – 165; No - 76; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

MOTION 1: Groton Dunstable Regional School District

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION A: I move that the sum of Twenty-Six Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Forty Dollars (\$26,857,540) be hereby raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by lines 1410 through 1412 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY BUD ROBERTSON AND SECONDED.

Quantum Of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote On Main Motion for Article 1(A): Yes – 172; No - 53; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

CONSENT MOTION #2 – Operating Budget

Mover: Bud Robertson

I move that the town take affirmative action on Motion 1B through Motion 14, under Article 15, 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.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY BUD ROBERSTON AND SECONDED.

The Moderator read all motions contained within this consent motion.

DEBATE: There were no holds and no debate.

Article 16: Fiscal Year 2025 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 2024 and thereafter, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2025 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 2025:*

Item #1 – Extrication Tools – “Jaws of Life”	\$92,500	Fire and EMS
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Summary: *The current auto extrication tools “Jaws of Life” are approaching 15 years old. With a life expectancy of 10-15 years, these tools are at the tail end of their serviceable time which will require replacement. As the new car technologies and materials constantly evolve, older “jaws” simply do not have the power to cut some modern systems. These tools are primarily used for motor vehicle crashes and have applicable usages in the industrial or construction setting.*

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

Item #2 – Pick-Up Truck	\$55,000	Highway
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Summary: *This is a scheduled replacement. The average life of a pick-up truck is approximately 7 years. By replacing one vehicle every couple of years, this will allow the fleet to stay in good shape. They are front line pick-ups used for day-to-day operations as well as snow plowing.*

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

Item #3 – Brush Mower/Field Mower	\$70,000	Highway
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Summary: *This item is scheduled for replacement while it still has value. This should be considered a scheduled replacement.*

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

Item #4 – Dump Truck	\$285,000	Highway
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Summary: *This item is a scheduled replacement. These vehicles are front line trucks responsible for plowing and sanding, as well as normal construction duties. The Town will borrow this amount of money and pay it off over five years.*

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

Item #5 – IT Infrastructure **\$40,000** **Town Facilities**

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established twelve years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2025, 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; network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage and improve door lock and security system maintenance.*

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

Item #6 – Municipal Building Repairs **\$25,000** **Town Facilities**

Summary: *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in our municipal building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in the Town's buildings. With a set line item which is separate from minor capital, the DPW can be flexible and change its priorities instead of just doing it because it is on a list. Furnaces, a/c units, flooring and painting are some of the small items this capital program could handle with the flexibility needed.*

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

Item #7 – Police Station HVAC **\$65,000** **Town Facilities**

Summary: *The current HVAC System at the Police Station is the original system from when the building was constructed in 1999. In 2025 it will be almost 25 years old and in need of replacement. This should be considered a scheduled replacement.*

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

Item #8 – Baler/Maintenance **\$25,000** **Transfer Station**

Summary: *Due to a fire at the Transfer Station in June, 2021, the 2004 baler was replaced by a newer model with insurance funding. This has now allowed the Town to remove the purchase of a new baler from the capital plan. The money set aside for the baler in FY 2025 will be spent to overhaul and update the newer baler providing for a longer life and not require the Town to replace it for several more years.*

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

Item #9 – Carpeting **\$50,000** **Library**

Summary: All 20-year-old carpeting was replaced in 2018 EXCEPT in the Children's Room and Main Meeting Rooms, because they were replaced in 2009. These three large spaces are the busiest, most-used, and most stain-prone rooms. In FY2025, these carpets will be 15 years old (expected life 10 years). Carpet squares cost a bit more than broadloom, but make the most sense in such high traffic, high spill, highly busy crafting/activity/refreshment/programming meeting spaces. Despite regular cleaning, stains are visible all over the meeting rooms in particular. Carpet tiles can be replaced easily if stains cannot be removed or if fixed shelving or furniture is changed.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #10 – Property Improvements

\$50,000

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. Since FY 2015, the Town has appropriated \$25,000 each year so that 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 to much success. In FY 2025, the Park Commission has requested \$50,000 to deal with some substantial capital expenditures, including the paving work needed at Carol Wheeler Park, which has been quoted at \$11,500-\$11,900.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #11 – Police Cruisers

\$133,025

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. Unmarked cars are rotated in the same fashion.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #12 – Police Pick-Up Truck

\$77,000

Police Department

Summary: This piece of equipment will benefit the department in that, as a multi-purpose vehicle with a four wheel drive platform, it can be utilized for snow removal, specialized equipment transport, provide accessibility to remote areas, and it will give us the ability to evacuate people in emergencies. This vehicle can be used to assist Emergency Management with transportation of generators and shelter equipment.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #13 – Electronic Control Devices – “Tasers”

\$12,673

Police Department

Summary: Current Electronic Control Devices are at end-of-life and not serviceable. The total cost of the ECD replacement is \$95,692. The Police Department applied for and received a JAG grant in the amount of

\$45,000. The Town would be responsible for 4 payments of \$12,673 (beginning in FY 2025) for a total cost to the Town of \$50,692.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #14 – Golf Carts

\$25,553

Country Club

Summary: *In FY 2023, the Town replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with 21 new Yamaha gas powered carts and four Yamaha electric carts using a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$25,553. This is the third of five payments.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #15 – Greens Equipment - Ventrac

\$10,918

Country Club

Summary: *In FY 2024, the Town purchased a Ventrac unit using a five year lease-to-purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$10,918. This is the second payment of five payments. The Ventrac unit is a most versatile piece of equipment. The attachments already in use include units for plowing, aeration, seeding, landscaping and mowing difficult terrain. This vehicle is used on a daily basis.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #16 – Greens Equipment – Hauler Pro X

\$20,000

Country Club

Summary: *This is a superintendent utility cart that will replace one of the two carts currently used to travel the course for maintenance. This utility cart provides a bedload capacity of 500 lbs. for material. The two current utility carts are over a decade old and are becoming unreliable. This vehicle is used on a daily basis.*

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

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #17 – Greens Equipment – Truckster XD

\$13,500

Country Club

Summary: *This is a heavy payload 4x4 utility truck that will allow the transfer of up to 3,500 lbs. of debris, sand and loam to and from areas of the Course. This utility cart will replace the other utility cart in the Club's fleet that is over a decade old and is becoming unreliable. This vehicle will be used on a daily basis in the Spring and Fall when course cleanup is a daily occurrence. During the Summer months, it will be used for various Course projects. This vehicle will be paid for over five years.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #18 – Ventrac Attachments

\$18,000

Country Club

Summary: *The Ventrac unit is an attachment driven unit. The following attachments will be purchased and used for Course maintenance: Tough Cut Deck - \$6,000 – This deck will allow for the cutting back of all the overgrown areas of the course. It is expected that this attachment will be used often during the first year and continually when needed to maintain areas that have been improved; Stump Grinder - \$5,000. This attachment will focus on clearing out dead trees and overgrown areas of the course. The stump grinder will remove enough of a stump to clear the area and in some cases allow for reseeding. The expectation is that this attachment would be used a minimum of twenty (20) times annually; Trencher - \$7,000 - This attachment will install new irrigation lines on the course. There are several irrigation projects planned over the next several seasons.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #19 – Greens Equipment – Greens Mower \$10,000 Country Club

Summary: *This item will replace the current greens mower. The old mower will be converted to a tee & collar unit, and the old tee & collar unit will be converted to a greens roller unit. Ideally, the Club will purchase a new mower every five years. This is the first of four payments for this equipment.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #20 – HVAC \$23,000 Country Club

Summary: *The HVAC systems in both the Function Hall and the Groton Publick House (GPH) have been aging to the point that replacement parts are no longer available or are cost prohibitive. The Club has been installing one (1) AC unit per year into the Function Hall and GPH Building over the past three (3) years. This request will complete the process of ultimately having five (5) units in the Function Hall and two (2) units in the GPH Building.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #21 – Building Repairs & Painting \$20,000 Country Club

Summary: *This funding will be used to paint the exterior of the Golf Shop, replace trim board, and install rubber flooring for the high traffic area inside the golf shop. In addition, it will also be used to replace the deck outside of the Golf Shop.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #22 – Function Hall Bathroom Repairs \$10,000 Country Club

Summary: *This funding will be used to install hand dryers in the Function Hall bathrooms, as well as repaint both bathrooms in the Function Hall, and replace the partitions in the Function Hall bathrooms.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #23 – Retaining Walls

\$15,000

Country Club

Summary: *Using the same blocks that were installed several years ago for the pool perimeter, the Country Club will replace the stone wall next to the deck at the Publick House Building and add a small section that has been experiencing washout next to the Publick House Building.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Town Manager

Article 16: Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget

Mover: John Reilly

MOTION A: I move that Two Hundred Eight-Five Thousand Dollars (\$285,000) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase and equip a new Dump Truck for the Highway Department, and for the payment of all costs associated and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$285,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, 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.

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Reilly provided an explanation for the request to borrow.

Mr. Brown said it was time to keep their capital items longer and cut back on these type of expenditures for now. Mr. Haddad said that the funding came from one-time capital budget fund and couldn't help fund things like the school budget. Mr. Delaney said that this replaced a 2005 vehicle. A resident asked why this was separate. Mr. Reilly said it was because this needed to come from bonding.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion A for Article 16: Yes – 174; No - 46; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

MOTION B: I move that Eight Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand One Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$862,144) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2024 and thereafter, for the capital items identified as Item 1 through Item 3 and Item 5 through Item 23 as set forth under Article 16 in the Warrant for the May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$178,644 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of \$683,500 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Extrication Tools – “Jaws of Life”	\$ 92,500	Fire and EMS
Pick-Up Truck	\$ 55,000	Highway
Brush Mower/Field Mower	\$ 70,000	Highway
IT Infrastructure	\$ 40,000	Town Facilities
Municipal Building Repairs	\$ 25,000	Town Facilities
Police Station HVAC	\$ 65,000	Town Facilities
Baler/Maintenance	\$ 25,000	Transfer Station
Carpeting	\$ 50,000	Library
Property Improvements	\$ 50,000	Park Department
Police Cruisers	\$134,000	Police Department
Police Pick-Up Truck	\$ 77,000	Police Department
Electronic Control Devices – “Tasers”	\$ 12,673	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$ 25,553	Country Club
Greens Equipment - Ventrac	\$ 10,918	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Hauler Pro X	\$ 20,000	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Truckster XD	\$ 13,500	Country Club
Ventrac Attachments	\$ 18,000	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Greens Mower	\$ 10,000	Country Club
HVAC	\$ 23,000	Country Club
Building Repairs & Painting	\$ 20,000	Country Club
Function Hall Bathroom Repairs	\$ 10,000	Country Club
Retaining Walls	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	Country Club
Total	\$862,144	

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Petropoulos asked about the Country Club expenses. Mr. Shawn Campbell, General Manager for the Country Club said that these capital items would be covered by anticipated revenue of the Country Club for this year. Mr. Haddad said that they money set aside for the Country Club was coming for revenue that had been turned over to free cash. Ms. Weigel asked how the dollar amounts for the HVAC items were determined. Mr. Haddad said that they look at efficient ways to replace equipment through Green Communities funding. Mr. Lindmer asked if the golf carts were electric. Mr. Haddad said that they started a process of testing electric carts. He said that the 21 gas carts would be replaced with electric carts but would have to install infrastructure to charge them adding this was a lease payment and not a new purchase of carts. A resident asked about the need for a Police Pick-up Truck adding they already had a fleet with tow packages. He said that they could purchase a trailer for towing and didn’t need the officers to be snow plow drivers. Chief Luth said that the pickup truck would be multipurpose for them to include driving an ATV to a needed scene. He added that the Highway Department and its contractors were often busy during storms keeping the roads clear and not always available to plow out the Station.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion B for Article 16: Yes – 190; No - 40; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 17: *Transfer From GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund to Cover MNHG Obligations*

To see if the Town will vote to repurpose and appropriate the sum of \$263,424 in Fiscal Year 2024 from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of paying the Town of Groton's obligations to the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group, said funds to be used to pay the Town's run out claims for self-insured Active plans and self-insured Medicare plans, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *In an effort to close the anticipated projected Fiscal Year 2025 budget deficit, the Town Manager recommended, and the Select Board approved, that the Town leave the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group (MNHG), the joint purchasing group that supplies health insurance for Town employees and join the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) for this purpose. While this decision lowered the anticipated FY 2025 projected deficit by approximately \$118,000, there is not enough funding left in the MNHG Trust to cover the so-called runout claims (those claims incurred before June 30, 2024, but billed after June 30th). The Town is responsible for setting aside enough funding to cover this expense, estimated to be approximately \$340,000. Unused money in the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD) Capital Stabilization Fund will be used to offset some of this expense. GDRSD's Capital Assessment for FY 2025 came in lower than anticipated, leaving the current balance in that fund at \$263,424. This balance will be repurposed to cover a portion of the Minuteman Nashoba run out claims obligation with the rest of the funding (\$75,894) coming from leftover ARPA funds that were set aside for another project that is no longer needed.*

Article 17: *Transfer to Cover MNHG Obligations*

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars (\$263,424) be transferred from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2024, for the purpose of paying the Town of Groton's obligations to the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group, said funds to be used to pay the Town's run out claims for self-insured Active plans and self-insured Medicare plans

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY PETER CUNNINGHAM AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Cunningham explained the need for money to cover run out costs to dissolve the MNHG consortium in order to switch to another health insurance coverage option.

There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 17: Yes – 184; No - 27; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

Article 18: Revoke Cable Enterprise Fund in Fiscal Year 2025

To see if the Town will revoke the provisions of Chapter 44, §53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, ceasing the Community Cable Department as an enterprise fund effective in Fiscal Year 2025, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *At the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, the Town voted to create a Cable Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2016. At the time, Cable Revenues were strong and had a healthy level of reserves. However, since 2019, more residents have moved away from cable to various streaming services and the Town has seen a steady decrease in Cable Fees, so the Cable Enterprise has had to depend more on its Excess and Deficiency Account to balance the budget. There are no longer enough reserves to continue functioning as an Enterprise. To address this and determine the best course of action to continue to provide Local Cable Access while dealing with the loss of revenues, in Fiscal Year 2025, the Town will create a "Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund". Creation of this fund, similar to the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, will allow the Town to collect the fees received from the two cable carriers servicing Groton and put them in this Reserve Account for the exclusive use of the Local Cable Access Department. This Article will revoke the Enterprise Fund. Article 19 will create the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund.*

Article 18: Revoke Cable Enterprise Fund in Fiscal Year 2025

Mover: Matt Pisani

MOTION: I move to revoke the provisions of Chapter 44, §53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, ceasing the Community Cable Department as an enterprise fund effective in Fiscal Year 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: The Moderator allowed discussion for this article and the next article together. Mr. Pisani explained the need to revoke this Enterprise Fund. He said that streaming services were on the rise which meant more people were cancelling their cable services. Mr. Petropoulos said he highly valued their cable services but asked how they would continue to fund this. Mr. Haddad said that the Cable Receipts Reserved Fund would collect funds from Charter and Verizon to offset the operating budget. He said there was a bill before the Legislature to charge for streaming services which would help the operating budget also.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 18: Yes – 209; No - 7; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 19: Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund Acceptance

To see if the Town will accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53F¾, to establish a special revenue fund known as the Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, said fund to begin operation for Fiscal Year 2025, which begins on July 1, 2024, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: See explanation in the Article 18 Summary.

Article 19: Accept Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund

Mover: Matt Pisani

MOTION: I move to accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53F¾, to establish a special revenue fund known as the Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, said fund to begin operation for Fiscal Year 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 19: Yes – 203; No - 9; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 20: 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 2024 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 Unanimously*
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 programing, strategic marketing, infrastructure and regional transportation mitigation. The Committee is seeking \$15,000 for the above-mentioned activities.*

Article 20: **Funding for Destination Groton Committee** **Mover: Rebecca Pine**

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 2025 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.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: **Majority**

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY REBECCA PINE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Sheldon provided a detailed explanation for their request.

A resident asked if this was in addition to their annual operating budget. Mr. Sheldon said that this was their annual budget and would be a yearly ask. The same resident asked if they would be providing an annual report outlining their spending and revenue. Mr. Snow said he went to the Select Board meeting two weeks ago to ask the Board if they would place trash cans around town. Mr. Sheldon said they would look at putting trash cans around town to add to the enjoyable destination Groton is. Ms. Frank asked if any of their work was focused on getting people/businesses to move to Groton.

Mr. Lathrop moved the question.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority
Vote on Motion to Move the Question: Yes – 202; No - 12; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

Vote On Main Motion Under Article 20

Quantum Of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote On Motion for Article 20: Yes – 155; No - 52; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 21: **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 Committee and all cost associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sustainability Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Sustainability Commission to pay for their tire recycling program, climate action program, pollinator garden program, building and delivering trained energy coaching and a central, online repository of information for townspeople, Sustainable Groton Advocates citizens' program, and to 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 \$9,600 for the above-mentioned activities in FY 2025.*

Article 21: Funding for Sustainability Commission

Mover: Rebecca Pine

MOTION: I move that Nine Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$9,600) 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 Committee and all cost associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY REBECCA PINE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Francisco provided an explanation about this request. There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 21: Yes – 171; No - 23; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 22: *Acquire Land for Chlorine Booster Station*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire from the Groton Cemetery Association by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, including, without limitation, for the installation of a chlorine booster station, a portion of the parcel of land located on Chicopee Row and shown on Assessors' Map 225 as Parcel 62, described in deeds recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 6436, Page 425, said portion containing approximately 8,320 square feet and shown as "Parcel B" on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts" dated April 24, 2024, and on file with the Town Clerk; and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager for such acquisition and costs related thereto; and

further to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and execute on behalf of the Town any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purpose of this article; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board:

Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *The Town needs to install a Chlorine Booster Station as part of the installation of the new Water Main to provide clean potable drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and surrounding properties in Dunstable to resolve the PFAS contamination at the High School. The Groton Cemetery Association has agreed to sell a 7500 square foot parcel to the Town for \$70,000 for this purpose.*

Article 22: Acquire Land for Chlorine Booster Station

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to acquire from the Groton Cemetery Association by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, including, without limitation, for the installation of a chlorine booster station, a portion of the parcel of land located on Chicopee Row and shown on Assessors' Map 225 as Parcel 62, described in deeds recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 6436, Page 425, said portion containing approximately 8,320 square feet and shown as "Parcel B" on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts" dated April 24, 2024, and on file with the Town Clerk; and the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) be appropriated from American Rescue Plan Act Funds, to be expended by the Town Manager for such acquisition and costs related thereto; and further to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and execute on behalf of the Town any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purpose of this article.

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Ms. Manugian explained the need for this piece of property in order to install the water line to the High School and surrounding properties. Mr. Kenney asked if they could have more information on a booster station. Mr. Orcutt said that they needed to be able to add chlorine due to the length of the pipe, thus requiring a booster station adding the station would make no noise. Mr. Sopka asked how much it would cost for the station itself. Mr. Haddad said that the cost of the station was factored into the original appropriation. A resident asked about the cost and if there were other locations that could be used that might be cheaper. Mr. Orcutt said that they couldn't put this on Williams Barn property as it was under control of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Robertson said that he was the treasurer of the Cemetery Association adding it was owned by a private Association. He said that the price was determined based on the amount a plot cost and the area required by the Town. He said that the proposed price was ½ of what they could get if they kept that piece of property for grave space. Mr. Orcutt said they explored other parcels closer to the center of town but it was too costly.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote on Motion for Article 22: Yes – 141; No - 56; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 23: 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:	\$ 27,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$106,250
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$106,250
Community Housing Reserve:	\$106,250
Unallocated Reserve:	\$716,250

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 2025. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

Article 23: Community Preservation Funding Accounts Mover: Bruce Easom

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

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 27,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$106,250
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$106,250
Community Housing Reserve:	\$106,250
Unallocated Reserve:	\$716,250

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY BRUCE EASOM AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Easom said that this was annual exercise to allocate anticipated revenue from Community Preservation Act funds. Mr. Sopka asked why the unallocated reserve was being appropriated more money. Mr. Easom said that the CPA Law said a minimum of 10% was supposed to be allocated to the specific bins and had been the policy of the CPC to allocate more money to the unallocated for broader project types and use. A

DEBATE: Mr. Fransisco explained the request and the need for the funding in FY24 adding this allowed them the opportunity to spend the money now and not have to until July 1, 2024. He said this was for plants for the pollinator garden corridors adding the prime time to plant them was now.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote on Motion for Article 24: Yes – 168; No - 20; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 25: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2025

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2025, 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:	Conservation Fund – FY 2025	\$400,000
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Summary: *The Conservation Commission is requesting \$400,000 to be added to Groton’s Conservation Fund in order to preserve land for open space, agricultural recreation, and forestry activities, as well as to protect water resources and wildlife habitat. The Conservation Fund allows the Town to move quickly when 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 within Groton. To fund this project \$100,000 will come from the Open Space Reserve and \$300,000 to come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

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

CPC Proposal B:	Cow Pond Play Fields	\$30,000
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Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$30,000 to design a master plan for the large area owned by the Town of Groton between Cow Pond Brook Road and Hoyts Wharf Road. The area is currently used by athletic groups and residents. This proposal will utilize the data and site assessments conducted using previously approved CPA funds in 2022 and build upon it to create the Master Plan and concept design. The Park Commission will also incorporate input provided through a survey of Town residents. 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 Abstained – Hewitt)*

CPC Proposal C: Milestone Markers Restoration**\$8,950**

Summary: *The Groton Historical Commission is requesting \$8,950 to restore 2 of the 27 milestone markers that radiate from Main Street, leading to the Town center. The stones are historical assets, having been installed in approximately 1902. The project will fund the necessary restoration of damaged milestone markers. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal D: Prescott School Building Assessment**\$100,000**

Summary: *The Groton Town Manager, in conjunction with the Capital Planning Advisory Committee and the Friends of Prescott, are proposing to perform a building condition assessment report for the Prescott School, located at 145 Main Street, to determine the functional adequacy of the primary facilities in the short- and long-term future to preserve the historic structure. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Against – Eliot)*

CPC Proposal E: Outdoor Fitness Court**\$237,500**

Summary: *In the Spring of 2023, the Town of Groton applied for and received a \$50,000 2024 Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts Fitness Campaign Grant Award. This Campaign is part of a national movement to make world-class fitness free and accessible in public spaces across the country. The National Fitness Campaign (NFC) is a for-profit wellness consulting firm. NFC's mission is to make "world class fitness free" to support healthy communities across America. This grant provides seed funding for the construction/installation of an Outdoor Fitness Court. Working cooperatively with the Groton Park Commission, it was determined that the best location for the Outdoor Fitness Court is at 32 Playground Road, also known as Town Field, behind the Groton Public Library, adjacent to the outdoor basketball court. The funds requested are representative of the costs over and above the \$50,000 grant and will be utilized to complete the project. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal F: SRRT – Phase II Permitting**\$30,000**

Summary: *Squannacook Greenways, Inc. is requesting \$30,000 in funding to pay for the design and permitting of the next phase of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT). Phase I currently extends from Depot Street in Townsend to the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in West Groton, for a distance of 3.7 miles. The proposed Phase II will be to continue the rail trail from the Bertozzi WMA to Cutler Field in West Groton for a distance of 2.1 miles along the scenic Squannacook River. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Community Preservation Committee: *Recommend (6 In Favor, 1 Abstained – Easom)*

CPC Proposal G: Bancroft Castle Preservation Study \$16,240

Summary: *The Groton Historical Commission is requesting \$16,240 to commission a study by a qualified masonry preservation firm as to the structural integrity of the masonry remains of the Bancroft Castle atop Gibbet Hill. In addition, this study would outline a strategy to preserve those remains to the maximum extent practically and economically possible. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

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

CPC Proposal H: Property Security, Safety and Preservation \$69,600

Summary: *The Groton Historical Society is requesting \$69,600 in order to make updates and repairs to the Boutwell House. These include the addition of demand security lighting, metal railings along a walkway, repairs to deteriorated windows and entryways, and assessment of the existing sprinkler system. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

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

CPC Proposal I: 2023-2024 Housing Funding Request \$400,000

Summary: *The Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) is requesting \$400,000 from the Community Housing Reserve in order to continue its work of creating and supporting Affordable Housing in Groton. This money will allow the AHT to respond quickly if property suitable for Affordable Housing comes onto the market. Community Housing Funds can be used to acquire, create, support, rehabilitate and/or restore affordable 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 Unanimously*

CPC Proposal J: Housing Coordinator – FY 2025 \$62,660

Summary: *This application is requesting \$62,660 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 Unanimously*

Summary: *The Groton Trails Committee is requesting \$12,195 to purchase needed special tools and equipment for them to conduct their work. While it's not associated with any particular trail construction project(s), the special tools and equipment will be used to improve the Committee's overall efficiency, and thereby its capacity, for building, repairing, and enhancing trails in the Groton Trail Network (GTN). The GTN comprises trails on land owned by nonprofits (Groton Conservation Trust, New England Forestry Foundation), the Town of Groton (Groton Conservation Commission), and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Department of Conservation and Recreation). The CPA Funds will be used to build, repair (for safety and/or erosion control) and enhance (for safety and/or new users) trails that are used by the public. To Fund this Project, \$5,000 will come from the Open Space Reserve and \$7,195 will come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee

Article 25: CPA Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2025

Mover: Russell Burke

CONSENT MOTION #3 - CPA Funding Recommendations

I move that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 11, under Article 25, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided however that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: A hold was placed on Motion 1 by Richard Nason. A hold was placed by Val Boucher on Motion 2. A hold on Motion 4 was placed by Richard Nason. Multiple holds were placed on Motion 5.

Vote on Consent Motion #3 for Motions 3,6,7,8,9,10,11.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Consent Motion #3 – Motions 3,6,7,8,9,10 and 11 for Article 25: Yes – 163; No - 23; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

MOTION 1: Conservation Fund – FY 2025 - \$400,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$400,000, to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-01 "Conservation Fund – FY 2025", as described in Article 25.A of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Lathrop said that this was how the Conservation Commission obtained funding to purchase land. He provided an update of acquisitions that had been most recently been made and additional funding they received to supplement the cost of the purchases. Mr. Nason asked how much of the town was conservation adding this was a year in which they needed money for the schools. Mr. Lathrop said that about a third of the Town was restricted for conservation adding this money could not be used for the schools, only for CPA purposes.

Vote on Motion 1.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion 1 of Article 25: Yes – 147; No - 34; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

MOTION 2: Cow Pond Play Fields - \$30,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-02 "Cow Pond Play Fields", as described in Article 25.B of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Ms. Eliot said that this was the beginning of a major project they would like to see between Cow Pond Brook Road and Hoyts Wharf Road adding there was a safety issue for the children who play on those fields. She said there was a strong need to correct the parking, add restrooms and a playground as examples. Ms. Boucher said she was a resident on Cow Pond Brook Road adding the road could not handle any more traffic. She said between the fields, trails and transfer station, along with a potential 40B project it was already a lot. Another resident on Cow Pond Brook Road asked how much more this road could take. She said that the outside groups were not paying anything to use those fields adding those fields were used 7 days a week and not only on weekends as had been stated. She asked that they exercise some real caution with expending funds on this project.

Vote on Motion 2.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion 2 of Article 25: Yes – 123; No - 59; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

MOTION 4: Prescott School Building Assessment - \$100,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-05 “Prescott School Building Assessment”, as described in Article 25.D of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Haddad explained the funding request. Mr. Nason who held this article had no objection. A resident asked how this assessment would work. Mr. Haddad said that they drafted an RFP for an architect to respond to adding the actual cost was only going to be \$42,000. He said that when proposals for the CPC were due, it was too soon to go out to RFP and why they asked for \$100,000. He said they wanted things like electrical, roof, windows, plumbing, building envelope itself, etc. to be looked at and reported on. Mr. Alberghini asked when the furnace and roof was last replaced. Mr. Haddad said that the furnace was replaced around 2014 and the roof was replaced around 2007. Mr. Petropoulos said he fully supported learning what the outstanding capital costs would be. He said he wasn’t sure why they were just looking at just Prescott School and asked if they could expand this to other town buildings. Mr. Haddad said that they could not use CPA funds for any buildings except Town Hall and Prescott School because they weren’t historical buildings. Mr. Haddad explained that with the exception of the Police Station, all other town buildings were either new or in good shape. Mr. David Manugian said that the Capital Planning Advisory Committee held a couple of public meetings on this last fall and thought that Prescott School was an important building to be looked at.

Mr. Sopka asked if he could make a motion to reduce the amount of the CPA request to \$42,000. The Moderator asked if his motion was to strike the amount of \$100,000 under Motion 4 and replace it with \$42,000. Mr. Sopka said that was correct.

The motion to amend was moved and seconded.

Ms. Pine said she didn’t think this motion was necessary adding any unused funds would be returned to the CPC anyway. Mr. David Manugian said that the Prescott School was a complicated building and additional funds might be necessary to cover unknowns. Mr. Francisco said he wanted to echo what Ms. Pine had said.

Mr. Michael Manugian made a motion to move question to amend the main motion.

Vote to Move the Question.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion to Move the Question: Yes – 132; No - 35; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

VOTE ON MOTION 4 – MOTION TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION.

Quantum Of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote On Motion to Amend the Main Motion: Yes – 40; No - 126; Motion Did Not Pass by Majority Vote

VOTE ON MOTION 4 – MAIN MOTION.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Main Motion 4 of Article 25: Yes – 129; No -38; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

MOTION 5: Outdoor Fitness Court -\$237,500

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Two Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$237,500) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-06 “Outdoor Fitness Court”, as described in Article 25.E of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Haddad said that in the Spring of 2023, the Town applied for and received a BCBS (Blue Cross Blue Shield) Fitness Campaign Grant award to make world class fitness available to all. The outdoor fitness court was moved forward to the CPC by himself and the Select Board. He said that \$50K of the project total would be offset by the grant received. He said he worked with the Park Commission to find a place for this and ended upon the Town Field next to the basketball courts. He said that having it here made the most sense adding it was close to the center and other amenities. Mr. Brown said that an outdoor fitness court didn’t feel like it was preserving anything and didn’t think the whole town benefited from this. Mr. Burke said that the CPA allowed for spending on recreation, which this project fell into. Ms. Vollmar said she didn’t know what an outdoor fitness court was. Mr. Haddad said it was workout equipment and showed a picture on the screen. Ms. Vollmar said it was pointless to have this outdoors adding it would rust. Mr. Haddad said that equipment would not rust and was meant to be outdoors. Ms. Lathrop said it would be nice to spread this out across other parts of town like Four Corners. A gentleman asked why this cost so much. Mr. Haddad said that the work and associated costs included required grading, a concrete platform and the equipment costs. Ms. Collette said that the Board of Health voted unanimously to support this adding no gym membership was required. A resident asked who would be responsible for maintenance. Mr. Haddad said that the DPW would be responsible for maintenance. Ms. Bicknell said she thought this money would be better used on the rail trails and thought it was an exorbitant amount of money that wasn’t being put toward good use. Ms. McCrossen said she thought this was a fantastic idea but asked about parking. Mr. Haddad said that the usage of the fitness courts might not add to traffic too much but because of its proximity to the center it was why BCBS was attracted to this site. Mr. Alberghini said that the cost was too much and thought the money was better for trails. Mr. Charland said that they had a tax problem and thought they needed to look at needs vs. wants. Mr. Hurley said that he loved the idea and asked if the Town thought they might rent it to groups to generate revenue like the pickleball courts. Mr. Haddad said that they could definitely look into that.

VOTE ON MOTION 5.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion 5 of Article 25: Yes – 64; No - 94; Motion Did Not Pass by Majority Vote

Article 26: *Extend Center Sewer District*

To see if the Town will vote to extend the “Groton Center Sewer District” as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, to include the property shown on Assessors’ Map 115, Lot 25-0 (6 Fairway Drive) but only for the exclusive use of 6 Fairway Drive, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner’s proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Board of Sewer Commissioners: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to expand the Center Sewer District to include 6 Fairway Drive, Groton. This article, if approved, will make Sewer available for the exclusive use of 6 Fairway Drive.*

Article 26: *Extend Center Sewer District*

Mover: James Gmeiner

MOTION: I move to extend the “Groton Center Sewer District” as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, to include the property shown on Assessors’ Map 115, Lot 25-0 (6 Fairway Drive) but only for the exclusive use of 6 Fairway Drive, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner’s proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JAMES GMEINER AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: A brief statement was read into the record by Carol Neacy, a neighbor to the owners of 6 Fairway Drive. She said that the septic system dated back to the 1970s and had been monitored and maintained over the years. She said the yard was small and, on a hill, and that the cost to connect to the sewer system would be 100% on the owner.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote on Motion for Article 26: Yes – 125; No - 6; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 27: *Extend Four Corner Sewer District*

To see if the Town will vote to extend the “Four Corners Sewer District”, as established by the vote under Article 12 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, to include the property shown on Assessors’ Map 133, Lot 49-0 (797 Boston Road) but only for the exclusive use of 797 Boston Road, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner’s proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: 2 In Favor, 3 Deferred – Cunningham, Pine and Reilly
Finance Committee: No Position
Board of Sewer Commissioners: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to expand the Four Corners Sewer District to include 797 Boston Road, Groton. This article, if approved, will make Sewer available for the exclusive use of 797 Boston Road.*

Article 27: Extend Four Corner Sewer District Mover: James Gmeiner

MOTION: I move to extend the “Four Corners Sewer District”, as established by the vote under Article 12 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, to include the property shown on Assessors’ Map 133, Lot 49-0 (797 Boston Road) but only for the exclusive use of 797 Boston Road, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner’s proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JAMES GMEINER AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Kasey Ferreira of Howard Stein Hudson, was present on behalf of the landowner of 797 Boston Road to provide a presentation. The Town Meeting provided him with permission to present as he is not a resident.

Mr. Ferreira said that the sewer district abutted them but that the property did not have the ability to connect to sewer currently. He said that this article was not to debate the housing project adding that if they were unable to connect to sewer, they were prepared to move forward with a septic system. He provided an overview of the housing proposed for that property and the gallons to be generated per day. Mr. Gmeiner said that the Sewer Commission held a public hearing and voted unanimously to recommend this article. He said that they conditioned their approval to the 24 proposed units and 3,120 gallons per day adding an agreement had been duly put into place. Ms. Collette said that the Board of Health voted to support this. Ms. Perkins said that the Affordable Housing Trust voted unanimously to support this adding the Town needed 55 plus affordable housing and in that area of town. Ms. Pine said that the Select Board was unanimous in support of this. Mr. Burke said that the Planning Board was not in a place to make a recommendation at this time adding they were going through the permitting of this project currently. Mr. Sopka said that the Groton Housing Authority was in favor of the project.

Ms. Lathrop said that the Four Corners area was not for a project of this type. She said that this corner was not connected to sewer and they were promised it wouldn't be. Mr. Gmeiner said that at the time Four Corners was set up, the Sewer Commission was not in charge of the Enterprise Fund adding he didn't remember a promise like that. The Moderator asked if this project would go forward if it was on sewer or septic. Mr. Burke said that was correct.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 27: Yes – 107; No - 32; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO DISSOLVE THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Dissolve the Special Town Meeting: Yes – 115; No - 8; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Hereof fail not and make return of your doings to the Town Clerk on or before time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 29th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

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

**BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE
TOWN MANAGER
AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

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 the revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. The original proposed budget of \$52,545,551 that was to be considered by the 2024 Spring Town Meeting had an anticipated deficit of \$1,477,146 and required an override of Proposition 2½. The Override Election held on April 2, 2024 was not successful and the Proposed Budget needed to be adjusted to stay within the expected Fiscal Year 2025 Proposition 2½ Levy Limit. It is important to note that a similar Override Request in the Town of Dunstable was also not successful.

Based on this, the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee has made significant revisions to its budget, including the elimination of 27 Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTEs) resulting in a reduction of \$2,717,353. This reduction has lowered Groton's Assessment by \$2,097,253, leading to a new Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget of \$50,448,297. This adjustment has transformed the previous deficit into a \$619,000 surplus. Please note that the originally proposed Operational Municipal Budget of \$17,271,660, a proposed increase of \$381,271, or 2.26%, remains unchanged.

In light of this development, the Town Manager and Finance Committee are recommending that the Town of Groton provide the Groton Dunstable Regional School District with a one-time \$619,000 Operational Grant. This Grant will enable the District to cover unemployment expenses, based on the reduction of 27 FTEs in FY 2025, and address PFAS-related mitigation at the GDRSD High School.

This Proposed Budget, including the proposed Operational Grant to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, complies with the original FY 2025 Budget Guidance provided to the Town Manager by the Finance Committee and Select Board in October, 2024. If approved by Town Meeting, the new Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget would be \$51,067,297 as follows:

<u>Category</u>		<u>FY 2024</u>		<u>FY 2025</u>		<u>Dollar Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
General Government	\$	2,388,159	\$	2,478,370	\$	90,211	3.78%
Land Use	\$	499,606	\$	520,749	\$	21,143	4.23%
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,772,597	\$	4,515,079	\$	(257,518)	-5.40%
Department of Public Works	\$	2,351,495	\$	2,389,516	\$	38,021	1.62%
Library and Citizen Services*	\$	1,947,870	\$	2,192,957	\$	245,086	12.58%
Employee Benefits	\$	4,930,663	\$	5,174,990	\$	244,327	4.96%
Sub-Total	\$	16,890,390	\$	17,271,660	\$	381,271	2.26%
Debt Service - Excluded	\$	4,326,957	\$	4,649,077	\$	322,120	7.44%
Debt Service - In Levy Only	\$	474,605	\$	407,534	\$	(67,071)	-14.13%
Sub-Total - All Municipal	\$	21,691,952	\$	22,328,271	\$	636,320	2.93%
Nashoba Tech	\$	762,656	\$	966,719	\$	204,063	26.76%
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$	25,937,716	\$	26,412,384	\$	474,668	1.83%
Groton Operating Grant	\$	-	\$	619,000	\$	619,000	100.00%
Groton-Dunstable Excluded Debt	\$	406,982	\$	384,622	\$	(22,360)	-5.49%
Groton-Dunstable Debt	\$	58,814	\$	60,534	\$	1,720	2.92%
Groton Dunstable Capital	\$	552,203	\$	295,767	\$	(256,436)	-46.44%
Sub-Total - Education	\$	27,718,371	\$	28,739,026	\$	1,020,655	3.68%
Grand Total - Town Budget	\$	49,410,323	\$	51,067,297	\$	1,656,975	3.35%

*In FY 2025, Library and Citizen Services includes the Cable Access Department for the first time

As stated, the total Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget, including the proposed Assessments of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (and Operational Grant) and the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, and excluded debt, is \$51,067,297, or an increase of 3.35% and is within the anticipated Fiscal Year 2025 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 \$55,800,963. Based on this, the estimated Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$15.62, or an increase of \$0.53. In Fiscal Year 2024, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at \$694,934) is \$10,487. Under this proposed Budget, that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$10,855, or an increase of \$368. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2024 and FY 2025:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2025</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$ 36,587,742	\$ 38,055,280	\$ 1,467,538	4.01%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 13.36	\$ 13.80	\$ 0.44	3.29%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,284	\$ 9,590	\$ 306	3.29%
Excluded Debt	\$ 4,732,786	\$ 5,032,590	\$ 299,804	6.33%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.82	\$ 0.09	5.20%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 1,202	\$ 1,265	\$ 63	5.20%
Final Levy Used	\$ 41,320,528	\$ 43,087,870	\$ 1,767,342	4.28%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.09	\$ 15.62	\$ 0.53	3.51%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 10,487	\$ 10,855	\$ 368	3.51%

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 2025
REVENUE ESTIMATES**

	BUDGETED FY 2024		ESTIMATED FY 2025		CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	\$ 36,832,663	\$	38,055,280	\$	1,222,617
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	\$ 4,732,786	\$	5,032,590	\$	299,804
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID	\$ 1,116,143	\$	1,126,928	\$	10,785
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY	\$ 244,920	\$	-	\$	(244,920)
LOCAL RECEIPTS:					
General Revenue:					
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$ 1,820,583	\$	1,820,583	\$	-
Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Tax	\$ 400,000	\$	400,000	\$	-
Marijuana Revenue	\$ 150,000	\$	75,000	\$	(75,000)
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	\$ 110,000	\$	110,000	\$	-
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 371,500	\$	395,443	\$	23,943
Other Charges for Services	\$ 99,000	\$	15,000	\$	(84,000)
Fees	\$ 392,000	\$	400,000	\$	8,000
Rentals	\$ 40,000	\$	55,000	\$	15,000
Library Revenues	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Other Departmental Revenue	\$ 800,000	\$	854,063	\$	54,063
Licenses and Permits	\$ 429,300	\$	429,300	\$	-
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 20,000	\$	10,000	\$	(10,000)
Investment Income	\$ 90,000	\$	243,744	\$	153,744
Recreation Revenues	\$ 700,000	\$	750,000	\$	50,000
Miscellaneous Recurring	\$ 75,000	\$	94,000	\$	19,000
Sub-total - General Revenue	\$ 5,497,383	\$	5,652,133	\$	154,750
Other Revenue:					
Free Cash	\$ 818,137	\$	698,133	\$	(120,004)
Capital Stabilization Fund for GDRSD	\$ 253,407	\$	295,767	\$	42,360
Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Capital Asset Stabilization Fund	\$ 620,142	\$	683,500	\$	63,358
EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve	\$ 525,951	\$	350,000	\$	(175,951)
Community Preservation Funds	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Water Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Sewer Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Bond Surplus Transfer	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Sub-total - Other Revenue	\$ 2,217,637	\$	2,027,400	\$	(190,237)
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 2,090,822	\$	2,310,267	\$	219,444
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 889,499	\$	1,250,475	\$	360,976
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE	\$ 230,137	\$	-	\$	(230,137)
FOUR CORNER SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 77,811	\$	98,040	\$	20,229
STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE	\$ 242,520	\$	247,851	\$	5,331
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 53,929,802	\$	55,800,963	\$	1,871,161

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2025
TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS**

FY 2025 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

TOWN MANAGER - Proposed Budget

General Government	\$	2,478,370
Land Use Departments	\$	520,749
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,515,079
Regional School Districts	\$	28,739,026
Department of Public Works	\$	2,389,516
Library and Citizen Services	\$	2,192,957
Debt Service	\$	5,056,611
Employee Benefits	\$	5,174,990

Sub-Total - Operating Budget \$ 51,067,297

A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	51,067,297
B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	862,144
C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS	\$	3,590,968
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	\$	29,107
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	\$	29,107
F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES	\$	101,446
G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS	\$	150,000

TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES \$ **55,800,963**

FY 2025 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

Levy Limit	\$	38,055,280
Debt Exclusion	\$	5,032,590

A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY	\$	43,087,870
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$	1,126,928
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED	\$	5,652,133
D. OFFSET RECEIPTS	\$	-
E. ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$	3,906,632
F. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS	\$	-
G. FREE CASH	\$	698,133

OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS

1. Stabilization Fund	\$	-
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	683,500
3. GDRSD Capital Asset Fund	\$	295,767
4. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	350,000
5. Bond Surplus Transfer	\$	-
6. Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$	-

H. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$	1,329,267
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TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS \$ **55,800,963**

FY 2025 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) \$ **0**

APPENDIX A

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2025

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>							
MODERATOR							
1000	Salaries	\$ 65	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.21	0.00%
1001	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	0.02	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 65	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	0.23	0.00%
SELECT BOARD							
1020	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1021	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1022	Expenses	\$ 2,960	\$ 11,800	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	1.46	0.01%
1023	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1024	Minor Capital	\$ 25,649	\$ 24,054	\$ 24,054	\$ 24,054	5.17	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 28,609	\$ 35,854	\$ 30,854	\$ 30,854	6.63	0.06%
TOWN MANAGER							
1030	Salaries	\$ 243,254	\$ 252,064	\$ 258,863	\$ 258,863	55.64	0.50%
1031	Wages	\$ 111,392	\$ 117,005	\$ 141,837	\$ 141,837	30.48	0.27%
1032	Expenses	\$ 14,240	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	2.60	0.02%
1033	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1034	Performance Evaluations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 368,886	\$ 381,169	\$ 412,800	\$ 412,800	88.72	0.79%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
FINANCE COMMITTEE							
1040	Expenses	\$ 214	\$ 220	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ 49,400	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	32.24	0.29%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 49,614	\$ 150,220	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	32.24	0.29%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT							
1050	Salaries	\$ 101,126	\$ 115,615	\$ 118,163	\$ 118,163	25.40	0.23%
1051	Wages	\$ 52,920	\$ 54,491	\$ 56,679	\$ 56,679	12.18	0.11%
1052	Expenses	\$ 40,199	\$ 39,100	\$ 50,523	\$ 50,523	10.86	0.10%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 194,245	\$ 209,206	\$ 225,365	\$ 225,365	48.44	0.43%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS							
1060	Salaries	\$ 85,280	\$ 94,300	\$ 96,186	\$ 96,186	20.67	0.18%
1061	Wages	\$ 65,073	\$ 68,486	\$ 75,272	\$ 75,272	16.18	0.14%
1062	Expenses	\$ 29,012	\$ 47,374	\$ 47,032	\$ 47,032	10.11	0.09%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 179,365	\$ 210,160	\$ 218,490	\$ 218,490	46.96	0.42%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR							
1070	Salaries	\$ 141,733	\$ 150,769	\$ 153,977	\$ 153,977	33.09	0.29%
1071	Wages	\$ 74,499	\$ 80,256	\$ 82,940	\$ 82,940	17.83	0.16%
1072	Expenses	\$ 24,546	\$ 26,253	\$ 28,637	\$ 28,637	6.15	0.05%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 500	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	1.53	0.01%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 500	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	0.49	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 241,778	\$ 266,678	\$ 274,954	\$ 274,954	59.10	0.53%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
TOWN COUNSEL							
1080	Expenses	\$ 58,577	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	19.34	0.17%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 58,577	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	19.34	0.17%
HUMAN RESOURCES							
1090	Salary	\$ 87,983	\$ 94,300	\$ 96,936	\$ 96,936	20.83	0.19%
1091	Expenses	\$ 14,927	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,400	2.67	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 102,910	\$ 106,700	\$ 109,336	\$ 109,336	23.50	0.21%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
1100	Salary	\$ 121,981	\$ 121,627	\$ 124,810	\$ 124,810	26.83	0.24%
1101	Wages	\$ 61,194	\$ 70,261	\$ 73,459	\$ 73,459	15.79	0.14%
1102	Expenses	\$ 21,455	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	5.33	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 204,630	\$ 216,688	\$ 223,069	\$ 223,069	47.94	0.43%
GIS STEERING COMMITTEE							
1120	Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	1.78	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	1.78	0.02%
TOWN CLERK							
1130	Salaries	\$ 95,550	\$ 98,472	\$ 98,591	\$ 98,591	21.19	0.19%
1131	Wages	\$ 81,648	\$ 73,125	\$ 81,040	\$ 81,040	17.42	0.16%
1132	Expenses	\$ 9,539	\$ 18,450	\$ 13,900	\$ 13,900	2.99	0.03%
1135	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 186,737	\$ 190,047	\$ 193,531	\$ 193,531	41.60	0.37%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS							
1140	Stipend	\$ 27,416	\$ 22,930	\$ 33,053	\$ 33,053	7.10	0.06%
1141	Expenses	\$ 15,597	\$ 22,927	\$ 21,088	\$ 21,088	4.53	0.04%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 43,013	\$ 45,857	\$ 54,141	\$ 54,141	11.64	0.10%
STREET LISTINGS							
1150	Expenses	\$ 4,818	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,950	\$ 5,950	1.28	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,818	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,950	\$ 5,950	1.28	0.01%
INSURANCE & BONDING							
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 286,667	\$ 320,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 330,000	70.93	0.63%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ 10,060	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	2.58	0.02%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 3,744	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.37	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 300,471	\$ 357,000	\$ 367,000	\$ 367,000	78.88	0.70%
TOWN REPORT							
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,472	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,472	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES							
1180	Expenses	\$ 68,297	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 13.97	0.12%
1181	Telephone Expenses	\$ 15,954	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 6.45	0.06%
1182	Office Supplies	\$ 25,433	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 3.65	0.03%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 109,684	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 24.07	0.21%
<hr/>							
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 2,077,874	\$ 2,388,159	\$ 2,478,370	\$ 2,478,370	\$ 532.67	4.74%
<hr/>							
<u>LAND USE DEPARTMENTS</u>							
<hr/>							
CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
1200	Salary	\$ 73,972	\$ 73,351	\$ 79,070	\$ 79,070	\$ 16.99	0.15%
1201	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1202	Expenses	\$ 4,597	\$ 8,770	\$ 8,270	\$ 8,270	\$ 1.78	0.02%
1203	Engineering & Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1204	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 78,569	\$ 82,121	\$ 87,340	\$ 87,340	\$ 18.77	0.17%
<hr/>							
PLANNING BOARD							
1210	Salaries	\$ 89,237	\$ 95,922	\$ 97,696	\$ 97,696	\$ 21.00	0.19%
1211	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1212	Expenses	\$ 8,844	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,625	\$ 9,625	\$ 2.07	0.02%
1215	M.R.P.C. Assessment	\$ 3,846	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,041	\$ 4,041	\$ 0.87	0.01%
1216	Legal Budget	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 101,927	\$ 110,072	\$ 111,362	\$ 111,362	\$ 23.93	0.21%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS							
1220 Wages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1221 Expenses		\$ 50	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,335	0.29	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 50	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,335	0.29	0.00%
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION							
1230 Wages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1231 Expenses		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
BUILDING INSPECTOR							
1240 Salaries		\$ 104,758	\$ 104,904	\$ 107,030	\$ 107,030	23.00	0.20%
1241 Wages		\$ 55,067	\$ 61,453	\$ 63,935	\$ 63,935	13.74	0.12%
1242 Expenses		\$ 23,257	\$ 21,750	\$ 24,897	\$ 24,897	5.35	0.05%
1243 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 183,082	\$ 188,107	\$ 195,862	\$ 195,862	42.10	0.37%
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR							
1250 Fee Salaries		\$ 54,800	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	8.38	0.07%
1251 Expenses		\$ 4,876	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	0.75	0.01%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 59,676	\$ 43,000	\$ 42,500	\$ 42,500	9.13	0.08%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR							
1260 Stipend		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.54	0.00%
1261 Expenses		\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ 300	0.06	0.00%
1262 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	0.60	0.01%
BOARD OF HEALTH							
1270 Wages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1271 Expenses		\$ 983	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	0.34	0.00%
1272 Nursing Services		\$ -	\$ 17,798	\$ 17,798	\$ 17,798	3.83	0.03%
1273 Nashoba Health District		\$ 51,483	\$ 38,833	\$ 43,081	\$ 43,081	9.26	0.08%
1274 Herbert Lipton MH		\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1275 Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring		\$ 9,133	\$ 10,600	\$ 13,834	\$ 13,834	2.97	0.03%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 69,599	\$ 68,806	\$ 76,288	\$ 76,288	16.40	0.15%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES							
1280 Fee Salaries		\$ 680	\$ 3,200	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1281 Expenses		\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,262	0.70	0.01%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 680	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,262	0.70	0.01%
TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 496,083	\$ 499,606	\$ 520,749	\$ 520,749	111.92	1.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</u>							
POLICE DEPARTMENT							
1300	Salaries	\$ 283,207	\$ 286,466	\$ 305,889	\$ 305,889	65.74	0.59%
1301	Wages	\$ 2,067,435	\$ 2,116,748	\$ 2,222,071	\$ 2,222,071	477.59	4.25%
1302	Expenses	\$ 207,915	\$ 215,370	\$ 264,552	\$ 264,552	56.86	0.51%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	1.07	0.01%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 7,588	\$ 6,420	\$ 12,984	\$ 12,984	2.79	0.02%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,571,145	\$ 2,630,004	\$ 2,810,496	\$ 2,810,496	604.06	5.38%
FIRE DEPARTMENT							
1310	Salaries	\$ 256,900	\$ 281,595	\$ 292,712	\$ 292,712	62.91	0.56%
1311	Wages	\$ 1,165,166	\$ 1,112,490	\$ 1,160,261	\$ 1,160,261	249.37	2.22%
1312	Expenses	\$ 202,231	\$ 207,096	\$ 212,146	\$ 212,146	45.60	0.41%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,624,297	\$ 1,601,181	\$ 1,665,119	\$ 1,665,119	357.88	3.19%
GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION							
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
ANIMAL INSPECTOR							
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.45	0.00%
1331	Expenses	\$ 270	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.09	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 2,352	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.53	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER							
1340	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.45	0.00%
1341	Expenses	\$ 270	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.09	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,352	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.53	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY							
1350	Salary	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.86	0.01%
1351	Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	2.15	0.02%
1352	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,000	\$ 44,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	3.01	0.03%
DOG OFFICER							
1360	Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	3.76	0.03%
1361	Expenses	\$ 2,929	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.64	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 17,929	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	4.41	0.04%
POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS							
1370	Wages	\$ 444,288	\$ 448,073	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1371	Expenses	\$ 20,382	\$ 23,875	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1372	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 464,670	\$ 471,948	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY		\$ 4,696,745	\$ 4,772,597	\$ 4,515,079	\$ 4,515,079	970.42	8.64%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</u>							
NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL							
1400	Operating Expenses	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 966,719	\$ 207.78	1.85%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 966,719	\$ 207.78	1.85%
GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT							
1410	Operating Expenses	\$ 24,802,222	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 26,412,384	\$ 26,412,384	\$ 5,676.79	50.55%
1411	Debt Service, Excluded	\$ -	\$ 406,982	\$ 384,622	\$ 384,622	\$ 82.67	0.74%
1412	Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$ -	\$ 58,814	\$ 60,534	\$ 60,534	\$ 13.01	0.12%
1413	Operating Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 619,000	\$ 619,000	\$ 133.04	1.18%
1414	Capital Assessment	\$ 577,026	\$ 552,203	\$ 295,767	\$ 295,767	\$ 63.57	0.57%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 25,379,248	\$ 26,955,715	\$ 27,772,307	\$ 27,772,307	\$ 5,969.07	53.15%
TOTAL SCHOOLS		\$ 26,189,285	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 28,739,026	\$ 28,739,026	\$ 6,176.85	55.00%
<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</u>							
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT							
1500	Salaries	\$ 120,670	\$ 120,293	\$ 122,664	\$ 122,664	\$ 26.36	0.23%
1501	Wages	\$ 750,224	\$ 743,323	\$ 753,789	\$ 753,789	\$ 162.01	1.44%
1502	Expenses	\$ 136,529	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	\$ 29.42	0.26%
1503	Highway Maintenance	\$ 81,712	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 17.19	0.15%
1504	Minor Capital	\$ 5,526	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 3.22	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,094,661	\$ 1,095,516	\$ 1,108,353	\$ 1,108,353	\$ 238.22	2.12%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
STREET LIGHTS							
1510	Expenses	\$ 12,202	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.22	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,202	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.22	0.03%
SNOW AND ICE							
1520	Expenses	\$ 171,937	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	35.46	0.32%
1521	Overtime	\$ 268,100	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	30.09	0.27%
1522	Hired Equipment	\$ 45,349	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	7.52	0.07%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 485,386	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	73.08	0.65%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET							
1530	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1531	Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.64	0.01%
1532	Trees	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%
1533	Tree Work	\$ 9,515	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	6.45	0.06%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,515	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	7.42	0.07%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE							
1540	Wages	\$ 156,174	\$ 166,348	\$ 162,845	\$ 162,845	35.00	0.31%
1541	Expenses	\$ 257,888	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	58.24	0.52%
1542	Minor Capital	\$ 9,849	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.37	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 423,911	\$ 437,298	\$ 458,795	\$ 458,795	98.61	0.88%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL							
1550	Wages	\$ 145,954	\$ 154,315	\$ 157,651	\$ 157,651	33.88	0.30%
1551	Expenses	\$ 38,661	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	9.82	0.09%
1552	Tipping Fees	\$ 139,668	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	31.16	0.28%
1553	North Central SW Coop	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	1.26	0.01%
1554	Minor Capital	\$ 4,717	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	1.07	0.01%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 334,850	\$ 355,851	\$ 359,187	\$ 359,187	77.20	0.69%
PARKS DEPARTMENT							
1560	Wages	\$ 13,804	\$ 17,571	\$ 17,922	\$ 17,922	3.85	0.03%
1561	Expenses	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	11.98	0.11%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 69,076	\$ 73,330	\$ 73,681	\$ 73,681	15.84	0.14%
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	TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 2,432,601	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 2,389,516	\$ 2,389,516	513.58	4.57%
 <u>LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES</u>							
COUNCIL ON AGING							
1600	Salaries	\$ 87,986	\$ 87,446	\$ 162,023	\$ 162,023	34.82	0.31%
1601	Wages	\$ 116,035	\$ 103,143	\$ 55,733	\$ 55,733	11.98	0.11%
1602	Expenses	\$ 12,384	\$ 12,254	\$ 12,700	\$ 12,700	2.73	0.02%
1603	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
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	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 216,405	\$ 202,843	\$ 230,456	\$ 230,456	49.53	0.44%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SENIOR CENTER VAN							
1610 Wages		\$ 62,342	\$ 74,808	\$ 76,611	\$ 76,611	16.47	0.15%
1611 Expenses		\$ 16,823	\$ 18,023	\$ 21,023	\$ 21,023	4.52	0.04%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 79,165	\$ 92,831	\$ 97,634	\$ 97,634	20.98	0.19%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER							
1620 Salary		\$ 6,000	\$ 6,120	\$ 6,242	\$ 6,242	1.34	0.01%
1621 Expenses		\$ -	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	0.24	0.00%
1622 Veterans' Benefits		\$ 18,919	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.37	0.05%
1623 Minor Capital		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$ 24,919	\$ 32,220	\$ 32,342	\$ 32,342	6.95	0.06%
GRAVES REGISTRATION							
1630 Salary/Stipend		\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	0.05	0.00%
1631 Expenses		\$ 750	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	0.16	0.00%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	0.22	0.00%
CARE OF VETERAN GRAVES							
1640 Contract Expenses		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%
OLD BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE							
1650 Expenses		\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.17	0.00%
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DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.17	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
LIBRARY							
1660	Salary	\$ 426,346	\$ 441,807	\$ 453,630	\$ 453,630	97.50	0.87%
1661	Wages	\$ 331,618	\$ 317,104	\$ 355,706	\$ 355,706	76.45	0.68%
1662	Expenses	\$ 214,238	\$ 226,873	\$ 219,966	\$ 219,966	47.28	0.42%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 972,202	\$ 985,784	\$ 1,029,302	\$ 1,029,302	221.23	1.97%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS							
1670	Expenses	\$ 263	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.11	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 263	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.11	0.00%
WATER SAFETY							
1680	Wages	\$ 2,520	\$ 4,560	\$ 4,560	\$ 4,560	0.98	0.01%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ 2,887	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683	1.01	0.01%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,900	\$ 10,900	2.34	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,407	\$ 18,243	\$ 20,143	\$ 20,143	4.33	0.04%
WEED MANAGEMENT							
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	4.73	0.04%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ 12,001	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	2.66	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 34,001	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	7.39	0.07%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB							
1700	Salary	\$ 170,866	\$ 172,675	\$ 177,727	\$ 177,727	38.20	0.34%
1701	Wages	\$ 234,595	\$ 237,305	\$ 243,941	\$ 243,941	52.43	0.47%
1702	Expenses	\$ 193,969	\$ 167,774	\$ 167,774	\$ 167,774	36.06	0.32%
1703	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 599,430	\$ 577,754	\$ 589,442	\$ 589,442	126.69	1.13%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT							
1710	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,048	\$ 71,048	15.27	0.14%
1711	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,219	\$ 61,219	13.16	0.12%
1712	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,175	\$ 18,175	3.91	0.03%
1713	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	1.07	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155,442	\$ 155,442	33.41	0.30%
TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES		\$ 1,943,292	\$ 1,947,870	\$ 2,192,957	\$ 2,192,957	471.33	4.20%
<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>							
DEBT SERVICE							
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$ 2,267,786	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 2,025,000	435.23	3.88%
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 153,506	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	35.46	0.32%
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ 1,332,573	\$ 1,418,852	\$ 1,340,252	\$ 1,340,252	288.06	2.57%
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 77,474	\$ 110,364	\$ 110,364	23.72	0.21%
2004	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town	\$ -	\$ 212,949	\$ 123,526	\$ 123,526	26.55	0.24%
2005A	Short Term Debt - Interest - Non Excluded	\$ 13,803	\$ 30,676	\$ 8,644	\$ 8,644	1.86	0.02%
2005B	Short Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ -	\$ 1,038,105	\$ 1,283,825	\$ 1,283,825	275.93	2.46%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,614,162	\$ 4,801,562	\$ 5,056,611	\$ 5,056,611	1,086.81	9.68%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		\$ 3,614,162	\$ 4,801,562	\$ 5,056,611	\$ 5,056,611	1,086.81	9.68%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</u>							
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
GENERAL BENEFITS							
3000	County Retirement	\$ 2,538,910	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 2,653,019	\$ 2,653,019	\$ 570.21	5.08%
3001	OPEB	\$ 177,094	\$ 185,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 40.84	0.36%
3002	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 195,465	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2.15	0.02%
INSURANCE							
3010	Health Insurance/Employee Expenses	\$ 1,811,069	\$ 2,090,563	\$ 2,161,151	\$ 2,161,151	\$ 464.49	4.14%
3011	Life Insurance	\$ 3,642	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 0.82	0.01%
3012	Medicare/Social Security	\$ 153,710	\$ 147,000	\$ 157,000	\$ 157,000	\$ 33.74	0.30%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,879,890	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 1,112.26	9.90%
<hr/>							
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		\$ 4,879,890	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 1,112.26	9.90%
 <u>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>							
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS							
	Capital Budget Request	\$ 663,000	\$ 800,142	\$ 901,971	\$ 901,971	\$ 193.86	1.73%
	Offset Reciepts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 25,054	\$ 29,051	\$ 29,107	\$ 27,107	\$ 6.26	0.06%
	Snow and Ice Deficit	\$ 168,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	State and County Charges	\$ 95,249	\$ 98,662	\$ 101,443	\$ 101,443	\$ 21.80	0.19%
	Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	\$ 43,020	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 32.24	0.29%
<hr/>							
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 994,363	\$ 1,077,855	\$ 1,182,521	\$ 1,180,521	\$ 254.16	2.26%
<hr/>							
GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET		\$ 47,324,294	\$ 50,488,178	\$ 52,249,818	\$ 52,247,818	\$ 11,230	100.00%

FY 2025 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
WATER DEPARTMENT								
	WD Salaries	\$ 151,444	\$ 152,121	\$ 163,248	\$ 166,505	\$ 176,650	\$ 176,650	6.09%
	WD Wages	\$ 186,050	\$ 255,303	\$ 269,339	\$ 278,587	\$ 300,075	\$ 300,075	7.71%
	WD Expenses	\$ 499,510	\$ 526,019	\$ 573,697	\$ 737,900	\$ 637,300	\$ 637,300	-13.63%
	WD Debt Service	\$ 361,977	\$ 369,185	\$ 478,239	\$ 907,830	\$ 1,196,241	\$ 1,196,241	31.77%
100 DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,198,981	\$ 1,302,628	\$ 1,484,523	\$ 2,090,822	\$ 2,310,267	\$ 2,310,267	10.50%
SEWER DEPARTMENT								
	Sewer Salaries	\$ 20,488	\$ 21,579	\$ 23,104	\$ 22,623	\$ 24,300	\$ 24,300	7.41%
	Sewer Wages	\$ 50,727	\$ 51,737	\$ 45,907	\$ 49,872	\$ 57,195	\$ 57,195	14.68%
	Sewer Expense	\$ 534,552	\$ 683,919	\$ 781,027	\$ 783,578	\$ 1,142,338	\$ 1,142,338	45.78%
	Sewer Debt Service	\$ 5,504	\$ 5,316	\$ 5,099	\$ 33,426	\$ 26,642	\$ 26,642	-20.30%
200 DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 611,271	\$ 762,551	\$ 855,137	\$ 889,499	\$ 1,250,475	\$ 1,250,475	40.58%
FOUR CORNERS SEWER DEPARTMENT								
	Four Corners Sewer Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,361	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	100.00%
	Four Corners Sewer Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,683	\$ 5,541	\$ 6,355	\$ 6,355	14.68%
	Four Corners Sewer Expense	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 128,224	\$ 69,909	\$ 88,985	\$ 88,985	27.29%
	Four Corners Sewer Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
300 DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 135,907	\$ 77,811	\$ 98,040	\$ 98,040	26.00%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT								
	Cable Salaries	\$ 93,104	\$ 69,975	\$ 69,290	\$ 69,656	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Wages	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,827	\$ 62,574	\$ 58,510	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Expenses	\$ 58,737	\$ 52,535	\$ 85,774	\$ 91,971	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Minor Capital	\$ 2,357	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
400 DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 209,470	\$ 183,337	\$ 217,638	\$ 230,137	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
STORMWATER UTILITY								
	Stormwater Wages/Benefits	\$ 31,330	\$ 74,091	\$ 77,629	\$ 79,520	\$ 84,851	\$ 84,851	6.70%
	Stormwater Expenses	\$ 27,537	\$ 57,416	\$ 81,441	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	0.00%
	Stormwater Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ 42,201	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	0.00%
500 DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 58,867	\$ 173,708	\$ 210,070	\$ 242,520	\$ 247,851	\$ 247,851	2.20%
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$ 2,116,492	\$ 2,476,779	\$ 2,903,275	\$ 3,530,790	\$ 3,906,632	\$ 3,906,632	10.64%

APPENDIX B**FACTOR: 1.0200**

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2025 (Effective July 1, 2024)**

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
4	Salary	42,288	52,333
	Wages	20.36	25.14
5	Salary	44,703	54,192
	Wages	21.51	26.60
7	Salary	51,690	65,474
	Wages	25.45	31.48
8	Salary	58,680	72,656
	Wages	28.21	34.93
9	Salary	60,093	74,361
	Wages	28.90	35.75
10	Salary Executive Assistant to Town Manager	68,919	86,985
	Wages	33.15	41.82
11	Salary	71,912	91,625
	Wages	34.57	44.05
12	Salary Human Resources Director	74,264	93,844
	Wages	35.70	45.18

APPENDIX B
Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2025 (Effective July 1, 2024)

FACTOR: 1.0200

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
13	Salary	76,916	97,624
	Wages	36.98	46.93
14	Salary	78,550	99,412
	Wages	37.76	47.79
15	Salary	81,095	100,321
	Wages	38.99	48.23
16	Salary	84,025	106,000
	Wages	40.40	50.96
17	Salary	94,135	116,453
	Wages	45.28	55.99
18	Salary	101,801	125,986
	IT Director Wages	48.94	60.57
19	Salary	104,474	129,271
	Wages	50.23	62.15
20	Salary	112,022	137,771
	Wages	53.86	66.23

APPENDIX B

NON-CLASSIFIED, TEMPORARY SEASONAL AND STIPEND POSITIONS

NON-STEP AND STIPEND POSITIONS

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Call Captain: Fire	26.66
Call Lieutenant: Fire	26.12
Call Firefighter	22.86
Call Emergency Medical Technician	22.86
Probationary Firefighter	19.04
Probationary Emergency Medical Technician	19.04
Call Fire Mechanic	63.98

Country Club Seasonal Employees

Pro Shop Staff	MW *- 19.00
Pool Staff	MW - 19.00
Lifeguards	MW - 20.00
Swim Coaches	MW - 25.00
Camp Staff	MW - 19.00
Counselors	MW - 20.00
Buildings & Grounds	MW - 29.00
Library Shelves	MW - 20.00

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	19.51 - 21.96
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

* - Minimum Wage

MINUTES

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2024 FALL TOWN MEETING

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

Beginning Saturday, October 5, 2024 @ 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.

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.

**FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
OCTOBER 5, 2024**

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

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Marion Stoddart Building Auditorium, 344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts in said Town on Saturday, the fifth day of October, 2024 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider the following:

ARTICLE LISTINGS

			Disposition
Article 1*	Prior Year Bills	6	PASSED
Article 2*	Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Town Operating Budget	6	PASSED
Article 3*	Transfer Money Into Capital Stabilization Fund	7	PASSED
Article 4*	Transfer Money Into Stabilization Fund	7	PASSED
Article 5*	Transfer Money Into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund	8	PASSED
Article 6*	Revoke Opioid Settlements Special Purpose Stabilization Fund	8	PASSED
Article 7*	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	9	PASSED
Article 8*	Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund	9	PASSED
Article 9*	Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund	9	PASSED
Article 10*	Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2025	10	PASSED
Article 11	Water Supply System for Heritage Landing	10	FAILED
Article 12	Funding for Security Improvements at Sargisson Beach	11	PASSED
Article 13	Funding To Purchase Budget Software for the Town of Groton	11	PASSED
Article 14	Engineering Funds for Complete Streets Grant Work	12	PASSED
Article 15	Amend Purpose of CPA Project for Improvements to Baseball Diamond	12	PASSED
Article 16	Squannacook River Dam	13	PASSED
Article 17	Authorize the Lease of Town Owned Land	14	PASSED
Article 18	Amend Chapter 81 “Town Meetings” of the Code of the Town of Groton	14	FAILED
Article 19	Zoning Amendment - Firearms Retail Sales Establishments	15	PASSED
Article 20	Zoning Amendment – Solar Parking Canopies	20	PASSED
Article 21	Zoning Amendment – Accessory Dwelling Units	21	PASSED
Article 22	Amend Chapter 198 Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development	25	PASSED
Article 23	Accept Monarch Path as a Town Way	25	NO ACTION
Article 24	Citizens’ Petition – Reduce Statutory Speed Limit from 30 MPH to 25 MPH	26	FAILED
	Report of the Town Manager to the 2024 Fall Town Meeting	28	

*Will be presented as one motion as a Consent Agenda

2024 FALL TOWN MEETING OFFICIALS
MEETING DATE – OCTOBER 5, 2024

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator:

Ed McNierney

Board of Selectmen:

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

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 Dunbar

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on October 5, 2024 at the Marrion Stoddart Building Auditorium. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided. 148 voters were in attendance for the meeting as of 9:03 AM.

Announcements:

It was announced that an event would be held in honor of Marion Stoddart to dedicate the Middle School Building and to commemorate her many achievements and efforts cleaning up the Nashua River.

The Moderator made an announcement about the upcoming State Election.

The Moderator reviewed instructions for the use of the electronic voting handsets. A test of the handsets was conducted.

The Moderator called for a moment of silence. The Meeting took the Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief Art Cheeks.

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.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO LIMIT DEBATE.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion to Limit Debate: Yes – 188; No – 17; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

The timekeepers were Bob Garside and Takashi Tada. The Moderator determined that the warrant was duly posted and entertained a motion to waive the reading of the warrant.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE WARRANT.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Waive the Reading of the Warrant: Yes – 176; No –21; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 10 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

There were 173 voters present at 9:23 AM.

There were 197 voters present at 10:18 AM.

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: 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. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 28 for additional information related to this Article.

Article 2: Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget as adopted under Article 15 of the May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2025, 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 28

Finance Committee: See Town Manager's Report for Recommendation Beginning on Page 28

Summary: The Fiscal Year 2025 Town Operating Budget was approved at the May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting. Any changes to this Budget would have to be made prior to setting the tax rate. The purpose of this article is to make any necessary changes to balance the FY 2025

Operating Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 28 for additional information related to this Article.

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Capital Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *As of the printing of this Warrant, the Fund has a balance of \$90,394. 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 28 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 4: *Transfer Money into the Stabilization Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *As of the printing of this Warrant, the balance in this fund is \$2,649,705. 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 28 for additional information related to this Article.*

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Town of Groton Capital Stabilization Fund for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *As of the printing of the Warrant, the balance in this fund is \$21,996. 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 28 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 6: *Terminate Opioid Settlements Special Purpose Stabilization Fund*

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to (i) transfer any funds held in the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to the Opioid Special Revenue Fund and (ii) terminate the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund as created by Article 7 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Town of Groton has been eligible to receive settlement payments from various opioid makers for the prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery of individuals harmed by the use of opioids. Opioid settlement funds currently on deposit as well as all future settlement funds received will be deposited into the Special Revenue Fund. Groton is expecting to receive approximately \$40,000 through 2038. At the time of the initial settlement payments, the State had all Town's create a Special Purpose Stabilization Fund to receive and disburse funds. They have since simplified the process to allow Municipalities to create a Special Revenue Fund instead that will allow communities better access to the Funds for purposes identified in the settlement agreements. As the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund is no longer needed, this Article seeks to revoke its creation.*

Article 7: *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 2025 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 2025 Water Department's General Expense Budget for the purchase of a new Pick-Up Truck as identified in the Capital Plan. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 28 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 8: 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 2025 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 2025 Center Sewer Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 28 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 9: 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 2025 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 2025 Four Corners Sewer Budget. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 28 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 10: Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2025

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, an additional sum or sums of money, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for debt service for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *Article 7 of the May 21, 2021 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$1,405,374 for the new Middle School Track. The May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting appropriated \$235,072 for Debt Service for this project. The Community Preservation Committee would like to increase this amount by \$400,000 to \$635,072 by increasing the amount toward the principal debt.*

Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 & 10 – Consent Motion

Mover: John Reilly

MOTION: I move that the Town take affirmative action on Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 & 10 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.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED.

The Chair read the name of each article.

THERE WERE NO HOLDS AND NO DEBATE.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Consent Motion #1 for Articles 1-5,7-10: Yes – 137; No - 15; Motion Carried by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Article 6: Terminate Opioid Settlements Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to (i) transfer \$13,594.93 held in the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to the Opioid Special Revenue Fund and (ii) terminate the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund as created by Article 7 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Reilly provided a brief description of this article. There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion #6: Yes – 150; No - 8; Motion Carried by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Article 11: Water Supply System for Heritage Landing

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 design, bid specifications, bidding, construction, construction administration and all related costs to extend the Town's potable water supply system to serve the Heritage Landing project at Cow Pond Brook Road, and to authorize the Town Manager to apply for a MassWorks Development Grant for such water project; provided, that no funds may be expended hereunder unless and until the Town has received a MassWorks Development Grant reimbursing the Town for all costs associated with the water project, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Water Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article will allow the Select Board to borrow \$2,509,600 for the design and construction of a water supply system on Cow Pond Brook Road for the Heritage Landing Housing Development Project. 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.*

Article 11: Water Supply System for Heritage Landing

Mover: Tom Orcutt

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate Two Million Five Hundred Nine Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$2,509,600), to be expended by the Town Manager, for the design, bid specifications, bidding, construction, construction administration, and all related costs to extend the Town's potable water supply system to serve the Heritage Landing project at Cow Pond Brook Road, 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, and to authorize the Town Manager to apply for a MassWorks Development Grant for such water project; provided, that no funds may be expended hereunder unless and until the Town has received a MassWorks Development Grant reimbursing the Town for all costs associated with the water project.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY TOM ORCUTT AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Orcutt provided a brief description of this article. Ms. Bicknell asked why the Town was getting involved in this seeing it benefited a private developer. Mr. Haddad said that the Town was the only one that could apply for the grant adding this was a private/public partnership. Mr. Haddad said that this would benefit the town by adding fire protection and water to the DPW garage. Ms. Bicknell said they should wait until they hear in the grant first.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion #11: Yes – 95; No - 72; Motion did not carry by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Article 12: *Funding for Security Improvements at Sargisson Beach*

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 security improvements at Sargisson Beach and the Sargisson Beach Parking Area, including the purchasing of cameras, servers, installation of a structure to house equipment, and all related equipment and expenses to carry out these improvements, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *For the past two years, Sargisson Beach and the Parking Area has seen an increase in illegal dumping of trash and other related items that has impacted not only the ecosystem, but the recreational integrity of the Beach. The Town has taken some steps to*

improve security, but better cameras and related equipment is necessary to provide protection and oversight of the area. The Town does not have the personnel to patrol the area at all times and these security improvements will mitigate these issues at the Beach and parking area. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 28 for additional information related to this Article.

Article 12: Security Improvements at Sargisson Beach

Mover: John Reilly

MOTION: I move that \$40,000 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, for security improvements at Sargisson Beach and the Sargisson Beach Parking Area, including the purchasing of cameras, servers, installation of a structure to house equipment, and all related equipment and expenses to carry out these improvements.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Reilly provided a brief description of this article. There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion #12: Yes – 135; No - 30; Motion Carried by Majority Vote.

Article 13: Funding To Purchase Budget Software for the Town of Groton

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow, pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase budget software, and all costs incidental and related thereto, for the Town of Groton, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This Article seeks funding for the Town's Finance Department to purchase software for the creation of the Town's Annual Operating and Capital Budgets. For the last 16 years, the Town Manager has relied on Excel to create the Town's Budget. While this has been an adequate format, it is time to move the Town forward. With the current Town Manager expected to retire in the next few years, establishing a new formal Budget Process with strong*

historical data will allow for a seamless transition with regard to budgeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 28 for additional information related to this Article.

Article 13: Funding To Purchase Budget Software

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that \$35,000 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase budget software, and all costs incidental and related thereto, for the Town of Groton.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY PETER CUNNINGHAM AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Cunningham provided a brief description of the article. There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion #13: Yes – 149; No - 18; Motion Carried by Majority Vote.

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of paying engineering costs, and other related costs, for work associated with successfully receiving grant funding from the Commonwealth under the Complete Streets Grant Program, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Complete Streets Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Complete Streets Committee has successfully received over \$750,000 in grant funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under their Complete Streets Program. Some of the projects covered by the funding have been sidewalks on West Main Street and Lowell Road, along with Pedestrian Crossing Devices along Main Street. The Committee is in the process of preparing another Grant Application this Fall. One of the requirements for this program is that the Town has to cover engineering costs for any approved project. The Committee is seeking \$35,000 for this purpose.*

Article 14: Funding - Complete Streets Grant Work

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move that \$35,000 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of paying engineering costs, and other related costs, for complete streets design and planning work associated with successfully receiving grant funding from the Commonwealth under the Complete Streets Grant Program.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Ms. Manugian provided a brief description of this article. There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion #14: Yes – 147; No - 19; Motion Carried by Majority Vote.

Article 15: Amend Purpose of CPA Project for Improvements to Baseball Diamond

To see if the Town will vote to amend the purpose of CPC Proposal D “Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond”, as voted under Article 14 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, to allow for a comprehensive study and development of bid specifications for improvements to Town Field, including the Major League Diamond, Little League Field, Gazebo and Playground, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Community Preservation Committee
Town Manager**

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *The 2023 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$80,000 for improvements to the major league diamond at Town Field. This funding is not enough to design and construct the improvements. The Town Manager has approached the Community Preservation Committee and asked them to use these funds to conduct a comprehensive study of Town Field and come back with proposed improvements to enhance the recreational facility. It is the intent of the Town Manager to submit a formal project to the CPC for Fiscal Year 2026.*

Article 15: Amend Purpose of CPA Project

Mover: Matthew Pisani

MOTION: I move to amend the purpose of CPC Proposal D “Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond”, as voted under Article 14 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, to allow for a comprehensive study and development of bid specifications for improvements to Town Field,

including the Major League Diamond, Little League Field, Gazebo and Playground, and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY MATTHEW PISANI AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Pisani provided a brief description of this article. There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion #15: Yes – 113; No - 52; Motion Carried by Majority Vote.

Article 16: *Squannacook River Dam*

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 hire the necessary professionals to determine the costs and impacts for both removal and repair of the Squannacook River Dam, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Select Board and Department of Public Works are in the process of determining the future of the Squannacook River Dam. To make an informed decision, the Select Board needs to understand both the cost of removal and its impact on the environment and the cost of repair. The purpose of this Article is to appropriate the necessary funds (estimated to be \$200,000) to hire professionals to study both the repair and removal of the Dam. Based on the information received, the Select Board will be in a better position to bring this issue back to a future Town Meeting. More information on the process will be provided to the Fall Town Meeting. Please see the Town Manager's Report starting on page 28 for additional information related to this Article.*

Article 16: Squannacook River Dam

Mover: Rebecca Pine

MOTION: I move that \$160,250 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to be expended by the Town Manager, to hire the necessary professionals to determine the costs and impacts for both removal and repair of the Squannacook River Dam.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY REBECCA PINE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Ms. Pine said that the amount in the motion was reduced from what had been printed in the warrant. Ms. Pine said that the Commonwealth had told us that the Squannacook River Dam was in need of repair or removal. She said that this article would appropriate money to continue to study the options available to them.

Mr. Tom Delaney provided a presentation to the Town Meeting.

A resident asked what would be different than the state report that was already done. He asked if they could remove the Shirley side if they didn't own it. Mr. Delaney said that the report only looked at removal. Mr. Delaney said that they had a written agreement with the owner of the Shirley side who said they didn't care what we did. Mr. Alberghini asked what the higher numbers were. Mr. Delaney said that the estimates to repair the dam were \$400-700K and the removal would cost upwards of \$2.2M. Mr. Shaden said that the town had an ongoing liability with this dam citing the dam's that gave way down south with the recent storms. He asked if the DER priority program could be talked about and asked how much they would have to spend if they moved forward with the dam removal. He said he wanted people to know there was a lot of money available for dam removal. Mr. Delaney said that the DER priority program commits the town to removal and would provide the funding for engineering. Mr. Delaney said that there is a lot of money available for removal. Ms. Pine said they didn't know how much money it would cost to take the dam down but would be covered by the state. She said that approving this article would provide them an opportunity to study this further and understand their options better. Mr. Dave Armstrong from Pepperell was provided an opportunity to speak. He said that they didn't spend a lot of money adding that DER provided them with most of the money. Mr. Delaney said that if this was a no vote, this would kick this back to the Select Board to work with DER on next steps. Mr. Parker-Roach asked if this study would include the possibility of electric generation. Mr. Delaney said that this was not part of the study. Mr. Shaden said that electric generation brought with it, liability. Ms. Manugian said they were not able to answer the questions that were being asked adding that's why they needed a yes vote to study this further. Ms. Frank asked if they had the money to remove it, why there would spend money to study it. Mr. Delaney said that dam removal was a town decision and it was an emotional one. He said that voting yes would provide them with all the information they needed to make an informed decision of what was best for the Town. Mr. Robertson said this was a forever decision. He said that once the dam was gone, it was gone. He said that they needed to study and receive all the facts adding it was a major decision for West Groton and the Town.

Mr. Lotz moved the question. The motion was seconded.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Moving the Question: Yes – 166; No - 18; Motion Carried by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion #16: Yes – 150; No - 28; Motion Carried by Majority Vote.

Article 17: *Authorize the Lease of Town Owned Land*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of by lease for a period of up to thirty (30) Years a 5.24 acre portion of Town owned land located at 600 Cow Pond Brook Road consisting of portions of Assessors' Parcel 248 -41, as shown on the plan entitled "Sketch Plan of Compost Facility at DPW Facility" dated August 30, 2024, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk's office, for such minimum consideration and on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems advisable, for the purpose of providing a composting facility, or to take any action relative thereto.

***Town Manager
DPW Director***

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The Town entered into a lease arrangement with Black Earth to install a composting center at the DPW Facility on Cow Pond Brook Road. The facility has been successful and the operator has been working with the DPW and Board of Health to address neighborhood concerns. The Town would like to solicit proposals to have a composting center at this location. The Town would like to be able to offer a longer term lease for up to Thirty (30) years. Town Meeting approval is required for leases of land.*

Article 17: Authorize the Lease of Town Owned Land

Mover: Matthew Pisani

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to dispose of by lease for a period of up to thirty (30) Years a 5.24 acre portion of Town owned land located at 600 Cow Pond Brook Road consisting of portions of Assessors' Parcel 248 -41, as shown on the plan entitled "Sketch Plan of Compost Facility at DPW Facility" dated August 30, 2024, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk's office, for such minimum consideration and on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems advisable, for the purpose of providing a composting facility.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY MATTHEW PISANI AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Pisani provided a brief description of this article. Mr. Delaney also provided a brief description of this article. Mr. Alberghini asked how much the Town would be receiving each year. Mr. Delaney said that they would be getting an in-kind service to include free composting, managing the compost for the Town, etc. Ms. Busser asked why not a lower amount of lease time. Mr. Delaney said that 3 years was the maximum you could contract with without town meeting vote. He said that this gave them the flexibility to extend up to 30 years. He said that they could word the contract in a way that it would be lesser. Mr. Yanchenko asked if they authorized up to 30 years, the Select Board would be able to negotiate the contract. Mr. Delaney said that was correct adding there were terms outlined in the contract. Ms. Bicknell asked if this was specific to the vendor in there now. Mr. Delaney said that they would have to go out to RFP again if they changed vendors. Mr. Covenor asked if the company was a for profit company. Mr. Delaney said that they were a for profit company. Ms. Foster said that they were under the \$10k exemption and did not recollect that they were paying personal property taxes but would look into it.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion #17: Yes – 159; No - 19; Motion Carried by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Article 18: *Amend Chapter 81 “Town Meetings” of the Code of the Town of Groton*

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 81 “Town Meetings” of the General Bylaws of the Town by deleting Sections 81-2 and 81-4 in their entirety and replacing said sections with the following:

§81-2 Quorum

There shall be no quorum requirement for any Annual or Special Town Meeting.

§81-4 Time of Town Meetings and Town Elections

- A. Town Meetings - Town meeting sessions shall commence at times set forth in the warrants for said meetings approved by the Select Board.
- B. Town Elections - The annual election of officers and other voting by ballot shall be held on the fourth Tuesday following the first session of the Spring Town Meeting, or on such other date in March, April or May as may be determined by the Select Board in consultation with the Town Manager and Town Clerk, so long as the Select Board provides formal public notice of that date at least six weeks prior to the date established. Special town elections may be called by the Select Board. Polls at any town election shall remain open at hours determined by the Select Board in consultation with the Town Manager and Town Clerk.
- C. No elected or appointed Town board shall hold a regular meeting when a Town Meeting is in session.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

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

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *Currently, Section 81-2 of the Bylaw requires a quorum of 2% for any Special Town Meeting but there is no quorum requirement at the Spring and Fall Town Meetings. The proposed amendment would eliminate the quorum requirement at Special Town Meetings and make it consistent with the Spring and Fall Town Meetings. Section 81-4 currently requires business to be held at the first session of the Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Removing this requirement will allow for greater flexibility in the calling of Town Meetings, including the start time. In addition, this Section requires polls to be open for the Annual Election from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There are times when the Ballot for the Annual Election has no contested races and turn out is extremely light. Having the polls open for 13 hours in these instances is excessive and costly. Allowing the Select Board to set the hours on an annual basis, after consulting with the Town Manager and Town Clerk, will address this issue.*

Article 18: Amend Chapter 81 “Town Meetings”

Mover: Alison Manugian

MOTION: I move to amend Chapter 81 “Town Meetings” of the Code of the Town of Groton as set forth in Article 18 of the Warrant for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Ms. Manugian provided a brief description of this article. Mr. Mike Manugian said that in terms of voting, it was nice to be able to count on the polls being opened on a regular schedule. Mr. Haddad said that if they had a quorum requirement today, they would not be able to hold this meeting, adding the quorum requirement would have been 183. Ms. Collette agreed that polling hours should be left alone. Mr. Fleischer said that they could reduce the special town meeting quorum.

Ms. Pine moved to divide the question. 81-2 - Quorum and 81-4 – Scheduling of Business.

A resident asked if they were doing anything to drive voter participation. Ms. Manugian said that mailings go out to every household and didn’t know what else they could do. A resident asked what the bar was to get an article on the warrant. Ms. Manugian said that articles could be sponsored by a town entity or by citizen’s petition.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Divide the Question: Yes – 104; No - 70; Motion Carried by Majority Vote.

MS. PINE MOVED TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION TO REPLACE SECTION 81-2 THE ARTICLE TO SAY “A QUORUM FOR ANY SPECIAL TOWN MEETING SHALL CONSIST OF 1% OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE TOWN AS OF THE PRECEDING JANUARY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED.

Mr. Yanchenko said that this vote was arbitrary and not well thought out. He suggested they leave things alone. Ms. Frank said that lowering the requirement wasn't the answer adding it was how to get people out to the meeting. Mr. Petropoulos said that they should be getting at least 1% turnout and was going to vote to keep the quorum requirement as it was today. A resident said they should be getting more voters out to Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Amend the Main Motion on Part 81-2: Yes – 41; No - 137; Motion did not pass by Majority Vote.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority (*this would eliminate the quorum requirement*)

Vote on Main Motion on Part 81-2: Yes – 32; No - 149; Motion did not pass by Majority Vote.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Main Motion on Part 81-4: Yes – 37; No - 136; Motion did not pass by Majority Vote.

Article 19: *Zoning Amendment - Firearms Retail Sales Establishments*

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Groton as follows:

1. Amend **Section 218-3 Definitions** by inserting the following in alphabetical order:

“FIREARMS RETAIL SALES ESTABLISHMENT”

A commercial business, possessing a Federal Firearms License (FFL), with established business hours, which derives its principal income from the sale and service of firearms, such as handguns and long guns, to individuals in an open shopping format. It may also provide repairs for firearms and their parts. Other firearms related or sporting equipment, such as accessories, ammunition, hunting and fishing products, food, or clothing, may be sold in the store as well. This definition shall not apply to small ‘by appointment only’ FFL licensed holders/collectors consistent with the provisions of Section 218-5.3.B Home Occupations, as permitted by

Massachusetts General Laws and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Regulations (BATFE)

2. Amend **Section 218—5.2 Schedule of Use Regulations** by inserting the following entry in the Section titled “Business” after the entry numbered 80 and renumbering subsequent entries accordingly:

	USE	R-A ¹⁰	R-B ¹⁰	NB	VCB ¹⁰	GB	I	P ¹⁰	O
“81	Firearms Retail Sales Establishment	N	N	N	N	PB	PB	N	N”

3. Amend **Section 218-10 Special Regulations** by inserting a new **Section 218-10.5 Firearms Retail Sales Establishments** to read as follows:

“218-10.5 Firearms Retail Sales Establishments

A. Purpose.

- (1) To provide reasonable regulations and standards for the placement and operation of Firearms Retail Sales Establishments in appropriate places in the Town of Groton.
- (2) To minimize the adverse impacts of Firearms Retail Sales establishments on adjacent properties, residential neighborhoods, schools, and other places where children congregate, local historic districts, and other sensitive land uses.
- (3) To regulate the siting, design, placement, security, safety, monitoring, modification, and discontinuance of Firearms Retail Sales establishments.

B. Applicability.

No Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall be operated in the Town of Groton except in compliance with the provisions of § **218-5.2** (Schedule of Use Regulations) and this § **218-10.5** (Firearms Retail Sales Establishments).

C. General requirements and conditions for all Firearms Retail Sales Establishments.

- (1) All Firearms Retail Sales Establishments shall be located within a building or structure.
- (2) The hours of operation of Firearms Retail Sales establishments shall be set by the special permit granting authority.

- (3) No Firearms Retail Sales Establishment entrance shall be located closer than 500 feet from the entrance of a preexisting public or private preschool, school providing education in kindergarten or any grades 1 through 12, junior college, college, licensed day-care center, church, library, park, playground, or other firearms retail sales establishment. Distance shall be measured in a straight line from the geometric center of the Firearms Retail Sales Establishment's entrance door to the geometric center of the entrance door or primary public entrance location of the nearest facility listed in the previous sentence, unless there is an impassable barrier within those 500 feet that renders any part of the 500-foot straight-line distance inaccessible by a pedestrian or automobile, in which case the 500-foot distance shall be measured along the center of the shortest publicly accessible pedestrian travel path from the geometric center of the Firearms Retail Sales Establishment's entrance door to the geometric center of the entrance door or primary public entrance location of the nearest facility listed in the previous sentence.
- (4) The on-site discharge of firearms at all licensed Firearms Retail Sales Establishments is prohibited in the Town of Groton.
- (5) The maximum number of licensed Firearms Retail Sales Establishments in the Town of Groton shall not exceed three (3) such establishments.
- (6) No person under the age of 18 shall be allowed on the premises unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and notice of such limitation shall be posted outside the establishment.
- (7) No Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall be located inside a building containing residential units, including transient housing such as motels and dormitories, or inside a movable or mobile structure such as a van or truck.
- (8) Firearms Retail Sales Establishments shall be located within a permanent building and may not be in a trailer, cargo container, motor vehicle or other similar nonpermanent enclosure. Firearms Retail Sales Establishments shall not have drive-through service.
- (9) No outside storage of Firearms Retail Sales, related supplies or promotional materials is permitted.
- (10) No more than one Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall be operated from the same lot.
- (11) The special permit for a Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall be granted to the FFL license holder rather than the owner of the property and shall not be transferrable absent an amendment to the special permit.
- (12) No display of firearms shall be visible from the building exterior.

D. Special permit requirements.

- (1) A Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall only be allowed by special permit from the Planning Board in accordance with MGL c. 40A, § 9 and **§ 218 2.3** (Special permits) and **§ 218 5.5** (Performance standards for business and industrial special permits uses in R-B, VCB, NB, GB, and I Districts) of this chapter subject to the following statements, regulations, requirements, conditions, and limitations.
- (2) No special permit for any Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall be issued without major site plan approval having been issued by the Planning Board, **§ 218-2.5**, Site Plan Review, of this chapter. In addition to the standards set forth within, the site plan must meet all dimensional, parking, landscaping, and signage requirements within this chapter.
- (3) A Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall not sub-lease space from another Firearms Retail Sales Establishment in any building or establishment and is prohibited from sub-leasing space to another Firearms Retail Sales Establishment.
- (4) In addition to the application requirements set forth above, a special permit application for a Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall include the following:
 - (a) The name and address of owner(s) of the Firearms Retail Sales Establishment licensee/applicant.
 - (b) Copies of all FFL licenses and permits issued to the applicant by the BATFE and any other agencies for the establishment.
 - (c) Evidence of the applicant's right to use the site of the establishment for the establishment, such as a purchase and sale agreement, deed, owner's authorization, or lease agreement.
 - (d) Proposed security plan with measures for the Firearms Retail Sales Establishment, including lighting, fencing, after-hours storage, security surveillance, alarms, and systems, etc., to ensure the safety of persons and to protect the premises from theft. A letter from the Town of Groton Police Chief, or designee, acknowledging review and approval of the Firearms Retail Sales Establishment security plan is required. To the extent allowed by law, all such documents shall be confidential.
 - (e) All application requirements for major site plan review as specified in **§ 218-2.5.D.(2)** of this chapter unless certain nonapplicable requirements are waived by the Planning Board.
- (5) Mandatory findings. The special permit authority shall not issue a special permit for a Firearms Retail Sales Establishment unless it finds that:

- (a) The establishment is designed to minimize any adverse impacts on abutters and other parties in interest, as defined in MGL c. 40A, § 11.
 - (b) The establishment demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Planning Board that it will meet all the permitting requirements of all applicable agencies within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations; and
 - (c) The applicant has satisfied all the conditions and requirements set forth herein.
- (6) A special permit granted under this section shall have a term limited to the duration of the applicant's ownership of the business and licensure of the Firearms Retail Sales Establishment. Transfer of the establishment to another licensed proprietor or termination/expiration of applicant's FFL license shall render the special permit invalid. Transfer of the establishment or the reissuance of an expired FFL license shall require the approval of the special permit granting authority in the form of an amendment to the special permit with all information required.
- (7) The special permit granting authority may waive the buffer requirement set forth in Section 218-10.5.C(3) by a supermajority (2/3) vote as part of the issuance of a special permit provided that:
- (a) The application is for a new Applicant (change of Applicant) for an existing Firearms Retail Sales Establishment; or
 - (b) The Applicant demonstrates that the Firearms Retail Sales Establishment would otherwise effectively be prohibited within the Town; or
 - (c) That the project can be conditioned to reasonably satisfy the purpose and intent of the setback requirements.

E. Abandonment or discontinuance of use.

- (1) A special permit shall lapse if the special permit holder's Federal Firearms License (FFL) is terminated or not renewed by the BATFE unless the applicant can demonstrate reissuance of an FFL is highly probable.
- (2) A Firearms Retail Sales Establishment shall be required to remove all material, equipment, and other items subject to federal and state licensing within six months of ceasing operations.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment defines firearms retail sales establishments as a use category, identifies the zoning districts where such establishments are allowed, and specifies the provisions under which such establishments may be permitted.*

Article 19: Zoning - Firearms Retail Sales Establishments Mover: Paul Hathaway

MOTION: I move to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Groton, Section 218-3, Definitions, Section 218-5.2, Schedule of Use Regulations, and Section 218-10 Special Regulations, by inserting a new Section 218-10.5 Firearms Retail Sales Establishments, as set forth in Article 19 of the Warrant for 2024 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY PAUL HATHAWAY AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Hathaway provided dates in which the planning Board held public hearings. He said that on August 22, 2024, they voted unanimously to approve the proposed zoning bylaw and a brief description of this article. A resident asked if they had existing firearm retail establishments in Town. Mr. Hathaway said that they did not adding this started because of events in Littleton and their firearms retail establishments should they moved to Groton once their current space was eliminated. He said that they did not have a zoning bylaw on the books to regulate this. The resident said that this was going against their second amendment rights much like the Commonwealth. Ms. Lathrop said that she would like to preclude the three establishments from being in the same section of town. Mr. Petropoulos proposed an amendment.

Mr. Petropoulos moved to amend the main motion by striking “three (3)” and inserting “one (1)” in Paragraph C (5) of 218-10.5 Firearms Retail Sales Establishments, as found on page 17 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Petropoulos said that this amendment would have them start out with One (1) retail establishment. He said that this zoning article did not prohibit his second amendment right but was uneasy about retail firearms establishments in general and did not want multiple ones in this town. He said they could always modify the number of allowed shops up but not down. Mr. Hathaway said they were very careful to be equitable. Mr. Delaney said that saying no in general once again would make Groton look unfriendly to business. A resident said that a gun shop in town would leave her with an uneasy feeling as it did in her previous town of Plymouth. She said without a regulation, that would be allowed here. She urged people to vote in favor of this regulation. A resident said he was a gun dealer adding that this would not be the wild west

because the stores were highly regulated. Mr. Weber said that this was not trying to make the upset the gun owners.

Mr. Lathrop moved the question on the motion to amend and the main motion. The motion was seconded.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion to Move the Question: Yes – 149; No - 16; Motion Carried by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Amend: Yes – 65; No - 104; Motion did not pass by Majority Vote.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Main Motion #19: Yes – 124; No - 52; Motion Carried by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Article 20: *Zoning Amendment – Solar Parking Canopies*

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Groton as follows:

1. Amend **Section 218-3 Definitions** by inserting the following definition in alphabetical order:

“SOLAR PARKING CANOPY” — A roof application of a solar photovoltaic array that is installed on top of a supporting structure built on a functional and striped parking surface so as to maintain the function of the area beneath the canopy (also known as "solar carports.")

2. Amend **Section 218—5.2 Schedule of Use Regulations** by inserting the following entry in the Section titled “Business Accessory (use)” after the entry numbered 108 and renumbering subsequent entries accordingly:

	USE	R-A ¹⁰	R-B ¹⁰	NB	VCB ¹⁰	GB	I	P ¹⁰	O
“80	Solar Parking Canopy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y”

3. Amend **Section 218-5.3 Accessory Uses** by inserting a new **Section 218-5.3.E. Solar Parking Canopy** to read as follows:

“Section 218-5.3.E. Solar Parking Canopies

(1) Solar Parking Canopies in the R-A District shall meet setback requirements for Accessory Structures.

(2) Solar Parking Canopies and Surface-integrated Solar Energy Systems in non-R-A Districts shall be allowed where parking is permitted in accordance with the requirements defined in Section 218-8.1,

Off-Street Parking and Loading. The requirements for the planting of trees in landscaped strips within the parking area as defined in Section 218-8.1.C.(7) Parking Lot Planting may be met elsewhere on the lot. Landscaping for parking lots located under a canopy shall be designed to manage runoff from the panels and to be shade tolerant.

(3) Solar Parking Canopies in all zoning districts except the R-A District shall be subject to Section 218-2.5 Site Plan Review.

(4) Solar Parking Canopies shall not exceed seventeen (17) feet in height from grade. The Planning Board may allow an increase in the maximum height based on site conditions.”

4. Amend **Section 218-2.5 Site Plan Review** by inserting the following entry under Section 218-2.5.C.(2) Threshold of Review / Major to read as follows:

“(e) Solar Parking Canopy”

Planning Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Zoning Bylaw amendment is to allow for the as-of-right installation of solar parking canopies in areas where off-street parking is provided, subject to certain requirements*

Article 20: Zoning Amendment – Solar Parking Canopies

Mover: Phil Francisco

MOTION: I move to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Groton, Section 218-3, Definitions, Section 218-5.2, Schedule of Use Regulations, and Section 218-5.3 Accessory Uses, by inserting a new Section 218-5.3.E, Solar Parking Canopies, as set forth in Article 20 of the Warrant for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY PHIL FRANCISCO AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Francisco said that the Planning Board held a public hearing on August 22, 2024 and voted unanimously in favor of this zoning amendment. Mr. Yanchenko asked if interconnections could be handled by the Grid of Groton Electric Light. Mr. Yanchenko said that applicants would have to go to the Planning Board but would also be required to obtain other permits including permission from the Light Department. Mr. Burke said that site plan review would be required by the Planning Board.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion #20: Yes – 128; No -30; Motion Carried by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Article 21: Zoning Amendment – Accessory Dwelling Units

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

1. **Amend Section 218-3 Definitions by deleting the definition for Accessory Apartment in its entirety and replace it with the following definition**

“Accessory Dwelling Unit

A self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a principal dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that: (i) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the principal dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress; (ii) is not larger in gross floor area than 1/2 the gross floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.

2. **Amend Section 218-5.2 Schedule of Use Regulations** by deleting the entry under Accessory Uses “Accessory apartments, as regulated under § 218-9.4” in its entirety and replace it with the following entries:

	R-A	R-B	NB	VCB	GB	I	P	O
One Accessory Dwelling Unit	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
More than One Accessory Dwelling Unit	PB	PB	N	N	N	N	N	N

3. **Amend Section 9.4 Accessory Apartment** by deleting it in its entirety and replace it with the following:

§ 218-9.4. Accessory Dwelling Unit.

§ 218-9.4.1. Purpose.

- a. To provide property owners in the R-A and R-B Districts with a means of sharing space and the burdens of home ownership, companionship, security, and services, thereby enabling them to stay more comfortably in homes and neighborhoods they might otherwise be forced to leave.
- b. Develop housing units in neighborhoods that are appropriate for households at a variety of stages in their life cycle.

- c. Provide small additional housing units for rent without substantially altering the appearance of the Town.
- d. Provide housing units for persons with disabilities.
- e. Protect stability, property values, and the residential character of a neighborhood.

§ 218-9.4.2. Attached accessory dwelling unit.

Use or rental of an accessory dwelling unit, an independent dwelling unit not to exceed 900 square feet of habitable floor area or 50% of the gross habitable floor area contained within the principal dwelling unit, whichever is less. The gross floor area shall include the interior finished habitable area to be used exclusively for the accessory dwelling unit.

No more than one accessory dwelling unit shall be allowed by right on a lot in the RA and RB Districts providing the following criteria are met:

- a. The accessory dwelling unit shall conform to the provisions of Title V of the State Sanitary Code, 310 CMR 15.00, and applicable regulations of the Groton Board of Health or be served by public sewer.
- b. Approval from the Fire Department.
- c. Building, plumbing, electrical and any other required permits are obtained.
- d. The attached accessory dwelling unit is contained within or attached to a principal dwelling.
- e. All staircases required to access an attached accessory dwelling unit must not change the general appearance of a dwelling.
- f. Space for the attached accessory dwelling unit may be provided by either raising the roof, or extending the dwelling, but only in accordance with current height and setback requirements.
- g. To maintain the character of the neighborhood, the entrance to the attached accessory dwelling unit should be on the side or rear, if possible, but may be through the front door, if there is a vestibule.
- h. The accessory dwelling unit and the principal dwelling to which it is accessory shall remain under the same ownership to preserve the principal/accessory relationship .
- i. Sufficient and appropriate area for at least one additional parking space shall be provided by the owner to serve the accessory dwelling unit. Said parking space shall be

constructed of materials consistent with the existing driveway and, to prevent on-street parking, and shall have vehicular access to the driveway.

- j. The footprint of the structure in which the attached accessory dwelling unit is to be located shall not be increased by more than 900 square feet or 50% of the habitable gross floor area of the existing principal dwelling, whichever is less, and shall retain the appearance of the principal structure. Any such increase in the footprint shall not exacerbate an existing nonconformity nor create a new nonconformity.
- k. The provisions of MGL c. 40A, § 3 shall apply to any accessory dwelling units intended for occupancy by a person with a disability relative to access ramps used solely for the purpose of facilitation ingress and egress to person with physical limitations as defined in MGL c. 22, § 13A.

§ 218-9.4.3. Detached accessory dwelling unit.

The Planning Board shall authorize the installation and use and rental of a detached accessory dwelling unit not to exceed 900 square feet of habitable floor area or 50% of the gross habitable floor area contained within the principal dwelling unit, whichever is less, in a detached structure on a lot in the R-A or R-B Districts, subject to Site Plan Review pursuant to § 218-2.5 provided the following criteria are met:

- a. Sections a-c, e, h, i, and k of § 218-9.4.2 are met.
- b. A plot plan of the existing dwelling unit and proposed accessory dwelling unit shall be submitted, showing the location of the building on the lot, the proposed accessory dwelling unit, location of any septic system and required parking.
- c. The detached accessory dwelling unit shall be a complete, separate housekeeping unit. No more than one accessory dwelling unit shall be allowed by right on a lot in the RA and RB District, except by special permit.
- d. Any new construction shall be in accordance with current height and setback requirements for the district in which it is located.
- e. No building permit shall be granted without a condition that the accessory dwelling unit shall conform to the provisions of Title V of the State Sanitary Code, 310 CMR 15.00, and applicable regulations of the Groton Board of Health.
- f. Any property that has been granted a building permit for a detached accessory dwelling unit shall not be further divided unless all zoning requirements can be met for the district in which it is located.
- g. Prior to approval under Site Plan Review a for a detached accessory dwelling unit the Planning Board shall make the following findings:

- (1) The detached accessory dwelling unit meets the requirements of this section.
- (2) The detached accessory dwelling unit will provide housing opportunities in conformance with the purpose of this section.

4. Amend Section 218-2.5 Site Plan Review by adding the following at the end of Section B.(2) Applicability

“(d) Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (refer to Section 218-9.5)”

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article amends the Zoning Bylaw to conform with newly adopted changes to the Massachusetts Zoning Act relative to Accessory Dwelling Units while retaining much of the local regulatory framework. The major regulatory requirements include:*

- *The term Accessory Dwelling Units replaces the nomenclature for Accessory Apartments and the definition tracks definition from the State legislation*
- *An occupancy requirement of either the Accessory or Principal unit by the property owner is no longer permitted under the State legislation.*
- *Accessory unit size is limited to 900 square feet or 50% of the gross habitable floor area of the principal unit, whichever is smaller. Current zoning limits size to 800 square feet.*
- *No more than one accessory unit is to be allowed as of right on a lot, however the proposed zoning amendment does require detached accessory units to be subject to site plan review by the Planning Board. The current zoning allowed attached units as of right and detached by special permit. Special permits are no longer permitted unless more than one accessory dwelling is contemplated. This bylaw does not contain provisions for more than one accessory dwelling unit per lot in a single-family district, which may be allowed by special permit.*
- *The bylaw leaves many of the dimensional, bulk, parking, and site requirements consistent with the State legislation.*

Article 21: Zoning Amendment – Accessory Dwelling Units

Mover: Russ Burke

MOTION: I move to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Groton, Section 218-3, Definitions, Section 218-5.2, Schedule of Use Regulations, and Section 9.4, Accessory

Apartment, as set forth in Article 21 of the Warrant for the 2024 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSS BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Burke said that the Planning Board held a public hearing on September 12, 2024 and voted unanimously to recommend approval of this zoning article. He provided a brief description of this article. Mr. Fleischer said that the Commission on Accessibility voted to support this article adding this enabled people with disabilities to have safe and accessible housing. There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion #21: Yes – 139; No - 10; Motion Carried by Majority Vote.

Article 22: Amend Chapter 198 Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development

To see if Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting Chapter 198, “Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development,” in its entirety and replacing it with a new Chapter 198, “Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development” as on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: *The Committee is proposing an amendment to the Stormwater Management By-law to update the by-law so that it is consistent with the new Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook and Regulations.*

Article 22: Amend Chapter 198 Stormwater Management

Mover: Michelle Collette

MOTION: I move to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting Chapter 198, “Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development,” in its entirety and replacing it with a new Chapter 198, “Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development” as on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY MICHELLE COLLETTE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Ms. Collette provided a brief description of this article. Me. Luening said that one section allowed for riskier activity with no oversight by the ERSWAC. Ms. Collette said that this was a threshold that was subject to misinterpretation and was clearing that up. She said this would also avoid having 2 repeat processes by 2 different town agencies.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion #22: Yes – 127; No - 15; Motion Carried by Majority Vote.

Article 23: *Accept Monarch Path as a Town Way*

To see if the Town will vote to accept Monarch Path as a public way, as recommended by the Planning Board and laid out by the Select Board and as shown on a plan entitled “Right-of-Way As-Built of Monarch Path, Groton, Massachusetts, Owned by Ebrahim Masalehdan”, prepared by TFM Civil Engineers, Bedford, NH for Ebrahim Masalehdan, dated May 2, 2022, and on file with the Town Clerk; to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain such land and easements for the creation, maintenance and operation of a public way, including but not limited to easements for access, grading, drainage, sloping, construction and utilities, in all or any portions of such way and the parcels on such way, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *To accept Monarch Path as a public way.*

Article 23: *Accept Monarch Path as a Town Way*

This article shall be passed over.

Article 24: *Citizens’ Petition – Reduce Statutory Speed Limit from 30 MPH to 25 MPH*

To see if the Town will vote to amend Groton Traffic Rules and Orders, Article XI Speed Regulations, Town of Groton Speed Limits, by adopting MGL, c. 90, §17C Sections 193 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. Mass.gov: “Section 193 allows a municipality to opt-in to Section 17C of Chapter 90 of the MGL, thereby reducing the statutory speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on any or all city or town-owned roadways within a thickly settled or business

district. The legislation also requires cities and towns to notify MassDOT of these changes,” or to take any other action relative thereto.

Citizens’ Petition

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
James A. Barisano	15 Longley Road	Paul Barstow	283 Old Dunstable Road
Lynne Burmeister	37 Throne Hill Road	Jeff Gordon	161 Main Street
Sadie Guichard	15 Whiting Ave	Lisa Murray	85 Wharton Row
Karen Tucker-Barisano	15 Longley Road	David Butz	532 Longley Road
Paul F. Murray, Jr.	85 Wharton Row	Greg Sheldon	62 Whispering Brook Road

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *Groton has approximately 110 miles of roads and no sidewalks or bike lanes on 80% of them. Vehicles traveling on Groton’s roads routinely exceed the posted speed limits by five to ten miles per hour. At the Groton Master Plan Public Session held at the Groton Center, the Barrett Planning Group revealed that the risk of death to a pedestrian hit by a vehicle is 18% at 20 miles per hour, 50% at 30 miles per hour and 88% at 40 miles per hour. Risks vary significantly by age. This is commonsense solution, which has been adopted by eighty-one Massachusetts cities and towns, including towns adjacent to Groton. It will help reduce the risk of injury and death to those walking, jogging and on bicycles. This is a multi-step process. If approved by Town Meeting, the Select Board will appoint a committee to conduct a traffic study in cooperation with the MassDOT. Currently posted speed regulations on streets within business and thickly settled districts will each be evaluated. When all steps in the process are complete and approval has been granted by the MassDOT, the Town will remove all speed restriction signs applicable to the previous speed limit and begins enforcement of the 25 MPH speed limit. All citizens of Groton are urged to support this pedestrian safety initiative.*

Article 24: Citizens’ Petition

Mover: James Barisano

MOTION: I move to accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 17C, thereby authorizing the Select Board to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the town on any way that is not a state highway.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JAMES BARISANO AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Barisano provided a brief presentation. Mr. Delaney said that he applauded the efforts and provided some clarifications on regulatory and statutory roads and their speed limits. A resident said that lowering the speed limit in another town encouraged road rage. A resident said that he heard this would not apply to state roads or roads that already had speed limits assigned and asked for clarification on how this would apply. A resident said that the inconsistency on posted roads in Groton was insane. Mr. Cunningham said he was in favor of this as an avid cyclist. Ms. Manugian said there was a lot of good intent here but had some concerns about this. She said that they didn't enforce the current speed limits and thought they needed to enforce what they had first. Chief Luth said that they made 3,800 traffic stops in 2023 but in order to do more, they needed more officers. A resident asked how much revenue the town brought it from traffic infractions. Ms. Dufresne said it averaged around \$11K-15K.

Mr. Lathrop moved the question. The motion was seconded.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Moving the Question: Yes – 117; No - 16; Motion Carried by 2/3s Majority Vote.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion #24: Yes – 58; No - 74; Motion did not pass by Majority Vote.

There was a motion to dissolve the meeting at 12:03pm that was seconded. A voice vote called by the Moderator was unanimous.

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 16th Day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, 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 2024 FALL TOWN MEETING

The 2024 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 2025 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, 2024, are as follows:

The following is a summary of Warrant Articles requesting funding:

Article 1: Unpaid Bills Requested: \$0

At this time, there are no unpaid bills.

Article 2: Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Town Operating Budget

This Article will request the following adjustments in the Operating Budget:

1. Select Board Expenses Requested: \$28,500

As owners and Landlords of the Prescott School, the Town is responsible for and major capital expenditures/repairs. Currently the front entrance doors are in disrepair and need to be replaced. They are difficult to lock and are a security liability. The cost to replace the doors is estimated to be \$28,500. This funding, since it is a one-time expense, will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

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

2. Town Manager Expenses Requested: \$8,100

The Trails Committee and Park Commission has been working with the DPW Maintenance Division to make several improvements to the Shed located at Town Field. This Shed will be used by the Trails Committee and Park Commission. The Trails Committee has received funding from the Community Preservation Act to purchase tools to help them maintain the various trails in Town. Most of these new tools are battery powered, which will require re-charging the batteries. There is no electricity at the Shed. It will cost \$8,100 to bring electricity to the Shed. This funding, since it is a one-time expense, will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

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

3. Town Counsel Expenses Requested \$40,000

The Town is currently facing three Arbitration Cases with the Police Union. These cases are very expensive to defend. Based on the number of hearings anticipated, the Legal Budget will need an additional \$40,000 for this purpose. This funding, since it is a one-time expense, will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

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

4. Insurance and Bonding Requested: \$20,000

Due to a number of natural events (lightning strikes, etc.), the Town has seen an 18% increase in Liability Insurance for Fiscal Year 2025. When the original budget was set last May, the Town had not received the final estimate and did not budget enough to cover the increase. There is currently an anticipated shortfall of \$20,000 in this Account. This funding, since it is a recurring cost, will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

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

5. Police Expenses Requested: \$6,400

At the beginning of the Fiscal Year, there were three vacancies in the Police Department. Two of those vacancies have been filled with new recruits who need to attend the Police Academy. The cost to the Town for sending these recruits to the Academy is \$3,200 each, for a total of \$6,400. This funding, since it is a one-time expense, will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

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

6. Fire Wages Requested: \$154,411

The closing of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center (NVMC) has had an adverse impact on the Fire Department creating a severe situation for emergency medical responses by the Department. The NVMC was only three miles from the Center Fire Station. The Department now has the following distances to new primary hospitals: Emerson Hospital - 26 minutes at 18.5 miles; Leominster Hospital - 26 minutes at 16.3 miles; and St. Joseph Nashua - 23 minutes at 13.2 miles. In addition, other alternative hospitals have the following distances: Lowell General Hospital - 30 minutes at 14.2 miles; and Southern New Hampshire Medical Center - 30 minutes at 14.4 miles. These distances and travel times are from the geographic center of Town; thus the actual times and distances will vary. Depending on the time of day and traffic conditions, these locations can add as much as 15 minutes to the transport time. The Department has already seen the impact of delayed response times based on these distances and the influence this has had on the health and safety of Groton residents. Since the closure of NVMC, the Department made several transports to Emerson and St. Joseph's Hospitals. During those transports, the Ambulance averaged 1 hour 30 minutes total transport time. What is not included is the additional 20 minutes to refuel the ambulance prior to returning to the Station.

The Station is not staffed for two hours during these transports, which is unacceptable, especially if another emergency call is received. This very situation continues to happen and what is usually a 1-2 minute response time to leave the station now is taking over 10 minutes (Call EMTs or Mutual Aid Response). To address this, the Fire Chief has requested funding for two additional Firefighter/EMTs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025. This is a short-term solution and allows the Department to guarantee staffing for that second ambulance which is desperately needed. The increase to the budget would be an additional \$171,182.00 as follows:

Wages:	\$154,411
Gear and Clothing:	\$ 7,425
Health Insurance:	\$ <u>24,346</u>
Total	\$186,182

This additional staffing will provide the time needed for the Department/Town to evaluate the total impact of the closure of NVMC and bring back a formal proposal to the 2025 Spring Town Meeting as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. As the Town is unsure of the final expense at this time, the initial funding will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) until a final formal proposal is presented.

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Pisani)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

7. Fire Expenses

Requested: \$7,425

See Explanation #6 above.

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Pisani)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

8. Council on Aging Expenses

Requested: \$7,500

The Council on Aging Director has requested funding for the mailing of a bi-monthly newsletter as well as a twice per year mailing to all registered voters in Groton . The goal of this newsletter mailing is to allow for more inclusivity, greater reach and to enhance community involvement in The Groton Center. The cost is approximately \$7,500. The bi-monthly newsletter mailing would be available to Groton residents aged 60 and older; those younger and/or residing outside of Groton will be encouraged to receive their newsletter in person at The Groton Center, or to access it online. The twice yearly newsletter mailing would be mailed to all registered voters in the town of Groton. At least once per year, this mailing will include a programming survey to determine the needs and wants of residents. Currently, the Council produces a bi-monthly newsletter that contains information on ongoing and upcoming programs as well as outreach information, such as health insurance reminders and updates, financial assistance programs and mental health resources. This newsletter is available via email, on the COA website as well as at the Center. A small number of Groton residents (6 currently) pay a \$5 per year fee to receive the newsletter via USPS. This cost is often a barrier for many Seniors who live on a limited income. In 2023 The Groton Center hosted 884 residents 16,526 times for various programs, events and outreach purposes. In order to reach those who are not currently visitors of The Groton Center, those who visit infrequently and those who are not able to utilize a

computer/email or have transportation limitations, mailing the newsletter is a vital piece of the puzzle. This funding, since it is a recurring cost, will come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.

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

Finance Committee: *Recommended (5 In Favor, 1 Against – Green, 1 Deferred – Whitefield)*

9. Weed Management – Groton Lakes

Requested: \$88,500

In 2012, the Town appropriated approximately \$100,000 to fund a major herbicide treatment of Lost Lake/Knops Pond to eradicate invasive weeds. This was a very successful endeavor. In 2019, the Lakes required another major treatment and this funding came from the Community Preservation Fund. Solitude Lake Management, the firm utilized by the Groton Lakes Association (GLA) to treat the Lakes, has determined that a major treatment is required in May 2025. The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has determined that these periodic treatments are “maintenance” and not “preservation”, therefore CPA funds cannot be used again. While this is something that could be added to the Capital Budget, the optimal treatment time is May. Capital Budget Funds are not available until July. Waiting another year would be disastrous according to our consultant. To that end, funding is being requested at the 2024 Fall Town Meeting. The estimated cost for the treatment is \$123,500. To help offset the total cost, the GLA will privately raise \$35,000 toward the cost. The Town would then need to appropriate \$88,500 for the Treatment. This funding, since it is a one-time expense, will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended (5 In Favor, 1 Against – Lengyel, 1 Deferred – Green)*

10. Debt Service

Requested: (\$124,159)

Based on final borrowing terms on FY 2025 Bond issues, the total Debt Service Budget will be reduced by \$124,159. The primary reduction, and good news for Groton’s Taxpayers, is the interest rate on the Bond Anticipation Note for the remaining Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project came in under the original estimates, saving the taxpayers \$255,614 in Fiscal Year 2025. The Debt Budget will be adjusted to reflect borrowing for the Fire Department Ambulance approved at the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, as well as paying down the debt on the Highway Dump Truck approved at the 2022 Spring Town Meeting. The following is the proposed new Debt Budget for Fiscal Year 2025:

			<u>Original</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$	2,025,000	\$ 2,025,000
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$	165,000	\$ 160,000
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$	1,340,252	\$ 1,340,252
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$	110,364	\$ 106,974
2004	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town - Non Excluded	\$	123,526	\$ 247,532
2005A	Short Term Debt - Interest - Town - Non Excluded	\$	8,644	\$ 24,483
2005B	Short Term Debt - Interest - Town - Excluded	\$	1,283,825	\$ 1,028,211
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$	5,056,611	\$ 4,932,452

These issues will be funded as follows:

- Excluded Debt will be Decreased by \$255,614 from \$4,649,077 to \$4,393,463
- Debt within the Tax Levy will be decreased by \$8,390
- To fund the Short Term Principal and Short Term Interest Increases (total of \$139,845), \$104,955 will come from Ambulance receipts and \$34,890 will come from Free Cash.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

11. Health Insurance

Requested: \$24,346

See Explanation #6 above.

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Abstain – Pisani)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Article 3: Transfer - Capital Stabilization Fund

Requested: \$900,000

The current balance in this fund is \$90,394. 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 2025 Operating Budget will be \$51,328,320. This would require a Capital Stabilization Fund Balance of \$769,925. However, the anticipated Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget is \$898,991. Therefore, it is requested that the Town appropriate \$900,000 from Free Cash to add to this Fund.

Article 4: Transfer - Stabilization Fund**Requested: \$0**

The current balance in the Stabilization Fund is \$2,617,198. The Town's Financial Policies state that this Fund should have a balance of five (5%) percent of the Operating Budget (\$51,328,320). This would require a balance of \$2,566,416. Therefore, no funding will be requested as of the printing of the Warrant. This Article is being left on the Warrant in the event there is a market adjustment that would reduce the current fund to a level below the requisite 5%.

Article 5: Transfer - GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund**Requested: \$0**

The current balance in the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund is \$21,996. As of the printing of this Warrant, the Town has not received the anticipated Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Plan of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. This Article should be considered a place holder in the event the Plan is received prior to the 2024 Fall Town Meeting. Should the Plan not be received, funding for the District's Capital Plan will be provided at the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Article 7: Transfer Money into Water Enterprise Fund**Requested: \$60,000**

This Article seeks the transfer of \$60,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2025 Water Department's General Expense for the purchase of a new Pick-Up Truck for the Water Department.

Article 8: Transfer Money into Center Sewer Enterprise Fund**Requested: \$0**

At this time, the Center Sewer Enterprise does not anticipate a need and will wait until Spring, 2025 to fund any need that arises. At this time, this article will remain on the Warrant should some need arise. In the event there is no need, this Article will be withdrawn.

Article 9: Transfer Into Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund**Requested: \$0**

Similar to the Center Sewer Enterprise, the Four Corner Enterprise Article will most likely be withdrawn and dealt with in the Spring, 2025. Nevertheless, this Article will remain on the Warrant should some need arise.

Article 10: Debt Service for Middle School Track**Requested: \$400,000**

From the Summary in the Warrant: Article 7 of the May 21, 2021 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$1,405,374 for the new Middle School Track. The May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting appropriated \$235,072 for Debt Service for this project. The Community Preservation Committee would like to increase this amount by \$400,000 to \$635,072 by increasing the amount toward the principal debt.

Article 11: Water Supply System – Heritage Landing**Requested: \$2,509,600**

From the Summary in the Warrant: This article will allow the Select Board to borrow \$2,509,600 for the design and construction of a water supply system on Cow Pond Brook Road for the Heritage Landing Housing Development Project. 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.

Article 12: Security Improvements at Sargisson Beach

Requested: \$40,000

From the Summary in the Warrant: For the past two years, Sargisson Beach and the Parking Area has seen an increase in illegal dumping of trash and other related items that has impacted not only the ecosystem, but the recreational integrity of the Beach. The Town has taken some steps to improve security, but better cameras and related equipment is necessary to provide protection and oversight of the area. The Town does not have the personnel to patrol the area at all times and these security improvements will mitigate these issues at the Beach and parking area. The Town is requesting \$40,000 to fund these improvements. This funding will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

Article 13: Purchase Budget Software

Requested: \$35,000

From the Summary in the Warrant: This Article seeks funding for the Town's Finance Department to purchase software for the creation of the Town's Annual Operating and Capital Budgets. For the last 16 years, the Town Manager has relied on Excel to create the Town's Budget. While this has been an adequate format, it is time to move the Town forward. With the current Town Manager expected to retire in the next few years, establishing a new formal Budget Process with strong historical data will allow for a seamless transition with regard to budgeting. The Town will be requesting \$35,000 to fund the Software. This funding will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

Article 14: Complete Streets Grant Engineering

Requested: \$35,000

From the Summary in the Warrant: The Complete Streets Committee has successfully received over \$750,000 in grant funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under their Complete Streets Program. Some of the projects covered by the funding have been sidewalks on West Main Street and Lowell Road, along with Pedestrian Crossing Devices along Main Street. The Committee is in the process of preparing another Grant Application this Fall. One of the requirements for this program is that the Town has to cover engineering costs for any approved project. The Committee is seeking \$35,000 for this purpose. This funding will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

Article 15: Amend Purpose of CPA Project – Baseball Diamond

Requested: \$80,000

From the Summary in the Warrant: The 2023 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$80,000 for improvements to the major league diamond at Town Field. This funding is not enough to design and construct the improvements. The Town Manager has approached the Community Preservation Committee and asked them to use these funds to conduct a comprehensive study of Town Field and come back with proposed improvements to enhance the recreational facility. It is the intent of the Town Manager to submit a formal project to the CPC for Fiscal Year 2026.

Article 16: Squannacook River Dam

Requested: \$200,000

From the Summary in the Warrant: The Select Board and Department of Public Works are in the process of determining the future of the Squannacook River Dam. To make an informed decision, the Select Board needs to understand the cost of removal and its impact on the environment or the cost of repair. The purpose of this Article is to appropriate the necessary funds (estimated to be \$200,000) to hire professionals to study both the repair and removal of the Dam. Based on the information received, the Select Board will be in a better position to bring this issue back to a future Town Meeting. More information on the process will be provided to the Fall Town Meeting. This funding will come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash).

Should the Town Meeting agree with these appropriations, \$1,602,572 will come from the Town's Free Cash Account, leaving a Free Cash balance of \$1,154,546. In the Spring of 2025, it is expected that \$300,000 in Free Cash will be required to cover Debt Service, OPEB Trust Fund and Department Head Performance Incentives, leaving a balance of \$854,546 in Free Cash. The one issue that will need to be addressed is the GDRSD Capital Plan. The request is usually around \$500,000, so there should be a sufficient amount of Free Cash to cover that expense as well. Based on final anticipated new Growth for FY 2025 and the Final Cherry Sheet Estimates received from the State, the Budget approved at Town Meeting is currently \$62,811 under the anticipated FY 2025 Levy Limit. For the line items that are reoccurring and will be funded through taxation, it is requested that \$19,110 come from this amount, which will leave the Town \$43,701 under the anticipated Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2025. In the Spring of 2024, the tax rate was estimated at \$15.61. Based on the proposed changes at the Fall Town Meeting, the anticipated tax rate is \$15.53. The following chart is a breakdown of the anticipated rate:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2025</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$ 36,587,742	\$ 38,096,508	\$ 1,508,766	4.12%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 13.36	\$ 13.80	\$ 0.44	3.29%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,284	\$ 9,590	\$ 306	3.29%
Excluded Debt	\$ 4,732,786	\$ 4,776,976	\$ 44,190	0.93%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.73	\$ -	0.00%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 1,202	\$ 1,202	\$ -	0.00%
Final Levy Used	\$ 41,320,528	\$ 42,873,484	\$ 1,552,956	3.76%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.09	\$ 15.53	\$ 0.44	2.92%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 10,487	\$ 10,792	\$ 306	2.92%

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad

Mark W. Haddad
Town Manager

MARCH 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY RESULTS
GROTON , MA

MARCH 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY				
OFFICIAL RESULTS - 03/07/24				
ELECTION SUMMARY				
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
All Voters - Turnout %	33.56%	32.83%	31.93%	32.81%
Total Voter Population - February 24, 2024	3176	2912	2819	8,907
Total Votes Cast	1066	956	900	2922
Total Early Votes Cast	503	455	474	1432
Early Vote %	47%	48%	53%	49%
VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS (February 24, 2024)				
Democrat	659	534	615	1808
Republican	357	313	285	955
Libertarian	9	20	8	37
Unenrolled	2143	2037	1897	6077
All Others	8	8	14	30
Total Voters	3176	2912	2819	8907
DEMOCRAT PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY				
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Democrat Votes Cast - March 5, 2024	483	413	429	1325
% Democrat Votes of Total Votes Cast	45%	43%	48%	45%
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	483	413	429	1325
Dean Phillips	19	15	15	49
Joseph R. Biden	409	354	376	1139
Marianne Williamson	19	12	5	36
No Preference	26	28	28	82
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	4	1	2	
Blank	6	3	3	12
STATE COMMITTEE MAN	483	413	429	1325
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	5	14	6	25
Blank	478	399	423	1300
STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	483	413	429	1325
Meghan K. Kilcoyne	368	307	300	975
Write In	0	0	0	0
Blank	115	106	129	350
DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE	483	413	429	1325
Group	305	252	258	815
Group Blanks	178	161	171	510
Individuals Only	8498	7090	7282	22870
Patricia A. Hartvigsen	348	286	295	929
Philip M. Francisco	322	279	282	883
Robert Hanninen	326	265	274	865
John R. Sopka	324	267	268	859
Deborah L. Busser	333	280	292	905
Elizabeth Frederick Strachan	327	275	279	881
Jane Ellen Fry	330	283	282	895
Robert J. Fleischer	325	269	281	875
Marvin J. Caldwell	322	262	272	856
Edward Alan Perkins	323	263	278	864
Ethelind P. Hanninen	322	267	276	865
Christopher Hasler Mills	321	268	279	868
Carol L. Canner	337	277	288	902
John J. Simko	320	263	271	854
Mary A. Jennings	341	294	304	939
Melinda E. Stewart	326	273	272	871
Adam William Burnett	321	263	270	854
Iris K. Staub	328	268	285	881
Scott David Martin	322	263	275	860
Virginia K. Dimola	324	273	284	881
John Finley Boynton	318	262	275	855
Leslie G. Lathrop	327	278	273	878

MARCH 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY RESULTS
GROTON , MA

Monica Eulalia Hinojos-Capes	326	273	271	870
Tara Olivio-Moore	316	273	271	860
Susan Heidel Lotz	330	279	284	893
Claire C. Macy	335	284	293	912
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	4	3	8	15
Blank	8395	7365	7733	23493

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY RESULTS

Republican Votes Cast - March 5, 2024	574	535	463	1572
% Republican Votes of Total Votes Cast	54%	56%	51%	54%
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	574	535	463	1572
Chris Christie	5	8	6	19
Ryan Binkley	1	1	0	2
Vivek Ramaswamy	3	2	4	9
Asa Hutchinson	0	0	0	0
Donald J. Trump	252	244	218	714
Ron DeSantis	2	3	5	10
Nikki Haley	304	271	222	797
No Preference	2	3	6	11
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	2	1	1	4
Blank	3	2	1	6
STATE COMMITTEE MAN	574	535	463	1572
Dennis J. Galvin	326	341	258	925
Mark C. Bodanza	136	102	103	341
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	2	1	0	3
Blank	110	91	102	303
STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	574	535	463	1572
Kathleen Lynch	210	246	194	650
Beth Joyce Lindstrom	253	209	190	652
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	1	1	0	2
Blank	110	79	79	268
REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE	574	535	463	1572
Group	254	218	213	685
Group Blanks	320	317	250	887
Individuals Only	4171	3731	3467	11369
Paul William Fitzgerald	306	286	257	849
Jamie E. King	277	248	235	760
John Carl Abrahamsen	264	241	222	727
Gregory P. Baran	262	241	217	720
Martina Christine Calnan	264	236	222	722
Paul E. Martell	271	250	227	748
Caroline M. Kneeland	270	237	237	744
Kevin M. Fuller	284	269	244	797
Barbara Caldwell-Miller	265	240	221	726
Garrett C. Boles	274	244	227	745
Charla Ann W. Mulbrandon Boles	264	238	221	723
Jeff Dries	267	242	225	734
Krzysztof S. Jezek	263	230	218	711
Virginia Marie Babin	269	244	234	747
Georjann A. McGaha	274	235	216	725
Mayra Lockett	90	50	44	184
Write In	0	0	0	0
<i>Linda Norstrom</i>	2	4	7	13
All Others	5	8	6	19
Blank	15,936	14,928	12,716	43,580

LIBERTARIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY RESULTS

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Libertarian Party Votes Cast - March 5, 2024	9	8	8	25
% Libertarian Party Votes of Total Votes Cast	0.84%	0.84%	0.89%	0.86%

MARCH 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY RESULTS
GROTON , MA

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	9	8	8	25
Jacob George Hornberger	1	0	0	1
Michael D. Rectenwald	0	0	1	1
Chase Russell Oliver	1	2	1	4
Michael Ter Maat	0	0	0	0
Lars Damian Mapstead	0	1	0	1
No Preference	3	4	4	11
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	1	2	3
Blank	4	0	0	4
STATE COMMITTEE MAN	9	8	8	25
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	2	0	2
Blank	9	6	8	23
STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	9	8	8	25
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	1	0	1
Blank	9	7	8	24
LIBERTARIAN TOWN COMMITTEE	100	80	80	260
Write In	0	0	0	0
Blank	100	80	80	260

Town of Groton, MA
Special Town Election: April 2, 2024
OFFICIAL RESULTS

Election Turnout	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Groton Registered Voters (March 23, 2024)	3199	2924	2837	8960
April 2, 2024 Voter Turnout	1374	1190	1270	3834
Turnout %	42.95%	40.70%	44.77%	42.79%
<i>Early Voter Turnout (Mail in Ballots & In Person Early Voting)</i>	<i>664</i>	<i>644</i>	<i>699</i>	<i>2007</i>
<i>Early Voter Turnout %</i>	<i>48.33%</i>	<i>54.12%</i>	<i>55.04%</i>	<i>52.35%</i>
Ballot Question #1	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total

“Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to assess an additional \$5,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budget of the Town and the Assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024?”

YES	571	411	522	1504
NO	801	778	748	2327
BLANK	2	1	0	3

Town of Groton - Annual Town Election - April 23, 2024

Town of Groton, MA Annual Town Election: April 23, 2024 OFFICIAL RESULTS - 04/25/24				
Election Turnout	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Groton Registered Voters (as of March 15, 2024)	3194	2920	2830	8944
April 23, 2024 Election Total Voter Turnout	521	404	373	1298
Turnout %	16.31%	13.84%	13.18%	14.51%
Early Voter / Mail in Ballot Voter Turnout	280	277	238	795
Turnout %	8.77%	9.49%	8.41%	8.89%
Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Board of Assessors	Vote for One	Three Year Term		
Jennifer Nicole Moore	419	314	278	1011
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Paul MacMillan</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Paul Fitzgerald</i>	0	4	0	4
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Sheila Flynn</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	101	85	94	280
Total	521	404	373	1298
Board of Health	Vote for One	Three Year Term		
Michelle Collette, Candidate for Re-election	446	324	295	1065
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Dolores Alberghini</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Sean Metras</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Branden Mahoney</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Carrie Baro</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Jack Petropoulos</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
Blank	75	75	75	225
Total	521	404	373	1298
Select Board	Vote for One	Three Year Term		
Peter S. Cunningham, Candidate for Re-election	380	284	267	931
Guy Alberghini	111	85	89	285
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Emily Saunders</i>	1	0	1	2
<i>Kurt Benedict</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Jack Petropoulos</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Charles Van Derlinden</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Josh Degen</i>	2	0	0	2
<i>Gail Chalmers</i>	1	0	0	1

Town of Groton - Annual Town Election - April 23, 2024

Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
<i>Carl Canner</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	25	31	13	69
Total	521	404	373	1298
Commissioner of Trust Funds	Vote for One	Three Year Term		
Joseph Edward Twomey, Candidate for Re-election	430	332	312	1074
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Bill Roper</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Carrie Baro</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Sheila Flynn</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	90	70	60	220
Total	521	404	373	1298
Groton Electric Light Commission	Vote for One	Three Year Term		
Kevin J. Lindemer, Candidate for Re-election	436	331	301	1068
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Peter Jeffrey</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Charlotte Weigel</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Brenden Mahoney</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Mike Manugian</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	84	71	70	225
Total	521	404	373	1298
Moderator	Vote for One	Three Year Term		
Jason N. Kauppi, Candidate for Re-election	442	329	309	1080
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Brad Cain</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Russ Silva</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Erik Collins</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	78	73	63	214
Total	521	404	373	1298
Park Commission - 3 Year Term	Vote for One	Three Year Term		
Anna Eliot, Candidate for Re-election	407	307	271	985
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>John Strauss</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Peter Benedict</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Sean Metras</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Jorg Skowranek</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Tom Delaney</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Olin Lathrop</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Jack Petropoulos</i>	0	1	0	1

Town of Groton - Annual Town Election - April 23, 2024

Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
<i>Carol Canner</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Rebecca Thackaberry</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Eric Spada</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Josh Degen</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	110	93	96	299
Total	521	404	373	1298
Park Commission - 1 Year Term	Vote for One	One Year Term		
Brian J. Edmonds	412	307	274	993
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Ken Bushnell</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Michelle Cain</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Mark Jarvis</i>	0	1	0	1
Blank	109	95	97	301
Total	521	404	373	1298
Planning Board	Vote for Three	Three Year Term		
Lorayne A. Black, Candidate for Re-election	406	289	275	970
Russell J. Burke, Candidate for Re-election	392	295	266	953
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Paul Hathaway (has accepted write-in nomination)</i>	69	34	25	128
<i>Kurt Benedict</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Dawn Dunbar</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Matt Pisani</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Tom Delaney</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Ann Elliott</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Peter Cunningham</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Sean Metras</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Brittney Metras</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Paul MacMillan</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Mary Garcia</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Larry Larsen</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Jessica Wenzell</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Liam Healy</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Brendan Mahoney</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Jack Petropoulos</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Paul Pugh</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Carl Flowers</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Adam W. Burnett</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Andrew Webb</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Pat Mahoney</i>	2	0	0	2
Blank	692	588	540	1820
Total	1563	1213	1119	3895

Town of Groton - Annual Town Election - April 23, 2024

Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Sewer Commission	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Eric A. Berg (has accepted write-in nomination)</i>	13	12	5	30
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>	1	0	1	2
<i>Judy Anderson</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Matt Pisani</i>	0	1	2	3
<i>Ken Bushnell</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Dave Chase</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Sean Metras</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Charles DeAmbrose</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Mary Garcia</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Joshua Lampe</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Todd McGillivray</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Robert DeGroot</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Tom Delaney</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Brenden Mahoney</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Brad Pierantozzi</i>	1	2	0	3
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Igor Ragvsnik</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Tom Orcutt</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Russell Burke</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Willard Lee</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Liam Healy</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Eric Rose</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Gavin Duhamel</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Susan Huges</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Sheila Flynn</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Lorae McCall</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Alex Ansted</i>	2	0	0	2
<i>Irm Pierce</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Michael Azze</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Pat Mahoney</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Rebecca Pine</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Paul Matisse</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	494	379	353	1226
Total	521	404	373	1298
Trustees of the Groton Public Library - 3 Year Term	Vote for Two		Three Year Term	
Helena Christine Altsman, Candidate for Re-election	405	297	281	983
Kristen Amanda von Campe, Candidate for Re-election	401	304	285	990
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Sean Metras</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Brittany Metras</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Leah Patton</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	235	206	178	619
Total	1042	808	746	2596

Town of Groton - Annual Town Election - April 23, 2024

Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Trustees of the Groton Public Library - 1 Year Term	Vote for One		One Year Term	
Jennifer M. Petersen	414	308	288	1010
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Brittany Metras</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Andrew Petersen</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Kate McNierney</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Linda Katkowski</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Leah Patton</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	105	93	83	281
Total	521	404	373	1298
Water Commission	Vote for One		Three Year Term	
John J. McCaffrey, Candidate for Re-election	420	308	281	1009
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Dave Chase</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Paul MacMillian</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Erich Garger</i>	2	2	0	4
Blank	99	93	90	282
Total	521	404	373	1298
Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	Vote for Two		Three Year Term	
Brian Christopher LeBlanc, Candidate for Re-election	261	185	183	629
Fay I. Raynor, Candidate for Re-election	302	219	197	718
Rohit Bhasin	274	223	207	704
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Emily Saunders</i>	1	0	1	2
<i>Alan Hoch</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Paul Fitzgerald</i>	0	1	2	3
<i>Brittany Metras</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Sean Metras</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Nicole Pelletier</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Carrie Baro</i>	0	4	0	4
<i>Jack Petropoulos</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Kevin Fuller</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Liam Healy</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Brenden Mahoney</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Lon Novak</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Corey Brock</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Carl Canner</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Brian DiGiovanni</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	202	169	150	521
Total	1042	808	746	2596

Town of Groton - Annual Town Election - April 23, 2024

Office/Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Groton Housing Authority	Vote for One		Five Year Term	
John R. Sopka, Candidate for Re-election	425	297	274	996
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Hobbes Silva</i>	0	1	0	1
Blank	96	105	98	299
Total	521	404	373	1298
Groton Housing Authority	Vote for One		Four Year Term	
Write - In (scatterings)	0	0	0	0
<i>Guy Alberghini</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Matt Pisani</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Tom Delaney</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Peter Cunningham</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Amy Degen (respectfully declined write-in nomination)</i>	1	0	3	4
<i>Brad Cain</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Mary Garcia</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Larry Larsen</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Timothy Loveless</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Eric Garger</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>John Sopka</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Robert Moses</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Lon Novak</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Brenden Mahoney</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Liam Healy</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Mike Hunt</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Chad Palermo</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Sheila Flynn</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Julie Senders</i>	2	0	0	2
<i>Rebecca Tabosky</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Gavin Duhamel</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Michael Patton</i>	2	0	0	2
<i>Paul Hathaway</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Alberta Erickson</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Anne Marie Spada</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Irm Pierce</i>	1	0	0	1
Blank	508	394	362	1264
Total	521	404	373	1298

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 STATE PRIMARY

OFFICIAL RESULTS (09/05/2024)

ELECTION SUMMARY

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
All Voters - Turnout %	18.22%	19.88%	19.05%	19.03%
Total Voter Population - August 25, 2024	3243	2978	2887	9108
Total Votes Cast	591	592	550	1733
Total Early Votes Cast	426	452	439	1317
Early Vote %	72%	76%	80%	76%

REGISTERED VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS (as of August 25, 2024)

Democrat	663	540	622	1825
Republican	361	315	291	967
Libertarian	9	21	9	39
Unenrolled	2202	2095	1951	6248
All Others	8	7	14	29
Total Voters	3243	2978	2887	9108

DEMOCRATIC STATE PRIMARY RESULTS

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Democratic Votes Cast - September 3, 2024	415	405	396	1216
% Democratic Votes of Total Votes Cast	70%	68%	72%	70%

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
SENATOR IN CONGRESS				
Elizabeth Warren	400	393	383	1176
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	1	1	3	5
Blank	14	11	10	35

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (THIRD DISTRICT)				
Lori Loureiro Trahan	406	386	388	1180
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	0	1	1
Blank	9	19	7	35

COUNCILLOR (SEVENTH DISTRICT)				
Paul M. DePalo	377	358	362	1097
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	0	0	0
Blank	38	47	34	119

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT (WORCESTER & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)				
John J. Cronin	391	363	368	1122
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	1	0	0	1
Blanks	23	42	28	93

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (THIRTY-SEVENTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)				
Danillo A. Sena	385	PRECINCT 1 ONLY		385
Write In	0			0
All Others	0			0
Blanks	30			30

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (FIRST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)				
Margaret R. Scarsdale	PRECINCTS 2 & 3 ONLY		383	380
Write In			0	0
All Others			0	0
Blanks			22	16

CLERK OF COURTS (MIDDLESEX COUNTY)				
Michael A. Sullivan	386	360	362	1108
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	0	0	0

Blanks	29	45	34	108	
REGISTER OF DEEDS (MIDDLESEX SOUTHERN DISTRICT)					
Maria C. Curatone	385	366	365	1116	
Write In	0	0	0	0	
All Others	0	0	0	0	
Blanks	30	39	31	100	
REPUBLICAN STATE PRIMARY RESULTS					
Republican Votes Cast - September 3, 2024	176	183	152	511	
% Republican Votes of Total Votes Cast	30%	31%	28%	29%	
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total	
SENATOR IN CONGRESS					
Robert J. Antonellis	50	55	51	156	
Ian Cain	20	17	6	43	
John Deaton	104	108	94	306	
Write In	0	0	0	0	
All Others	0	1	1	2	
Blank	2	2	0	4	
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (THIRD DISTRICT)					
Write In	0	0	0	0	
Gary Carossi (Grossi)	0	0	1	1	
All Others	11	8	4	23	
Blank	165	175	147	487	
COUNCILLOR (SEVENTH DISTRICT)					
Andrew J. Couture	140	141	124	405	
Write In	0	0	0	0	
All Others	0	1	1	2	
Blank	36	41	27	104	
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT (WORCESTER & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)					
Nicholas A. Pirro, III	141	141	124	406	
Write In	0	0	0	0	
All Others	0	1	1	2	
Blank	35	41	27	103	
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (THIRTY-SEVENTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)					
Write In	0	PRECINCT 1 ONLY		0	
Gary Grossi	3			3	
All Others	4			4	
Blank	169			169	
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (FIRST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)					
Lynne E. Archambault	PRECINCTS 2 & 3 ONLY		153	137	290
Write In			0	0	0
All Others			3	1	4
Blanks			27	14	41
CLERK OF COURTS (MIDDLESEX COUNTY)					
Write In	0	0	0	0	
All Others	4	4	4	12	
Blank	172	179	148	499	
REGISTER OF DEEDS (MIDDLESEX SOUTHERN DISTRICT)					
Write In	0	0	0	0	
All Others	2	3	3	8	
Blanks	174	180	149	503	

LIBERTARIAN STATE PRIMARY RESULTS				
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Libertarian Votes Cast - September 3, 2024	0	4	2	6
% Libertarian Votes of Total Votes Cast	0.00%	0.68%	0.36%	0.35%
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
SENATOR IN CONGRESS				
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	1	0	1
Blank	0	3	2	5
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (THIRD DISTRICT)				
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	1	1	2
Blank	0	3	1	4
COUNCILLOR (SEVENTH DISTRICT)				
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	1	0	1
Blank	0	3	2	5
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT (WORCESTER & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)				
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	1	0	1
Blank	0	3	2	5
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (THIRTY-SEVENTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)				
Write In	0	PRECINCT 1 ONLY		0
All Others	0			0
Blank	0			0
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (FIRST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)				
Write In	PRECINCTS 2 & 3 ONLY	0	0	0
All Others		1	0	1
Blank		3	2	5
CLERK OF COURTS (MIDDLESEX COUNTY)				
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	1	0	1
Blank	0	3	2	5
REGISTER OF DEEDS (MIDDLESEX SOUTHERN DISTRICT)				
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	1	0	1
Blank	0	3	2	5

NOVEMBER 5, 2024 STATE ELECTION

OFFICIAL RESULTS

ELECTION SUMMARY

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
All Voters - Turnout %	78.54%	78.71%	81.16%	79.42%
Total Voter Population - October 26, 2024	3308	3011	2903	9222
Total Votes Cast	2598	2370	2356	7324
Total Early Votes Cast	1520	1437	1567	4524
Early Vote %	59%	61%	67%	62%

REGISTERED VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS (as of October 26, 2024)

Democrat	680	559	630	1869
Republican	372	317	300	989
Libertarian	10	21	9	40
Unenrolled	2238	2106	1950	6294
All Others	8	8	14	30
Total Voters	3308	3011	2903	9222

STATE ELECTION RESULTS

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
Votes Cast - November 5, 2024	2598	2370	2356	7324
% Votes of Total Votes Cast	100%	100%	100%	100%

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT	2598	2370	2356	7324
Ayyadurai and Ellis	13	12	14	39
De La Cruz and Garcia	2	9	10	21
Harris and Walz	1757	1516	1537	4810
Oliver and Ter Maat	22	17	15	54
Stein and Caballero-Roca	9	19	17	45
Trump and Vance	742	756	698	2196
Write in	0	0	0	0
All Others	25	19	26	70
Blanks	28	22	39	89

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	2598	2370	2356	7324
Elizabeth Warren	1610	1372	1422	4404
John Deaton	916	937	870	2723
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	2	2	3	7
Blanks	70	59	61	190

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (THIRD DISTRICT)	2598	2370	2356	7324
Lori Loureiro Trahan	1986	1780	1772	5538
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	17	24	31	72
Blanks	595	566	553	1714

COUNCILLOR (SEVENTH DISTRICT)	2598	2370	2356	7324
Paul M. DePalo	1564	1377	1421	4362
Andrew J. Couture	818	822	750	2390
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	3	2	5
Blanks	216	168	183	567

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT (WORCESTER & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)	2598	2370	2356	7324
John J. Cronin	1641	1445	1483	4569
Nicholas A. Pirro, III	790	786	739	2315
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	0	2	2	4
Blanks	167	137	132	436

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (THIRTY-SEVENTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)	2598			2598
Daniilo A. Sena	1888	PRECINCT 1 ONLY		1888
Write In	0			0
All Others	13			13
Blanks	697			697

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Total
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (FIRST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT)				
		2370	2356	4726
Margaret R. Scarsdale	PRECINCTS 2 & 3 ONLY	1415	1453	2868
Lynne E. Archambault		837	788	1625
Write In		0	0	0
All Others		1	2	3
Blanks		117	113	230
CLERK OF COURTS (MIDDLESEX COUNTY)				
	2598	2370	2356	7324
Michael A. Sullivan	1914	1728	1711	5353
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	5	27	23	55
Blanks	679	615	622	1916
REGISTER OF DEEDS (MIDDLESEX SOUTHERN DISTRICT)				
	2598	2370	2356	7324
Maria C. Curatone	1585	1420	1437	4442
William "Billy" Tauro	688	670	590	1948
Write In	0	0	0	0
All Others	1	3	4	8
Blanks	324	277	325	926
Question 1				
	2598	2370	2356	7324
Yes	1684	1573	1540	4797
No	746	663	664	2073
Blanks	168	134	152	454
Question 2				
	2598	2370	2356	7324
Yes	1366	1247	1296	3909
No	1179	1079	1009	3267
Blanks	53	44	51	148
Question 3				
	2598	2370	2356	7324
Yes	1231	1117	1172	3520
No	1226	1152	1064	3442
Blanks	141	101	120	362
Question 4				
	2598	2370	2356	7324
Yes	1054	1004	1026	3084
No	1458	1302	1247	4007
Blanks	86	64	83	233
Question 5				
	2598	2370	2356	7324
Yes	779	733	641	2153
No	1751	1581	1645	4977
Blanks	68	56	70	194

Town Accountant Financials

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 30,2024						
					Fiduciary	
	Governmental Fund Types				Fund Types	
				Water, Sewer, Cable		Total
		Special	Capital	& Electric Light	Exp & Non-Exp	(Memorandum
	<u>General</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Enterprise Funds</u>	<u>Trust Funds</u>	<u>Only</u>
Revenues:						
Property Taxes / SurTaxes	41,351,016	1,029,810				42,380,826
Motor Vehicle/Other Excise	2,541,605					2,541,605
Licenses and Permits	527,284					527,284
State / Fed Revenue	1,107,723	648,873	15,822,844		366,674	17,946,114
Charges for Servs/Fees/Rent	1,439,776	649,986		16,788,338		18,878,100
Penalties and Interest	123,413					123,413
Fines and Forfeits	11,336					11,336
Interest Earnings	1,535,170	53,492		91,671	2,455,030	4,135,363
Departmental and Other	1,387,660	130,014		38,800	94,328	1,650,802
Total Revenues	50,024,983	2,512,175	15,822,844	16,918,809	2,916,032	88,194,843
Expenditures:						
General Government	2,686,510	347,060				3,033,570
Public Safety	4,644,783	332,975				4,977,758
Education	27,718,371	0	0		130,977	27,849,348
Highway and Public Works	2,349,230	13,197	470	14,680,274		17,043,171
Culture, Recreation & Cit Svcs	1,993,544	174,677		236,879	292,625	2,697,225
Debt Service	4,562,176	231,205	98,368	898,764		5,790,513
Intergovernmental	98,662	0				98,662
Capital Outlay/Construction	637,546	561,659	43,887,736	769,055	430,000	46,285,996
Employee Benefits & Misc.	4,669,930					4,669,930
Prior Year Encumbrances	473,850					473,850
Total Expenditures	49,834,602	1,660,773	43,986,574	16,584,972	853,602	112,920,523
Excess of Revenues						
Over (Under) Expenditures	190,381	851,402	(28,163,730)	333,837	2,062,430	(24,725,680)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):						
Operating Transfers In	1,390,509	2,023,255	589,568	0	2,045,873	6,049,205
Operating Transfers Out	(1,565,840)	(1,420,354)	(2,023,256)	(178,145)	(861,611)	(6,049,206)
Proceeds of Bonds		385,284	11,732,000			12,117,284
						0
Total Other Sources (Uses)	(175,331)	988,185	10,298,312	(178,145)	1,184,262	12,117,283
Excess of Revenues and Other	15,050	1,839,587	(17,865,418)	155,692	3,246,692	(12,608,397)
Sources Over (Under)						
Expenditures and Other Uses	0	0	0	0	0	
Fund Balance, Beginning	4,433,189	4,163,858	(1,271,474)	3,416,059	31,499,964	
Adjust to Fair Market Value						
Prior Period Adjustment	(1,779)		(187,501)	23,801		(165,479)
Fund Balance, Beginning,						
as Restated	4,431,410	4,163,858	(1,458,975) #	3,439,860	31,499,964	42,076,117
Fund Balance, Ending	4,446,460	6,003,445	(19,324,393)	3,595,552	34,746,656	29,467,720

Town of Groton, Massachusetts				
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures				
Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis)				
General Funds				
For The Year Ended June 30, 2024				
				Variance
		Final		Favorable
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:				
Property Taxes		41,322,045	40,930,958	(391,087)
Motor Vehicle, Boat, Room & Meals Excise		2,367,583	2,541,605	174,022
Payments in Lieu of Taxes		371,500	420,058	48,558
Licenses, Leases, Fees and Permits		1,561,300	1,864,788	303,488
Intergovernmental (State Aid)		1,116,143	1,107,723	(8,420)
Charges for Services		99,000	102,272	3,272
Penalties and Interest		110,000	123,413	13,413
Fines and Forfeits		10,000	11,336	1,336
Interest Earnings		100,000	1,535,170	1,435,170
Departmental and Other		1,214,486	1,387,660	173,174
Total Revenues		48,272,057	50,024,983	1,752,926
Expenditures:				
General Gov		2,887,869	2,686,510	201,359
Public Safety		4,829,799	4,644,783	185,016
Education		27,718,371	27,718,371	0
Highway and Public Works		2,401,495	2,349,230	52,265
Culture, Recreation & Citizen's Services		2,027,680	1,993,544	34,136
Capital Expenditures/Special Articles		838,084	637,546	200,538
Debt Service		4,565,613	4,562,176	3,437
Intergovernmental (State Cherry Sheet Chgs)		98,662	98,662	0
Employee Benefits & Miscellaneous		4,689,903	4,669,930	19,973
Prior Year Encumbrances		896,127	473,850	422,277
Total Expenditures		50,953,603	49,834,602	1,119,001
Excess of Revenues Over				
(Under) Expenditures		(2,681,546)	190,381	2,871,927
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Operating Transfers In/Repurposed Funds		1,390,509	1,390,509	0
Available Funds: Encumbrances		896,127	473,850	(422,277)
Operating Transfers Out		(309,605)	(309,605)	0
Free Cash to Offset Tax Rate		0	0	0
Free Cash & Overlay Appropriated		947,654	861,737	(85,917)
Additional Overlay & Deficits to be raised		(180,567)	(180,567)	0
Total Other Financing				
Sources (Uses)		2,744,118	2,235,924	(508,194)
Excess of Revenue and Other Sources				
Over (Under) Expenditures and other Uses		62,572	2,426,305	2,363,733

FISCAL 2024
BUDGET VS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

	Appropriation or Bal/Fwd	Res. Fund or Line Item Tx	Expended	Balance to Fund Bal	Balance to FY 25
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Moderator Salary	1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00	
Moderator Expense	80.00		0.00	80.00	
Selectmen Expense	6,800.00		3,108.58	2,691.42	1,000.00
Selectmen Expense Prior Year	3,839.00		0.00	3,839.00	
Selectmen Minor Capital (Sewer SRF)	24,054.00		24,054.00	0.00	
Williams Barn FY24 Utilities	5,000.00		2,116.87	0.00	2,883.13
Town Manager Salaries	252,064.00		252,037.36	26.64	
Town Manager Wages	117,005.00	(5,000.00)	111,472.23	532.77	
Town Manager Wages Prior Year	1,500.00		1,500.00	0.00	
Town Manager Expense	12,100.00	5,000.00	14,533.63	1,566.37	1,000.00
Town Manager Expenses Prior Year	10,687.00		8,508.27	2,178.73	
Capital Exp Demo of 159 W Main St	29,542.10		2,500.00	0.00	27,042.10
Destination Groton	15,000.00		14,703.25	56.75	240.00
Sustainability Committee	15,000.00		13,933.46	494.25	572.29
Finance Committee Expense	220.00		0.00	220.00	
Reserve Fund	150,000.00	(39,500.00)	0.00	110,500.00	
Town Accountant Salary	115,615.00		115,615.40	(0.40)	
Town Accountant Wages	54,491.00		54,284.60	206.40	
Town Accountant Expense/Audit	39,100.00		36,769.76	2,330.24	
Assessors Salaries	94,300.00		94,299.96	0.04	
Assessors Wages	68,486.00		66,873.18	1,612.82	
Assessors Expense	47,374.00		45,336.26	2,037.74	
Treasurer/Tax Collector Salary	150,769.00		150,768.87	0.13	
Treasurer/Tax Collector Wages	80,256.00		79,296.06	959.94	
Treasurer/Tax Collector Expense	26,253.00		26,086.37	126.63	40.00
Treasurer Bond Costs	2,300.00		500.00	1,800.00	
Town Counsel Expense	90,000.00	5,500.00	95,387.09	112.91	
Town Counsel Expense Prior Year	5,183.00		3,832.50	1,350.50	
Personnel Board Salary	94,300.00	750.00	95,049.96	0.04	
Personnel Board Expense	12,400.00	7,750.00	18,674.31	1,475.69	
Personnel Board Expense Prior Year	1,657.00		1,656.20	0.80	
Information Technology Salary	121,627.00		121,627.14	(0.14)	
Information Technology Wages	70,261.00	81.00	70,342.00	0.00	
Information Technology Expense	24,800.00	(81.00)	24,588.08	90.93	39.99
Information Technology Exp Prior Yr	1,200.00		12.45	1,187.55	
Information Technology Capital Exp FY22	17,485.00		17,485.00	0.00	
Information Technology Capital Exp FY23	40,000.00		18,665.54	0.00	21,334.46
Information Technology Capital Exp FY24	50,000.00		0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Postage, General Expenses	70,500.00	16,500.00	77,241.00	9,759.00	
Central Purchasing/Office Supplies	17,000.00	800.00	17,792.99	7.01	
Telephone Expense	30,000.00		23,493.43	5,706.57	800.00
Telephone Expense Prior Year	1,400.00		845.23	554.77	
Tax Title	7,100.00		260.00	6,840.00	
Town Clerk Salary	98,472.00		98,472.40	(0.40)	
Town Clerk Wages	73,575.00	3,031.00	76,605.83	0.17	
Town Clerk Expense	18,450.00		11,860.06	5,780.78	809.16
Election/Registrar Wages	26,530.00	(3,031.00)	17,385.00	6,114.00	
Election/Registrar Expense	28,052.00		23,118.90	2,961.91	1,971.19
Election Poll Pads FY24	13,600.00		13,600.00	0.00	
Street Listing Expense	5,700.00		5,698.06	1.94	
Street Listing Expense Prior Year	375.00		374.70	0.30	
Conservation Commission Salary	73,351.00		70,533.36	2,817.64	
Conservation Commission Expense	8,770.00		8,749.41	20.59	
Conservation Commission Expense Prior Year	64.00		63.25	0.75	
GIS Committee Expenses	8,300.00		8,300.00	0.00	
Planning Board Salary	95,921.00		95,171.48	749.52	
Planning Board Expense	9,950.00		9,308.65	114.23	527.12
Planning Board Expense Prior Year	750.00		748.86	1.14	
Planning Board MRPC Assessment	4,200.00		3,942.20	257.80	
Capital Exp Master Plan	150,000.00		124,430.00	0.00	25,570.00
Board of Appeals Expense	1,500.00		557.66	849.84	92.50
Municipal Buildings Wages	166,348.00	(26,841.00)	138,182.46	1,324.54	
Municipal Buildings Expense	270,950.00		270,921.34	28.66	
Municipal Buildings Expense Prior Year	4,823.00		4,806.07	16.93	
Police Station Roof/Siding FY21	9,373.15		9,373.15	0.00	
Municipal Building Repairs FY24	25,000.00		25,000.00	0.00	
Seal Police/Fire Parking Lots FY24	30,000.00		0.00	0.00	30,000.00
Country Club Parking Lot FY24	80,000.00		0.00	0.00	80,000.00
Building Maintenance Van FY23	60,000.00		55,296.87	1,703.13	3,000.00
Insurance and Bonding	320,000.00		310,031.78	9,968.22	
Insurance Deductible Reserve-GenLiab	12,000.00		11,498.84	501.16	
Insurance Deductible Reserve-GenLiab Prior Yr	1,576.00		1,576.00	0.00	
Insurance Deductible Reserve-111F	25,000.00	(19,675.00)	1,238.07	1,586.93	2,500.00
Town Reports	1,500.00		1,500.00	0.00	
Total General Government	3,601,878.25	(54,716.00)	3,104,595.43	193,144.88	249,421.94
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY					
Police Department Salary	286,466.00	5,000.00	291,223.96	242.04	
Police Department Wages	2,116,748.00	(5,000.00)	1,957,469.71	154,278.29	
Police Department Expense	215,370.00		195,166.12	17,993.88	2,210.00
Police Department Expense Prior Year	559.56		349.26	210.30	
Police Department Cruisers Lease/Purchase	5,000.00		5,000.00	0.00	
Police Department Minor Capital	6,420.00		6,420.00	0.00	

Police Department Minor Capital Prior Year	3,411.00		3,395.77	15.23	
Police Department Security Update FY23	25,000.00		0.00	0.00	25,000.00
Police Department New Cruisers FY24	125,142.00		125,142.00	0.00	
Police Dept. Hazmat Storage FY24	30,000.00		0.00	0.00	30,000.00
Fire Department Salaries	281,595.00	8,708.00	290,302.49	0.51	
Fire Department Wages	1,112,490.00	38,000.00	1,150,339.05	150.95	
Fire Department Expense	207,096.00	2,810.00	209,902.04	3.96	
Fire Exp Prior Year	11,900.00		11,900.00	0.00	
Fire Department Eng 1 Refurb. FY22	28,717.76		26,206.98	0.00	2,510.78
Fire Dept. Command Vehicle FY24	70,000.00		64,675.81	0.00	5,324.19
Police & Fire Communications Wages	448,073.00	7,684.00	455,757.00	0.00	
Police & Fire Communications Expense	23,875.00		14,017.60	9,857.40	
Police & Fire Communications Exp Prior Yr	131.00		129.69	1.31	
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	104,904.00	155.00	105,058.63	0.37	
Building Inspector Wages	61,453.00	790.00	62,238.15	4.85	
Building Inspector Expense	21,750.00	7,000.00	27,710.61	1,039.39	
Salaries/Fees-Mechanical Inspector	39,000.00	5,360.00	43,360.00	0.00	1,000.00
Mechanical Inspector Expense	4,000.00		3,106.61	893.39	
Sealer Weights & Measures Salary	3,200.00		300.00	2,900.00	
Sealer Weights & Measures Salary Prior Yr	600.00		440.00	160.00	
Sealer Weights & Measures Expense	100.00		0.00	100.00	
Animal Inspector/Animal Control Off. Salaries	4,164.00		4,164.16	(0.16)	
Animal Inspector/Animal Control Off.Expense	800.00		531.79	268.21	
Earth Removal Inspector Salary	2,500.00		2,500.00	0.00	
Earth Removal Inspector Salary Prior Year	2,500.00		2,500.00	0.00	
Earth Removal Inspector Expense	200.00		0.00	200.00	
Civil Defense Salaries	4,000.00		4,000.00	0.00	
Civil Defense/Aux Police/EOC Expenses	40,000.00		40,000.00	0.00	
Dog Officer Salary	17,500.00		17,500.08	(0.08)	
Dog Officer Expense	3,000.00		2,988.65	11.35	
Total Protection Persons and Property	5,463,564.16	70,507.00	5,123,796.16	188,331.19	221,943.81

SCHOOLS

Nashoba Valley Tech High School Assmt	762,656.00		762,656.00	0.00	
Minuteman Regional Vocation Technical	0.00			0.00	
Groton Dunstable Reg School District Assmt	26,955,715.00		26,955,715.00	0.00	
Total Schools	27,718,371.00	0.00	27,718,371.00	0.00	

PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES

General Highway Salary	120,293.00		120,293.46	(0.46)	
General Highway Wages	743,323.00	(10,000.00)	731,227.35	2,095.65	
General Highway Expense	136,900.00		126,073.11	6,926.89	3,900.00
General Highway Prior Year Exp	602.00		601.34	0.66	
General Highway Road Maintenance	80,000.00		71,282.06	8,717.94	
General Highway Minor Capital	15,000.00		15,000.00	0.00	
General Highway Minor Capital Prior Year	13,965.00		11,446.13	2,518.87	
General Highway James Brook Maint. FY19	50,000.00		2,278.10	0.00	47,721.90
General Highway Loader FY23	26,444.80		26,444.54	0.26	
Snow & Ice Overtime	141,184.31	11,841.00	153,024.85	0.46	
Snow & Ice Expense	228,416.19		228,416.19	0.00	
Snow & Ice Hired Equipment	45,399.50		45,399.50	0.00	
Street Lighting	15,000.00		14,598.30	401.70	
Waste Disposal Wages	154,315.00		148,580.70	5,734.30	
Waste Disposal Consulting	5,850.00		5,850.00	0.00	
Waste Disposal Expense	45,686.00		39,635.61	0.00	6,050.39
Waste Disposal Tipping Fees	145,000.00		138,123.04	0.00	6,876.96
Waste Disposal Tipping Fees Prior Year	429.00		428.10	0.90	
Waste Disposal Minor Capital	5,000.00		1,237.50	0.00	3,762.50
Tree Department Expense	3,000.00		1,772.56	1,227.44	
Tree Department Tree Work	31,500.00		31,369.79	0.00	130.21
Graves Registration Salary	250.00		250.00	0.00	
Graves Registration Expense	760.00		760.00	0.00	
Care of Veterans' Graves	1,500.00		1,500.00	0.00	
Total Public Works & Facilities	2,009,817.80	1,841.00	1,915,592.23	27,624.61	68,441.96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Board of Health Engineering Consult	10,600.00		9,433.33	1,166.67	
Board of Health Eng Consult Prior Yr	67.00		67.00	0.00	
Board of Health Expense	1,575.00		877.39	697.61	
County Assessments	56,631.00		55,344.52	1,286.48	
Council on Aging Salaries	144,446.00	4,355.00	148,800.26	0.74	
Council on Aging Wages	46,143.00		45,585.46	557.54	
Council on Aging Expense	12,254.00	3,068.00	11,417.02	2,833.62	1,071.36
Council on Aging Expense Prior Year	171.00		170.49	0.51	
Senior Center Van Wages	74,808.00	77.00	74,884.55	0.45	
Senior Center Van Expenses	18,023.00		15,487.90	2,465.10	70.00
Veterans' Agent Salary	6,120.00		6,120.14	(0.14)	
Veterans' Agent Expense	1,100.00		50.00	1,050.00	
Veterans' Benefits	25,000.00		22,771.34	2,228.66	
Total Health & Human Services	396,938.00	7,500.00	391,009.40	12,287.24	1,141.36

LIBRARY AND CITIZENS' SERVICES

Library Salaries	441,807.00	(2,032.00)	435,562.43	3,537.57	675.00
Library Wages	317,104.00	2,032.00	319,135.01	0.99	
Library Expense	226,873.00		225,434.62	1,438.38	

Library Expense Prior Year	3,458.82		2,928.18	530.64	
Library Emergency Exit	19,000.00		0.00	0.00	19,000.00
Library Bldg Envelope	18,000.00		16,984.89	1,015.11	
Library Parking Lot FY22	4,772.52		1,089.15	2,183.37	1,500.00
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	172,675.00		172,568.08	106.92	
Country Club Wages	237,305.00	15,810.00	253,111.26	3.74	
Country Club Expenses	167,774.00	56,500.00	223,824.01	449.99	
Country Club Ventrac Lease	20,918.00		20,917.37	0.63	
Country Club Pool Improvements	110,000.00		110,000.00	0.00	
Country Club Golf Carts Lease	25,000.00		25,000.00	0.00	
Country Club Driving Range Improvements	50,000.00		49,551.10	448.90	
Parks Department Wages	17,571.00		12,663.93	4,907.07	
Park Department Expense	55,759.00		55,577.91	181.09	
Parks Property Improvements FY24	25,000.00		21,598.85	0.00	3,401.15
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		252.50	247.50	
Great Ponds Advisory Gen Expenses	12,385.00		9,965.00	2,420.00	
Great Ponds Advisory Gen Expenses PY	383.71		0.00	383.71	
Weed Harvesting/Great Ponds Expense	22,000.00		17,665.65	2,834.35	1,500.00
Water Safety Wages	4,560.00		1,290.00	3,270.00	
Water Safety Expense	13,683.00		7,108.33	6,574.67	
Total Library and Citizens' Services	2,040,129.05	72,310.00	1,982,228.27	31,334.63	98,876.15

DEBT SERVICE

Principal Long-Term Debt	2,023,506.00		2,023,506.23	(0.23)	
Interest Long-Term Debt	1,496,326.00		1,493,325.99	3,000.01	
Short-Term Debt Prin/Int	1,102,138.00	(56,357.00)	1,045,343.99	437.01	
Total Debt Service	4,621,970.00	(56,357.00)	4,562,176.21	3,436.79	0.00

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

County Retirement Assessment	2,494,280.00		2,494,280.00	0.00	
Health & Life Insurance	2,069,708.00	(35,885.00)	2,020,683.61	13,139.39	
MNHG Claims Run Out FY24	263,424.00		263,424.00	0.00	
Unemployment Compensation	10,000.00	(5,200.00)	678.00	4,122.00	
Unemployment Compensation Prior Year	7,861.00		4,816.00	3,045.00	
OPEB Unfunded Liability	185,000.00		185,000.00	0.00	
Medicare Employer Contribution	157,000.00		154,288.23	0.00	2,711.77
Total Employee Benefits	5,187,273.00	(41,085.00)	5,123,169.84	20,306.39	2,711.77

WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Water Department Salaries	171,916.00		171,915.71	0.29	
Water Department Wages	283,887.00		283,666.84	220.16	
Water Department Expense	829,777.00		704,576.70	122,400.30	2,800.00
Water Department Expense Prior Year	650.00		400.00	250.00	
Water Infrastructure BAN Payment	449,955.00		372,260.17	77,694.83	
Water Department Debt Service	355,287.00		355,286.24	0.76	
Total Water Department Enterprise	2,091,472.00	0.00	1,888,105.66	200,566.34	2,800.00

SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Sewer Department Salaries	23,373.00		23,372.12	0.88	
Sewer Department Wages	54,743.00		54,739.50	3.50	
Sewer Department Expense	830,457.00		700,771.53	129,685.47	
Sewer Department Expense Prior Year	350.00		143.92	206.08	
Sewer Dept: Debt Service (incl. betterments)	33,426.00		32,718.25	707.75	
Total Sewer Department Enterprise	942,349.00	0.00	811,745.32	130,603.68	0.00

4 CORNERS SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Sewer Department Salaries	2,598.00		2,597.06	0.94	
Sewer Department Wages	6,083.00		6,082.21	0.79	
Sewer Department Expense	89,130.00		71,474.58	17,655.42	
Sewer Dept: Debt Service	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Total Sewer Department Enterprise	97,811.00	0.00	80,153.85	17,657.15	0.00

CABLE DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

Cable Department Salaries	69,656.00		69,656.44	(0.44)	
Cable Department Wages	58,870.00		58,869.38	0.62	
Cable Department Expense	111,611.00		100,422.90	11,188.10	
Cable Department Minor Capital	10,000.00		7,930.91	2,069.09	
Total Cable Department Enterprise	250,137.00	0.00	236,879.63	13,257.37	0.00

STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND

Stormwater Department Salaries					
Stormwater Department Wages	79,520.00		78,356.92	1,163.08	
Stormwater Department Expense	112,000.00		108,436.58	1,346.07	2,217.35
Stormwater Department Expense Prior Year	27,000.00		0.00	27,000.00	
Stormwater Department Minor Capital	51,000.00		38,791.11	8,133.89	4,075.00
Stormwater Department Minor Cap Prior Yr	51,000.00		51,000.00	0.00	
Total Stormwater Enterprise Fund	320,520.00	0.00	276,584.61	37,643.04	6,292.35

CAPITAL PROJECTS	Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures	Bal to FY25
Complete Streets	5,031.47		470.00	0.00
Radio Upgrade Public Safety	(167,277.16)	83,861.17		0.00
DPW Vehicles FY19/FY22	(145,993.58)	39,431.00	2,006.42	0.00
Four Corners Sewer	6,382.67			0.00
Senior Center Building	24,752.53			0.00
FloRo School Constr FY22	6,459,031.02	15,163,726.12	41,206,857.23	0.00
Library Roof FY19	26,313.41		1,783.00	0.00
Fire Engine #5 FY22	77,860.00	800,000.00	7,084.63	0.00
Chapter 90 Highway Funds	(32,666.80)	724,126.37	401,236.95	0.00
Water Well Improvements	(125,104.15)	38,310.15		0.00
Whitney Manganese Plant	(6,332,440.48)	10,029,285.78	4,134,031.94	0.00
Whitney Well #3	(1,079,362.82)	880,880.90	64,018.08	0.00
Heritage Landing Cow Pond Brook	0.00	15,000.00	6,038.81	0.00
500 Main Street Water Mains	12,000.00	49,048.00	53,060.85	0.00
Total Capital Projects	(1,271,473.89)	27,823,669.49	45,876,587.91	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	53,470,756.37	27,823,669.49	99,090,995.52	876,193.31

**SPECIAL REVENUE
FISCAL 2024**

Note: Bal. forward to 2025 incl. encumbrances for incomplete projects; Unalloc Rsrv incl. operating rsrv

Community Preservation Fund	Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures	Bal to FY25
Unallocated Reserve	441,336.38	960,494.99	608,999.86	792,831.51
Community Housing Reserve	697,355.90	137,213.57	258,632.00	575,937.47
Historic Resource Reserve	293,025.20	137,213.57	5,793.00	424,445.77
Open Space Reserve	45,930.58	137,213.57	125,000.00	58,144.15
Totals	1,477,648.06	1,372,135.70	998,424.86	1,851,358.90

GIFTS

Highway Department Gift	5,257.83	1,106.00	891.10	5,472.73
Fire Department Gift Fund	14,081.11	1,850.00	525.08	15,406.03
Police Department Gift Fund	10,373.57	1,100.00	478.60	10,994.97
DARE Program Gift Fund	563.65		460.95	102.70
GLA Sargisson Beach FY14 Gift	5,000.00		5,000.00	0.00
Library Gift Fund	50,345.11	2,609.58	3,620.46	49,334.23
Council on Aging Gift Fund	25,312.70	15,937.61	12,682.02	28,568.29
GLA Weed Control Gift	3,767.36			3,767.36
Library Tarbell Paintings Gift	38,014.43	507.73	3,500.60	35,021.56
SargBeachLifeguardsFY17	975.63			975.63
K-9 Gift Fund Police Dept.	3,323.06	310.00	2,399.94	1,233.12
COA Women in Need Gift	1,000.00			1,000.00
Community Emerg. Relief	3,642.91			3,642.91
Williams Barn Gift	968.96	2,043.00	2,155.46	856.50
Historic District LIDAR Prescott	0.00	3,550.00		3,550.00
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	2,087.95		126.00	1,961.95
Parks Commission Gift	0.00	1,535.00	668.50	866.50
Community Children's Fund	8,724.30	17,307.28	10,725.62	15,305.96
Pavillion Maintenance Gift	236.00			236.00
Smith Fountain Gift	2,017.94			2,017.94
Sargisson Beach/Canoe Launch Fund	6,168.21			6,168.21
Cable TV Programming Gift Fund	2,360.77		49.97	2,310.80
Greenway Committee Gift	11,994.74	3,175.00	3,092.50	12,077.24
Parks Basketball Court Maint. GDYBL	2,008.55			2,008.55
Destination Groton Gift	0.00	2,665.62	1,719.20	946.42
C-Lab/Insco Monitoring Gift	1,406.51			1,406.51
LA Mental Health Gift	0.00	15,000.00		15,000.00
Flagpole Solar Maintenance	550.00			550.00
Country Club Gift	1,620.00	14,520.00	13,380.00	2,760.00
Lost Lake Dam Gift Fund	100,533.85			100,533.85
Sustainability Committee Gift Fund	100.00	20.00	70.97	49.03
Trails Committee Gift Fund	5,890.29	10,714.19	2,123.40	14,481.08
Recycling Gift Fund	2,793.17	6,650.00		9,443.17
LostLakeKnopsPondGift	3,430.00			3,430.00
Swim Team Gift Fund	19.02		19.02	0.00
BOS Gift Fund	118,316.19	20,000.00	3,741.76	134,574.43
Totals	446,022.84	120,601.01	67,431.15	0.00

GRANTS

<i>State / Community Grants</i>				
DEP Car Charging Stations FY22	(28,009.88)	30,149.86	2,139.98	0.00
911 Support & Incentive FY24	0.00	174,235.71	282,975.98	(108,740.27)
FY24 911 Training Grant	0.00	6,833.80	9,141.64	(2,307.84)
Fire Department SAFE Grant	2,001.72		2,001.72	0.00
FY23/22/21 Fire Dept Equip Grant	(13,824.00)	12,767.00	12,587.00	(13,644.00)
James Brook Grant	21.41			21.41
Library: LIGMEG grant	116,898.52	29,242.13	53,175.05	92,965.60
Arts Council Grant	8,821.30	7,941.86	10,260.00	6,503.16

Elder Programs Grant	19,325.54	38,124.00	43,920.87	13,528.67
Med Box Grant Police	3,048.88			3,048.88
Polling Hours Grant	5,301.78	9,192.82	630.00	13,864.60
911 EMD Grant FY24	0.00	1,890.00	1,890.00	0.00
911 Training Grant FY23	(2,813.32)	3,042.32	229.00	0.00
QDS Software Conversion Grant	15,000.00		9,074.00	5,926.00
SMRP Recycling Grant	5,882.21		150.00	5,732.21
Green Communities Grant FY21	(22,699.25)	32,770.25	2,149.00	7,922.00
Police Defibrillator Grant	0.00	1,363.80	1,363.80	0.00
IT InfraGrant FY17, 20	1,421.25			1,421.25
IT CyberSecurity Grant FY17	8,195.77			8,195.77
BOH Equip Grant	0.00			0.00
Comm Foundation Trails Riverwalk	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
Muni Road Safety Grant FY24	0.00	8,289.17	14,865.89	(6,576.72)
Invasive Species Grant	25.83	1,270.00		1,295.83
Muni Road Safety Grant FY23	(1,520.95)	1,649.32	128.37	0.00
ARPA Projects Direct Fed	1,073,316.17		725,612.66	347,703.51
ARPA Projects State Earmark	38,463.39		24,167.24	14,296.15

Totals	1,232,990.58	358,762.04	1,196,462.20	0.00	395,290.42
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REVOLVING	Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures		Bal to FY25
Affordable Housing Marketing/Monitoring	10,912.19				10,912.19
Revolving: Handicap Parking Fines	130.00				130.00
Revolving: Boat Tax	481.95	1,131.00	481.95		1,131.00
Revolving Bldg Rent for Maint.	3,263.61	36,708.00	24,334.97		15,636.64
Revolving: Home Recycling	1,820.62	11,585.00	4,080.62		9,325.00
Revolving: Drug Forfeiture	14,140.09				14,140.09
Revolving : Insurance Claims	4,536.33	8,280.84	12,817.17		0.00
Revolving: Erosion Control	7,085.42	4,828.50	3,801.25		8,112.67
Revolving: Conservation Land Mgmt	13,606.72				13,606.72
Revolving: Glass Plant Maintenance	15,365.75	3,204.00	8,075.00		10,494.75
Sr. Center Fitness Equipment	7,343.51	4,110.00	733.00		10,720.51
Revolving: COA Programming	1,369.54	16,036.51	15458.00		1,948.05
Revolving: COA Bldg Monitoring	715.00		715.00		0.00
Twn Mgr Academy Hill Rd Acceptance	0.00	4,013.63			4,013.63
Cons593: Academy Hill LLC	527.92	5.32			533.24
Peer Review Conductor Lab	0.00	20,106.15	9,606.04		10,500.11
Caseella Acres Engineering Review	0.00	5,006.97	3,305.00		1,701.97
Heritage Landing Engineering/Traffic Review	0.00	19,501.31	19,376.40		124.91
ZBA593:Heritage Financial	5,000.01	49.61			5,049.62
ZBA593:Heritage Legal	7,500.01	74.42			7,574.43
ZBA593: Groton Farms Civil Eng	15,656.44	72.42	12,376.08		3,352.78
PB593: Academy Hill	0.00	11,192.51	11,190.00		2.51
PB 593: Chamberlains Mills	67.17	0.71			67.88
PB 593: Batten Woods	409.28	4.14			413.42
PB 593: Bluestone Ln	1,805.19	18.16			1,823.35
PB 593: 128 Main St Groton Inn	4,373.69	44.01			4,417.70
PB 593: Groton Hill Music	1.43				1.43
PB 593: Rocky Hill	0.00	4,006.54	2,799.75		1,206.79
PB 593: 797 Boston Rd	0.00	7,519.25	6,410.00		1,109.25
PB593: 63 Gratuity Road	11,688.02	52.31	7,382.50		4,357.83
PB 593: Monarch Path	2.90	5,443.66	5,312.50		134.06
43D 593: Mt. Laurel Development	1,911.16	19.22			1,930.38
PB593: Village Meadows	514.02	5.17			519.19
PB 593: Hayes Woods	2,327.10	6,984.28	7,700.00		1,611.38
PB593: Village at Shepley Hill	510.10	2,506.77	2,732.50		284.37
ZBA593 Groton Farms Traffic	1,216.15	3,931.33	5,120.00		27.48
PB593: Noble Monarch	2,503.02	25.21			2,528.23
ZBA593: Groton Farms Legal	10,010.72	105.27			10,115.99
	146,795.06	176,572.22	163,807.73	0.00	159,559.55

RECEIPTS RESERVED

Premiums used for Debt Srvc Interest	0.00	2,408,539.80	184,273.24	2,224,266.56
TNC Distribution DPU	1,840.90	500.80		2,341.70
Town Forest	74,358.26			74,358.26
EMS	782,618.73	483,601.71	470,728.00	795,492.44
Sale of Tarbell School	1,584.00			1,584.00

EMS Rcpts Res. includes \$350,000 encumbered for FY 2025

	860,401.89	2,892,642.31	655,001.24	0.00	3,098,042.96
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NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS	Bal. Forward	Interest & Market Adj	Disbursements & - Market Adj	Transfers In or Out	Bal to FY25
Samuel Green Trust	177,238.57	10,921.28			188,159.85
Joseph Shepley Trust	408,508.91	25,171.95			433,680.86

Barr Eye Trust	3,507.89	216.15		3,724.04
Dalrymple Eye Trust	14,805.45	912.30		15,717.75
Waters Trust	7,975,651.05	491,452.42		8,467,103.47
Robbins Library Trust	4,120,124.31	253,878.33		4,374,002.64
Library Book Fund Trust	227,992.16	14,048.67		242,040.83
Lecture Fund Trust	6,311,647.21	388,917.99		6,700,565.20
Shepley Fountain Trust	3,507.87	216.14		3,724.01
Spaulding Trust	1,413.54	87.10		1,500.64
Blood Cemetery Perpetual Care	1,413.51	87.10		1,500.61
Sawyer Library Trust	7,267.24	447.79		7,715.03
Butler School Fund	16,724.15	1,030.53		17,754.68
Groton Commons Fund	14,048.85	865.67		14,914.52
Robertson Onners Fund	41,671.66	2,739.73	1,730.45	42,680.94
Robbins Scholarship Fund	23,427.73	1,443.60		24,871.33
Twomey Scholarship Fund	49,147.40	3,249.07	581.09	51,815.38
VanHoogan Scholarship	94,785.65	6,012.62	2,074.33	98,723.94
Bertozzi Scholarship	189,806.63	12,517.93	168.57	202,155.99
Belitsky Scholarship	22,883.61	1,592.40	83.52	24,392.49
Thomas Hartnett Memorial Scholarship Fund	21,513.57	1,544.25		23,057.82
Social Justice Trust Fund	20,819.26	1,282.86		22,102.12
DiePietro Memorial Schol.	1,850,832.04	114,046.59		1,964,878.63
Champney Cemetery Perpetual Care	1,413.52	87.10		1,500.62
	21,600,151.78	1,332,769.57	4,637.96	0.00 22,928,283.39

EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS	Revenue, Interest Disbursements &			Bal to FY25
	Bal. Forward	+ Market Adj	- Market Adj	
Samuel Green Trust	945,075.85	76,926.88	29,516.65	992,486.08
Joseph Shepley Trust	412,329.32	38,757.66	12,108.54	438,978.44
Barr Eye Trust	2,411.94	250.65		2,662.59
Dalrymple Eye Trust	32,684.50	2,628.80	782.99	34,530.31
Waters Trust	1,092,610.93	212,870.29	95,677.63	1,209,803.59
Robbins Library Trust	645,620.77	113,831.27	81,555.74	677,896.30
Library Book Fund Trust	80,484.34	9,919.96		90,404.30
Lecture Fund Trust	966,796.58	176,758.03	121,300.73	1,022,253.88
Shepley Fountain Trust	4,062.77	382.51		4,445.28
Spaulding Trust	610.52	72.03		682.55
Blood Cemetery Perpetual Care	5,727.23	482.09		6,209.32
Lawrence Library Trust	95,022.87	7,460.95		102,483.82
Sawyer Library Trust	2,387.55	310.11		2,697.66
Butler School Fund	3,618.99	564.39		4,183.38
Groton Commons Fund	6,095.65	717.95		6,813.60
Robertson Onners Fund	15,944.14	3,342.65	650.00	18,636.79
Robbins Scholarship Fund	9,063.75	1,109.42		10,173.17
Twomey Scholarship Fund	2,230.32	1,271.78	1,500.00	2,002.10
VanHoogan Scholarship	6,221.61	3,692.38	750.00	9,163.99
Bertozzi Scholarship	4,793.23	2,707.21	2,799.80	4,700.64
Belitsky Scholarship	925.41	836.56	1,000.00	761.97
Thomas Hartnett Memorial Scholarship Fund	570.16	669.46		1,239.62
Social Justice Trust Fund	5,356.00	825.44	450.00	5,731.44
DiePietro Memorial Schol.	19,460.32	97,972.85	5,000.00	112,433.17
Champney Cemetery Perpetual Care	3,281.19	286.05		3,567.24
TREAD	5,079.69	13,286.63	1,000.00	17,366.32
OPEB	1,024,270.72	337,971.02		1,362,241.74
Affordable Housing Trust - CPC Trfs	0.00	200,000.00		200,000.00
Avenue of Flags	3,497.81	35.18		3,532.99
Groton Scholarship	15,600.47	8,696.07	23,600.00	696.54
Turtle Study Trust	26,641.26	268.03		26,909.29
Turtle MainTrust	29,838.15	300.20		30,138.35
RentAssist/Kiley Donation	50,000.00			50,000.00
Affordable Housing Trust - Unrestricted Funds	197,680.79	22,930.51	16,051.43	204,559.87
Opioid Settlement Funds	0.00	11,024.70		11,024.70
General Stabilization	2,389,007.83	190,359.74		2,579,367.57
Conservation Commission	1,092,280.32	846,607.17	459,859.23	1,479,028.26
Capital Stabilization	441,043.62	670,681.53	340,142.00	771,583.15
GDRSD Cap Stabilization	261,485.63	572,328.03	516,831.00	316,982.66
	9,899,812.23	3,629,136.18	1,710,575.74	0.00 11,818,372.67

Note: Capital Purchase Stabilization Fund Balances include amounts encumbered to FY24 for Capital Expenditures

AGENCY FUNDS	Bal. Forward	Receipts	Expenditures	Bal to FY25
Payroll Deductions	109,883.16	1,034,684.50	1,035,886.81	108,680.85
Police Details Payable	(1,861.22)	188,040.00	204,270.00	(18,091.22)
Fire Details Payable	0.00	8,655.33	8,655.33	0.00
ALS Services Payable	9,925.00	90,600.00	91,150.00	9,375.00
ALS Billing Fees Payable	1,968.29	25,133.85	24,613.99	2,488.15
State Sales Tax Payable	1,457.25	6,858.22	7,060.03	1,255.44
State Firearms Permits Payable	4,075.00	13,000.00	13,025.00	4,050.00
Deputy Collector Payable	17,161.65	27,413.00	15,092.00	29,482.65

Due to Municipalities Recycling	0.00			0.00
NEBS Payable for Driveway	10,000.00			10,000.00
Turtles Kanniard Homes	9,140.56	91.96		9,232.52
Performance Bond: 39 Anthony Dr Keenan	527.76	5.31		533.07
Performance Bond: Chamberlain Mills	3,961.59	15.82		3,977.41
Performance Bond: GT Smith Moose Trail	1,053.98	10.62		1,064.60
Performance Bond: H&V Trailer	1,502.10			1,502.10
Performance Bond: Enwright Champney St	500.83	5.07		505.90
Road Opening Bond Wojtas	527.61	5.31		532.92
Trailer Bond: Pinnacle 120 Boston Rd	5.04			5.04
Performance Bond: H&V Trailer	1,667.24	28.88		1,696.12
Hummingbird Lane Rocky Hill	107,950.18	812.48	108,762.66	0.00
Perf Bond Bluebird Lane	126,452.44	1,275.28		127,727.72
PerfBond Oriole Dr Moulton	285,144.58	2,868.86		288,013.44
TrailerBond Shepley Hill Constr	5,050.38	50.81		5,101.19
Kiley Habitat Protection Turtles	11,106.24	111.74		11,217.98
Tight Tank Bond 72 Maplewood	1,000.42	10.06		1,010.48
Tight Tank 14 Valley Rd	0.00	1,005.48		1,005.48
Performance Bond 468 Main BREM	0.00	8,014.00		8,014.00
Performance Bond Hayes Wood Drainage	0.00	432,857.79		432,857.79
West Groton Water District	53,923.25	199,361.61	235,261.41	18,023.45
Mass Toss	4,832.69	57,910.53	48,631.10	14,112.12
	766,956.02	2,098,826.51	1,792,408.33	0.00
				1,073,374.20



FLORENCE ROCHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2024



FLORENCE ROCHE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Fay Raynor – Chairperson of School Building Committee
Dr. Luke Callahan – Director of Technology
Dr. Laura Chesson – Superintendent of Schools
Cathy Doody – Groton Finance Committee
Marlena Gilbert – Groton-Dunstable School Committee Chair
Mark Haddad – Town Manager
Sherry Kersey – Director of Business & Finance
Jake Lewon – Dunstable Advisory Committee
Allison Manugian – Groton Select Board
Brian O'Donoghue – Principal, Florence Roche Elementary School

GROTON-DUNSTABLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Marlena Gilbert – Chair	Ryan McLane – Vice-Chair
Catherine Awa	Peter Cronin
Rosanna Casavecchia	Rafael Glod
Yasmeen Cheema	Jeff Kubick
	Brian LeBlanc
	Lacey McCabe
	Fay Raynor

GROTON SELECT BOARD

Allison Manugian – Chair
Joshua Degen – Vice-Chair
John Reilly – Clerk
Peter Cunningham
John Giger
Rebecca 'Becky' Pine
Matthew Pisani

ARCHITECT

Studio G Architects

OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGER

LeftField Project Management

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Gilbane Building Company

This project funded in part by the
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY