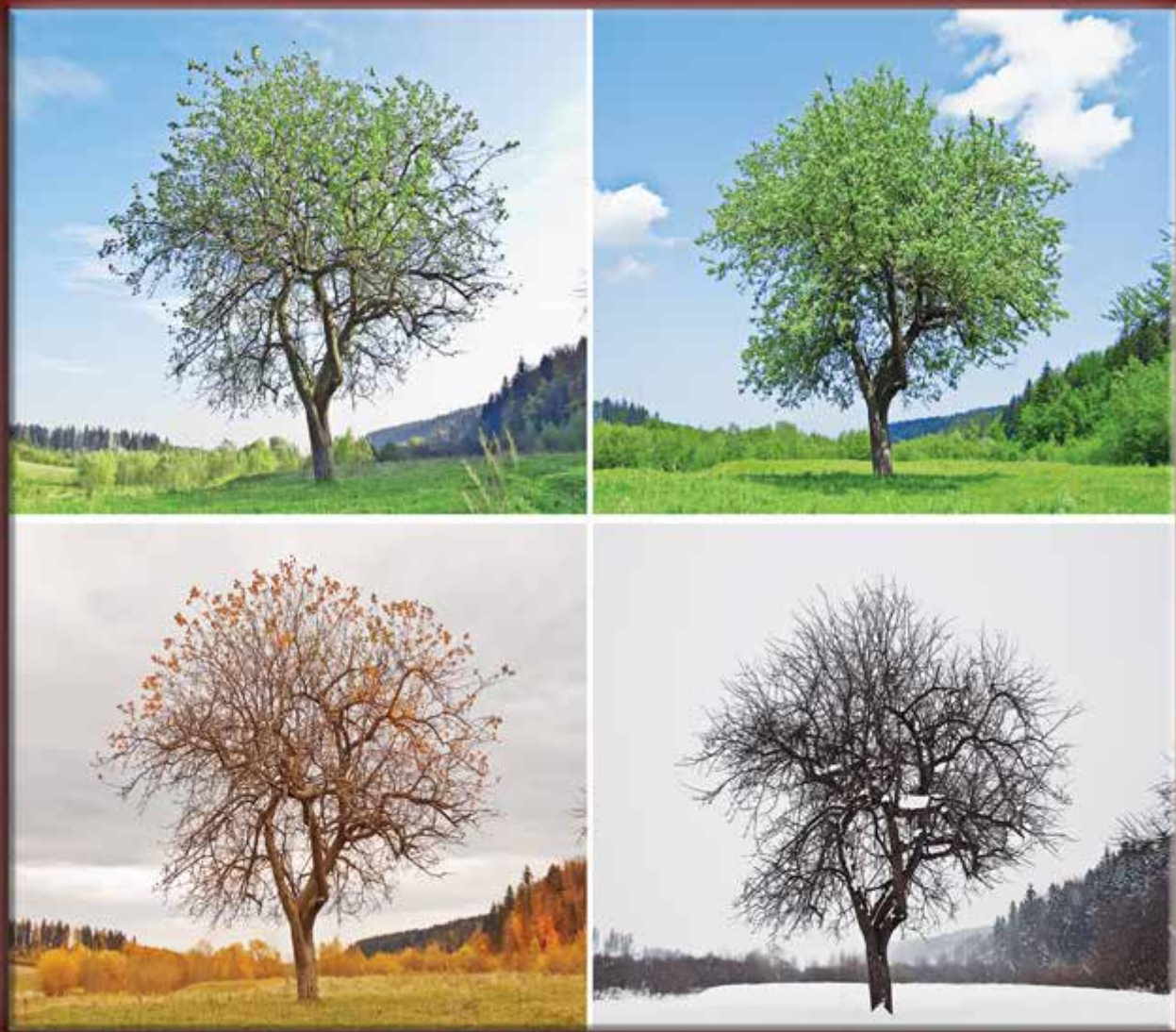


2021
GROTON, VERMONT
TOWN REPORT



REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Select Board Chair	Wade Johnson, Sr.	584-3628	wjohnson@grotonvt.com
Select Board	Aaron Smith	584-3308	asmith@grotonvt.com
Select Board	Zachary Conaway		zconaway@grotonvt.com
Select Board Secretary	Debra Johnson	584-3628	secretary@grotonvt.com
Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	584-3276	townclerk@grotonvt.com
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	584-3131	treasurer@grotonvt.com
Highway Department	Harold Hatch Phillip Palmer	584-3209	grotonhwy@fairpoint.net
First Constable	Jim Downing	584-3211	
Fire Chief	Wade Johnson, Sr.	584-3628	grotonfire@fairpoint.net
Asst. Fire Chief	Shaun Stetson	584-3204	
Fire Station		584-3855	
Forest Fire Warden	Wade Johnson, Sr.	584-3628	
Forest Fire Warden Deputy	Justin Carle	584-4288	
Zoning Admin.	Dan Webster	584-4108	
Health Officer	Wade Johnson, Sr	584-3628	
Animal Control Officer & Pound Keeper	Michelle Boyer	802-439-5827	
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	584-3004	cdt@grotonvt.com
Assessor	John Westinghouse	584-3155	assessor@grotonvt.com
Assistant Assessor	Dorothy Knott	584-3155	assistantassessor@grotonvt.com
Librarian	Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb	584-3358	grotonlibraryvt@gmail.com
NEK Waste Supervisor	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	584-3876	
NEK Waste Alternate	Caroline Diggins	584-3589	
NVDA Representative	Brent Smith	584-3765	
NVDA Alternate	Mark Gleicher	584-3049	

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Zoning Board of Adjustment	Aaron Smith	584-3308
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	584-3310
	Mark Gleicher	584-3049
Planning Commission	Michael Welch	
	Steve Hart	584-3936
	Brent Smith	584-3765
	Emily Pratt	
	Michael Nahmais	
	Dawn Evans	
	Jennifer Rogers	
Cemetery Commissioner	Aaron Smith	584-3308
Tree Warden	Steve Murray	802-535-5643
Emergency Mngmt. Coordinator	Brent Smith	584-3765
Justice of the Peace	Linda Nunn	584-3881
	Tirone Dyer	584-3730
	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	584-3876
	Brent Smith	584-3765
	Dorothy Knott	584-3243
	Deborah Jurist	584-3049
	Carrie Peters	584-3341
Green Up Coordinator	Alissa Smith	584-3308
Town Grand Juror	Gary Lamberton	584-3917
Fence Viewers	Wayne Dyer	584-3730
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	584-3310
	Mark Gleicher	584-3049
Inspectors of Wood, Lumber & Shingles	Robert Dorr	584-3359
	Kenneth Ricker	584-3241
Weigher of Coal	Frank Lapham	802-249-4887
Webmaster	Gary Lamberton	584-3917
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Deborah Jurist	584-3049

Town Elected Officers

Position	Name	Term Expires	Term Length
Moderator	Brent Abare	2022	1 Year
Road Commissioner	Harold Hatch	2024	3 Years
Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	2023	3 Years
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	2024	3 Years
Select Board	Wade Johnson Sr	2022	3 Years
	Aaron Smith	2024	3 Years
	Zachary Conaway	2023	3 Years
BMU District #21 Director	Allison Ingerson	2022	3 Years
	Sara Dennis	2024	3 Years
	Sarah Sanders	2023	3 Years resigned
	Sandra Woodworth	2022	1 Year
Library Trustee	Alissa Smith	2022	3 Years
	Jennifer Gaiss	2024	3 Years
	Wade Johnson Jr	2024	3 Years
	Peggy Burgin	2024	3 Years
	Deborah Jurist	2023	3 Years
Cemetery Commissioner	Tony Dennis	2022	3 Years
	Mark Shallberg	2024	3 Years
	Aaron Smith	2023	3 Years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	2023	3 years
First Constable	Jim Downing	2022	2 Years

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

Position	Name	Term Expires	Length of Term
Health Officer	Wade Johnson, Sr.	2022	1 Year
Deputy Health Officer	Daniel Webster	2022	1 Year
Fire Chief	Wade Johnson, Sr.	2022	1 Year
Forest Fire Warden	Wade Johnson, Sr.	2026	5 Year
911 Coordinator	Brent Smith	2022	1 Year
Emergency Management	Brent Smith	2022	1 Year
Fence Viewers	Wayne Dyer	2022	1 year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2022	1 Year
	Ken Murray	2022	1 year
Inspectors of Wood, Lumber & Shingles	Kenneth Ricker	2022	1 Year
	Robert Dorr	2022	1 Year
NVDA Representative	Brent Smith	2022	1 Year
NVDA Alternative	Mark Gleicher	2022	1 Year
Zoning Administrator	Daniel Webster	2022	1 Year
Assistant Zoning Administrator			
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Aaron Smith	2022	1 Year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2022	1 Year
	Mark Gleicher	2022	1 Year
Select Board Secretary	Debra Johnson	2022	1 Year
Town Service Officer	Carrie Peters	2022	1 Year
Animal Control Officer	Michelle Boyer	2023	3 Year
NEK Solid Waste Supervisor	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	2022	1 Year
NEK Solid Waste Alternative	Carolyn Diggins	2022	1 Year

Appointments cont.

Agent to Convey Real Estate

Deborah Jurist	2022	1 Year
Steve Murray	2022	1 Year
Gary Lamberton	2022	1 Year
Alissa Smith	2022	1 Year
Frank Lapham	2022	1 Year

Planning Commission

Michael Nahmais	2024	3 Year
Steve Hart	2024	3 Year
Michael Welch	2024	3 Year
Brent Smith	2024	3 Year
Emily Pratt	2024	3 Year
Dawn Evans	2024	3 Year
Jennifer Rogers	2024	3 Year
Ruth Meter	2024	3 Year (RES.)

Board of Civil Authority is made up of:

Select Board Members	Wade Johnson Sr. Aaron Smith Zachary Conaway
Justices of the Peace	Linda Nunn Brent Smith Tirone Dyer Timothy Dailey Sr. Deborah Jurist Dorothy Knott Carrie Peters

Board of Abatement is made up of:

Town Clerk	Carrie Peters
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart
Select Board Members	Wade Johnson Sr, Aaron Smith, Zac Conaway
Assessors	John Westinghouse, Dorothy Knott
Justices of the Peace	See above

WARNING: TOWN OF GROTON, VERMONT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

The Legal Voters of the Town of Groton, are hereby warned and notified to vote at the Groton Community Building on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1 To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont:

Moderator	One Year Term
Select Board Member	Three Year Term
1 st Constable	Two Year Term
Cemetery Commissioner	Three Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
BMU School Board Director	One Year Term
BMU School Board Director	Three Year Term

ARTICLE 2 Shall the voters prohibit the town constable from exercising any law enforcement authority, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 1936a(a)? (Instead the Town would contract with Caledonia County Sheriffs Dept for services, using up to the same budgeted amount, \$30,543)

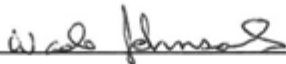
ARTICLE 3 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday, November 4, 2022, by 5:00 PM est. as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment)

ARTICLE 4 Shall the voters authorize using **up to** \$150,000 from the General Fund Surplus Reserve Fund, to be used for the Drainage project around the Community Building? (This will not raise the tax rate.)

ARTICLE 5 Shall the Town move \$40,000 out of the General Fund, Fund Balance to the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund? (This will not raise the tax rate.)

WARNING: TOWN OF GROTON, VERMONT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022


- ARTICLE 6** Shall the voters authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$689,877 of which \$409,207 shall be raised by taxes and \$280,670 by non-tax revenues?
- ARTICLE 7** Shall the voters authorize Highway Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$474,400 of which \$407,400 shall be raised by taxes and \$67,000 by non-tax revenues?



Wade Johnson Sr, Select Board Chair



Aaron Smith, Select Board



Zac Conaway, Select Board

Dated this 19th day of January, 2022

The Select Board will hold an Informational hearing by Zoom on Feb. 24, 2022 at 6:30pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on this warning.

I hereby certify that the foregoing
was recorded before posting.

Attest, Carrie Peters Town Clerk

WARNING
BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21
ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 (the “District”), comprising the legal voters, respectively, of the Towns of Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River, are hereby NOTIFIED AND WARNED to meet at their respective polling places, Groton Community Building, Ryegate Corner Town Hall and Wells River Village Garage, on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 10:00 AM (when the polls will open) to 7:00 PM (when the polls will close) to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for the year ensuing.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$8,766,848 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,755.63 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 10.6% more than spending for the current year. As of the date of this warning, this will result in an tax rate decrease of 7.98%.

A public informational hearing will be held on the above Australian ballot articles on February 28, 2022 beginning at 6:00 PM by Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81397038671?pwd=SEpGcUtaV0RPOlFCRGROeVZnZFpwdz09>

Meeting ID: 813 9703 8671

Passcode: 865288

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Wells River in the County of Orange and State of Vermont this 14th day of January, 2022

Angeline Alley

Angeline Alley

Sara Dennis

Sara Dennis

E. Paul Hazel

E. Paul Hazel

Allison Ingerson

Allison Ingerson

Judy Murray

Judy Murray

Kristen C. MURRAY

Kristen Murray

Allana Page

Allana Page

Kelsey Root-Winchester

Kelsey Root-Winchester

Sandra Woodworth

Sandra Woodworth

Recorded on this date prior to posting, January 14, 2022.

Janet Page

Janet Page

Clerk

Special Groton Select Board Informational Meeting for Town Meeting (Zoom), Minutes, Feb. 25, 2021 (approved)

Select Board: Wade Johnson, Sr, Zachary Conaway and Aaron Smith

Town Clerk: Carrie Peters, Secretary: Debra Johnson, Road Commissioner: Harold Hatch, Librarian: Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb, Highway: Phillip Palmer, Asst. Assessor: Dorothy Knott, Town Treasurer: Lisa Hart

Visitors: Mark & Lise Shallberg, Bill Kane, Alissa Smith, Jennifer Rogers, Brent Abare, Dave & Nancy Spencer, Brenda & Chub Bruleigh, Meredith Puffer, Cindy Houghton, Allison Ingerson, Deborah Jurist, Mark Gleicher, Mike Welch, Blenda Lakin, Mike & Jennifer Gaiss, Brent Smith, Tori Peters, Terry Bessette, Gary Lamberton, Dawn Evans, Judy Gandin, Ann Hatch, Tara Hamlet and Susan Gordon.

Wade called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Wade gave an introduction to the meeting.

Zach read the Guidelines for the Remote Informational Meeting & Zoom Etiquette.

Wade read the Warning: Town of Groton, Vermont, Annual Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The Legal Voters of the Town of Groton, are hereby warned and notified to vote at the Groton Community Building on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, from 10 am to 7 pm, and transact the following business by Australian Ballot:

Wade read Article 1 – To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont.

Moderator – 1 year term;

Brent Abare said it has been a pleasure to serve for the last 4 years for the voters of Groton and continue to have confidence in me. I have learned a lot in the past 4 years. One thing that is important is impartiality, not being involved with the issues, and the second thing that is important is to own the mistakes when they occur and do everything possible to correct those mistakes.

Select Person- 3 year term-

Blenda Lakin is very excited. She would appreciate everybody's support.

Aaron Smith is looking for re-election for 3 years. He would thank everybody coming out on the Zoom meeting. The town is lucky this year with the contested race. Aaron would appreciate everybody's vote.

Mike Welch – He said the town is fortunate to have good candidates running this year. If he had known other people were running for the SB, he wouldn't have run. He wants to do all for the community that he can. He asked everybody to join him in voting for Blenda Lakin or Aaron Smith.

Road Commissioner -1 year term-

Harold Hatch wanted to thank everybody for the support for the last 3 years and continue to get your support.

Treasurer- 3 year term-

Lisa Hart spoke and said my family and I have been a part of Groton Community for her entire life. I know and love Groton. I have been town treasurer for the past 6 years and running for my third term. Working for a small town is wonderful though many positions are much more than what they seem. All of us have added responsibilities to help accomplish what needs to be done. My first term I was able to get all the town's records into the town software system and set them up properly. Policy and procedures were updated and monthly reconciliations became a smooth process. I have worked well with VLCT and with the town's financial auditors and all audits have been positive. I assist the three Select Board Members with town operations in what they need to do to be successful. I would appreciate your vote so we can continue our progress. Thank You.

Jennifer Rogers has been a resident in Groton for 8 years. She would like to work closer to home. At this time she is working in St. Johnsbury. Would like to be more involved with the community. She is willing and motivated to learn. She would like to vote for me as a write in candidate.

Cemetery Commissioner- 3 year term. No candidates

Library Trustee- 3 year term-

Peggy Burgin wrote a note and Wade read the note To the people of Groton, My name is Peggy Burgin. I am running for Library Trustee. I have always enjoyed the Groton Library. I have read a lot of their books and enjoyed reading them. I would appreciate you voting me for Library Trustee. Thank You very much for voting for me. Because of the Library we can read a lot of nice books.

Jennifer Gaiss grew up in Nebraska in a small town. I know what it's like to live in a small town and everybody needs to contribute for things to happen. In 2004, they bought a home in Groton. My family has supported the library events. In 2018 we were permanently moved into our residence in Groton. She has time to be involved in the town. She said Jodi has done a great job with programming and support from the Friends and Trustees. Would listen to the people to see what they want in the library. We have a great library, would like to be involved in the community more and would like your vote.

Wade Johnson, Jr. - not present

Wayne Knott – Dorothy spoke for Wayne. He has lived in the town more than 40 years and has supported the library. He wants to help with programming and keep the library moving forward. He's been fire chief for 17 years in Groton.

School Board Director- 3 year term

Sara Dennis – not present

Wade read Article 2- Shall the voters authorize to change the Road Commissioner's term from a 1 year term to a 3 year term? Wade said Harold has asked for this change.

Harold would like to change to have more job security. The job entails a lot especially in the office. He likes his job and his happy. It would make it less stressful every year to not have to be voted in every year.

Wade read Article 3- Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday, November 5, 2021 by 5:00 pm eastern standard time, as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment)

Wade read if this is not voted on then the taxes are automatically due 30 days from the mailing date. No discussion.

Wade read Article 4- Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes?

Wade said if not vote don then the town Manager (which we do not have) or the constable has to collect taxes.

No discussion.

Wade read Article 5- Shall the town establish a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing and implementing a new septic system, addressing drainage issues, memory wall etc., and to fund it by depositing \$40,000 from the General fund surplus?

Wade said that we have already been told the septic system is failing so there is a need for a new one, drainage around the back hill and under the parking lot, finishing the memory wall/moving it. This money will not be raised in taxes. It will be from the Fund Balance.

Phillip Palmer said as he reads the article, he has some problems, because he thinks due to the drainage and new septic systems, those prices are going to be big. I don't think this fund is going to cover it. It could take a long time to cover it. I think starting a fund that way isn't the right way as it is written. The problem he has with it is the word 'etc.' makes that article in my opinion fail completely. The word etc means you can use that for whatever you want to than the three things listed. He said you need to know what the exact prices of the drainage, new septic and memory wall. He would like to see the town vote this down.

Mark Gleicher asked what is the \$40,000 doesn't cover the cost of this project? Wade's understanding of it is to start this fund and add to it each year for the simple fact is that this project is not going to be a quick done deal. It's going to take from 5 to 10 years to do this project. Wade said the SB just started to work on this project. Mark Gleicher asked what kind of studies have been done on this? Wade said we have an engineer, who is Nick Sicard. He has already dug some test holes to see about the drainage and water coming through and looking at septic designs. The SB is still waiting for the engineer to come back with a design. The SB has had one meeting with him. It's hard to tell anybody where this project is going to go. Mark Gleicher said that we have no estimate. Wade said no. The total cost is unknown at this time. The SB wanted to start a fund to get the ball rolling on this project. Mark Gleicher said he agreed with Phillip. It doesn't seem to work for this idea.

Zach said a lot of what Mark and Phillip are talking about. We can do some of the initial planning without a large cost to the town. In order start these projects we are going to need additional funding to do additional studies to have engineer plans developed. Those things are not free. They are going to cost the town money. The good thing here is that we are not raising taxes. This money is going to be taken from the Fund Balance. This money is earmarked is for us to develop and plan of what we want to do before we come back to the voters for the next expansion plan

Phillip Palmer said if we put money into a fund that is tax money. Last year we appropriated \$50,000 from the Fund Balance to tear down the Cilley Property and pay for engineering and upgrade and approve the drainage. We already appropriated \$50,000 last year and we want to do another \$40,000 this year. This fund is to open ended to leave as it is.

Deborah Jurist asked how we can change the article? Wade said the article would have to be amended but it can't be done tonight. Zach said if it gets voted down, the article would have to be re-written and brought back to the town for another vote. Deborah asked if all the money was used for the tearing down of the Cilley House and the engineering? Wade said he didn't know offhand. The SB wants to put some money away which make sense. Phillip's concern about the etc makes sense so I don't know how you go about changing it. Wade said if it gets voted down the SB will have to reword the article and have the town vote on it again. Wade said that's the only answer he can give her.

Dawn Evans said if you build the fund up over the years before the town gets authority to use the funds for the project. You are putting money into funds over a period of time so you can have

money for the project to be done. Is that right? Wade said that's the way I understand it. Dawn said it sounds to me like a good idea and I'm going to vote for it.

Brent Abare asked since the wording needs to be changed could the article be withdrawn at this point? Zach said due to the way we are running this this year, we are not able to do anything along those lines. No decisions can be made at this meeting. Carrie Peters said that is true. The articles can't be changed.

If the article gets voted down, it will have to be presented again.

Zach said this is to what Phillip brought up. I understand this article does say etc on there. I think part of that is we don't know what is going to come up, we don't know what could come up in the future with this plan and we need to be able to account for that. This is saying that we are not stuck to just the three things if other things come up that have to be addressed. That's why the SB wanted to keep it open.

Aaron said that the wording on the article perhaps could be better with the etc. The article is for designing and implementing a new septic system and drainage issues at the Community Building and I would encourage in Groton to pay attention if the SB thinks of buying a microwave from the \$40,000 fund, the voters should bring this to our attention because I don't think that's what we are voting on here. This is for the design and implementing the septic system and drainage around the Community Building.

Susan asked what the Memory Wall is and why are we paying for a Memory Wall? Wade said the Memory Wall has been paid for by donations. Wade said the Memory Wall came to a halt when there was a drainage issue. Susan said we shouldn't be putting money into a reserve fund for a Memory Wall. Wade said we aren't putting any money into the reserve fund for the Memory Wall. Wade said it could be a possibility of the Memory Wall coming down and being moved due to the drainage issue. It is not known at this time. Wade said that the town has been told that the Septic System is failing, we need to do something with it one way or another. It's a problem we are facing. We are trying to kill two birds with one stone.

Mark Shallberg encouraged everybody to vote this down and write an article for the septic system only. With the etc., who knows where this article will go.

Dorothy Knott asked if this article gets voted down and the septic system fails the first of June, then what are our options? Wade said good question, Dorothy. Wade said if the article gets voted down, there would have to be a special meeting.

Deborah Jurist asked if there is money in the Community Building Reserve Fund if this happens? Lisa Hart said there is about \$60,000 in the Community Building Reserve Fund. Deborah asked if that could be used if the septic system does break down. Zach said we could use it in an emergency. He said that drainage is a part of septic systems. It's not just digging a hole and putting a tank in the ground. There's a lot that goes into it. He said that's what the SB wanted to do with this article. There's a lot more to it than putting a septic where the old one is. The old system has been there long enough where it's going to take a lot more work than it did based on updates and codes than last time it was installed.

Gary Lamberton has some ideas to give to the SB and to address concern so what if the septic system fails. To read into this, the SB is going to use surplus money towards future projects which is a great idea. But if you have a problem, the town can still borrow money, or the SB could have a special meeting to borrow money on a bond to do whatever fixes need to be done. It doesn't mean we can't get the money. With interest rates being so low today, it won't cost much more than setting money aside. It's great to have money from the surplus but I don't think it's going to prevent the SB from starting and planning what they need to get done. He said it's wonderful that they want to do this. If we were at a normal Town Meeting, we could have amended the article to get it the way people wanted it but that's not going to happen. The SB can call a special meeting to take money from next year's budget into a

fund but I don't think that will happen on Tuesday.

Wade read Article 6- shall the voters authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$635,199 of which \$449,879 shall be raised by taxes and \$185,320 by non-tax revenue?

Wade said the budget is lower by \$41,000 but because we used surplus last year to pay for some of the budget we will have to raise more in taxes this year compared to last year.

No discussion.

Wade read Article 7- Shall the voters authorize Highway fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$469,067 shall be raised by taxes and \$67,000 by non-tax revenues?

Wade said the budget is higher by \$20,000 also used surplus last year so this year we will have to raise more in taxes compared to last year.

Carrie said the polls will be open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. There will be 2 ballots, town and school.

Wade thanked Carrie for getting this informational meeting set up and Lisa for getting the information ready. Wade appreciated everybody who was on tonight.

Aaron also thanked people for coming out. He enjoys town meeting and we will now appreciate town meetings.

Deborah Jurist said Town meeting should be a holiday.

Zach said thank to everybody for coming out tonight. He asked people to come to the regular SB meetings on the first and third Thursdays, they are now on Zoom.

Zach made a motion to adjourn the special town meeting at 7:25 pm, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Johnson
SB Secretary

Wade Johnson, SR, Chair

Aaron Smith

Zachary Conaway

Groton Special Town Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Moderator Brent Abare.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Robert's Rules of Order were explained.

Brent Abare read the Article.

Dan Webster deferred to speak and wanted to answer questions from the public body.

Dan Webster made a motion to move the article, Warren Stewart seconded. Dan Webster spoke to the background of the article.

12 minutes of discussion followed with comments from Martin Klein, Mark Gleicher, Deborah Jurist, Jessica Decarolis, Donna Russo-Savage and Richard Montague. It ended with a call for a paper vote.

Results: 80 votes, 39 Yes, 41 No

The Article failed.

Motion to adjourn.

Zac Conaway spoke about the Town coming together after a divisive topic.

Link to video recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hM8Hs6lu72c>

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Peters

Groton Town Clerk

About ARPA

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) included \$350 billion in pandemic-related aid for state and local governments. Vermont will receive more than \$1.25 billion of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding from ARPA. While the legislature and the governor will determine how more than \$1 billion of that funding will be spent, Congress directed nearly \$200 million of that funding directly to Vermont's cities, towns, and villages. City councils and select boards will have discretion over how to spend their allocations. The State of Vermont will not be allowed to add any additional rules to the roughly \$200 million distributed directly to municipalities.

On 8/9/2021 Groton received \$50,668.87 Town payment

On 9/3/2021 Groton received \$94,011.33 County payment

for a total of **\$144,680.20**

The same payments will be received in September 2022.

The Select Board is looking at using this money to repair the drainage around the Community Building. This will in turn upgrade the parking lot allowing for ADA compliance. Also the back area behind the building will have parking and a more aesthetic appeal.

Community Building Projects

Groton Gym

The interior of the Gym (used for many gatherings, voting and the Annual Chicken Pie Supper) was freshly painted in the spring and the floors were sanded and refinished making a huge aesthetic difference to our building.

The ramp to the kitchen was enclosed, lighting updated and a properly pitched roof was installed.

The ADA railing to the Town offices was replaced

The Community Building's Septic system was replaced and in the Spring/Summer of 2022 the Fire Dept septic will be tied into it.

Frost Memorial Ball Field and Puffer Memorial Ball Field

Much needed material was laid down on both ball fields. Safety issues were addressed. Both these fields add so much to our community members of all ages, whether you are an athlete on the field or a spectator watching.

2022 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2021 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2021	Actual FY - 2021	Budget FY - 2022	Notes
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				
SELECTBOARD				
Selectboard & Secretary Wages & Payroll Taxes	6,743	6,723.71	6,847	
Selectboard Assistant Stipend	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	
Advertising, Postage, Supplies, Training & Mileage	1,130	621.58	930	
1. SELECTBOARD TOTAL	8,873	8,345.29	8,777	
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER				
Clerk & Assistant Wages & Unused Vacation	37,881	35,075.94	39,600	
Treasurer & Unused Vacation	43,396	42,999.22	46,400	
Assistant Treasurer	7,800	7,397.00	6,800	
Payroll Taxes & Retirement	11,153	10,710.01	11,740	
Health Insurance	34,569	33,996.25	61,288	adding an eligible employee
Training & Mileage	600	444.48	550	
2. CLERK & TREASURER TOTAL	135,399	130,622.90	166,378	
OFFICE EXPENSES - CLERK & TREAS				
Dues, Postage & Supplies	4,920	4,011.11	4,800	
Telephone/Internet	1,900	2,301.68	2,000	
Land Records Online	1,920	1,920.00	1,920	
NEMRC Disaster Recovery&Support, IT Services & Equipment	4,317	3,926.05	4,217	
3. OFFICE EXPENSES	13,057	12,158.84	12,937	
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION				
Del Tax Collector Wages	10,000	11,727.38	10,000	Wages off set by Delinquent Tax Penalty
Payroll Taxes/Retirement	1,225	1,439.41	1,265	Revenue (wages paid by penalty portion
Postage,Supplies,Telephone & Advertising	1,065	765.60	950	of delinquent tax payments)
NEMRC Disaster Recovery	625	625.00	625	
Training & Mileage	85	0.00	85	
4. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION TOTAL	13,000	14,557.39	12,925	
TOWN REPORT				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	562	558.16	564	
Postage & Supplies	450	385.01	500	
Printing & Reproduction	1,315	1,315.00	1,385	
	0	0.00	0	
5. TOWN REPORT TOTAL	2,327	2,258.17	2,449	
ELECTIONS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	539	113.84	700	
Postage, Supplies & Advertising	2,365	1,512.00	2,275	
Training & Mileage	125	20.00	125	
6. ELECTIONS TOTAL	3,029	1,645.84	3,100	
ASSESSORS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	38,987	31,521.33	37,943	
Dues, Postage & Supplies	910	1,325.06	950	
Telephone/Internet	1,200	1,609.82	1,400	
Training & Mileage	1,050	297.70	800	
NEMRC, Cards, Disaster Recov & GIS Mapping	7,170	8,200.62	9,870	
7. ASSESSORS TOTAL	49,317	42,954.53	50,963	

2022 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2021 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2021	Actual FY - 2021	Budget FY - 2022	Notes
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES				
VLCT Pacif, Worker's Comp, Unemp Ins, IT Serv.	10,922	11,193.13	9,129	
8. INSURANCE TOTAL	10,922	11,193.13	9,129	
Professional Audit/Services	1,300	505.00	1,000	
Attorney Fees	3,500	1,000.00	2,000	
9. LEGAL & PROF. SERVICES TOTAL	4,800	1,505.00	3,000	
NVDA Dues	767	767.00	767	
VLCT Dues	2,338	2,338.00	2,320	
10. DUES TOTAL	3,105	3,105.00	3,087	
Money Order Fee, Wire Fee & Interest Expense	100	116.35	100	
Caledonia County Tax	14,100	14,650.00	15,000	
11. COUNTY TAX & INTEREST EXP TOTAL	14,200	14,766.35	15,100	
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES TOTAL	33,027	30,569.48	30,316	
1-11 ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	258,029	243,112.44	287,845	
12. PLANNING COMMISSION				
Stipend & Payroll Taxes	323	322.95	323	
Postage, Printing & Reproduction	263	0.00	263	
Training & Mileage	85	0.00	85	
PLANNING COMMISSION TOTAL	671	322.95	671	
12. ZONING				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	1,346	1,184.15	1,346	
Postage & Supplies	100	55.00	105	
Training & Mileage	200	12.76	200	
ZONING TOTAL	1,646	1,251.91	1,651	
12. PLANNING AND ZONING TOTAL	2,317	1,574.86	2,322	
TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	0	0.00	0	
PUBLIC WORKS				
13. TOWN CLOCK TOTAL	477	540.36	3,877	painting of the clock face
Ryegate/Groton Recycling	8,000	5,584.33	8,000	
NEKWMD-Assessment	920	960.68	827	
Green Up Day	250	471.45	500	
Brush Burning Unit	1,500	0.00	0	
14. SOLID WASTE TOTAL	10,670	7,016.46	9,327	
15. STREETLIGHTS TOTAL	8,150	8,552.79	8,150	
COMMUNITY BUILDING				
Building Repairs & Maintenance	4,000	4,217.79	4,500	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	2,200	2,207.86	2,400	
Electricity & Fuel Oil	8,800	8,786.39	8,800	
16. COMMUNITY BUILDING TOTAL	15,000	15,212.04	15,700	
TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	15,071	9,984.89	14,536	
Cleaning	10,000	7,866.00	8,000	
Park Electricity	350	300.59	350	
Gasoline	75	0.00	0	
Property Upkeep	8,000	9,744.87	15,000	
Supplies, Equipment & Mileage	425	400.46	350	
17. TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TOTAL	33,921	28,296.81	38,236	
18. TREE WARDEN TOTAL	370	322.95	323	
Zoom Fees	0	174.79	160	
Town Website	0	0.00	2,394	
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	2,370.56	0	Removal of junk cars
19. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES TOTAL	0	2,545.35	2,554	
13-19 PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	68,588.00	62,486.76	78,167.00	

2022 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2021 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2021	Actual FY - 2021	Budget FY - 2022	Notes
COMMITTEES				
Recreation Committee	1,875	1,561.41	1,875	
COMMITTEES TOTAL	1,875	1,561.41	1,875	
PUBLIC SAFETY				
20. ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL	675	637.82	700	
21. HEALTH OFFICER TOTAL	968	807.37	968	
22. EMER SERVS INSURANCE TOTAL	10,663	10,609.00	11,377	
EMER SERVS GENERAL EXPENSES				
Ambulance Contract	25,000	27,781.00	28,000	
Repairs-ES Building	1,000	758.33	1,250	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	1,000	464.80	1,000	
Telephone/Internet	1,800	1,809.47	1,700	
Electricity, Fuel Oil, Propane	4,200	3,027.43	4,200	
Dispatch Fees, Radios & Pagers	3,150	2,146.40	2,650	
23. EMER SERVS GENERAL EXP TOTAL	36,150	35,987.43	38,800	
FAST				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	14,533	16,524.31	16,148	
Supplies	5,200	4,579.98	3,000	
Training & Mileage	5,500	1,184.94	5,500	
24. FAST EXPENSES TOTAL	25,233	22,289.23	24,648	
FIRE DEPT				
Wages, Stipend & Taxes	9,420	8,241.17	10,496	
Dues	2,500	2,009.00	2,500	
Gasoline & Diesel	1,150	1,102.95	1,650	
Tanker Loan Payment	20,321	20,320.59	20,321	
Repairs & Maintenance	12,000	5,610.18	10,000	
Supplies	3,200	4,368.99	3,200	
Training & Mileage	3,950	2,470.87	6,250	
Equipment-General	2,500	456.60	0	
25. FIRE DEPT EXPENSES TOTAL	55,041	44,580.35	54,417	
26. FOREST FIRE EXPENSES TOTAL	1,808	1,237.58	1,108	
FIRST CONSTABLE				
Wages, Payroll Taxes, Dues	13,939	12,966.08	17,648	
Supplies & Training	675	436.95	675	
Dispatch Fees, Radios & Pagers, Equip	2,700	2,530.00	3,000	
FIRST CONSTABLE TOTAL	17,314	15,933.03	21,323	
CRUISER EXPENSES				
Gasoline, Repairs, Maint. & Supplies	2,900	2,807.63	2,900	
Equipment-Cruiser	50	0.00	0	
CRUISER EXPENSES TOTAL	2,950	2,807.63	2,900	
CONSTABLE & CRUISER INSURANCE TOTAL	3,253	3,253.00	3,820	
27. LAW ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	23,517	21,993.66	28,043	
20-27 PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	154,055	138,142.44	160,061	

2022 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2021 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2021	Actual FY - 2021	Budget FY - 2022	Notes
CEMETERY				
Contracted Work, Riverside Cemetery	900	880.00	900.00	
Mowing	7,938	7,938.00	11,460	New moving contract
Dues & Supplies	640	2,980.48	615	
CEMETERY EXPENSES TOTAL	9,478	11,798.48	12,975	
LIBRARY				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	22,783	21,976.65	23,474	
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1,182	1,182.00	1,238	
Building Rent	18,000	18,000.00	18,000	
Books & Digital	5,000	4,942.27	5,000	
Supplies	2,000	2,127.54	2,000	
Telephone/Internet	1,800	1,906.94	1,800	
Software/Support, Computer Repairs & Fees	600	297.19	600	
LIBRARY EXPENSES TOTAL	51,365	50,432.59	52,112	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS				
Caledonia Home Health	1,350	1,350.00	1,350	
NEK Learning Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Human Services	920	920.00	920	
NEK Youth Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Council on Aging	700	700.00	700	
Rural Community Transportation	800	800.00	800	
Little Rivers Health Care	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
Community Restorative Justice	250	250.00	250	
Groton Lunches With Friends	2,400	2,400.00	2,400	
Green Up Vermont	100	100.00	100	
Umbrella	650	650.00	650	
VT Family Network	0	0	250	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	9,570	9,570.00	9,820	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS				
Comm Bldg Improvement Fund	20,000	20,000.00	20,000	
Emer Servs Bldg Improvement Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
Emer Servs Vehicles Fund	23,222	23,222.00	24,000	
Emer Servs Durable Equip Fund	18,000	18,000.00	20,000	
Constable Durable Equip Fund	2,500	2,500.00	2,500	
Reappraisal & Tax Maps Fund	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	
Recreation Fund	1,000	1,000.00	0	
Professional Services Fund	7,000	7,000.00	10,000	
Town Emergency Fund	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
CB Property Expansion	0	40,000.00	0	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	79,922	119,922.00	84,700	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$ 635,199	\$ 638,600.98	\$ 689,877	

2022 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2021 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2021	Actual FY - 2021	Budget FY - 2022	Notes
HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES				
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES				
HWY LABOR				
Road Commissioner Wages	53,040	52,721.25	54,642	
Equipment Operator Wages	44,554	44,949.87	45,906	
Overtime Wages & Unused Vacation	9,714	10,407.74	9,618	
Temporary Help Wages	5,000	1,825.00	4,000	
Health Insurance	56,635	53,436.08	53,078	
Retirement & Payroll Expenses	13,529	13,403.89	14,241	
HWY LABOR TOTAL	182,472	176,743.83	181,485	
HWY PACIF, WC INSURANCE TOTAL	20,414	20,503.50	16,585	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK				
Roadside Mowing	6,300	6,500.00	6,500	
Boulder Beach plowing	4,500	3,302.03	4,500	
Misc Contracted work	500	0.00	0	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK TOTAL	11,300	9,802.03	11,000	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE				
Culverts	4,500	7,126.40	4,500	
Paving	0	0.00	0	
Signs	1,800	767.80	1,000	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL	6,300	7,894.20	5,500	
HWY MATERIALS				
Sand	15,000	14,028.00	15,000	
Salt	10,836	11,925.48	10,800	
Chloride	12,000	12,280.11	12,000	
Gravel	30,000	24,888.92	30,000	
HWY MATERIALS TOTAL	67,836	63,122.51	67,800	
HWY OPERATING EXPENSES				
Gasoline & Diesel	16,500	16,590.71	16,500	
Rental Equipment	500	125.00	500	
Seeder & Material	1,500	1,153.50	1,500	
Supplies	4,500	4,755.05	4,500	
Training	100	150.00	150	
Radios & Pagers	500	708.60	500	
HWY OPERATING EXP TOTAL	23,600	23,482.86	23,650	
HWY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	25,000	22,951.22	25,000	
HWY GARAGE REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	11,250	11,867.34	10,750	
SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	3,230	2,368.31	3,230	
Gasoline	250	65.00	0	
Propane	800	356.05	800	
Bldg-Tractor Garage	100	0.00	100	
Repairs-Tractor (2004 John Deere)	400	493.43	400	
SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE TOTAL	4,780	3,282.79	4,530	
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES TOTAL	352,952	339,650.28	346,300	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION				
Hwy Equipment Reserve	66,115	66,115.00	68,100	
Hwy Infrastructure Reserve	0	0.00	10,000	
Hwy Paving Reserve	50,000	50,000.00	50,000	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION TOTAL	116,115	116,115.00	128,100	
HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTAL	469,067	455,765.28	474,400	
GENERAL FUND AND HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTALS	1,104,266	1,094,366.26	\$ 1,164,277	

2021 Actual Revenues & 2022 Estimated Revenues				
	2021 Anticipated Revenues	2021 Actual Revenues	2022 Estimated Revenues	
TOWN REVENUES				
TAX REVENUES (no education taxes)				
Current Taxes	449,879.00	485,304.11	409,207.00	
DELINQUENT TAX REVENUES				
Delinquent Tax Interest	9,000.00	16,252.04	9,000.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty Revenue	10,000.00	11,727.38	10,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN TAX REVENUES	468,879.00	513,283.53	428,207.00	
STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES				
Current Use	49,000.00	46,640.00	45,000.00	
PILOT(Payment in lieu of taxes) & Leaseland Revenue	90,000.00	99,330.20	90,000.00	
TOTAL STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES	139,000.00	145,970.20	135,000.00	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES				
Interest Earned	1,600.00	245.78	150.00	
Misc Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Workers Comp Insurance Refund	0.00	3,481.00	0.00	
TOTAL MISC REVENUES	1,600.00	3,726.78	150.00	
TOWN CLERK REVENUES				
Recordings, Vault Revenue	5,500.00	9,391.00	7,000.00	
Marriage & Dog Licenses	2,100.00	1,735.00	1,700.00	
Liquor/Tobacco Licenses	140.00	140.00	140.00	
Copies & Faxes Revenue	1,200.00	1,526.51	1,200.00	
Motor Vehicle Renewals	50.00	66.00	50.00	
TOTAL TOWN CLERK REVENUE	8,990.00	12,858.51	10,090.00	
LISTER REVENUE	830.00	888.00	30.00	
ZONING REVENUE	800.00	880.00	800.00	
COMMUNITY BLDG REVENUE	1,100.00	1,841.00	1,600.00	
FAST REVENUE(from Town of Ryegate)	10,000.00	12,469.20	10,000.00	
CONSTABLE REVENUE	4,000.00	3,775.00	4,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN REVENUES (Not including tax revenue)	185,320.00	210,388.11	180,670.00	
Proposed 2022 Town Budget			689,877.00	
Use of Fund Balance			100,000.00	
2022 Anticipated Revenues			180,670.00	
Difference to be raised by 2022 TOWN Taxes			409,207.00	
HIGHWAY REVENUES				
Hwy Current Tax Revenue	402,067.00	294,972.39	407,400.00	
State Hwy Aid	64,000.00	69,525.43	64,000.00	
Seyon Road Plowing	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	
Hwy Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	1,871.89	0.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY REVENUES(Not including tax revenue)	67,000.00	71,397.32	67,000.00	
Proposed 2022 Highway Budget			474,400.00	
Use of HWY Fund Balance			0.00	
2022 Anticipated HWY Revenues			67,000.00	
Difference to be raised by 2022 HWY Taxes			407,400.00	
TOTAL Estimated Tax Revenue needed for 2022			816,607.00	

2021 - RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY & BALANCES			
Town Emergency Fund		Restoration Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/20	11,736.88	Bank balance on 12/31/20	36,577.81
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received on account	2.52	Interest received on account	7.22
2020 Budget appropriation	2,000.00	Funds received from Recordings	3,184.00
Disbursements:	0.00	Disbursements:	
Bank balance on 12/31/21	13,739.40	Land Record Books	901.27
		Large format Printer/Scanner	3,426.12
Community Building Improvement Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/21	35,411.64
Bank balance on 12/31/2020	90,502.37		
Revenues:		Professional Services Fund	
Interest received on account	14.16	Bank balance on 12/31/20	3,125.59
2021 Budget appropriation	20,000.00	Revenues:	
Groton Community Club of Stove	1,528.50	Interest received on account	0.45
Disbursements:		2021 Budget appropriation	7,000.00
CB Ramp	8,710.52	Disbursements:	
CB Entranceway	7,918.05	Town audit- Fothergill Segale & Valley	8,650.00
CB Gym floor	4,800.00	Bank balance on 12/31/21	1,476.04
CB kitchen update	10,094.07		
Knox Box	609.00	Highway Equipment Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	79,913.39	Bank balance on 12/31/20	126,409.94
		Revenues:	
Emergency Service Building Improvement Fund		Interest received on account	28.06
Bank balance on 12/31/2020	40,236.98	2021 Budget appropriation	66,115.00
Revenues:		Disbursements:	
Interest received on account	8.56	Hydrolic Hammer	20,900.00
Sold building garage doors	100.00	Bank balance on 12/31/21	171,653.00
2021 Budget appropriation	5,000.00		
Disbursements:		Highway Paving Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	45,345.54	Bank balance on 12/31/20	8,055.99
		Revenues:	
Emergency Service Vehicle Fund		Interest received on account	-0.36
Bank balance on 12/31/2020	69,069.01	2021 Budget appropriation	50,000.00
Revenues:		Paving Grant	141,375.36
Interest received on account	15.63	Disbursements:	
2021 Budget appropriation	23,222.00	Minard Hill-paving	183,855.27
Disbursements:		Bank balance on 12/31/21	15,575.72
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	92,306.64		
		Highway Infrastructure Fund	
Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/20	93,362.26
Bank balance on 12/31/2020	31,536.66	Revenues:	
Interest received on account	6.37	Interest received on account	19.03
2021 Budget appropriation	18,000.00	Bank balance on 12/31/21	93,381.29
Disbursements:			
Equipment	12,403.28	Sidewalk Fund	
Bank Balance on 12/31/2021	37,139.75	Bank balance on 12/31/20	2,487.07
		Interest received on account	0.49
Reappraisal & Tax Mapping Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/21	2,487.56
Bank balance on 12/31/20	40,413.37	Community Building Property Expense	
Revenues:		New Acct in 2021	
SOV 2021 \$6783.00 & SOV 2020 \$6740.00	13523.00	Revenues:	
Interest received on account	10.04	2021 Budget appropriation & Interest	40,000.30
2021 Budget appropriation	1200.00	Disbursements:	
Disbursements:		Engineering Septic	1,282.56
Bank balance on 12/31/21	55,146.41	Engineering for Drainage	6866.24
		Permits	406.25
Constable Durable Equipment Fund		Pipe across Rte 302	15,000.00
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	4,950.13	Bank balance on 12/31/2021	16,445.25
Interest received on account	1.02	Recreation Committee Fund	
2021 Appropriation	2500.00	Bank balance on 12/31/20	13,189.83
Disbursements:		2021 Budget appropriation & Interest received	1,002.27
Axon -Body Camera	771.80	Bank balance on 12/31/2021	14,192.60
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	6,679.35	Total of all Reserve Bank balances as of 12/31/21	680,924.08

Reserve Fund Articles as voted by year with description of purpose and balance as of December 31, 2021

Reappraisal & Tax Mapping Fund

March 4, 2003, Article 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00?

The Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund was established on March 4, 2003 in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the purpose of building up a Reserve Fund to pay for future appraisals and updates of the property values listed in the Grand list and update the tax maps on a yearly maintenance schedule of the Town of Groton. **Balance \$55,146.41**

Community Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Community Building Improvement Fund was established for the purpose of building up a reserve fund to finance future upgrades and improvements to the Community Building. The monies for this fund are to be used only for the improvement and upgrade of the Community Building. **Balance \$79,913.39**

Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund is to be used for improvements to the Groton Fire Station.

Including but not limited to: Heating plant, Electrical, insulation, Painting, Door Replacement, Generator installation, internal plumbing and other improvements as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$45,345.54

Emergency Services Vehicles Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 10: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Vehicles Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Vehicles Fund shall be used for the replacement of Vehicles to include, Rescue Vehicle/Ambulance, Engine, Forest Fire Vehicle other vehicle as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$92,306.64

Restoration and Preservation Reserve Funds

March 7, 2006 (1st Warned as ARTICLE 7): Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be funded by the \$1.00 per page recording fee? (Up graded in 2010 see below)

March 2, 2010 (2nd Article on Warning): ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature?

The voters of the Town of Groton established a Municipal Records Reserve Fund for the restoration and preservation of "town records" in accordance with VSA Title 24, Section 2804 including, but not limited to, land records, vital records and, proper vault storage of town records. This fund is not to be used for anything other than the restoration, preservation, conservation and computerization of records, to be funded by revenue of not less than \$3.00 per page.

Section 1671 (a) (1) and (6) of this section and this reserve fund shall be retroactive to July 1, 2009. The exact amount shall be determined by the local legislative body.

Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital Records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature? **Balance \$35,441.64**

Recreation Reserve Funds

March 7, 2010: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Recreational Committee and establish a reserve fund of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be used by the Recreational Committee for any projects and/or activities?

The recreation reserve fund was established and covered large, extraordinary expenses. And will cover short falls in committee events when donations for such events lag. **Balance \$14,192.60**

Town Emergency Reserve Funds

March 4, 2014: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the creation of an Emergency Reserve Fund for the purpose of unforeseen Emergencies?

Town of Groton Emergency Reserve Fund is created for the sole purpose of providing financial stability to the Town in the case of a severe emergency. Money is to be set aside to support serious issues only with a goal to maintain the fund at 10% of the total budget. When looking for examples of where the application of the money would likely be required, the instance of Tropical Storm Irene applies where the Welton Road Bridge was seriously damaged.

Balance \$13,739.40

Sidewalk Funds

March 3, 2015: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve account to be called “Sidewalk Fund” for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks in the amount of \$15,000.00?

Balance \$ 2,487.56

Professional Services Fund

March 1 2016: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of reserve account to be called “Professional Services Fund” for the purpose of audit consulting services and to fund the reserve fund with \$4533.00.

Balance \$ 1,476.04

Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town establish a Reserve Fund to be called the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable Fire Department and FAST equipment in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804?

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 7: What sum of money, shall the Town approve to raise and appropriate to fund the establishment of the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Reserve Fund? “Not to exceed \$18,000.00”

Balance \$ 37,139.75

Constable Durable Equipment Fund

March 3, 2020: ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund to be called the Constable Durable Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable equipment associated with the performance of Constable duties in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804?

and appropriate \$4950.00 to fund this Reserve account?

Balance \$ 6,679.35

Highway Equipment Reserve Fund

March 7, 1999: ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Highway Equipment Fund with the funds from the highway budget, in the amount of \$15,000.00 As budgeted this year, to be used for capital expenses within that department? (24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804)

This fund is to be used for replacement of Highway Department Equipment and unforeseen major capital repairs that could arise. The Highway Department will maintain a replacement schedule and update it annually. At the present time the trucks and grader will be replaced with new, and the loader, backhoe and chipper will be replaced with used.

Funding of this fund is a line item in the highway budget that is increased three percent annually. Other funds would come from the sale of surplus equipment and settlements from insurance claims.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain reliable equipment that will allow the Highway Department to provide a reasonable level of service to the needs of the highways infrastructure while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$171,653.00**

Highway Paving Reserve Funds

March 4, 2007: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton establish a Paving Reserve Fund in the amount of \$40,306.00 of unspent 2007 Highway fund?

This fund is to be used for paving Class 2 and Class 3 projects that follows the parameters of the VTRANS Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Program.

Projects shall include detailed work for the preservation of any Class 2 town highway for resurfacing and reconstruction based on identified needs. Eligible activities include preliminary engineering, construction, and construction inspection/management.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Class 2 and Class 3 paved highways while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$ 15,575.72**

Highway Infrastructures Reserve Funds

March 6, 2012: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund for bridges, culverts and highway infrastructures to initially be funded by a \$2000.00 addition to the 2012 Highway Budget?

This fund is to be used for large highway projects that it would not be feasible to fund in a single year and projects that could take several years to plan and complete.

This fund could also be used to leverage highway grant funds that may become available for smaller projects that maybe unforeseen when setting budgets.

Funding of this fund will be for the annual line item in the highway budget. Additional funding will come from grant funds when in kind work exceeds the actual matching cost of a grant. An example would be in kind work (equipment time and labor) performed by the Highway Department that was reimbursable expenses.

The Highway Department will continue to maintain and update the bridge and culvert inventory at <http://vtculverts.org/> and use the data to aid in replacement schedule. Large structures over 20 feet span are inspected by VTRANS every two years and reported to the Select Board.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Highway Bridges, Culverts & Infrastructures while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$ 93,381.29**

Community Building Property Expense

March 2, 2021: Article 5: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing and implementing a new septic system, addressing the drainage issues, memory Wall etc., and to fund it by depositing \$40,000 from the general Fund Surplus? **Balance \$ 16,445.25**

2021 Wage Summary Report

Employee	Position	Gross
BRULEIGH CHARLES E.	EMT/ FireFighter	3,358.91
BRULEIGH BRENDA L.	EMT/Head of Service	4,945.00
CARLE JUSTIN D.	Fire Fighter	42.84
CONAWAY ZACHARY J.	SelectBoard Member	1,250.00
CURTIS DEREK J.	EMT	3,195.00
DOWNING JAMES A. JR	1st Constable/Temp Hwy	12,732.17
FISHER CHARLES M.	Fire Fighter	581.80
FLEURIE-WOHLLEB JODI	Librarian	20,415.11
GANDIN BENJAMIN A.	Snow Removal/CB Maint	3,812.50
GENEREAUX MAIREAD	EMT	630.00
HART LISA	Treasurer/Collector Taxes	46,360.38
HATCH HAROLD J.	Road Commissioner	60,192.79
JOHNSON DEBRA E.	SelectBoard Secretary	2,374.53
JOHNSON WADE A. JR	Fire Fighter/Library Trustee	587.16
JOHNSON WADE A. SR	Selectboard Chair / Fire Chief	2,500.00
JOHNSON WADE A. SR	Fire Warden /Health Officer	600.00
JOY CARROL B.	Fire Fighter	90.00
KNOTT DOROTHY L.	Ast Assessor/Firefighter	24,061.72
KNOTT HENRY E.	EMT	2,690.00
KNOTT WAYNE C.	FireFighter	1,052.84
LAMBERTON GARY F.	IT Person	1,250.00
LAPHAM FRANK	Fire Fighter / Maintenance	1,832.84
LOURENCO JOSEPH M.	Fire Fighter	350.00
MURRAY STEVEN A.	Tree Warden	300.00
NAHMIAS MICHAEL H.	Planning Committee Chair	300.00
NUNN LINDA L.	Ballot Clerk	82.25
ORMISTON LOUIE G.	Fire Fighter	426.80
PALMER PHILLIP E.	Hwy Equipment Operator	48,459.57
PETERS CARRIE A.	Town Clerk/ Assist Treasurer	42,472.94
PETERS CARRIE A.	CDT- CDT-Wages are not paid by Town	11,727.38
PETERS TORIE R.	Ballot Clerk	23.50
SMITH AARON J.	Selectboard Member /EMT	2,927.84
SMITH BRENT D.	Temporary Hwy	1,187.50
STETSON SHAUN T.	Assistant Fire Chief	810.00
WEBSTER DANIEL J.	Zoning Administrator /Assist Health Officer	1,250.00
WESTINGHOUSE JOHN K.	Town Assessor	6,270.00

Totals- Employees Reported: 34

312,082.35
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TOWN OF GROTON
BALANCE SHEET BY FUND-2021

ASSET	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery Restricted	Library Restricted	Reserve Funds Restricted	Grant Fund	Food Shelf Restricted	FAST Restricted	Total
CASH ACCOUNTS										
MB-General Fund	357,254.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	357,254.22
MB-Customer ACH Deposits	0.37		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.37
MB-HRA acct	286.67		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	286.67
General Fund CD RES	-		-	-	-	205,122.30	-	-	-	205,122.30
WRSB-Del Tax Acct	245.68		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	245.68
Petty Cash	56.38		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56.38
MB-Perpetual Care	-		-	91,306.32	-	-	-	-	-	91,306.32
MB-H.Hosmer Trust	-		-	3,296.53	-	-	-	-	-	3,296.53
WRSB-Development Funds	-		-	11,493.86	-	-	-	-	-	11,493.86
WRSB-Cemetery Lot Fund	-		-	8,299.74	-	-	-	-	-	8,299.74
WRSB MJ Ricker Hall Trust	-		-	1,064.36	-	-	-	-	-	1,064.36
TD Roosevelt Carter Trust	-		-	6,202.00	-	-	-	-	-	6,202.00
Library Funds	-		-	-	21,583.40	-	-	-	-	21,583.40
Library Endowment Fund	-		-	-	49,224.81	-	-	-	-	49,224.81
Library Capital Improvement	-		-	-	31,799.17	-	-	-	-	31,799.17
Library ACH Account	-		-	-	9.00	-	-	-	-	9.00
Library American Fund Stock	-		-	-	24,892.34	-	-	-	-	24,892.34
Reserve Fund	-		-	-	-	680,924.08	-	-	-	680,924.08
Grant Fund	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Food Shelf	-		-	-	-	-	-	13,219.05	-	13,219.05
FAST	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	613.89	613.89
Total CASH ACCOUNTS	357,843.32	0	0	121,662.81	127,508.72	886,046.38	0	13,219.05	613.89	1,506,894.17
Receivables										
Del Tax Interest/Other Re	6,852.70		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,852.70
Del Tax Receivable	65,953.14		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65,953.14
Penalty Receivable	4,458.45		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,458.45
Accounts Receivable	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Grant Receivable	0		-	-	-	-	6,840.00	-	-	6,840.00
Gilman Note Receivable	610,000.00		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	610,000.00
Total Receivables	687,264.29		0	0	0	0	6,840.00	0	0	694,104.29
Highway Inventory	-		19,697.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,697.20
Prepaid Expenses	0									-
Due To/From Acct	(110,196.36)	146,680.20	(1,998.16)	83.03	(4,258.34)	(20,732.68)	(8,477.60)	(1,100.09)	0	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	934,911.25	146,680.20	17,699.04	121,745.84	123,250.38	865,313.70	(1,637.60)	12,118.96	613.89	2,220,695.66

Balance sheet cont.

	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery	Library	Reserve Funds	Grant Fund	Food Shelf	FAST	Total
Liability				Restricted	Restricted	Restricted		Restricted	Restricted	
Dental Insurance Payable	(1,187.85)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,187.85)
AFLAC Payable	(522.04)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(522.04)
Health Ins Payable	(2,015.25)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,015.25)
Prepaid Health Ins - HRA	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000.00
Accounts Payable	9,336.45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,336.45
Deferred Grant Revenue	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Prepaid Taxes	1,934.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1934.92
Deferred Tax Revenue	76,346.47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76,346.47
Tax Clearing Account	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Gilman Housing Grant Liab	610,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	610,000.00
Fees Due the State of Vt	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total Liability	694,892.70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	694,892.70
Fund Balance	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery	Library	Reserves	Grants	Food Shelf	FAST	
Fund Balance General Fund	47,528.00	146,680.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	194,208.20
Fund Balance Highway	-	-	(89,395.57)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(89,395.57)
Fund Balance Cemetery	-	-	-	2,069.40	-	-	-	-	-	2,069.40
Fund Balance Library	-	-	-	-	1,592.53	-	-	-	-	1,592.53
Fund Balance Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	(123,706.07)	-	-	-	(123,706.07)
General Fund CD Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	205,122.30	-	-	-	205,122.30
Comm. Bldg. Property	-	-	-	-	-	16,445.25	-	-	-	16,445.25
Community Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	-	79,913.39	-	-	-	79,913.39
Emer Servs Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	-	45,345.54	-	-	-	45,345.54
Emer Servs Durable Equip	-	-	-	-	-	37,139.75	-	-	-	37,139.75
Emer Servs Vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	92,306.64	-	-	-	92,306.64
Reappraisal/ Tax Maps	-	-	-	-	-	55,146.91	-	-	-	55,146.91
Recreation	-	-	-	-	-	14,192.60	-	-	-	14,192.60
Restoration/Preservation	-	-	-	-	-	35,441.64	-	-	-	35,441.64
Town Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	-	13,739.40	-	-	-	13,739.40
Constable Durable Equip.	-	-	-	-	-	6,679.35	-	-	-	6,679.35
Hwy Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	171,653.00	-	-	-	171,653.00
Highway Infrastructure Fu	-	-	-	-	-	93,381.29	-	-	-	93,381.29
Sidewalk Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	2,487.56	-	-	-	2,487.56
Highway Paving	-	-	-	-	-	15,575.72	-	-	-	15,575.72
Prof. Services Res Fund	-	-	-	-	-	1,476.04	-	-	-	1,476.04
Food Shelf Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	444.22	-	444.22
FAST Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	397,612.85	0	107,094.61	119,676.44	121,657.85	557,218.01	(1,012.60)	11,674.74	613.89	1,314,535.79
Fund Balance Current Year	47,528.00	146,680.20	(89,395.57)	2,069.40	1,592.53	102,973.39	(625.00)	444.22	0	211,267.17
Total Fund Balance	445,140.85	146,680.20	17,699.04	121,745.84	123,250.38	660,191.40	(1,637.60)	12,118.96	613.89	1,525,802.96
Total Liability & Fund Balance	1,140,033.55	146,680.20	17,699.04	121,745.84	123,250.38	660,191.40	(1,637.60)	12,118.96	613.89	2,220,695.66

Policy for Collection of Delinquent Taxes
Town of Groton, Vermont
Adopted January 2020

Summary

To be fair to all town taxpayers, this collection policy recognizes that individuals may go through periods of financial difficulty. At the same time, the policy asserts that, in general, shifting the burden of one property owner's debt onto other property owners in the town is not appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to contact the Collector of Delinquent Taxes to set up an arrangement to make payments, if needed. A time frame for payment will depend on circumstances and may stretch at most to August 1st of the following year that taxes were due. Scheduled payments must be regularly made and the property cannot go further delinquent. Properties that have been delinquent without receipt of full payment by the Collector and a written agreement specifying regular payments sufficient to clear the back taxes by the August 1st deadline will be processed for tax sale or for other methods of collection. Properties on which a payment schedule is not faithfully fulfilled or that fall further delinquent may be processed for tax sale or other methods of collection. All costs of any method of collection will accrue against the taxpayer and may become a lien on the property.

Overview and Philosophy

It is in the best interest of the Town of Groton and of its residents that property taxes be paid when they are due. Town and school budgets are set in anticipation of the collection of taxes, and taxes not paid by some property owners shift the cost burden onto others. As Collector of Delinquent Taxes, I will work with people in a diplomatic and professional manner to help them become current in their obligation to the town. However, if a taxpayer fails to contact me, or if a taxpayer does not become current within what I as Collector believe to be a reasonable length of time, or if a taxpayer does not deal in good faith, it is my duty to proceed with any and all appropriate collection methods to recover the debt in a timely manner, and I shall do so. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines so that all delinquent taxpayers will be treated fairly and both the Town and the taxpayer know what to expect. Delinquent taxes represent a lien on the property and remain in effect until the delinquent tax, penalty, and interest have been paid in full.

Notices

Within 20 days after receiving the warrant and list of delinquent property tax owners from the Town Treasurer, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes will mail the initial notice. This initial notice will indicate the amount of delinquent tax, assessed penalty, and accrued interest. The Collector will include with the initial delinquency notice a statement explaining the possibility of tax abatement. Follow-up delinquency notices will be sent monthly until taxes, penalty, and interest have been paid in full. It is the responsibility of the property owner or taxpayer to notify the town in writing of any change of mailing address or contact information.

Penalty

A onetime penalty in an amount set by the voters, (8%), is assessed on the original amount of the tax delinquency.

Interest

On the date that the warrant is issued to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes by the Treasurer and again on the first day of each month after, interest on the delinquent tax balance is assessed at the monthly rate determined by the voters. Voters set the amount of interest at one percent (1.0%) per month or any part of a month for the first 3 months and one and one half percent (1.5%) thereafter.

Payments and Receipts

Full payment of a delinquent account in a lump sum is preferred. Payment may be mailed or hand delivered to the Town Office at 1476 Scott Highway, Groton, Vermont 05046. The Collector will retain a copy of each receipt issued. A payment will be credited as having been received per the legible date stamped or written on the envelope or check by the Town official receiving the payment. Postdated checks will not be accepted. Requests to hold checks for later deposit will not be honored. Cash payments will be accepted. You may also make payment online at www.Officialpayments.com, or by visiting our Town website at www.grotonvt.com and following the link to Official Payments on the right side of the page. Online payments will be credited by the time stamp of the transaction.

Acceptance of Partial Payments

Acceptance of partial payments in no way excuses the taxpayer from liability for the entire balance due, including all interest and penalty and any costs.

Allocation of Partial Payments

Each partial payment will be applied first to the outstanding accrued interest and penalty. Any remainder will be proportionately applied to tax.

Bad Payments

If a payment is returned or refused due to insufficient funds or for any other reason not the fault of the Town or of the Collector, the taxpayer will be charged all associated costs and will lose the privilege of submitting payment by any device except pre-paid cashier's check.

Collection after Extended Delinquency

If delinquent tax bills have not been paid in full on or before August 1st of the following year that the taxes were originally due, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes may begin the following actions to collect the taxes, penalty, interest, costs, and fees:

Tax Sale: The Collector will engage an attorney to conduct a tax sale of the property or of as much of the property as is necessary to pay the tax, interest, penalty, costs, and fees. The taxpayer and mortgage and lien holders will be notified of the tax sale decision, the deadline date by which full payment must be received to avert sale, and the costs to expect once the sale process begins. Absolutely no partial payments will be accepted after issuance of the notice of tax sale. If the deadline for full payment passes and full payment has not been received, a tax sale will be conducted according to procedures specified in 32 VSA § 5252. Costs of preparing and conducting the sale, including legal fees up to a maximum of 15% of the amount of delinquent tax, will be charged to the delinquent taxpayer. In the event that no one purchases the property at tax sale or if in the judgment of the Collector proceeding

with the tax sale is inadvisable, the Collector shall collect the delinquent taxes using any and all means permitted by law, or may place the property on the following year's tax sale list.

Court Action: The Collector may file a complaint with the Caledonia County Small Claims Court or Caledonia Superior Court.

Abatement of Taxes

Each taxpayer has a right to apply for abatement of property taxes based on any of the grounds listed in 24 VSA § 1535. See the attached Notice of Abatement of Taxes. To request a meeting with the Board of Abatement, please contact the town clerk at 584-3276.

Notice of Possibility of Abatement of Taxes

The Board of Abatement of the Town of Groton is authorized under law, 24 V.S.A. sections 1533-1537, to conduct hearings on requests for abatement of real and personal property taxes. Not every taxpayer is eligible for abatement of taxes, but if you believe you meet the criteria listed below, you may want to consider requesting a hearing. The appropriate paperwork is available at the Groton Town Office.

The criteria include:

Taxes of persons who have died insolvent.

Taxes of persons who have moved from the state.

Taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and collection fees.

Taxes in which there is a manifest error or a mistake of the Listers.

Taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.

If you believe you qualify for abatement, you should take immediate action to request a hearing, as filing the application does not stay the collection of your property tax. If you file the paperwork to request a hearing, the Board of Abatement will notify you of the date, time, and place of your hearing and you will be responsible for supplying evidence to support your request. The board is under no obligation to grant any abatement request and may choose to abate all, part, or none of the taxes, interest, and penalties due.

Respectfully,
Carrie Peters
Collector of Delinquent Taxes
Town of Groton
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, Vermont 05046

802-584-3004
Cdt@grotonvt.com

Delinquent Tax Report as of 12/31/2021

Name	Tax Year
BOURDEAU, DONALD	2021
BOYCE, DOUGLAS	2021
CALVELLO, NICHOLAS	2020/2021
CORBETT MARY	2021
CROWN, SHAWN	2021
DARLING,STANLEY	2021
DAVIS, DONNA	2021
DICKEY, CHRISTY	2021
FEESER, GRETCHEN	2020
GOODRICH, ROBERT	2015/2017
HAND, SARKIS	2019/2020/2021
HART, RONALD	2021
JOHNS, BRIAN	2021
KENNEDY, MICHAEL	2021
LASELL, HORACE	2020/2021
LEPENVEN, LARRY	2021
LUCAS, CONNOR	2020/2021
MERCON, OWEN	2020/2021
MERRYFIELD, MICHELLE	2021
OLSEN, LAURA	2021
PALMER, JAYME	2019/2020/2021
PHILLIPS, PAMELA	2021
QUINTAINE, MARIE	2019/2020/2021
SHIWLALL, MARJORIE	2021
THOMAS, BRYCE	2020/2021
WILLIAMS, THOMAS	2021
WOOD, ROSE MARIE	2020/2021
YEAGER, KARL	2020/2021

Total Principal Outstanding	As of 12/31/2021
Tax Year 2015	\$267.21
Tax Year 2017	\$3,501.26
Tax Year 2019	\$4,921.33
Tax Year 2020	\$17,364.24
Tax Year 2021	\$39,899.10
TOTAL	\$65,953.14

Property Transfers January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

SELLER	BUYER	ACRES	ADDRESS
Lyford, Melvin & Debra	Curran, Terrence	42	218 Scott Hwy
Smith, Ronson	BKM LLC	0.76	1177 Scott Hwy
Dreher, Danielle	Gainsback, Lucille & Lynch, Michael	53	South County Rd
Blanchette Groton Realty Trust	Pallatto, Francis Jr.	10.83	00 Minard Hill Rd
Hart, Steven	Lamberton, Taylor	10.6	192 North County Rd
Drenth, Dennis	Gehlbach, Heidi & Hatch, Larry	7.08	00 Twin Brooks Rd
Ellison, David	Perkins, Brandon & Sweeney, Crystal	3.8	66 Welch Rd
Burrell, Kevin	Martin, Adam & Wendy	1.1	77 Coon's Corner
Hatch, Chad & Allan, Tammy	Plante, Lester Jr	1.5	1638 Powder Spring Rd
Darling, Kenneth	Darling, Jamie	2	121 East Glauchester Rd
Darling, Stanley	Darling, Jamie	60	121 East Glauchester Rd
Darling, Henry & Darling, Stanley	Allen, Emily	12.2	326 Cliffs Hill Rd
Johns Mary Ellen	Snider, Mark	0.29	189 Seyon Pond Rd
Gandin, Dan & Gandin, Greg	Gandin, Ben	9.92	69 Minard Hill Rd
James Bruce Engle Living Trust	Facini, Christopher & Kassandra	104	Scott Hwy
Ferris, Hope & Kenneth	Fred Berg & Megan Holmberg Trust	135	00 Goodfellow Rd
Murray, Kenneth & Barbara	Banks, Keelin & Mcclary, Nora	225	2174 Great Rd
Boisvert, Elsie & Boisvert, Ellie	Bell, Clay & Christine	0.57	32 Greenwood Dr
Ristau, Erich & Gordon, James	Murphy, Brianna	0.66	1518 Scott Hwy
Gandin, Dan & Gandin, Greg	Ciardi, Richard & Abigail	0.5	69 Minard Hill Rd
Ross, Melanie	Baston, Daniel & Baston, Douglas	178.5	South Branch Rd
Uttero, Peter	Viens, Robert & Maria	235.5	537 Uttero Lane
Page, Thomas & Welch, De-Ann	Page, Willis & Samantha	2.7	353 Minard Hill Rd
Redmond, Fred & Eileen	Darling Living Trust	1.3	1052 Boulder Beach Rd
Daniel Clark & Lois Clark Trust	Smith, Dwaine & Susan	13.3	Boulder Beach Rd
McCabe, Daniel & Vincent, Vanessa	Parker, David & Michele	0.25	174 French Rd
Giroux, Brian & Manning, Laurie	Potter, Phoebe & Williams, Tielah	13.4	2182 Powder Spring Rd
Peters, Wanda, Hamlet, Daryl & Foster, Deborah	Gadapee, Edward	0.3	1319 Scott Hwy
Judith Gandin Trust	Gilchrist, Donna	12	Goodfellow Rd
Boyce, David	Abare, Scot	9.53	109 Welton Rd

TOWN PROPERTY VALUES AS OF 12/31/2021

Date Acquired	Description		Value	
	Buildings			
7/3/1996	Boy Scout Camp		\$23,800	
	Community Bldg/vault		\$1,232,491	
	Fire Station		\$342,154	
7/3/1996	Hwy Garage (2)		\$660,044	
	Gazebo		\$14,113	
7/3/1996	Tractor Garage		\$10,819	
11/19/2019	Property 1494 Scott Hwy		\$0	
TOTAL VALUE OF BUILDINGS				\$2,283,421
	Contents			
12/14/1998	Chairs, table, etc. upstairs			
12/14/1998	Furnaces (2)			
12/14/1998	Kitchen contents			
	All Office Equipment			
Contents of Community Bldg.				\$115,000
Contents of Library				\$232,000
Contents of Fire Station				\$198,000
	Equipment			
12/31/2002	1st Constable		\$2,500	
	2012 Chevy Impala Cruiser		\$5,000	
Constable Total				\$7,500
3/30/2004	JD Tractor/Mower/Snowblower		\$5,000	
10/20/2011	Makita String Trimmer		\$225	
	Misc.		\$500	
Property Maintenance Total				\$5,725
	Equipment		\$225,000	
7/4/2005	40' Container for training		\$3,200	
1/25/2013	Repeater		\$10,600	
	2006 Carr 6X12 Utility Trailer		\$1,000	
	1956 Chevy Pump Truck		\$5,300	
10/18/2017	2003 GMC Rescue Vehicle		\$58,000	
12/31/2002	2001 Freightliner Fire Truck		\$39,000	
3/10/2015	2015 Freightliner Fire Truck		\$240,000	
Fire/FAST Dept Total				\$582,100

TOWN PROPERTY VALUES AS OF 12/31/2021 cont.

Date Acquired	Description		Value	
1/15/1972	10-I Beams		\$2,200	
1/15/1990	Brush Mower		\$100	
1/15/1990	Culvert Thawer		\$6,200	
8/25/2020	2009 CAT Grader 140M		\$116,000	
1/15/1994	Storage Trailer		\$350	
	Small Equipment & Tools		\$37,751	
1/15/1995	Stone Rake		\$1,000	
7/22/2015	2015 Western Star Dump Truck		\$134,865	
6/15/1999	Lowboy Trailer		\$100	
11/3/2006	2001 924G Caterpillar Loader		\$34,170	
4/21/2008	2004 Cat 420 Backhoe		\$33,690	
6/9/2017	2018 International Plow/Sand Dump Truck		\$123,000	
4/27/2012	2012 Chevrolet K3500 Pickup Truck		\$18,500	
9/21/2012	2012 Morbark 2012D Chipper		\$10,300	
11/1/2019	2004 20 Ton Equipment Trailer		\$10,000	
7/25/2019	2019 John Deere Excavator		\$75,000	
10/16/2019	2019 V-Box Sander		\$4,365	
7/23/2019	2019 Chloride Spray Tank		\$3,035	
7/27/2021	Hydraulic Hammer		\$20,900	
6/5/2019	Ipad		\$500	
7/7/2017	Daktech Lap Top		\$800	
Highway Total				\$632,826
Recreation Equip. Total	Playground, dugouts, backstops			\$24,000
TOTAL VALUE OF EQUIPMENT				\$1,252,151
	Town Land	Acres		
1/25/1997	Boy Scout Camp	17.35	\$28,800	
	RR Bed-Depot Flat	0.42	\$9,000	
	Parking Lakeside Dr.	0.11	\$12,800	
1/25/1997	Village Cemeteries	16.43	\$28,200	
	Town Garage	3.31	\$32,600	
1/25/1997	Puffer Memorial Ball Field	3.8	\$23,700	
	William Scott Cemetery	0.48	\$12,600	
	Old Cemetery-Great Rd.	0.24	\$17,000	
	Old Cemetery-Glover Rd.	0.37	\$14,400	
	Old Cemetery-Dominicus Grey-Glover Rd.	0.11	\$12,800	
	Gravel Pit- Welton Rd.	67	\$71,800	
1/25/1997	Tractor Garage-Mill St.	0.04	\$1,700	
	RR Bed-Park St. to Ricker Pond	25.4	\$17,100	
	Old Stump Dump-Little Italy Rd.	8.5	\$24,400	
2/14/1997	RR Bed-Little Italy Rd. to Ryegate Town Line	9.4	\$7,900	
1/25/1997	Old Dump-Goodfellow Rd.	9.1	\$21,900	
	Community Building Land	0.47	\$18,000	
	Fire Station Land	0.59	\$19,000	
1/25/1997	Veterans Memorial Park	0.73	\$22,600	
	RR Bed-Powder Spring Rd. (near Welch Block)	1.2	\$12,000	
1/25/1997	Frost Memorial Ball Field	1.7	\$20,000	
	1494 Scott Hwy	2.68	\$33,000	
7/3/2003	Future Cemetery- Park St.	6	\$27,000	
LAND TOTAL AS OF 12/31/2021				\$488,300
	TOTAL VALUE OF ALL TOWN PROPERTY			\$4,568,872

2021 List of Land in Groton owned by the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources

Ref ID	Property Description	Acres	Fair Market Value	FY2022 PILOT*
EC1	Groton Lake Dam Site	3.00	\$63,100	\$378.60
FP1	Groton State Forest-Seyon Pond	26.00	\$106,700	\$640.20
FP2	Ricker Pond Campsite & Frontage	39.00	\$175,100	\$1,050.60
FP3	Lake Groton Cottage Lots	2.07	\$3,000	\$18.00
FP4	Stillwater Campground	42.00	\$136,100	\$816.60
FP5	Big Deer Campground	25.00	\$28,600	\$171.60
FP6	Boulder Beach	25.00	\$109,900	\$659.40
FP7	Kettle Pond Campground	20.00	\$86,000	\$516.00
FP8	Natural Woodlands Area	149.00	\$105,300	\$631.80
FP9	Forest Land	11,702.03	\$13,207,200	\$79,243.20
FP10	Ricker Pond Damsite	13.00	\$12,500	\$75.00
FP11	TNC/Moffatt Acquisition	329.00	\$250,000	\$1,500.00
FP12	Lyon Acquisition Seyon Block	42.00	\$29,700	\$178.20
FP13	Page Acquisition	25.70	\$24,300	\$145.80
FW1	Pine Mountain WMA	372.00	\$372,800	\$2,236.80
FW2	Levi Pond WMA	259.20	\$78,800	\$472.80
FW3	St. Hilaire Parcel	100.00	\$80,100	\$480.60

Groton Total	13,174.00	\$14,869,200	\$89,215.20
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***Is payment from the State of VT to the town of Groton in lieu of taxes**

What is Current Use?

In 1978, the Vermont legislature passed a law establishing the Use Value Appraisal of Agricultural, Forest, Conservation and Farm Buildings Property. Today, this program is known as "Current Use".

The purpose of the law was to allow the valuation and taxation of farm and forest land based on its remaining in agricultural or forest use instead of its value in the market place. The primary objectives of the program were to keep Vermont's agricultural and forest land in production, help slow the development of these lands, and achieve greater equity in property taxation on undeveloped land. Benefits for land enrolled in the program were first distributed in tax year 1980.

As of September 2016, there were more than 18,400 parcels of land enrolled totaling more than 2.4 million acres, about one-third of Vermont's total land.

PLACING YOUR PROPERTY INTO CURRENT USE

The purpose of the program is to keep agricultural and forest land in production and to slow development of these lands. Enrolled property must remain in agriculture, forest, or conservation use to be taxed at use value. If the property is developed, a land use change tax will be due. If only a portion of the property is developed, the penalty will apply only to that portion.

The List of Current Use Properties can be found on Town website or at the Assessor's Office.

2021 Use Values

<u>Agricultural Land</u>	<u>\$405/acre</u>
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<u>Forest Land & Conservation Land</u>	<u>\$152/acre</u>
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<u>Forest Land & Conservation Land Greater than one mile from a Class 1,2, or 3 Road</u>	<u>\$114/acre</u>
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SELECT BOARD REPORT

The Groton Select Board is still continuing to deal with Covid concerns. We are making sure our meetings are safe for the public

From the end of March to the first of May, the Select Board members met on Zoom and only people working in the Town Department were those of necessity. The Board would like to thank those that did work through the time when everything was shut down due to COVID-19.

The Select Board goal is to inform the residents and taxpayers about the activities of the Select Board. The following items are some things the Select Board has been doing. These are only the high points of 2020:

Executive Sessions

The Select Board at times must deal with personnel and sensitive issues which have been few this year.

Financial and Budget Updates

This year a new contract was done for the town audit for the next 3 years. The audit went well and the Select Board appreciates the great job the Town Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector have been doing in keeping our town budget in line and up-to-date and working with the Select Board with possible grants, contracts, training and policies that the Select Board needs to be informed about.

Town Clerk

We had to go through the process of reviewing the past dog ordinance and passed a new Dog Ordinance changes.

Special Town Meetings

There was a special meeting on the 2nd amendment.

Assessor/Asst. Assessor

We now have an assessor named John Westinghouse along with Asst. Assessor, Dorothy Knott that have had their work cut out for them.

Drainage, Entrance and Septic

We had to redo our septic system for the Community Building, offices and the Fire Department septic will done in the spring. The drain project and entrance to the parking lot is in the process and the 2nd drawing was passed and will continue next year with these projects and putting out to bid. An 18" drain pipe has been put on Route 302 as they were doing the paving project. This will connect to the Mill Street drain/line project with the Groton Town Office and Fire Dept. property.

Highway Department

The Highway Crew has done a good job and has been busy in getting some of the projects done this year. The Minard Hill Road got paved this year. The Select Board also wants to thank the Road Crew for getting the work done in a timely fashion and continue to do a good job.

There is so much other work that goes on which the towns' people don't realize. Our Town Constable has been busy patrolling. Fire Department and FAST have been busy in training and serving our town in times of emergency. The Select Board would like to thank all those who serve and sacrifice their time and families to protect our Town. Lastly, we give a special thanks to all our military veterans who have served and those presently serving in our military.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade Johnson, SR, Chair Aaron Smith Zachary Conaway

Groton Highway Report

- 2021 was a challenging year for everyone, Phillip and I have tried our best to stay healthy and still maintain the town's roads. We continued to ditch and replace culverts while doing our best to keep up with the State requirements.
- During the winter months, Phillip and I manufactured a tow behind roller that is working well to pack the roads after we grade.
- The town purchased a hydraulic breaker to break up rocks in the roads and ditches.
- We worked with other departments on projects, supplying labor and equipment time, saving them money.
- We received 2 grants this year, 1 for paving on Minard hill road, and 1 for replacing a culvert on Powder spring road that is not big enough with a precast concrete box culvert.
- Phillip and I try our best to control cost while maintaining a level of service that keeps up with the needed maintenance of the roads.
- I would like to thank the residents of the Town of Groton for all the support in helping us do the best job possible.
- Here are a couple reminders:

23 V.S.A. § 1126a. Depositing snow onto or across highways prohibited

(a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the agency of transportation (in the case of state highways) or selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder or sidewalk of a state highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway.

(b) Nothing in this section should be construed to be in derogation of any municipal ordinance regulating the deposit of snow within the limits of town highways. (Added 1997, No. 150 (Adj. Sess.), § 17.)

- Article 7.1 from the Town of Groton Highway ordinance: Winter Parking- Parking within a town right of way, including turnarounds and/or Cul de sacks, shall be prohibited between November 1 and March 31 of each year except for town owned parking areas where there will be no parking between midnight and 6:00 am. Violators will be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

Town Garage Phone-584-3209

Harold's Pager 290-1355

Harold hatch (Home) 584 3816 or stop by the garage

Town Clerk Report

This year the office used Restoration/Preservation money to purchase a 36" scanner/printer. This will allow me to scan surveys and maps and have them searchable on the computer. The goal will be to enter them into the Cott System (online Land Records) and have them readily available for researchers. This will also serve to preserve them as well. Also twenty more land record books are planned to be scanned before the end of Feb 2022. This will mean land records from present back to approximately 1988 will be online, preserved and readily available for searching.

Elections were quiet for 2021 and things are gearing up for the 2022 mid-terms. The State of Vermont has decided to send all towns that vote with a tabulator a new tabulator. These will be arriving in late Spring of 2022, in time to be in place by June for use in the August Primary. The new tabulators are known as the ImageCast Precinct 2 ("ICP 2"). They are said to be a significant improvement over the Accuvote machines, with numerous new or improved features including: accurate sorting of ballots containing write-in votes into a separate compartment; a thermal paper roll which eliminates the frustrating replacement of ink cartridges and produces a results tape that is much clearer and easier to read; a larger screen with more user friendly instructions for poll workers and voters; enhanced security features; and far fewer jams or other mechanical failures that were due to the age of the Accuvote machines. The State feels this will ensure all towns are using the same and most up-to-date equipment. This is coming at no cost to the Town.

I continue to enjoy my job and I am thankful to live in our community. ☺

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Peters

Assessor's Office

2021 was the first full year of having an Assessor and an Assistant Assessor. Covid 19 played a role in how we conducted business. John Westinghouse, our Assessor, continues to work remotely, from home. The Assistant Assessor is in the office on a regular basis. Requests for information can be provided via emails and phone calls.

Training from the State of Vermont and VLCT was completed via Zoom and webinars.

2022 will see the arrival of VTPIE (Vermont Property Information Exchange). The VTPIE system is a web-based data sharing platform that is being designed to enhance and streamline the processes for State Grand List management, education tax administration, equalization and communication between the State, PVR and municipalities. Training will begin in January 2022 and will be ongoing as modules are added to the program.

Due to Covid On-site Property Inspections are still being limited following the guidance of Property Valuation and Review. Letters and forms are being sent to property owners to provide us with updated information and photos of property changes.

The Town Clerk and Assessor's Offices have added a 24" printer to the office. This is allowing us to scan and print surveys and maps.

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION- Please remember to file a Form HS 122 when you file your Income Tax.

ADDRESS CHANGES- Please send address changes to the Assessor's Office. This will help us to have up to date information when it is time to mail tax bills and other information to you.

INFORMATION REQUESTS- Please fill these out in a timely manner and return to the Assessor's Office.

THANK YOU

John Westinghouse
Assessor

Dorothy Knott
Assistant Assessor



State of Vermont
Department of Taxes
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

Phone: (802) 828-5860
Fax: (802) 828-2239

Agency of Administration

December 23, 2021

Town Clerk
Town of Groton
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

2021 Equalization Study Results

This letter serves as notification of the results of Property Valuation and Review (PVR)'s 2021 equalization study. Every year we are required to certify the equalized education property value (EEPV or EEGL) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) for each Vermont town (32 V.S.A § 5406). This letter also communicates the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for your town and explains how it will impact your homestead and nonhomestead education tax rates.

Education Grand List (from 411):	\$129,071,795
Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL):	\$130,252,365
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA):	99.09 % or 0.9909
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD):	15.17 %

For a copy of your town final computation sheet and certified sales report, please see:

tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

The **education grand list** listed here is what was reported by your town to the state on the 411 form with your town's cable (if applicable) and tax increment financing (TIF) amounts (if any) included. This number represents the town's total property value that is subject to the education property tax (from the most recent grand list available) and serves as the numerator in the computation of the CLA. Please note: tax revenue from any TIF property value is subject to allocation (32 V.S.A. § 5404a).

The **equalized education grand list (EEGL)** represents PVR's statutorily-mandated estimate of total fair market value of the education grand list in your town and serves as the denominator in the computation of the CLA. To find out more about how the equalization study is conducted, how to read the certified sales report, and additional instructions on how to appeal your results, please see the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at:

tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

The **common level of appraisal (CLA)** is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A number over 100% indicates that property in your town is generally listed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally listed for less than its fair market value. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A § 4041a). The homestead and nonhomestead tax rates in your town will be adjusted by your town's CLA (32 V.S.A § 5402).

The nonhomestead rate in your town will be the statewide nonhomestead rate divided by your CLA. The homestead rate will be the town homestead rate (which is determined by the per-pupil spending of any school district(s) to which your town belongs) divided by the CLA. A CLA greater than 100% will result in a downward adjustment of tax rates, and a CLA less than 100% will result in upward adjustment.

To get answers to many common questions about tax rates and how they are determined and to see how the current year property tax rates for your town were calculated, please see the department's education tax resources at:

tax.vermont.gov/education-tax-rates

The **coefficient of dispersion (COD)** is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within your town. It is calculated as the average of the (absolute) difference of each sales ratio (list price divided by sales price) in the study from the median ratio. That result is then divided by the median ratio to get the COD, which is expressed as a percent (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A high COD means that within your town many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share and many are paying less than their fair share. A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A. § 4041a).

Appeals: A municipality may petition the director of Property Valuation and Review for a redetermination of its EEPV and/or COD (32 V.S.A § 5408). All petitions must be in writing and signed by the chair of the municipality's legislative body. Petitions should contain a plain statement of matters being appealed and a statement of the remedy being sought. **Petitions must be received by PVR by the close of business on the 35th day after mailing of this letter.** Additional instructions on appeals can be found in the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at:

tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

We at PVR are aware that many towns are concerned about the change in the market due to the affects of Covid-19 over the past year. Sales have increased generally in price and some towns have seen this more than others. This is a typical real estate market reaction which is seen when conditions in the world change such as economy, politics etc.

As a result there are more towns experiencing large drops in their CLA. This is to be expected in a market shift. As you may have seen recently on the news, education base rates are expected to decrease which will minimize the effect of changing CLA's on the tax rates in towns with large shifts. There will also be many more reappraisal orders going out to towns than in a typical year as a result. If you have concerns about your results you should talk with your District Advisor about what the best plan of action might be for your town.

If you have any questions, please contact your **district advisor** or call 802-828-5860.

Sincerely,



Jill Remick, Director
Property Valuation and Review

cc: Chair, Board of Listers
Chair, School Board
Chair, Select Board
Superintendent of Schools

Independent Audit Report

Fothergill Segale & Valley, the Town of Groton's independent auditors, performed the Town Audit and provided a report on August 5 2021 to the Select Board for year ending 2020.

The Town Audit Report and financial statements are available at the town office for review. Please contact the office if you're interested in a copy.

The 2020 Audit can be found on Groton Town website under Town Treasurer.

Thank you

Lisa JL Hart
Town Treasurer

1st Constable Report

In 2021, I provided the following Law Enforcement services as Groton's First Constable:

Patrol	466.25 hours
Training	38.00 hours
Miscellaneous	19.75 hours
Animal Complaints	6.50 hours
Tickets	61
Warnings	152
VIN Checks	26

As of, December 31 2021, the Town of Groton has received \$ **3775.00** in civil fines from tickets being issued.

I wish to thank the Town of Groton for their continued support and welcome any comments or suggestions to improving my services to the public.

Respectfully submitted

James A Downing
1st Constable



GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

fun facts about YOUR Library!

1304 Scott Highway
Groton, Vermont 05046

1-802-584-3358

grotonlibraryvt@gmail.com

www.grotonlibraryvt.org

OUR LIBRARY IS HOME TO
2,768 BOOKS!
115 OF THESE ITEMS ARE
AUDIOBOOKS!



WE OFFER CURBSIDE SERVICES
ALWAYS!
CALL OR EMAIL US AND WE WILL HAVE
YOUR BOOKS READY FOR YOU
OUTSIDE!

OUR COMMUNITY RESOURCE AREA
OFFERS DIAPERS, PERSONAL CARE
ITEMS, OUTDOOR WINTER CLOTHES,
SHELF STABLE FOOD
ITEMS & MORE!

PUBLIC COMPUTERS, FAX & COPY
SERVICES
ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR USE!
NEW: WIRELESS PRINTING
SERVICES!

We offer 24/7
FREE
Wi-Fi!



WE WELCOME PATRONS FROM ALL
COMMUNITIES TO OUR LIBRARY! STOP
BY TODAY AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN
BECOME PART OF THE GROTON FREE
PUBLIC LIBRARY!



OPEN

Monday 2:30-7:00

Wednesday 10:00-4:00

Friday 2:30-7:00

Trustees:

Alissa Smith

Peggy Burgin

Wade Johnson Jr.

Deborah Jurist

Jennifer Gaiss

Librarian:

Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb



*Dr. Seuss said it best when he
said, "why fit in when you
were born to stand out!" Here
at the Groton Free Public
Library, we strive to stand
OUT!*

2021 Library Budget vs. 2021 Actual Spent				
Expenses paid from Town General Fund				
	2021 Budget	Actual	2022 Budget	
Librarian wages	21164.00	20415.11	21805.00	
Payroll taxes	1619.00	1561.54	1669.00	
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1182.00	1182.00	1238.00	
Postage & delivery	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Building rent	18000.00	18000.00	18000.00	
Supplies-Library	2000.00	2127.54	2000.00	
Books & periodicals-	5000.00	4942.27	5000.00	
Office supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Telephone/internet	1800.00	1906.94	1800.00	
Software/support	500.00	297.19	500.00	
Computer Repairs & Legal Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Legal Fee's	100.00	0.00	100.00	
Furnishings & Equipment	0.00	0.00		
TOTAL	51365.00	50432.59	52112.00	
Library Budget vs. Expenses				
Expenses paid by Library Fund	2021 Budget	Actual	2022 Budget	
Transfers Out	0.00	0.00		
Programs Expense	2000.00	1831.59	2000.00	
Postage	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Building Operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Books & Digital	1000.00	638.23	1000.00	
Training & Mileage	250.00	0.00	250.00	
Technology Services/Soft	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Computer Maintenance	300.00	0.00	300.00	
Computers	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Investment Loss	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Furnishings	500.00	471.16	500.00	
Elevator Expense	2200.00	2217.00	525.00	
Misc - Expense	0.00	1000.00	0.00	
TOTAL	6750.00	6157.98	5075.00	
Library Fund Revenue				
Funds are entered into Library Fund			Library Bank Balances as of 12/31/2021	
Books & Copy revenue		0.00	Library Operating	21,583.40
Dividends American Funds		685.73	Endowment	49,224.81
Donations/Annual Appeal		3550.00	Capital Improvement	31,788.72
Fundraising revenue		0.00	ACH Account	9.00
Grant revenue		0.00	American Fund Stock	24,892.34
Interest income		274.76		
Program revenue		0.00	Total	\$127,498.27
Gains - Investments		0.00		
Transfers In		0.00		
PayPal Revenue/Donations		170.48		
TOTAL		4680.97		

Library funds are not Town funds, they are controlled by the Library Trustees.

Groton Free Public Library Operating Fund

March 7, 2006, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the existing accounts and the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Groton Free Public Library fund to be funded by grants, gifts, donations, fund raising, existing library investments and other non-taxation sources said fund to be used for library improvements, managed by the library Board of Trustees and dispensed by the Town Treasurer?

Operating expense account funded by annual appeal donations, memorial funds, interest from Endowment and dividends from American Funds.

Balance \$21,583.40

Endowment Fund

Endowment funds are composed of monies that have been gifted to the Library in the form of bequests or donations. Endowment monies are not meant to be used to fund routine operational activities or salaries. Endowment funds are to be used at the discretion of the Groton Library Board of Trustees. Any requests for release of endowment monies must be voted on and approved by the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board is responsible for overseeing the use/investment of all endowment funds. The Library Board alone holds the power to direct investments and distribute money/assets for the Library.

(On 7/13/2015, the Library Trustee Board voted to remove all financial limitations on endowment requests)

Balance \$49,224.81

Capital Fund Certificate of Deposit

Anonymous gift restricted to capital improvements or non-budgeted items at the discretion of the Library Trustees.

Balance \$31,788.72

American Funds

Investment of funds realized from sale of book in 1991. Dividends are deposited in Community Bank Fund for use toward the Library portion of the monthly operating expense of the building.

Balance \$24,892.34

Library Pay Pal Fund

Fund Account was established to receive money electronically for Annual Appeal Donations.

Balance \$9.00

GROTON CEMETERY RULES

TRAFFIC REGULATION

In order to protect the roadways and monuments, all Groton Cemeteries will be closed to vehicular traffic from Nov. 1 to May 1, unless otherwise authorized by the Cemetery Commissioners.

FLOWERS AND FLAGS

All flowers, natural and artificial, should be removed from the cemeteries by Oct. 1. The flags will remain on the graves until Veteran's Day in November. Any flowers, plants and flags left in the cemetery may be removed by the maintenance workers.

FOOTINGS

In order to facilitate mowing and for the long-term stability of the stones, all the monuments will be set on a cement foundation with footings which extend four inches outward from the monument.

SETTING OF CORNER STONES AND GRASS MARKERS

A Cemetery Official will have the final say as to the location of any upright stone or grass marker should there be a question as to whether a marker has been placed correctly on any given lot. The cemetery Commissioners are responsible for setting the cornerstones.

PLANTINGS

Planting should be of the low maintenance type that will not grow to a size which will impinge on the surrounding lots. They must be clearly marked in order to protect them. They must be planted between the monuments and not in front or behind the headstones. Please understand that it is extremely difficult to be aware of all the plantings in cemeteries as large as the ones Groton has.

The town cannot be held responsible for plantings set in front or behind monuments as these areas are maintained with a lawn mower. However, the spaces between the monuments are maintained with string trimmers. It is much easier to spot and avoid a planting in these areas than in front and behind the headstones.

BURIALS

The cemetery will be closed for burials from the first snowfall until the ground is fully thawed in the spring, unless specifically authorized by the Cemetery Commission.
Burial vaults will be of concrete.

PURCHASING LOTS IN A GROTON CEMETERY

Lots are for sale containing as few as 1 burial plot and up to 12 plots. Lots sold at resident prices will have the resident's name only listed as owner on the deed. Non-residents cannot be listed as co-owners on lots purchased at residential prices. The initial of the owner's last name will be engraved on the cornerstones. There is a price list available through the town clerk. Cremation urns can be buried in any plot.

SPECIFYING THE INDIVIDUALS TO BE BURIED IN A LOT

At the time of purchase the deed holder can fill out a form that will specify the individuals who can be buried in a specific lot. This document can be notarized and filed with the deed for the current recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to specify who may be buried on their lot, this form can also be filled out, notarized and filed with the deed for the recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to sell a lot or portion of a lot, they must first sell it back to the town at the same price that it was originally purchased for. Then the town will sell the lot to the new owner based on current pricing. Corner stone for this new lot may not be required if the Commissioners approve.

Please be aware that the only way to securely guarantee who shall be buried in any given lot is for that person to own it. In cases where there might be a family dispute, we suggest that the parties take all steps possible to make clear who shall be allowed to use a lot.

CREMATION BURIALS

The internment of cremation urns is not restricted to special cremation plots. Urns can be buried on gravesites already inhabited or on sites that have been purchased but not used. In order to do this the Sexton must be informed and arrangements made for the digging and interning the urn so that the exact location of the urn can be recorded and the plot can be officially prepared. There is an added cost for digging the internment hole.

All Groton Cemetery guidelines for placement of markers and cornerstones will apply to lots being used for cremation internments.

PERPETUAL CARE

Perpetual Care fees cover emergency repair and general upkeep of the cemetery. If you are interested in purchasing a lot in the Groton cemetery, please contact the Town Clerk.

CEMETERY LOT PRICES and FEES for 2021

SIZE	# of traditional burial sites	# of cremation sites	LOT PRICE	PERPETUAL CARE	FEES	SETTING OF CORNER STONES	TOTAL FOR RESIDENTS	TOTAL FOR NON-RESIDENTS
12'X4'	1	4	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$475.00	\$1,875.00
12'X8	2	8	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$575.00	\$3,375.00
12'X12'	3	12	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$775.00	\$4,975.00
12'X16'	4	16	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$975.00	\$6,575.00
12'X20'	5	20	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$1,175.00	\$8,175.00

FEE EXPLANATION: RECORDING COST: \$30.00 AND CORNER POSTS: \$85.00

Lots must be paid in full at the time of purchase

The cost for grave preparation and cremation urn preparation is set by the contractor at the time of service.

2021 Cemetery Budget vs. 2021 Actual Spent

Expenses paid from Town General Fund

	2021 Budget	Actual	2022 Budget
Contracted Work	700.00	700.00	700.00
Riverside Cemetery	200.00	180.00	200.00
Mowing	7938.00	7938.00	8300.00
Dues & Meetings	25.00	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0
Supplies	615.00	2980.48	615.00
TOTAL	9,478.00	11,798.48	9,815.00

Revenues paid To Cemetery Accounts

Cemetery Lot Sales	700.00
Corner stone revenue	340.00
Recording fee income	120.00
Corner stone setting fees income	240.00
Development Funds (non-resident lot sale)	0.00
Perpetual Care income	900.00
Interest Revenue	34.40

Total Revenue**2334.40****Expenditures paid From Cemetery Accounts**

Deposited to Development Funds	0
Recording fees (Groton Town Clerk)	120.00
Corner stones expense	90.00
Restoration of Old Stones	0
Misc Exp-Town bought back a plot	55.00

265.00**Cemetery Funds Balances 12/31/21****Balances**

TD Bank-Roosevelt Carter Trust	6,202.00
WGSB H. Hosmer	3,296.53
WRSB Development Funds	11,493.86
WRSB Cemetery Lot Expenses	8299.74
WRSB Mary Jane Ricker Hall Trust	1,064.36
MB Perpetual Care	91,306.32
TOTAL	121,662.81

GROTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – 2021

Introduction

This year has been a continuation of last year due to Covid. Most of the Fire Department and FAST have had the vaccine. The Fire/FAST continue to wear masks when called out. We are trying to continue with our training. Our success is due to a dedicated group of fire fighters and their commitment and sacrifice in training and going to fire calls in all hours of the night and day as well as in all types of weather. I want to take this time to say thanks to all our Fire Department members for the work they have done.

If you are interested to see what we do, you are invited to see your tax dollars at work. Our monthly activities are as follows:

- 1st Tuesday – Business Meeting
- 2nd Tuesday – Work Detail
- 3rd Tuesday – Drill
- 4th Tuesday – Officer Meeting
- 5th Tuesday – when months have a fifth Tuesday, we either have special speakers or extra drills.

Business Meeting

We go over a lot of business in our Fire Department. We go over the training schedule, past months fire/FAST calls, maintenance on vehicles, and concerns with fire fighters, recruitment and retention issues, and discuss finances with the Fire Dept. budget and also moneys that are used by the Corporation for some of our fire gear and donations which we would like to share what our department went over and above what is asked:

Donations/In Memory of:

Groton Food Shelf/In Memory of John Darling

Groton Historical Society/In memory of Deane Page

Groton United Methodist Church/In Memory of Deane and Bing Page

Groton Historical Society. In Memory of Deane and Bing Page

Eureka Hose Company/IN Memory of Jeff Whitcomb

Fred Whitcomb Mem Scholarship Fund raffle tickets

Work Detail

On this Tuesday, we maintain and operate the equipment and keep everything up to date. This also includes inspection of vital life-saving equipment such as SCBA's.

Drills

A time to focus are drills on areas to protect our community such as:

Motor Vehicle Accidents	Chimney Fires
CO Activation/Smoke	Structure Fires
Cold Water Rescue	Snow Machine Accidents
Search and Rescue for those lost in woods	Hazmat

We also have training courses which we obtain without cost to the town from the Vermont Fire Academy:

Level 1 & 2	Hazmat
-------------	--------

PADO (Pumper Apparatus Driver Operations)

Other Training

CPR

Flagger Training

Currently, we have 1 of our Fire Fighters taking a Level 1 for Fire Fighter certification.

Officer Meeting

Currently, we have a time where the chief and officers go over ideas concerns and challenges of the Department which also, we prepare for agenda items of the monthly business meeting.

Other Activities

Coin Drops

Dick Page Ride-In (Snowmobile) with chicken barbecue

Blood Drives/FAST

Fire Calls for the Year

49

Conclusion

As you can see, putting out fires is not all we do. We are a close fire department family and we care the community we serve. If you would like to be part of the team, come in and join us. WE are looking for a few good men and women.

We have 911 signs which you can purchase and if you need CO and Smoke Detectors for your home, please contact us which we install and give for free.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade A Johnson, SR

GVFD Chief

FAST - GROTON RYEGATE FAST SQUAD ACCOUNT

2021

NOTE: This account is not funded by taxpayer dollars. These funds are from fundraising efforts and donations but the account is maintained by the Town Treasurer and listed under the Town's Federal ID number.

FAST Squad Account

Bank account balance on 12/31/20	503.89
Interest received	0.00
Donations	100.00
service fee refunded	10.00
Expenses	0.00
Fees	0.00
	0.00
Bank account balance on 12/31/21	613.89

Groton / Ryegate FAST Squad 2021 Town Report

The last couple of years have been, and continue to be, a challenge for EMS Agencies all over the world. Our department is no exception.

Certainly Covid has been a contributing factor, but over and above that is the lack of interest in EMS nationwide, especially for volunteer departments. Recruiting and retaining members is always a challenge. It's a large time commitment and sacrifice to ask of anyone. The time not only responding to calls but also training to be able to keep our licenses, is time away from family. We know what we're asking of people when we ask people to join. I am so proud of the way that our members have been able to meet those challenges head on, and so thankful for the families that support us, every day. The support of the spouses and children of our members – make it possible for us to do what we do, and to love what we do.

Thank you to the towns of Groton and Ryegate for your continued support over the past 30+ years. We wouldn't be able to serve the communities that we love without it!

As always – Thank you to the Groton Volunteer Fire Department and Ryegate Fire Department for your support whenever we need it.

As of the writing of this report we have received 240 calls for the year. This is a higher call volume than we've seen the last few years. 2018 ended with @190, 2019 had 155 and 2020 had 174.

We currently have 7 licensed providers – 6 at the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) level and 1 at the AEMT (Advanced Emergency Medical Technician) level. We also have 2 members that will be starting an EMT course in January 2022!

We were invited again this year, along with Woodsville Ambulance, to provide stand-by aid services for the Groton Forest Trail Run. We so enjoy participating in events like this. It gives us an opportunity to interact with people and answer any questions they may have about us or our Agency. It really is an honor for us to be invited back to this event year after year.

We had hoped that we would be able to host 4 public CPR class in 2021. Due to Covid concerns we were only able to host one class. We continue to hold out hope that we'll be able to offer low cost Community CPR classes as well as Stop the Bleed classes in 2022. In an emergency, either of those two skills alone could save a life. If you are interested in taking a CPR or Stop the Bleed class please email Groton.Ryegate.FAST@gmail.com for information.

We are always searching for ways that we can better serve our communities. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our team members if you have concerns, comments or suggestions. You can leave a message at our station at 802-584-3855 or e-mail Groton.Ryegate.FAST@gmail.com.

Are you interested in joining our team or would you just like to know more about our department? Reach out to us at either the phone number or email address listed above.

Brenda Bruleigh, Head of Service, Groton Ryegate FAST Squad,
Groton.ryegate.fast@gmail.com

FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

This year fire season there was only one forest fire.

The requirements to obtain a burn permit are as follows: you need to obtain a burn permit by calling the forest fire warden within 12-24 hours of burning grass or brush. The only time that you are not required to get a burn permit is when there is significant amount of snow in the area in which you are burning. This also depends on the time of the year such as early fall and late spring when we may have early now storms. It is always best to contact me with any questions or doubts in burning. When there is a ban on burning, it will be announced on WYKR and on the Groton website.

I must also remind people that in order to burn woodpiles such as debris from buildings, other than brush, you must obtain a different permit from the Environmental Air Pollution Office. Their address and phone number are as follows: Air Pollution Control Division, Department of Environmental Conservation, Building 3 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0402, telephone #802-241-3840.

If you want a permit during the week, you need to contact me the night before so you can get your permit. This has been one of the problems that I have had because I do work during the day Monday thru Friday. You can contact me during the week after 5PM at 584-3628.

Due to the large area of Groton which is covered by forest, it is difficult to survey the area from time to time and because of that, there have been a lot of illegal burns which go unnoticed which could be a potential hazard to others and their homes if the fire warden is not aware of them. If caught without a permit, you could be issued a fine plus cost of equipment and personnel that come to the scene.

There has been a concern since the stump dump has been closed. What do we do about our leaves and brush? First of all, you can burn your own brush as long as you obtain a burn permit but as far as leaves go, the law prohibits the burning of leaves. If you have a concern about what to do with your leaves, give me a call.

There is also a growing issue on trash burning. There is a state law now which has been in effect since 2005 making it illegal in the State of Vermont to burn trash. The Town of Groton has now passed a Trash Burning Ordinance. You can obtain a copy of this at the Town Clerk's office and if you have any questions, you can contact Jim Downing, the Town Constable.

Respectfully submitted,
Wade Johnson, SR, Forest Fire Warden
Justin Carle, Forest Fire Warden Deputy

Zoning Report for the Year 2021

In 2021 there were a total of twenty four permit applications submitted. There has been and will be a number of changes to Zoning and the Building process as put into law by the Legislature.

Our Zoning Permit Application will be changing as well as a new Sub-Division Permit application. As it is right now, ANY division of property has to be proceeded by a Sub-Division Permit acted upon by the Planning Commission. This includes any amount of parcels to be divided. There will be a new fee structure for Sub-Division Permits.

With all the Legislative changes to new construction, it is vitally important that all the proper permits are included with your Zoning application. This includes all the new Energy Efficiency laws. This also includes the Potable and Wastewater permits assigned by the Agency of Natural Resources as well as Shore Land Protection Act when construction is being done at our local lakes or ponds. Make sure your contractor is aware of the changes, has the proper permits in place or your Zoning application will be returned to you until all the proper permits have been obtained. There will be an application fee for any Zoning permit, whether it is accepted or denied.

The Planning Commission is working diligently to get the Zoning Laws updated and in compliance with the new changes. This is a challenging situation as the Laws seem to be changing often.

If you have questions pertaining to any permit application, including Shore Protection Act Permits, please feel free to contact me by phone: (802) 584-4108 or (802) 274-7565. You may also reach me by email at: danjacs@charter.net You may also access Zoning Permit Applications as well as the Zoning Regulations at: www.grotonvt.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, the Town of Groton residents, as your Zoning Administrator.

Dan Webster/Town of Groton, Vermont Zoning Administrator

The Buckaroo's of 302

The Buckaroos of 302 stand at 329 members as we look to match or hopefully improve upon last year's membership. Our volunteer crews had two major trail projects this year, one was replacing a culvert with a bridge on the 2004 trail in West Groton; the other was changing where the 232 trail crossed over on Harv Orr road due to a safety concern. A future project in the spring is to make room for snowmobiles on the side of Little Italy Road to avoid sharing the road with traffic. We'd like to thank our volunteers for all that they do and the hours that they put in every fall to keep our 60 miles of trails in top shape. We're hoping that the season picks up as warm weather/rain in December has put a damper on the start of the season.

Current list of officers:

President - Taylor Lamberton; Vice President - Kevin McDonnell; Secretary - Vacant; Treasurer & Trail Master - Gary Lamberton; Media Coordinator - Suzanne Pare

Planning Commission Report

As a result of community and Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) initiative in 2020, the Town of Groton has an approved Village Center Designation as of March 23, 2020. There are multiple benefits of having a Village Center Designation, please see links below for additional information.

<http://www.nvda.net/groton.php>

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/CPR-VC-Designation-Benefits.pdf>

The members of the Planning Commission have worked with Zoning Administrator Dan Webster, and NVDA Senior Planners Alison Low and Irene Nagel to review the Zoning Bylaws. Irene Nagel performed a Technical Review of the entire Zoning Bylaw. Members of the Commission will utilize this Technical Review to prepare recommendations for Zoning Bylaw amendments to be considered in 2022.

Members are currently updating the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure.

The Town of Groton, with the support of the Planning Commission, the Recreation Committee and the Buckaroos of 302, submitted a Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Community Grant application to regrade the railbed, establish a parking area near the village for recreational users, and the development of a plan to better connect the Village Center with the railbed.

Planning Commissioners look forward to 2022 and an active role in long-term planning initiatives for the Town of Groton.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael Nahmias, Chairperson
Dawn Evans, Interim Vice Chairperson
Mike Welch, Secretary
Brent Smith
Steve Hart
Emily Pratt
Jennifer Rogers

Recreation Committee Report 2021

The Groton Recreation Committee was a positive influence on our community in 2021!

Village Banners - It would be wonderful if any committee or individual or group of people are interested in sponsoring seasonal banners, please contact us. The approximate cost for 1 banner is approximately \$100.00.

EVENTS

Winter 2021

Snowshoe gatherings to explore various local trail heads were held and enjoyed by quite a few folks.

February

(Online) Hip Hop Dance for 4 classes with instructor Angelina Ponzio Labate

April 2021

Jazzy's Children's Fund Easter Bag give-away (Sponsorship)

May 2021

A Groton Community Garden was established, the recreation committee sponsored the purchase of compost to kick off this endeavor.

Summer 2021 Groton Community Bike Ride

We organized several community hikes and bike rides during the summer for residents. We also teamed up with the Cross Vermont Trail Association to help promote the Fall Foliage Bike Ride.

Fall 2021

Muay Thai Kickboxing, 5 Sunday classes this fall, with instructor Anne George.

October 2021

Jazzy's Children's Fund Annual Halloween Party Sponsorship

RECREATION FACILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORT

Together with area coaches, the Recreation Committee helped organize a letter writing campaign to secure grant money for field improvements.

The Rec Committee teamed with the Groton Planning Commission and Buckaroos of 302 to pursue the VOREC (Vermont Outdoor Recreation) Community Grant Program and the ERSA (Enhancement of Recreational Stewardship and Access) Trail Grants program conducted by the State of Vermont (Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation). After having both Letters of Support accepted by the State, we ultimately submitted a VOREC application for the "Groton Gateway Project."

The Recreation Committee provided a Letter of Support for the Cross Vermont Trail Association's Groton Rail bed grant application with the Northern Forest Center for trying to better connect the State Forest and campgrounds with the town and village.

Provided a Letter of Support for the Leahy- Congressionally Directed Spending Request Grant application by the Town of Groton to help with the septic and drainage for the Community Building.

Rec Committee Members:

Anne Hatch, Lisa Hart, Janet Page, Michael Gaiss and Jennie Gaiss.

The Groton Food Shelf

The Groton Food Shelf would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous donations of food and/or money. This was a very trying year and these donations went above and beyond. We are truly lucky to live in such a giving community. We gave out 12 Thanksgiving Baskets and 15 Christmas baskets plus gift cards to Ocean State Job Lots for parents to choose gifts for their children.

Steve & Barb Elliott	Kirsten Murch & Alan Massey
Norma & George Murphy	Naomi Darling
Taylor Lamberton	Paul Clark
Huskey Family	Marilyn Faris
Town of Ryegate	Dennis Casey & Barb Zander
Ryegate Presbyterian Women	Groton Baptist Church
Doug & Nancy Murray	Dawn Evans
The Growing Peace Project	
Upper Valley Everyone Eats	
Willing Hands	
North Country Federal Credit Union	
Sylvia Newberry in Memory of Jim Newberry	
Groton's Gorgeous Gals in Memory of Martha Crown	
Richard & Judy Thrasher in memory of Norman & Marion Murray	
John & Elizabeth Maloney in memory of Bing & Deane Page	

If we missed you we apologize and please know your donation was greatly appreciated.
Carrie Peters & Lisa Hart

If you are in need please call 584-3276, Mon-Thurs. or email townclerk@grotonvt.com to set up a time to pick up food.

<u>Food Shelf 2021 Beginning Balance:</u>	\$11,674.74
Donations:	\$6268.63
Interest Earned:	\$2.47
Expenses:	\$5826.88
(Food, gift cards, personal care items, donations)	
Ending Balance:	\$12,118.96

Groton Community Club Report for 2021

2021 was the year of giving!

The Community Club was supported this year by an amazing outpouring of support from an impressive number of people! With no previous Chicken Pie Supper (for the first time in 65 years) donations and help was provided by a vast number people to enable ongoing service to the Community. Thanks to these donations, we were able to continue to provide funds for all Groton graduates going on to school. Also with donations given in memory of Bing & Deanne Page and Doug Duckett we were able to contribute to the purchase of a new industrial level stove for the Community Building kitchen.

Groton Community Businesses also contributed in a huge way to assist in our recovery from the previous year of no Supper:

Artesano/Nicole Wolfgang & Mark Simakaski,
Collins Maple/Ashely & Mike Collins,
Darlings Auto Repair/Craig & Cindy Darling,
Emerson Logging/Chris & Zach Emerson,
Grizzly Mountain Trucking/Tristan Vaughan,
Groton Garage/Tim Spooner,
Groton Timberworks/Nathan & Merry Puffer, Groton Tire & Auto/Troy & Julie Oliver and Toby & Carrie Peters,
Modern Woodmen/Stewart Gates,
The Old Scott Barn/Martin Klein,
Upper Valley Grill/Bill Kane.

It's also essential to extend a huge thank you for the continuous support of Washington Electric Cooperative Community Fund. WEC has been invaluable in support of our suppers over the years.

And to close, we end with a summary of this year's Chicken Pie Supper. Volunteers across the Community made this year's supper successful even with the foreboding "virus" still in existence. Many meetings were held to identify the best approach to take while keeping in mind the safety of our customers and our volunteers. We reduced the number of sittings from 4 to 3 and reduced the number of people served per sitting by half. Face mask and shots were required and it was a safe supper by all accounts. You will want to also know that we served in the neighborhood of 500 people, quite an undertaking given the environment!

And again, a very large **THANK YOU** to Everyone!

Cindy Darling Deb Doscinski Tracy Emerson Mary Grant Robbin Irwin Bill Kane

Diane Kreis Peter Lyon Dan Robinson Donna Robinson Dwaine Smith

Groton Lunches w/ Friends, LLC
PO Box 109
Groton, Vermont 05046

After several months of serving only our Meals on Wheels clients and curbside pick-up meals to our congregate diners, GLWF is back in full swing. Starting the first of August and serving only about 8 in-house diners the first week, our numbers have increased to 20 + enthusiastic participants each week.

Our weekly diners enjoy hearty, healthy and always delicious meals* and the social aspect of our gathering each week is a joy to all who participate.

We are, however, in need of more volunteers to help with the weekly preparation and serving of our meals. Our site manager, Pat Randall, looks forward to hearing from you if you care to donate an hour or two of your time when you can to help out.

***Look for our ad in the Bridge Weekly for a preview of our menus.**

A sincere and heart-felt thank-you goes out to **all** of our volunteers who give of their time, effort and energy to help us serve our Groton area community.

We would like to thank the entire Groton Community and our neighboring towns for your continued support of our efforts to provide this much needed and enjoyed service to all.

Board Members: Stanley Pierce, Gail Bush, Paula Achilles, Peggy Burgin, Susan Fullerton, Pam Smith, and Chefs: Julie and Eric Knight

Groton Historical Society Report

The Groton Historical Society had another terrific year. The exterior of the Peter Paul House is now completely repainted and it looks fabulous. It was paid for completely by donations from community members both present and past. We are so grateful to everyone who pitched in, especially painter Matt Nunn, who spent a lot of time on the Peter Paul House this summer. Thanks to him the historic quality of the house was preserved in a very practical way.

Due to continuing pandemic concerns, we opened the house to the public only twice during 2021, once in August geared to lake life and again on Fall Foliage Day. Additionally, we presented at the Lake Groton Association annual meeting and 75th anniversary celebration in September.

The main theme for 2021 was “Lake Life in Groton.” The charming and informative booklet “Camping at the Pond” written by Marion Lindsey Proudfoot and originally published in 1970, was reprinted with many additional features including photos and indexes. The 8.5 x 11 format booklet is 50 pages. A map of the properties surrounding Lake Groton was also created, as well as a jigsaw puzzle, thanks to Lise Shallberg.

Dave Spencer repeated an engaging presentation about the history of Lake Groton several times and it was recorded on Fall Foliage Day. This presentation is available to watch on the Groton Pond and GHS websites.

Phyllis Burke curated a beautiful exhibit of ladies’ bathing suits in the west parlor of the Peter Paul House thanks to the fabulous collection on loan for the occasion by Nan McHugo.

The Groton Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) organization which operates independently of the town of Groton. We are exceptionally grateful for the support of our members and enthusiastically embrace the interests of all folks who want to preserve and discover the unique history of our town. We are extremely lucky to have several new members who are also new to Groton. As we explore the theme we will focus on in 2022, please drop us an email with your ideas.

grotonvthistory@gmail.com

And watch the GHS website

www.grotonvthistory.org

It will be getting an update this coming year.

Deborah Jurist – President

Community Building Use Policy

The Community Building plays an important role in our community and we hope to promote its use while continuing to meet the growing cost of maintenance. We ask that those using the facility contribute a portion of the money required to cover the cost of cleaning, utilities and heating.

Taxpayer money provides for the bulk of this financial burden but a portion of the increased maintenance cost is due to the increased use and needs to be supplemented by user fees. Increased activity has also required that our scheduling policy be updated to allow for more residents and diverse activities to be accommodated.

The Community Building Gymnasium and Kitchen will be available for public use providing there is no conflict with Town-sponsored activities. Town usage and use by town residents shall take precedence over non-resident, non-profit, or private use.

Space will be scheduled in hourly segments with a fee of \$8.00 per hour for residents & \$10.00 per hour for Non-residents for up to 50 people. There will be a \$50.00 Cleaning and damage deposit at the time the Reservations are made and paid in advance. It will be returned after the space has been determined to be clean and damage free, within 7 days after space use.

Larger Events, over 50 people will be reserved in advance and be approved by the Select Board, or by the person being appointed by the Selectboard to approve the application. All day events will cost \$100.00 a day plus the \$50.00 deposit fee. Non-profit, public, town events may have the fee waived if agreed upon by the Select Board.

The Community Building Sign-Up Sheet and Release of Responsibility Form will be available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. It is the responsibility of the individuals or groups using the Community Building to clean the rented space and to remove their trash after each use. The key must be returned promptly after the function. Keys shall not be duplicated.

If the applicant will need to have a custodian, it is the applicant's responsibility to contact the town's custodian to schedule their services and make arrangements for payment of their services.

Misuse of any of the Groton Community Building facilities and premises and/or failure to comply with the above policy, or any of the rules will result in immediate revocation of permission to use any of the facilities in the future.

We are excited to share the progress we've made towards bringing high-speed internet to the 50 member towns of NEK Broadband. Our pilot project in Concord, Waterford and Lunenburg will offer 100 Mbps symmetrical service or higher to 342 addresses in late 2021 and early 2022. We've received additional state and federal grant funding and are finalizing plans for a full-length construction season beginning the spring of 2022.

The organization has matured with the addition of three key partners. The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) is experienced in design, construction management, and materials procurement. Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) will be our network operator and internet service provider. WCVT brings over a century of experience in telecommunications and provides all the modern services customers expect. Mission Broadband serves as an advisor and adjunct staff.

Who We Are:

A Communications Union District (CUD) is a municipal entity made up of multiple towns. Our district is building fiber-optic based internet access that has a capacity far beyond most current services available. Each town appoints at least one representative to our Governing Board, which has chosen to develop a publicly-owned network.

Member Towns: All but these five towns in the Northeast Kingdom (Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties) have joined the district: Granby, Jay, Lemington, Norton, Victory. Wolcott in Lamoille county is also a member.

Project Plans: The overall project will require roughly \$140 million and take at least five years to complete. Funding will be through grants and municipal revenue bonds, as well as income from subscribers. The team is establishing technical standards as well as analysis of all locations and their current internet access. Utility pole surveys are in progress, fiber optic cable has been ordered, and we will be ready to continue construction in the spring of 2022.

Grants Received: NEK Broadband has received three different federal grants totalling \$1,045,000 for the Concord-Lunenburg-Waterford project, which began construction in November, 2021. We have been awarded almost \$7 million for designing the entire network, hiring additional staff and preparing for the 2022 construction season. Smaller grants were received from Vermont Community Foundation, Northeastern Vermont Development Association, Northern Community Investment Corporation, and Northern Enterprises.

Obligations: Community National Bank Letter of Credit (\$3.5 million); Northern Enterprises loan (\$80,000)

Respectfully,

Evan Carlson, Board Chair, Sutton Representative
NEK Broadband

Residents can sign up to receive regular general updates and, in the future, information about when service will be available at specific locations at:

get.nekbroadband.org

Budget Summary

2021 Budget to Actual (Projected)

	Budget	Actual
Total Income	\$93,700	\$3,087,767
Total Expenses	\$90,350	\$1,353,932
Total Capital Investment	\$5,360,000	\$945,000
Annual Net Cash Flow		\$788,835

2022 Proposed Budget

Projected Surplus from 2021	\$788,835
Grants	\$25,000,000
Net Operations Revenue	-\$52,900
Total Income	\$25,735,935
Administrative Costs	\$495,000
(Pre) Construction Costs	\$25,000,000
Total Spending	\$25,495,000

WARNING

NEK WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET VOTE

MARCH 1, 2022

The legal voters of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District are hereby notified and warned to vote, by Australian Ballot, at the polling place and between the hours specified by their municipality on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 to act on the following article.

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$846,615.50?

ALBANY- <i>E/S Nick Rivers</i>	MORGAN- <i>E/S Joe Noble</i>
BLOOMFIELD- <i>E/S Paulette Routhier</i>	NEWPORT TOWN- <i>E/S Steve Barrup</i>
BRIGHTON- <i>E/S Bruce Rumball-Petre</i>	NEWBURY- <i>E/S John Narowski</i>
BRUNSWICK- <i>E/S Paulette Routhier</i>	NORTON- <i>E/S Gina Vigneault</i>
CORINTH- <i>E/S Bob Sanberg</i>	RYEGATE- <i>E/S Gene Perkins</i>
DANVILLE- <i>E/S Walter McNeil Jr.</i>	SHEFFIELD- <i>E/S Preston Smith</i>
DERBY- <i>E/S Irene Dagesse</i>	STANNARD- <i>E/S Emily Cayer</i>
EAST HAVEN- <i>E/S Kirwin Flanders</i>	TOPSHAM- <i>E/S Megan Clark</i>
GLOVER- <i>E/S Jack Sumberg</i>	TROY- <i>E/S Gaston Bathalon</i>
GREENSBORO- <i>E/S Ken Johnston</i>	UTG’S- <i>E/S Gina Vigneault</i>
GROTON- <i>E/S Timothy Dailey Sr.</i>	WATERFORD- <i>E/S Richard Stodola</i>
HOLLAND- <i>E/S Joe Noble</i>	WESTFIELD- <i>E/S Jake Couture</i>
IRASBURG- <i>E/S Dustin Sanville</i>	WHEELLOCK- <i>E/S Preston Smith</i>
JAY- <i>E/S Dave Sanders</i>	
LYNDON- <i>E/S Steve Gray</i>	

Executive Committee Report

The NEKWMD finished 2021 by processing slightly more recycling compared to 2020 – 2,952 tons in 2021 compared to 2,882 tons in 2020. Significant increases in organics, cardboard, and scrap metal offset decreases in mixed paper. Most other material tonnages were at or slightly above 2020 amounts. Recycling markets were very strong for nearly all of 2021.

The District ended 2021 with a surplus of \$74,405.44. Revenues in 2021 were 22% above projections, while expenses were 13% above projections. The COVID19 pandemic did not disrupt our work schedule to any large degree in 2021. In fact, the main impact of the pandemic on District operations was to drive commodity prices to near record levels. Revenues for the sale of recyclables, the surcharge, grants, and recycling pick-up fees were the primary drivers for above average revenues in 2021. Fees used to generate revenues will remain mostly unchanged or decrease in 2022. The per capita assessment will decrease from \$0.94/person to \$0.84/person, the surcharge will remain the same at \$24.99, and hauling fees will remain unchanged at \$49 and \$33/stop for facilities and schools, respectively.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2021. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is 3rd in the state behind only Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

The NEKWMD is entering 2022 with a proposed budget of \$846,615.50 – an increase of 4.6% compared to 2021.

The NEKWMD was staffed by nine full-time and three part-time employees in 2021. Each of the member Towns is entitled to representation by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the principal authority over the NEKWMD and the primary means of contact with the member towns. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly with the District's Executive Director to set the direction of NEKWMD policy.

Since the surcharge on trash is based on the amount of waste produced, members have a clear opportunity to control their waste management costs. Costs can decrease as waste generation rates decrease and recycling rates increase.

We would like to express our appreciation to our able staff for their continuing commitment to our mission. The 47,600 residents of 49 Towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom can be assured that the NEKWMD will continue to address their waste management concerns in a timely and environmentally sound fashion.

NEKWMD Executive Committee

Groton & Ryegate Recycling and Waste Disposal Guide

269 School St., East Ryegate. Fridays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm & Saturdays, 8:00am – 12:00pm

<div>  <div>SORT ITEMS</div>  </div>	
<p><u>MIXED PAPER</u></p> <p>Newspapers, catalogs, telephone books, glossy inserts, paperback books, colored & white paper, wrapping paper and junk mail. Any color or type of paper.</p> <p><i>NO brown Kraft bags, boxboard, coffee cups, ice cream cartons, or metallic wrapping paper.</i></p>	<p><u>CORRUGATED CARDBOARD, BOXBOARD, & BROWN KRAFT BAGS</u></p> <p>All Cardboard and Boxboard food packaging. Remove excess tape. Staples are OK.</p> <p><i>NO wax-coated cardboard, cardboard soiled with food, coffee cups, ice cream cartons, or Styrofoam.</i> *BOXES MUST BE FLATTENED*</p>
<p><u>TIN CANS</u></p> <p>Labels are OK. Flattening not required. Separate from aluminum cans. Tin is magnetic. *MUST BE RINSED*</p>	<p><u>ALUMINUM CANS, FOIL AND FOOD TRAYS</u></p> <p>Labels OK. Flattening not required. <i>NO snack bags, candy wrappers, coffee bags.</i> *MUST BE RINSED*</p>
<p><u>GLASS BOTTLES & JARS</u></p> <p>*Rinse, Remove Lids (recycle with tin) *</p> <p><i>NO porcelain, Pyrex, windows, crystal, light bulbs, lids, metal or wood.</i></p>	<p><u>BATTERIES</u></p> <p>All types including primary and rechargeable batteries. Please bag similar types together and bag damaged batteries separately.</p>
<p><u>PLASTIC CONTAINERS #1 – #4 & #5 Food Containers</u></p> <p><u>REMOVE CAPS / MAX. SIZE- 2 Gallons / NO BLACK PLASTIC / *MUST BE RINSED*</u></p> <p>Includes food containers, health/beauty product, and cleaner containers. #5 included <i>if it's a food container</i>. <i>NO plastic bags or films, black plastic, screw-top caps, motor oil bottles, pesticide bottles, vinyl siding, toys, CD cases, VHS tapes, Styrofoam, syringes, or medical devices.</i></p>	
<div>  <div> <p><u>NO DIRTY OR UNRINSED ITEMS</u></p> <p><u>NO BLACK PLASTIC CONTAINERS</u></p> <p><u>NO CONTAINERS larger than 2 GALLONS</u></p> </div> </div>	

ADDITIONAL ACCEPTED MATERIALS:

FOOD SCRAPS: All food scraps, including meat, bones, dairy. **Remove PLU stickers. No plastics, metals, paper.**

HOUSEHOLD TRASH: Trash disposal available at transfer station, \$3.00/15 gallon bag, \$4.00/30 gallon bag, \$5.00/contractor bag. Other fees apply for Bulky Wastes. Fees subject to change, contact the Town Office for most current prices. Residents may contract with private haulers for curbside collection services, find our Licensed Hauler List at <http://www.nekwmd.org/pdf/haulerlist.pdf>

SPECIAL WASTES: Oil, oil filters, automotive batteries, metal aerosol cans, hard-cover books, agricultural bale wrap, scrap metal, fluorescent bulbs and electronics (televisions, computers, phones, radios, gaming consoles).

STUMP DUMP: Clean, unpainted, untreated wood and yard debris only.

SWAP SHOP: Pick-up or drop-off any small, clean household item in good working condition.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE – May through the end of September **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** in Lyndonville, & special Saturday events (no appt necessary) throughout the District. June – September. Call for details.

In addition to services provided at this location, district residents have access to disposal services at the Lyndonville Recycling Center, 224 Church St, Lyndonville.

Recycling, Food Scraps, Scrap Metal, E-waste, Waste Oil, Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs, Freon-Containing Appliances (Refrigerators, Freezers, A/C units, and Dehumidifiers), Stump Dump, all free of charge, and Tire Disposal, fees apply, available at the Lyndonville Recycling Center.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS – CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AT (802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. www.nekwmd.org, e-mail outreach@nekwmd.org
Updated 11/2021



List of Common Items **NOT ACCEPTED** for Recycling

Please dispose of the following items in the trash unless otherwise stated.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFELY AND PROPERLY DISPOSING OF A
MATERIAL— CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM

WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

(802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. www.nekwmd.org, e-mail outreach@nekwmd.org

Unacceptable Plastics Include:

Any **black** plastic containers

Screw-top Caps

Motor oil, gas containers

Pesticide containers

Styrofoam of any kind

Planting pots and trays

Plastic furniture

Plastic Toys

Coffee Makers

Coat hangers

Vinyl Siding

Maple Tubing

CDs, DVDs, VHS, and cases

Water line pipes and plastic tubing of any size

Hard, rigid plastic (if it shatters, it's not accepted)

Unacceptable Plastic Bags and Films

Any type

Unacceptable Cardboard

Pringles containers

Milk and Juice Cartons of any kind

Ice cream and waxy or plastic frozen food boxes

Cardboard with metallic interior

Single-use coffee cups

Soiled Cardboard

Waxy Cardboard

Unacceptable Paper

Kraft brown paper bags (recycle with cardboard)

White or Brown Boxboard (recycle with cardboard)

Shiny, glossy, or metallic papers

Paper plates, cups, bowls

Single-use cups

Napkins, paper towels, tissue paper

Unacceptable Glass

Crystal

Incandescent light bulbs

Automotive lights

Pyrex

Porcelain

Unacceptable Aluminum

Chip Bags, Snack Wrappers, Pop tart Wrappers

Aluminum Flashing (recycle with scrap metal)

Coffee Bags

Unacceptable Tin

Recycle these with Scrap Metal

Frying Pans

Large Pieces of Metal

Nails, Screws, Fasteners

Any tin that is a non-food container

Unacceptable Food Scraps

PLU Stickers (sticks on fruits, vegetables)

"Biodegradable" bags, cutlery, bowls, plates

Food utensils

Plates, bowls, cups

Plastic bags

Styrofoam

Keurig cups

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	A	B	C	D
1	BUDGET ITEM	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL as of 12/31/2021	2022 PROPOSED BUDGET
2	ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
3	Advertising	\$700.00	\$960.63	\$1,100.00
4	Audit -- Financial	\$6,595.00	\$7,845.00	\$6,845.00
5	Audit -- Waste Haulers	\$900.00	\$329.40	\$1,000.00
6	Bank Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	Cleaning	\$1,920.00	\$1,810.00	\$1,920.00
8	Copier	\$1,500.00	\$1,274.20	\$1,500.00
9	Dues/Permits/Fees/Penalties	\$5,050.00	\$6,516.58	\$6,500.00
10	Heating Fuel	\$1,000.00	\$1,087.18	\$1,000.00
11	Liability & Casualty Ins.	\$13,000.00	\$15,971.00	\$14,000.00
12	Legal Fees	\$2,000.00	\$7,828.26	\$4,000.00
13	Postage	\$2,000.00	\$2,016.62	\$2,500.00
14	Office Supplies	\$3,200.00	\$5,457.91	\$4,000.00
15	Telephone - Office	\$3,000.00	\$3,324.07	\$3,300.00
16	Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$1,623.01	\$500.00
17	Water/Sewer	\$900.00	\$1,005.82	\$1,000.00
18	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$42,765.00	\$57,049.68	\$49,165.00
19	Gross Wages	\$402,925.00	\$387,638.16	\$417,500.00
20	OT Wages--Warehouse	\$3,500.00	\$747.32	\$3,000.00
21	Fica (Employer Match)	\$25,300.00	\$24,079.90	\$25,900.00
22	Medi (Employer Match)	\$5,900.00	\$5,631.69	\$6,100.00
23	Unemployment/HCP Insurance	\$3,500.00	\$4,618.56	\$5,000.00
24	VMERS (Retirement)	\$21,000.00	\$21,830.36	\$23,500.00
25	Workman's Comp. Insurance	\$53,000.00	\$30,412.00	\$53,000.00
26	Mileage - Employee	\$4,000.00	\$2,876.21	\$3,000.00
27	Supervisor Secretary Payments	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
28	Personnel Equipment	\$500.00	\$406.97	\$500.00
29	Training	\$500.00	\$73.84	\$500.00
30	Travel	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
31	TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$520,675.00	\$478,315.01	\$538,050.00
32	EQUIPMENT EXPENSES			
33	Baler Loan Payment	\$40,537.00	\$39,056.17	\$39,056.17
34	Baler Repairs	\$5,000.00	\$1,095.25	\$2,000.00
35	Baler Supplies	\$7,000.00	\$7,281.45	\$5,000.00
36	Forklift Fuel	\$1,800.00	\$2,403.75	\$2,000.00
37	Forklift Repairs	\$2,000.00	\$6,411.50	\$4,000.00
38	Misc. Equipment Repairs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
39	Skidsteer Repairs	\$4,000.00	\$1,022.15	\$3,000.00
40	Warehouse Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,342.44	\$1,500.00
41	Mack Truck Loan Payment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,694.33
42	Truck Down Payment-Grant Funded	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$0.00
43	Trucks--Diesel	\$17,000.00	\$20,412.32	\$17,000.00
44	Trucks--Repairs	\$10,000.00	\$29,115.39	\$15,000.00
45	TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$89,837.00	\$169,140.42	\$102,750.50

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	A	B	C	D
46	BUDGET ITEM	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL as of 12/31/2021	2022 PROPOSED BUDGET
47	BUILDING EXPENSES			
48	Electricity	\$6,500.00	\$4,951.06	\$5,000.00
49	Maintenance	\$1,200.00	\$1,022.79	\$1,500.00
50	Trash Removal	\$3,000.00	\$3,517.90	\$3,500.00
51	TOTAL BUILDING	\$10,700.00	\$9,491.75	\$10,000.00
52	PROGRAMS EXPENSES			
53	Composting	\$24,000.00	\$43,400.50	\$29,000.00
54	Composter/Bin	\$5,000.00	\$1,756.80	\$4,000.00
55	Consulting Services-Grant Funded	\$4,000.00	\$21,408.21	\$0.00
56	Education Outreach	\$6,000.00	\$8,533.86	\$7,000.00
57	Hazmat Disposal	\$33,000.00	\$44,149.67	\$35,000.00
58	Hazmat Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$3,145.68	\$4,000.00
59	Sale of Recyclables-Processing	\$30,000.00	\$29,314.80	\$25,000.00
60	Special Collections	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
61	Supplies	\$300.00	\$231.56	\$400.00
62	Tire Disposal	\$15,000.00	\$21,515.00	\$18,000.00
63	TOTAL PROGRAMS	\$121,550.00	\$173,456.08	\$122,650.00
64	SUB-TOTAL	\$785,527.00	\$887,452.94	\$822,615.50
65				
66	Capital Improvement Fund	\$24,000.00	\$26,500.00	\$24,000.00
67	TOTAL CAPITAL FUND	\$24,000.00	\$26,500.00	\$24,000.00
68				
69	TOTAL NEK EXPENSES	\$809,527.00	\$913,952.94	\$846,615.50
70	Grants--St of VT	\$92,000.00	\$128,673.12	\$92,000.00
71	Hauling--Recycling Pick-ups	\$54,630.00	\$63,613.00	\$54,000.00
72	Haz Mat/Paint Care	\$6,000.00	\$5,978.66	\$5,000.00
73	Interest Income	\$0.00	\$28.04	\$20.00
74	Miscellaneous Income	\$500.00	\$3,016.24	\$1,500.00
75	Program Sales--Composter/Bins	\$4,000.00	\$1,329.00	\$2,000.00
76	Programs- Oil Filter Program	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
77	Sale of Recyclables	\$85,000.00	\$154,154.51	\$121,888.50
78	Compost Income	\$22,000.00	\$35,113.61	\$29,000.00
79	Electronics Income	\$20,000.00	\$22,676.73	\$18,000.00
80	Scrap Metal Income	\$15,000.00	\$23,863.00	\$17,500.00
81	Battery Income	\$6,000.00	\$5,091.25	\$4,000.00
82	Tire Income	\$15,000.00	\$13,472.84	\$18,000.00
83	Per Capita Assessment	\$44,800.00	\$44,681.96	\$39,057.00
84	Surcharge--Waste Haulers	\$444,447.00	\$486,516.42	\$444,500.00
85	TOTAL NEK REVENUES	\$809,527.00	\$988,358.38	\$846,615.50

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION

Overview

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the *definition of a Vermont homestead must file* a Homestead Declaration annually by the April filing deadline. If eligible, it is important that you file so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. Here is the information you as the property owner need to know about the Vermont Homestead Declaration.

In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either nonhomestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's *domicile*.

All property is considered nonhomestead (formerly "nonresidential"), unless it is declared as a homestead. The education property tax rate levied on nonhomestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements:

- You are a Vermont resident
- You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, **2021**

Please note: If you meet these requirements, except that your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, 2021, **you** may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the 2021 calendar year.

Nonhomestead Property

Property is considered nonhomestead if one of the following applies:

- Your property is leased for more than 182 days out of the calendar year.
- The property is used exclusively for a commercial, including rental, purpose.
- The property is used for a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage.

How to File

Online

Taxpayers may file returns using myVTax, a free, secure, online filing site.

Paper Returns

If you cannot file and pay through myVTax, you may still use the paper forms. The Homestead Declaration is filed using Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit.

<https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/HS-122.pdf>

Veterans Exemption

The Local Agreement/Veterans Exemption reduces a Veterans property value by \$40,000. The State of VT pays the taxes on \$10,000 and the town covers the remaining taxes on \$30,000.

This was approved by the Town in 2009.

To be eligible for exemption, Veterans must meet one of the three criteria listed below

- Receive Disability compensation for a service-connected disability rated 50% or higher by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive Improved Pension (also called Non –Service Connected Disability Pension) from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive a permanent medical retirement from the military.

To be eligible for the exemption, Survivors must be the un –remarried spouse or a minor child of a veteran who met the eligibility criteria above at the time of their death.

Form can be found at the Town Clerks office or go to www.veterans.vt.gov for more information.

VOTERS ONLINE REGISTRATION

Beginning January 1, 2017, eligible persons may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of the election.

Registration is available during all normal business hours of your town or city clerk's office on day's preceding the election and during polling hours on Election Day. 17 V.S.A. § 2144

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page:
<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- Check registration status
- View information on upcoming elections
- Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours
- View a sample ballot
- Request and track an absentee ballot

Online registration can be found at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

More information can be found at
<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/registration/>

Groton Community Garden

With the support of the Groton Selectboard, town staff and community, the inaugural year of the Groton Community Garden proved a gratifying success. Thanks to a strategic partnership with The Growing Peace Project (Topsham), a core group of 10 to 14 volunteers launched the garden with 10 raised beds on the community building property, immediately adjacent to the town offices. Numerous community members assisted with generous donations and additional labor throughout the growing season.

As a result, we were able to stock the Groton Free Library's free produce distribution stand from June through September, in addition to harvest sharing among the volunteers and town residents who helped ensure that no veggies went to waste. The 2021 harvest included an abundance of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, summer squash, kale, wax beans, broccoli, zucchini, radishes, peppers and pumpkins, as well as two large herb beds. A variety of flowers drew pollinators and helped us achieve our secondary goal of beautifying the town center.

With great thanks for the community support and positive feedback, we will start planning the 2022 season in early April. We warmly welcome volunteers and donors. Please contact us at grotoncommunitygarden@gmail.com.



Resources

Substance Abuse – VT Helplink – call 802-565-LINK(5465) or visit VTHelplink.org
For free and confidential alcohol and drug support and referral services if you or someone you know needs help

Vermont Suicide Prevention Hotline – 800-273-8255

The Vermont Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence –
Domestic Violence Hotline – 800-228-7395
Sexual Violence Hotline – 800-489-7273

Central Vermont Council on Aging –
59 N. Main St #200, Barre VT 05641 - 800-642-5119

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging –
481 Summer St #101, St Johnsbury VT 05819 - 800-642-5119

Green Mountain Support Services –
93 James Road, Morrisville VT 05661 – 802-888-7602
1222 Main St. Suite 102, St Johnsbury VT 05819 - 802-424-1636
After Hours on call Pager: 802-741-7515 or you can e-mail info@gmssi.org

VT Office of Veteran's Affairs – 802-828-3379 or Visit the website at veterans.vermont.gov

Veterans in Crisis – 800-273-8255 –
Press 1 to reach the VA Hotline – Counselors are available
24 hours.

Pathways Vermont – Supportive Services for Veterans and Families -
PO Box #127 Winooski, VT 05404 - info@pathwaysvermont.org 888-492-8218

3SquaresVT- 1-855-855-6181

Commodity Supplemental Food Program-1-800-214-4648 or vtfoodbank.org/share-food/csfp

Vermont Everyone Eats- vteveryoneats.org

Vermont 2-1-1 Resource Directory, dial 211 or go to vermont211.org

VT Department of Health

Changes to birth and death certificates in Vermont as of July 2019

Effective July 1, 2019 changes to the Vermont statutes will enhance the safety and security of birth and death certificates. These changes protect against misuse of these legal documents and reduce the potential for identity theft. Additionally, the changes streamline the statewide system for creating, storing and tracking birth and death certificates.

What You Need to Know

- Only family members, legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties or their legal representatives can apply for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. For death certificates, a funeral home or crematorium may apply for a certified copy.
- Applicants must show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.
- Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town in Vermont.
- No changes to ordering system for copies of marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificates, but minor changes to what you need to do to obtain a marriage license.

Where you can apply for certified copies of birth and death certificates:

- Any Vermont Town or City Clerk's office
- Online at secure.vermont.gov/VSARA/vitalrecords
- Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA)
- Vermont Health Department's Vital Records Office

Some vital record information is available online. If you are doing genealogy or family research, visit the Secretary of State's Vital Records page.

MARRIAGES

DATE

Saturday, September 04, 2021
Friday, October 08, 2021
Thursday, October 21, 2021
Thursday, December 09, 2021

APPLICANT

TORIE ROBIN PETERS
ASHLEY MELISSA HUTTON
SABRINA ROSE HOLLAND
SUSAN JOY SHARBINO

APPLICANT

JOSEPH CARLETON MARSHALL
SARAH KAY CASTELLO
DAVE RAY SANVILLE
LESTER MAURICE PLANT JR

BIRTHS

NAME

MICAH JOSEPH FIGURA
CAMERON JAMES MOERS
MADISON ANNE JOBIN
GRIFFIN O'NEILL ROWE
EMMA ALICE FULFORD
HAZEL NICOLE OLIVER

MOTHER

ROBBIN FIGURA
ABIGAIL BENOIT
CAYLA JOBIN
MEGAN FOY
EMILY RUSSO
HARLEY DAVIS

FATHER

JEREMY FIGURA
CODY MOERS-BOWMAN
JAMES JOBIN III
JEFFERY ROWE
MASON FULFORD
LOGAN OLIVER

DEATHS

NAME

HELEN KINCAID (2020)
BEVERLY HATCH
ELLEN EDWARDS
MARTHA CROWN
DOUGLAS BOYCE
LAURA PAGE
SHARON PROCTOR
JAMES COWHIG
SAMANTHA WALDEN
KATHERINE KING
MARY CORBETT
PETER BUCK

AGE

79 YEARS
84 YEARS
88 YEARS
74 YEARS
57 YEARS
85 YEARS
64 YEARS
22 YEARS
22 YEARS
66 YEARS
59 YEARS
53 YEARS

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program aka "VSNIP"

Under the oversight of the VT Economic Services Department, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VWSA). VSNIP helps financially challenged Vermont residents spay/neuter cats and dogs for \$27.00. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters when dogs are licensed by an added \$4.00 fee, the major funding for this important program. Funds are determined by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law when a dog is six months of age. A current rabies vaccination is required to register, and a rabies vaccination can be administered after 12 weeks of age for both cats and dogs.

Prostate and mammary cancer is more likely to occur in unsterilized cats and dogs. It's not pretty and they're likely to die. Animals live longer and happier when they're spayed and neutered, are less likely to fight for territory, and mark what they claim to be "theirs"!

Licensing a dog: 1) helps identify your dog if lost, 2) provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal, but would still need immediate medical attention, 3) if your dog bites an animal or person – which could result in quarantine or possible euthanasia to test for infection, and 4) helps pay for VSNIP, addressing the population situation in Vermont.

Farms with cats should especially be aware that one rabid cat or dog can affect an entire population of animals on the premise. The answer is neutering through VSNIP which includes a rabies vaccination and the first of the two part distemper series.

Look for Rabies Clinics in March across the state. You can call your veterinarian and ask the cost of a rabies vaccination only, or call your nearest Tractor Supply Store for their Monthly Rabies Clinic schedule. Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

To receive a VSNIP Application, send a 9" S.A.S.E to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if it's for a cat, dog or both. For more information, call 802-672-5302.

Please visit our website: www.VWSAHS.org

VWSA will be hosting Rabies Clinics in March. Call for dates and locations.

The animals thank you in advance! *Together We Truly Do Make A Difference!!*

Sue Skaskiw, VWSA Humane Society Executive Director/VSNIP Administrator

RABIES CLINIC

Date: March 16, 2022

Time: 5:00-6:00 PM

Place: Groton Town Garage

This year's clinic will be done outside due to Covid-19.

Please pre-register with owner and dog information at

www.oxbowvetclinic.com

This will speed up the process.

The Town Clerk will be in her office at the Groton Community Building for licensing of your animals.

April 1, 2022 all dogs must be licensed!

Rabies Clinic being done by

Oxbow Veterinary Hospital

Dog License Fees

Intact Male or Female Dogs - \$14.00 by April 1st

Altered Male or Female Dogs - \$10.00 by April 1st

After April 1st additional fees will be added

VERMONT STATE LAW

In accordance with VSA 20 (3581) all Dogs shall be licensed by April 1st of each year.

Or

You will be in violation of this Vermont Statute and of The Town Ordinance.

Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3621, the Groton Selectboard will issue a warrant to impound or find homes or destroy all unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids in the town. Pursuant to the warrant and 20 V.S.A. § 3624, the Constable and Animal Control Officer are required by law within 90 days to destroy all such unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids within the town.

WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE YOUR ANIMALS, BUT STATE LAW REQUIRES US TO IMPOUND UNLICENSED DOGS!

A person who fails to license a dog or wolf-hybrid in the required manner shall be fined up to \$500.00.

You will need to show a recent rabies certificate and a spayed or neutered certificate if your dog(s) has been altered.

If you no longer have this animal please contact the Groton Town Clerk to let her know.

Groton Town Clerk's hours - Monday through Thursday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Available other times by appointment

Contact the Town Clerk (584-3276) to register your Dog(s).