

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2026

Board Members

Mayor Neville
Trustee Conger via zoom
Trustee Holl
Trustee Montreuil
Trustee Rankin

Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk
Angela Conger-Deputy Treasurer
Mike Perkins - Elec Supervisor
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.

Ted Skibinksi-Code Officer
Mike Albro - YAWS
Eric DeForrest - GFD Fire Chief

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

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026 Annual Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Montreuil, 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:

A0-5142-04	900.00		F0-8320-04	2,300.00	
A0-5182-04	2,000.00		F0-1990-04		1,000.00
A0-1990-04		2,900.00	F0-8310-43		300.00
			F0-8320-02		1,000.00
A0-4540-01	15,000.00				
A0-4540-12	16,000.00		G0-8130-01	15,000.00	
A0-1641-0		31,000.00	G0-9030-08	600.00	
			G0-2120-01		15,600.00
F0-9060-08	817.00				
F0-9089-08		400.00	G0-8110-04	2,000.00	
F0-9040-08		336.00	G0-9060-08	97.00	
F0-9010-08		81.00	G0-8120-01		2,097.00
F0-8330-01	4,200.00		F0-9030-08	50.00	
F0-8340-01		4,200.00	F0-8310-01		50.00

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

	<u>Abstract # 11</u>
GENERAL	61,011.51
WATER	10,510.47
SEWER	84,232.60
ELECTRIC	161,326.01
JOINT REC	1,838.68
CAPITAL	34,258.61

Seconded by Trustee Rankin, all in favor, carried.

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Department:

Supervisor Perkins report was submitted (attached to the minutes)

- Over 500 meters installed. The Board of Light agreed we would cover the cost of a meter can change during this process. We had one today that needed to be replaced.
- We will be looking where to either sell or donate the old meters.
- Working through the new software system. It is getting better.
- Stray voltage is completed.
- New Digger Derrick - about 1 - 1.5 weeks out.
- County Bridge Project - waiting on contract, but looking at timeline to start project.

Department of Public Works

Supervisor Shurtleff report submitted (attached to the minutes)

- Water Quality report this month.
- Some minor flooding in creek, did some work in several areas, but home owners in one location stopped work.
- Starting Park & Pool work. Mowing to begin.
- Discussion of drawings for new shower house.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

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

Fire Department

reported the following:

	<u>YTD</u>
Ambulance Calls	260
Fire Calls	67
	<u>327</u>

- Fire in Dryden last month - Loss of 3 community members.
- April 10th - Fatal fire in Village of Groton at trailer park from an unknown cause outside the home. A tough call for community. Help from Dryden & McLean. Were able to rescue one individual but due to the fire unable to extract the 2nd individual. Some clothing drives and GoFundMe me for families. GFD held a debriefing
- Several calls due to flooding. Cones put out to warn drivers.
- We held our annual Easter Egg Hunt this past weekend at our Fire Station. It was a huge success thanks to the membership. Everyone pitched in and made light work of it. The feedback we have received so far was that the community was excited to have it at the station and thought it worked well there.
- We are held our Recruitment chicken BBQ this past weekend There will be a pancake Breakfast April 26 7am-10am.

Joint Recreation

Deputy Treasurer Conger reviewed the Joint Recreation report (attached to the minutes):

Groton Youth Commission

The Youth Commission report (attached to the minutes):

Code Office

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

- LSI - 75%-80% of apartments done. Working on getting some of the properties cleaned up in the Village.
- We are looking at sidewalks and what kind of program we can do. Received a map from Tompkins County that will help us in planning. The map has measurements for each property and zoning listed. This will be a big help.

Public Hearing on the Budget

The regular meeting was temporarily suspended at 7:32 pm and Mayor Neville opened the Public Hearing on the 2026-27 Tentative Budget.

Clerk Niswender summarized the Notice of Public Hearing.

No comments were made.

At 7:35pm Trustee Holl made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Trustee Rankin, carried.

Adoption of the Village of Groton 2026-27 Budget

Trustee Holl made a motion to adopt the 2026-2027 Budget as presented, seconded by Trustee Montreuil .

All Those in Favor:

"aye" Trustee Rankin
"aye" Trustee Montreuil
"aye" Trustee Holl
"aye" Mayor Neville

The budget was duly declared adopted. [Type II Action under SEQR.]

Public Hearing Local Law #2

The regular meeting was temporarily suspended at 7:43pm and Mayor Neville opened the Public Hearing on Local Law 2 - Section 187-22: Schedule III: School Speed Limits

Clerk Niswender summarized the Notice of Public Hearing.

No public comments

At 7:44 pm Trustee Holl made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Trustee Rankin, carried.

- Adoption to be tabled until next month for further clarification of exact distance between speed limit signs.

Presentation & Discussion Items

- Water Treatment Plant Filter Discussion- Quote for replacement of filter modules. Currently at replacement levels. Quote from original manufacturer. Pall will need to install in order to not void the warranty. \$76,429.33. There are some after market that could be less but would not last as long. These filter lasted 20 years.
- Property Discussion-
Peru Road - The Food Bank is looking for a spot to set up their new location. They looked at several areas. One spot north of tennis courts where the old community garden was. Could we possibly lease a spot to them to put up a small building? We will contact our attorney to see if this is feasible and allowed.

7-11 - After an email to the CEO, we have had a new contact person and will work with them on possible purchase of the property behind our municipal building for the trail system and NY Forward projects.

143 E. Cortland-the paperwork is progressing and hopefully we will close in the next few weeks.

Action Items

- Options for Police Station building changes were reviewed.
Trustee Montreuil made a motion to remove options #1, #3, #4, #6 from the list for a savings of \$65,600 and to approve change order #1 once received, seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Rankin made a motion to approve the Groton Fire Department Fireworks Permit for July 3rd seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the purchase of Kubota Tractor through Soucewell - State Bid price of \$33,127.45, seconded by Trustee Montreuil, all in favor, carried.

8:38pm Trustee Montreuil made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator

April 2026 Light Board Report

451 AMI Meters installed in system currently meter changes are going well, I would like to make a plan going forward with what we are going to do with meter cans that need replacement it is approximately \$600 per meter box and entrance cable to change them and takes about 3 hours to change one.

What would we like to do with the old meters? They are consuming a good portion of space in the bay that we are using. (Scrap, donate, throw away?)

We are still working out some issues with Landis & Gyr through command center, but I feel as if the communication has gotten better.

Stray voltage survey is still in progress.

Putting together a PM plan at the sewer plant with Chad to extend the life of the VFDs and to help cut down on replacement costs.

We have been making woodchips for the sewer plant.

Replaced a stub guy pole at the park and clear cut the bank by a retention pond.

I would like to schedule annual brush clean-up for the week after the DPW flushes hydrants, but considering there is a good amount of brush out I plan making a pickup run later this week to preserve lawns (ad in the shopper).

Serviced the bucket truck and chipper.

No update on the digger truck.

County bridge project is still waiting for payment, they pushed the bridge portion of the work out to 2027 but once payment is received we still plan on doing our portion of the work this year, so they aren't waiting for us.

We had a 30 Minute outage on the Spring Street circuit for a wire down, the wire just came off the insulator.

I am away from 4/10-4/13. I have reached out to Marathon and Greene to assist if major trouble arises and am comfortable with Aaron's and Michael's knowledge of the system and safe practices to guide a mutual aid crew to safely make repairs.



Village of Groton

308 Main Street, PO Box 100 ♦ Groton, NY 13073

Phone: 607-898-3966 ♦ Fax No. 607-898-4177

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

March 16 – April 20, 2026

Completed Work/Projects:

- Plowing snow and salting
- Repair brakes on #46 dump truck
- Complete and file water withdrawal report (DEC)
- Complete and file descriptive data plan for sewer plant
- Work on new Police Station details
- Assist a contractor with a sewer lateral repair at the Benn Conger Inn
- Replacing non-working water meters
- Remove several dead pine trees at the park
- Begin sweeping streets and plow clean up
- Work on drum filter maintenance at the sewer plant
- Meet and discuss side walk issues around the Village
- Install new water heater for cleaning the drum filters at the sewer plant
- Called in for minor flooding and clean up after heavy rain storm
- Meetings with DEC and Old Chatham Creamery regarding heavy loading and foul odors (sewer plant)
- Stand by for fatal structure fire in Dryden
- Install a pressure reducer and new plumbing for sewer influent pumps
- Leaf pick up from the fall and road clean up
- Grinding brush for the sewer plant sludge
- Begin work on 3rd Village of Groton sign

Village of Groton

Fuel Usage Report in Gallons

Dates: 4/20/2026

	Unleaded	Diesel
DPW	218	348
Electric	128	18
Fire	144	80
Police	307	

List of Projects for 2026:

- Mowing grass
- Water Services before paving
- Several fire hydrants to be repaired or replaced
- Tanks and cathodic protection – water towers
- Rebuild and pave parking lot at the garage
- Roof on pavilion at park
- Main line valve work on water system
- Remove sidewalk at 127 E South St
- Rebuild influent pump at Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Install new valves and check valves
- Install new high-pressure pump on flusher
- Material list and layout on new bath house
- Site work for new pantry building
- Sidewalk projects and new program
- Involvement with Police Station and Wastewater Treatment Plant projects
- Dig and repair 24” storm water pipe behind 122 Spring St
- Catch basin installed on Pasadena Ave. and remove large dead tree
- Brush and tree removal on 2 retention ponds at park area
- Prepare the pool for summer
- 40+ water meters to replace
- Replace filter modules at the water filtration building

Groton WWTP March Update

- Plant has been getting lower loading rates from the creamery. We have been in contact with the Creamery and they have been reduced in the past week to half of the normal discharge rates. Maximum of 7500 gallons per day.
- 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.
- DPW welded and got the filters back up in operation. They also put in new supply lines for the influent pump seal water.
- Waiting on impeller for influent pumps. Should be arriving within the next week or two.
- Plant numbers look good. Operations are running smooth.
- Odor complaints from residents are an issue. Due to the heavy loading rates in February and March we had excessive solids in the digesters. We have had to increase pressing to remove solids to get enough air into the digesters to remove odors. The creamery is on limited to no discharge. DEC is recommending no discharge from the creamery until the digesters are back to normal conditions.

Groton Joint Recreation Committee

April 7, 2026

Scott Weeks called the meeting to order at: 5:37 pm

Present were:

Rec Director Becky Koenig

Scott Weeks

Jennifer Foote-Dean

Angela Conger

Leon Brockway

Absent

Elizabeth Conger

Crystal Young

The minutes were reviewed from the March 3rd meeting.

Motion made to approve the minutes by: Leon Brockway

2nd by: Jennifer Foote-Dean
carried.

The financials from February were reviewed

Motion made to approve the financials by: Jennifer Foote-Dean

2nd by: Leon Brockway
carried.

Recreation Director Report

See Director Becky Koenig's Report attached

Updates on report

Discussion/Action Items

- Meeting times, approved to keep 1st Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm.

Discussion about using NYCLASS interest or donations to offer scholarships to help offset the cost of programming. A credit could be applied to the participants account. Participants would need to submit an application to be approved, and it would be done on a case by case basis. Jen Dean asked how we would go about advertising, as there may be a chance of people taking advantage of this. Recreation Director Becky said she could put a notice on the registration website stating if payment is a barrier to please contact the recreation director. She has offered

- payment plans or payment arrangements in the past. Jen Dean also suggested looking into the Ithaca Youth Bureau Robin funding which helps with scholarships for programs. It was also brought up that if scholarships were given that parents would need to sign something that said they would be committing to attending the program. Leon Brockway would like to see data on how the scholarships helped our programs. For instance, if a program had 20 attendees last year and with the scholarship this year it was able to have 23 etc. The committee asked Recreation Director Becky to draw up a plan for next meeting for them to review and approve.

- The logo was presented that were designed by Adam Armstrong, suggestions were made for him to make some changes and will be re-presented when done.

Recreation Director Becky asked if the Committee would be willing to allow the purchase of speakers and stands for approximately \$800, this would save on hiring a DJ for Fireworks and

- Cabin Fever which usually costs approximately \$350-\$400 each time, and they generally use speakers and plug in a phone. The Committee asked that she bring a proposal to the next meeting.

Open Discussion:

Scott Weeks asked about the softball coach issue that Recreation Director Becky had emailed the committee about. She updated the committee on it.

Motion to adjourn: 7:15pm

made by: Leon Brockway

2nd by: Jennifer Foote-Dean

Next meeting: May 5th

Submitted by:

Angela Conger

Village of Groton

Deputy Treasurer



Groton Joint Recreation Committee
Becky Koenig- Director Report
April 2026

Programming

- Youth Programming
 - T-Ball Registration is open-**Now Closed**
 - Open to all youth grades PreK-K (43 current registrations)
 - Runs April 13th-May 22nd meeting 2x per week
 - Coach Meeting Yesterday 4/6/26- 4 Teams-**8 coaches-1 Head and 1 Asst. Have equipment**
 - Youth Volleyball meeting 1x per week started Wednesday April 1st
 - 3rd-5th 4:30-5:30pm (16)
 - 6th-8th 5:30-6:30pm (9)
 - Free program **Jen suggested charging for out of district participants, the more revenue we take in, the more MYRec charges.**
 - Youth Track-
 - Grades 3rd-6th
 - Runs April 28th-June 2nd Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm
 - Coaches Darin Le Blanc and Maggie Blackwell- **Athletic Director asked to have Scott meet with them, and go over how everything works.**
 - Will be posted as soon as we get approval for use of the track. **Got approved 4/7/2026**
- Adult Programming
 - Craft Club- Second Sunday of each month 1-3pm in the Community Room. **-4/12/2026**
 - Yoga- running Tues/Thurs 10-11am in community room.
 - Volleyball started on January 5th. Mondays 7-8:30pm until May 18th.
 - Learn to Crochet
 - Sundays 12:30-2pm March 1st, 8th, and 15th Held in the community room. No registration required. Drop-in classes.
 - Added April 19th and May 5th dates.

Other Items

- Cabin Fever
 - Saturday March 7th 12-3p
 - New activities this year:
 - Splat Sumthin', Barn to Farm and Odd by Nature animal exhibits
 - New activities were very popular. Will look to book them all again next year. Total attendance was about 400- **Around normal numbers, even with shorter hours.**
 - 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).
 - It ended at 8pm due to low numbers. 50 people were in attendance. Those who attended had a great time. Would do it again, word will spread and I expect better attendance next year. Would shorten hours to 6-8pm- **Suggested hanging flyers around HS and posting on Snapchat or Instagram, maybe having a few door prizes to entice Teens.**
 - Concession stand made \$150 for Groton Rec
- 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
 - Carnival Dates are confirmed
 - I've already confirmed several of the usual vendors/activities-Wagon Rides, Sir James, pony rides
 - Pirate show booked- 3 Shows on Saturday with ship tours, character interactions & photo ops between shows. -Looking to put at old Red Apple lot or Municipal Lot by Main St Pizza.
 - Donation letters sent.
- Summer Programming
 - Confirmed all the returning summer programs (17 programs not counting swim lessons)
 - Registration is open and booklets are available.
 - New programs offered
 - Computer Coding: Talking with Benjamin Kalb with HPM Tech Services.
 - Roller Skating
 - School of Rock Band
 - Toddler Time
- Outdoor Volleyball Court at Memorial Park
 - Bryce attended the Village Board meeting in February and presented his project-It was approved and approved with his advisory board.
 - He has begun fundraising and has gathered \$725 at this point. Shooting for \$10,000.
- Offering a full LG class to Community and Recertification Course – (12 registrants)
 - Date: Friday May 15th-Sunday May 17th
 - Free for all Groton School Student
 - Must be 15 at the time of the class
- LG jobs posted and interviews are scheduled. Amaya Rose will be the Pool Director- Will not need to pay for WSI as it's only for camp and Keith Davenport is WSI certified and can be there on Fridays for this.
 - 11 confirmed retuning guards this year.
- Joined the Resource Allocation Committee for Youth Services Board
 - The RAC is responsible for reviewing all 2027 funding bids submitted through the RFP process and developing funding recommendations for local youth-serving organizations. The committee will also review recommended budgets for the Municipal Youth Services System and for the department.
 - The Committee will present its recommendations to the full Youth Services Board at the June 2026 meeting. Following review and a vote, these recommendations will be incorporated into the department's 2027 County budget proposal.
- Trail Mixers-Summer Meet up @ The Good Neighbor- Monthly hike on Groton Trails.
- Trail Tune Up Day-Trying to schedule, don't have Scouts, or Girl Scouts with availability at the moment.
- Babysitting Course- May 9th in the Community Room 9-5:30pm
 - 3 already registered and just posted today
 - Cost is \$100 per participant and includes CPR/AED & 1st Aid Certification.

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
Brian Klumpp
Josh Dwyer
Kristin Prugh
Tim Conger

Meeting Minutes April 1st, 2026

The April 1st, 2026, meeting of the Groton Youth Commission was called to order by Chair Glenn Morey at 7:05PM. Members present were Brian Klumpp, Josh Dwyer, Tim Conger, Shelley Lester and Rick Alvord.

Secretary's Minutes:

- **March 2026 minutes approved 4-0**

GYS Program Report: Shelley Lester for Keith Davenport:

- Shared and discussed monthly program report and activities
- Currently a waitlist for programs
- Kieth attended Camp director training
- Nurse for summer camp has been hired, many returning counselors
- Shared and discussed GYS annual report
- Shared CCE RYS report (includes all 7 municipalities)

Report: Shelley Lester:

- Shared Final budget for 2025
- Will have summer camp scholarship request for next month's meeting for review
- CCE Duck Race Event on April 25th at Triangle Park, 598 N. Cayuga St, Ithaca

Report: Rick Alvord:

- opening for Youth Services Specialist at TCYSD, retirement of TCYSD Deputy Director in July
- Shared upcoming events in Groton -Easter Breakfast @ Am. Legion, Library geranium sale
- County updates- new CEDO, Leon Holden , New homeless shelter design

New/Old Business:

- General discussion on recent successful Cabin Fever Event

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Next meeting is May 6th, 2026 @ 7:00PM

Submitted by Rick Alvord

Board Meeting – April 2026

Ted Skibinski, Code Enforcement Officer

Reporting and Accomplishments:

1. Building Permits opened in April – 3
2. Building Permits closed in April – 2
3. Active Building Permits – 19
4. Code Violation letters sent in April – 2
5. Life safety inspections completed in March and April - 12