

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, March 16, 2026

Board Members

Mayor Neville
Trustee Holl
Trustee Morey
Trustee Walpole-Excused
Trustee Conger-Excused

Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk
Lt Troy Boice
Mike Perkins - Elec Supervisor
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.
Ted Skibinski-Code Officer
Angela Conger - Dep. Treasurer
Stacy Hobart & guests
Andrew Montreuil
Eric DeForrest - GFD Fire Chief
Chuck Rankin

7:00pm Mayor Neville welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17 & 20 and March 7, 2026 Board Meetings, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Audit of claims and approval thereof.

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the claims presented for review. and to adjust the budget as follows:

JO-2001-6	800.00	
JO-7145-46		800.00

The claims paid are covered by the following list of audited vouchers:

	<u>Abstract #10</u>
GENERAL	45,327.65
WATER	18,713.63
SEWER	42,984.77
ELECTRIC	252,605.74
JOINT REC	5,146.24

Seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Department:

Supervisor Perkins report was submitted (attached to the minutes)

Department of Public Works

Supervisor Shurtleff report submitted (attached to the minutes)

- Creamery has ramped up their production. A lot more water and sewer use.
- Discussion on a service maintenance agreement for the air compressor at the water filtration building. Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the water filtration building air compressor maintenance agreement by Atlas Copco for \$2,554/year, for 5 years, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Mike Albro - Yaws Report was submitted and reviewed (attached to the minutes)

Police Department

Lt. Troy Boice Reported

- Range qualifications being done. Tree down at the range.

Fire Department

Chief DeForrest reported the following:

	<u>YTD</u> as of last week
Ambulance Calls	173
Fire Calls	40
	<hr/>
	213

- Pancake Breakfasts started backup.
- Chicken BBQ last week, went well.
- April 4th Easter Egg hunt here at the Fire Department.
- Great turn out at Cabin Fever - GFD had gear and worked with kids with equipment and turnout gear.
- Burn Ban in effect until May 14th. Look at DEC Site for details.

Joint Recreation

Dep. Treas. Angela Conger reviewed the Joint Recreation report (attached to the minutes):

Groton Youth Commission

Youth Commission report (attached to the minutes):

Code Office

Ted Skibinski - Code Officer submitted his report attached to the minutes.

- 2 additional permits came in today
- Finished 2025-26 Code Training in Rochester
- Residential Life Safety Inspections to begin next week and Commercial after.

Public Comments

- Stacy Hobart sent in a letter. Participants discussed damage done to Stacy's car by pothole on Lincoln Ave. The car was a 2013. DPW Supervisor Shurtleff mentioned it was an area from a water main break and it was not yet filled up to the road at that time. The amount to fix is \$179. Normally this would not be covered but as this happened overnight before the DPW could complete the project, the Village agreed to pay the bill, but no future requests for payment would be honored.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to cover the cost of the repair, but nothing further, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

DPW Supervisor repaired the pothole on 38/222 corner, but this is a State Highway and we are not responsible for any work done.

Presentation & Discussion Items

- Emergency Planning - Summary reviewed and attached to the minutes.
- Police Building Update - 2 special site visits. Currently 14 interested bidders. Several questions to answer. Bids due and opening on 3/30/26 at 10:30am. We need to find a "Clerk of the Works" to oversee the project. Skip Schell is not able to do this one.

Action Items

- Trustee Holl made a motion declaring April as Fair Housing Month in the Village seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to adopt a resolution to use State and/or County bid prices for the purchase of asphalt and bituminous materials and kerosene, diesel and unleaded fuels, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to adopt a Resolution for Establishing the Standard Work Day for Elected and Appointed Officials and Part Time employees, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Discussion of the NYPA Contract Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the resolution for the NYPA Contract Amendment, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to adopt a Resolution to support the increase in Aid to Municipalities, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

7:32pm Mayor Neville made a motion to move into executive session to discuss specific employee certifications and salaries seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor.

7:39pm Trustee Holl made a motion to move out of executive session, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

Trustee Holl made a motion to increase the salaries of Michael Shurtleff and Cayden Dryja to \$22.00/hr. effective 3/16/2026, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

Note - Organizational meeting will be held on April 6, 2026 at 6:45pm

7:42pm Trustee Holl made a motion to adjourn to the budget workshop on Tuesday, March 24th 6pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator

Village of Groton

Electric Department Report

- Tompkins county asked for insurance and payment information, once deposit is received ordering and work will begin on that project.
- Hotel Project is about 90 percent complete but we are waiting on the customer before we can go any farther with it. The guys did a great job on it.
- 225 AMI meters installed as of 3/4/25.
- Grinding a lot of trees to produce woodchips for the sewer plant.
- Cut down 4 dying pine trees at the park.
- New Digger Derrick in-service was completed 2/27 there is some warranty work that needs to be done.
- The old Digger Derrick, I have reached out to BH CNY electric and he seems interested but wants to know what we're looking to get for the truck and the process of buying it.
- Hypress tool died and needs replacement, we borrowed one from Cornell to complete

Irby- \$4,097.50 EA

Amazon-\$3,419.66

Lineman's Supply- waiting on quote

Groton WWTP February Update

- Plant has been getting higher loading rates from the creamery. We have been in contact with the Creamery and they have been reduced in the past week.
- We have had to increase pressing to handle loading rates. Also, with the increased weather changes it has led to increased sludge loads. This is due to loading rates and having to increase wood chips being used to increase percent solids.
- Had to replace motor on the filters.
- Waiting on impeller for influent pumps.
- Plant numbers look good. Operations are running smooth.
- Meeting to discuss equipment and specs will be next week with the Village and GHD.

Groton Joint Recreation Committee
03/03/2026

Scott Weeks called the meeting to order at: 5:36pm

Present were:

Rec Director Becky Koenig	Angela Conger	<u>Absent</u>
Scott Weeks	Leon Brockway	Jennifer Foote-Dean
Crystal Young		Elizabeth Conger

The minutes were reviewed from the February 5th meeting.

Motion made to approve the minutes by: Leon Brockway
2nd by: Crystal Young
carried.

The financials from January were reviewed

Motion made to approve the financials by: Crystal Young
2nd by: Leon Brockway
carried.

- The survey results were shared.

Comments/ Suggestions made:

- Expand into collegiate entities for partnerships
- Get new banners with Groton Recreation Logos on them to make sure people know who is supporting and sponsoring events.

Recreation Director Report

See Director Becky Koenig's Report attached

Updates on report

Discussion/Action Items

- The tentative Joint Recreation Budget was reviewed by Nancy Niswender, there is a budget workshop on March 7th. Final budget will be adopted at April 20th Board Meeting.

Recreation Director Becky asked the Joint Rec Committee about sponsoring a Pirate Ship and

- show event for Olde Home Days. They would bring a ship for families to be able to explore and do live shows and interact with the crowds. The whole event would be \$6,500.

Motion made to approve to sponsor the Event for Olde Home Days: Crystal Young
2nd by: Leon Brockway
carried.

Open Discussion:

\$650 donation from Molly's guest bartenders, Seth Walpole and Hannah Botsford.

Motion to adjourn: 7:28pm

made by: Crystal Young
2nd by: Leon Brockway

Next meeting: April 7th

Submitted by:
Angela Conger
Village of Groton
Deputy Treasurer



Groton Joint Recreation Committee
Becky Koenig- Director Report
March 2026

Programming

- Youth Programming
 - Youth Wrestling
 - Season continues until Mid-March. **Planning end of season party.**
 - Youth Open Rec Soccer
 - New Day: Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm K-6th @ MS gym. Open to ages K-6th **6:30-7:30 pm.**
 - Travel Youth Basketball
 - Games run until March 14th
 - 5th/6th grade girls team attended a “Youth Practice” night with the girls' school teams.
 - Basketball Skills & Drills
 - K-2nd Started Saturday (Jan 10th) and ended February 7th. 29 participants. Program was very successful. Feedback from parents was that they liked having the HS/College kids coaching.
 - Spoke with Justin Albro, Girls Varsity Coach. We are working on partnering next year and having the school teams help coach. **Help build consistency and build the program.**
 - T-Ball Registration is open
 - Open to all youth grades PreK-K (26 current registrations)
 - Runs April 13th-May 22nd meeting 2x per week **Getting coaches. Will practice one day a week and have a game one day a week.**
 - Youth Volleyball meeting 1x per week anticipated starting Wednesday April 1st. Original dates conflicted with school team practice times. **Still TBD- Scott said that school may have mobile stanchions.**
 - 3rd-5th 4:30-5:30pm
 - 6th-8th 5:30-6:30pm
 - Red Cross Babysitting Course
 - New Date: Due to an instructor conflict, we moved the date. We are now running it on Saturday March 14th 9-5pm. Cost is \$100 per participant. We currently have 8 participants registered. **New date ended up with 2 new participants.**
 - Youth Track- Coming in the spring. Registration will open in early March. **Looking for coaches.**
- Adult Programming
 - Craft Club- Second Sunday of each month 1-3pm in the Community Room.
 - New Quilt Day Retreat. All Day Class Sunday March 8th- Working on a table runner and/or own projects. 9am-3pm.
 - Yoga- running Tues/Thurs 10-11am in community room.
 - Evening Yoga started Feb 2nd. 8 registered participants. **6-7pm @ Elem Sm. Gym**
 - In conversation with instructors about running another session. **50/50-Turn out wasn't as anticipated.**
 - Volleyball started on January 5th. Mondays 7-8:30pm until May 18th. Averaging 30 participants per night.
 - Learn to Crochet
 - Sundays 12:30-2pm March 1st, 8th, and 15th Held in the community room. No registration required. Drop-in classes. (8 participants for the first session) Will be combined with the quilt event on March 8th. **-Families came, parents and kids enjoyed it.**

Other Items

- Attended Career Discovery Day at the school
 - The Groton Career Center is hosted a “**Career Discovery Day**” on **Friday, February 27, 2026**, for students in **grades 3-8**. I brought hands-on, interactive activities, and games, showed demonstrations and short photo reels, to help students learn about the career field in a fun and exciting way! **Explained Rec isn’t just sports, that the pool and concerts are part of it as well as adult programming.**
 - 3 sessions from 8:45-12:35 with 120 students
- Cabin Fever
 - Saturday March 7th 12-3p
 - New activities this year:
 - Splat Sumthin’’’’- Splatter art with canvases and frisbees. Paid upfront and therefore free for community
 - Barn to Farm and Odd by Nature animal exhibits
 - Possums, Prairie Dogs, Snakes, Bearded Dragons, and Mama Kangaroo and her babies. **Brand new baby kangaroo will be there!!**
 - Game Night- Saturday night 6-9pm in the HS Gym
 - Indoor Mini Golf, Giant Jenga and Connect Four, Inflatable Soccer Darts, Inflatable Sports (Basketball, Football, Soccer) FREE
 - Funding for these activities came from local businesses. Lisa Park volunteered to make connections and raise funds for the event.
 - Concession stand will be open. Sports Boosters is allowing us to sell their products and split the profits with Groton Recreation. **60/40**
- May is National Bike Month
 - Partnering with Bike Walk Tompkins to offer a bike repair clinic at the GPL.
 - Wednesday May 20th 3-5pm
 - Located at the bike repair station. The event will have bicycle-related books and BWT will provide staff to teach/and repair bikes.
- Groton Olde Home Days
 - Open meeting held Tuesday February 24th 6-7pm @ Community Room (2 in attendance)
 - Carnival Dates are confirmed **Molly’s, Hotel at the other end of town to attract people hopefully!**
 - 8/20-8/22
 - I’ve already confirmed several of the usual vendors/activities-Wagon Rides, Sir James, and some food vendors.
- Summer Programming
 - Confirmed all the returning summer programs (17 programs not counting swim lessons)
 - New programs in the works-
 - Computer Coding: Talking with Benjamin Kalb with HPM Tech Services. He is interested in offering a summer computer coding program. They have computers for participants and might be interested in do year-round programming. **For High Schoolers, he found a \$32 software, \$20 for the session.**
 - Roller Skating-Juliana Garcia runs a local roller derby league and wants to run an introductory roller-skating program. They would run drills and games to help kids learn roller skating skills. I’m working with the school to possibly use the ES gym. **All ages, will most likely be free.**
 - School of Rock Band- Darin LeBlanc, a community band member, has offered to run a “School of Rock” summer band. He has access to

guitars, basses, and drums. The goal is to introduce “rock band” style playing culminating in a performance at the end of the program.

- This fun and supportive program introduces students to the world of modern band, where participants learn the basics of guitar, bass, drums, and vocals while playing popular music together as a group. **May be interested in running year-round, \$120 per kid.**
 - Students will spend one day each week developing instrument skills and another day rehearsing as a band, building teamwork, confidence, and creativity. No prior experience is required — beginners are welcome, and instruments will be available to use during sessions but are limited.
 - July 7th-Aug 14th meeting Tues/Thurs 12-3pm **per instrument**
 - 6th grade and up.
 - 16 spots available
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- Toddler Time- A designated time for families to meet at the park playground. The program allows families to meet up and make connections in a community space. I am partnering with the library as they want to run a summer story time at the park as well. We will host Toddler Time at 10am and the library will host Story time at 11am. We are looking at either Monday or Wednesday. **In conjunction with the Craft Shack.**
 - **Trying to get the Fingerlakes toy library to come back this summer or will coordinate a pick up and exchange as it was popular with the kids in the summer.**
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- Splash Pad
 - Working on NY PLAYS -Playground & Recreation Space Grant
 - Grant opens May 4th
 - Grant requires a 20% match (\$24K)
 - Current quote is ~120k
 - Outdoor Volleyball Court at Memorial Park
 - Working with Bryce Wilkinson to earn his Eagle Scout rank.
 - He has proposed coordinating, planning, and implementing the construction of a sand volleyball court at the park.
 - Bryce attended the Village Board meeting in February and presented his project. He is currently working on raising funds for the project which has projected cost of \$10,000. The actual cost may be less as the Village DPW has offered to help with the labor.
 - Offering a full LG class to Community and Recertification Course
 - Date: Friday May 15th-Sunday May 17th
 - Free for all Groton School Student
 - Must be 15 at the time of the class

Program Manager
Keith Davenport

Cornell Cooperative Extension Coordinator
Shelley Lester
Athena Steinkraus, Asst. Coordinator

Tompkins County Youth Services
Kate Shanks-Booth
Rick Alvord

Youth Representative
Lauren Gallinger, Diella Nino
Joslyn Staton

Groton Youth Commission

308 Main St, Groton, NY 13073

Chair
Glenn E. Morey

Vice Chair
Elizabeth T. Conger

Board Members
Crystal Young
Josh Dwyer
Kristin Prugh
Tim Conger

Meeting Minutes March 4th, 2026

The March 4^h, 2026, meeting of the Groton Youth Commission was called to order by Chair Glenn Morey at 7:05PM. Members present were Program Manager- Keith Davenport, CCE Assistant Coordinator -Athena Steinkraus, Kristin Prugh, Josh Dwyer, Tim Conger and Rick Alvord.

Secretary's Minutes:

- **January 2025 minutes approved 4-0**
- **February 2025 minutes approved 4-0**

Report: Keith Davenport:

- Keith presented the Feb'25 report. Highlights included Minnow Tank showcasing a participant who has really excelled in generating ideas and showing enthusiasm for the program. Grain and Groove were participants made keychain holders. Spice Masters, a cooking program, Winter Trailblazers- outdoor activities, Board game day. Groton youth participated in school break activity "Winter Olympics" with other County youth at Brooktondale Community Center, activities focused on team building and creative problem solving
- Reviewed Strike out for Bowling fundraiser that raised \$750 for camp scholarships
- Youth are making cardboard boats for the rubber ducks that will compete against other RYS municipalities for the CCE duck race
- Summer Camp registration is now open
- Keith will be tabling at this wknd's cabin fever event by Groton Rec.

Report: Athena Steinkraus:

- Summer Camp registration is open, and are currently hiring counselors.
- CCE RYS fundraiser "Duck Race" Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Discussed CITs for summer camp and NYS laws re: ratios; allows for one CIT. Possibility of 3 teen leaders this year through town employment program
- Keith and Athena will be attending Camp directors training next week in Atlantic City

Report: Rick Alvord:

- Shared job posting for Youth Services Specialist at TCYSD
- Shared Groton Rec 2025 program participation numbers provided by Becky Koeing

New Business:

- n/a

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Next meeting is April 1st, 2026 @ 7:00PM
Submitted by Rick Alvord

Board Meeting – March 2026

Ted Skibinski, Code Enforcement Officer

Reporting and Accomplishments:

1. Building Permits opened in March – 2
2. Building Permits closed in March – 2
3. Active Building Permits – 16
4. Code Violation letters sent in March – 0
5. Life safety inspections scheduled March - 4



Village of Groton

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TDD: New York State Relay 1-800-662-1220
e-mail: customerservice@grotonny.org

Mayor.....	Christopher J. Neville
Trustees.....	Elizabeth T. Conger
	Michael G. Holl
	Jean E. Morey
	Terrance E. Walpole
Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator	Nancy Niswender
Dept. of Public Works Supv.	Chad M. Shurtleff
Electric Utility Supv.	Michael Perkins
Police OIC.....	Lt. Troy Boice
Code Enforcement Officer	Ted Skibinski
Director of Recreation.....	Becky Koenig

Department of Public Works February 17 – March 16, 2026

Completed Work/Projects:

- Plowing and salting
- Repair a water main break on E. South St.
- Complete an upgrade project on the Village garage
- Patch pot holes
- Read water meters and water samples
- Locate water and sewer for a Baker Miller project
- Driver training for CDL
- Finish repairs on the sweeper
- Take down pine trees at the park
- Pre bid meeting for the police station
- Work on water withdrawal report
- Begin street sweeping
- Collect wood chips for the sewer plant
- Leaf pick up not completed last fall

Schedule of Work

- Street sweeping
- Hydrant repairs
- Sewer plant repairs

Village of Groton
Fuel Usage Report in Gallons
Dates: 3/16/2026

	Unleaded	Diesel
DPW	112	323
Electric	97	37
Fire	123	61
Police	198	