

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, August 18, 2025

Board Members

Mayor Neville
Trustee Conger
Trustee Morey
Trustee Walpole
Trustee Holl

Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk	Mike Albro - YAWS
Lt Troy Boice	Dave Coish- YAWS
Mike Perkins	Mundaka & Erika Lee 109 Lincoln
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.	Nathan - 114 Lincoln
Ted Skibinski	

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

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2025 Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Audit of claims and approval thereof.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve the claims presented for review.

Seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Department:

Mike Perkins report was submitted (attached to the minutes)

- Friday afternoon - Gateways for AMI now reading and we can begin install. Consumer notification to go out first.

Department of Public Works

Supervisor Shurtleff report submitted (attached to the minutes)

- CHIPS should cover the paving this year.
- Questions about when the State last paved 222 and the connection of side streets to State roads. Intersections can be tough to maintain.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

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

- DEC Inspection - received a satisfactory report.
- Discussions with Old Chatham on future expansion. - Still having some issues and continuing to need bugs.
- Putting together an O&M log & will send to DEC.

Police Department

Lt. Troy Boice Reported

- Still short staffed - have not found anyone yet to hire. All set for Groton Olde Home Days.
- Jared Aiken going to training this week for new firearms.
- New guns to be received in October.
- Older Police Vehicle is ready for auction.

Joint Recreation

Trustee Conger no meeting this month

Groton Youth Commission

Trustee Conger reviewed the Youth Commission report (attached to the minutes):

Code Office

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

Public Comments

- Mundaka & Erika Lee, 109 Lincoln Ave, Neighbor - Nathan 114 Lincoln Ave - a couple years back - having irritated sinus & throat. A lot of smoke in air. As time went on a couple times a week a large amount of smoke in evening and continues late. He feels it is making him sick. A couple years ago contacted the police who then contacted the fire department. The fire department found a fire pit on Barrows St. Contacted the office but as he didn't hear back contacted again and spoke with Ted- code officer. Concerned that things are getting burnt that shouldn't be. Nathan also discussed concerns. After much research he was directed to the Village Code, that directs it to Tompkins County Code, which directs it to NYS DEC. Village recommended he contact DEC.

Presentation & Discussion Items

- Discussion - Town of Groton Solar Project: Letter received of notice of SEQR review for South Main St Special Permit Applications. The Town of Groton would like to know if the Village Board of Trustees would like to be co-agents in the SEQR review as the Village is within 500ft of the border of this project. The Town would like a response by September 13th. The Village Board thanks the Town for consideration, but will pass on being a co-agent.

Action Items

- Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve correction to the May 20, 2024 Minutes to reflect the correct tax warrant which was voted in as follows: authorizing the Mayor to sign the 2024 Tax Warrant for \$951,217.11 seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the procurement agreement with BDP as notice to proceed, seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the Groton Old Home Days Parade Permit, Saturday, August 23, 2025 seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the Groton Olde Home Days Festival Permit for August 21-23, 2025 seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the American Legion temporary waiver of the Village Noise Ordinance for August 21-23, 2025 seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve Clerk Niswender to sign the contract for Moody's Bond rating for the New Building Bond application. Moody's cost is \$14,500.00 seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried.
- Mayor Neville appointed Michael Perkins as Provisional Electric Supervisor.
- Mayor Neville appointed Aaron Botsford as Electric Worker/Lineman at a rate of \$55/hr.
- Mayor Neville appointed Michael Shurtleff as Electric Helper at a rate of \$20/hr.
- Mayor Neville appointed Cayden Dryja as Laborer beginning 9/15/2025 at a rate of \$20/hr.

- NRG price contract discussion- Natural Gas - contract rate about the same as last year if we lock in the price now. Trustee Conger made a motion to approve Clerk Niswender to sign the NRG price contract at a rate of \$4.595, seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Draft Purchasing Policy Worksheet reviewed. Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the new worksheet, seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- Electric AMI Consumer notification discussion. Trustee Walpole made a motion upon PSC approval to charge \$25 per month for customers that do not adopt the AMI meters, and a reinstall fee of \$75 seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.

8:23pm Trustee Conger made a motion to move into executive session to discuss a specific employee, Seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.

9:03pm Trustee Conger made a motion to move out of executive session, seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.

9:08pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn the meeting for the Public Hearing for CDBG grant and to review amended Bond Resolution for the Waste Water treatment plant upgrades on September 8th at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator

August 2025 Light Board Report

- Michael Perkins Started August 4 2025
 - Retired service to Red Apple
- Going to hook up New house on Gerald Moses Drive
 - Re organized bucket truck
 - Meters were read before I started here
- Hurt man rescue training and QEP training is august 15
- 2 Delinquent shutoffs 1 has since been reconnected
 - 3 25 kva xmfrs delivered
- Plan to set new pole on 222 Welcome to Groton sign
- Fixed lights at sewer plant Welcome to Groton sign



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.	Stephen E. Teeter
Police OIC.....	Lt. Troy Boice
Code Enforcement Officer	Ted Skibinski
Director of Recreation.....	Becky Koenig

Department of Public Works

July 21 – August 18, 2025

Completed Work/Projects:

- Mowing and trimming on regular basis
- Repair a water main leak on S. Main St.
- Topsoil and grass seed on several dig sites
- Street sweeping every week
- Clean and flush catch basins
- Remove brush and weeds at the old village office
- Continue to verify water services for lead service inventory
- Finish installing the 1st new Welcome to Groton sign
- Help with tank cleaning at the waste water plant
- Send information for equipment to go to auction online
- Begin building the 2nd Welcome to Groton sign
- Brush hog/ mowing on the walking trail
- Digging and replacing sewer manholes for paving
- Prepare streets for repairing

Schedule of Work

- Paving
- Hydrant Maintenance
- Dig and repair plugged storm water on Spring St.
- Close pool area

Village of Groton

Fuel Usage Report in Gallons

Dates: 08/18/2025

	Unleaded	Diesel
DPW	149	164
Electric	66	27
Fire	153	130
Police	180	

Groton WWTP Update

July 2025

- The Creamery discharges have not gotten much better. We are still adding bugs to maintain a happy system. This is working great.
- We are having issues with SBR #2 air valve. We need to get a new valve and a spare. Attached is a quote. This is a sole source piece of equipment.
- We have gotten #2 digester cleaned and inspected this tank also had more than average rags and grit in tank. Looks great now and back online.
- We have started to drain #1 digester currently. We are trying to get cleaned before fall. This tank is extremely bad as it had septage dump into it by a local hauler. This is usually always sent thru headworks to remove rags and to break up the solids.
- We got #2 SBR tank drained and cleaned this tank was extremely bad with rags and grit. When cleaning we fixed both mixers we lowered to proper depth, and fixed mixer mast to adjust side to side the way specs call for. this is to help grit from settling out in tank. Tank is back online. Wanted to say thank you to DPW for truck to remove rags.
- Drum filters are still in progress, we will need to address this soon.
- We have been trimming trees and brush around fence line and building maintenance.
- The facility and system look great and well within permit. We did have a DEC inspection of the facility on 8-7-2025 this seemed to go good.

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
Josh Dwyer
Brian Klumpp
Kristin Prugh

Meeting Minutes August 6, 2025

The August 6, 2025 meeting of the Groton Youth Commission was called to order by Chairman Glenn Morey at 7:00PM. Members present were Vice Chairman Betty Conger, CCE Coordinator Shelley Lester, Josh Dwyer and Brian Klumpp. Program Manager Keith Davenport and Kristin Prugh were excused, Lauren Gallinger, Joclyn Staton, and Diella Nino were absent.

Secretary's Minutes:

Minutes for June 4, 2025 were accepted on a motion by Glenn, seconded by Brian, and carried.

Report: Keith Davenport: Shelley gave the camp report. Most weeks have had ~35-40 attendees. There have been special programs paid for by grants: Bowling (\$900), trip to Watkins Glen (\$1,000) and Cayuga Lake Park (\$1,035). On Thursday, August 14th there will be a wildlife ritters program, Rock Stars.

Report: Shelley Lester: See Keith's report above.

Report: Rick Alvord: County budget season is coming up, with an \$11 million deficit anticipated. Emails regarding the YMCA program at Groton and also information on Mental Health Therapists available in the county. (See attached)

New Business: Glenn raised some topics of concern: Air quality, nutrition for the youth, environmental concerns and mental health concerns. More discussion to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

No July meeting.

Next meeting is September 3 2025 @ 7:00PM

Submitted by
Elizabeth Conger
Vice Chair

First Week of Camp NEWSLETTER

GROTON SUMMER CAMP



Bowling

Bowling

The kids also got the chance to go bowling at the Groton Bowling Alley. The kids were in groups and the campers learned how to take turns, cheer each other on, and enjoy shared success.



Cornell Cooperative Extension

The campers got to learn about sustainable energy practices. Which showed the campers how individuals can reduce energy consumption, save money, and minimize their environmental impact. The campers also got a chance to explore the power house.

Swimming

The campers also get to go swimming everyday at Groton Sykes park. Campers also receive swimming lessons.



First Week of Camp NEWSLETTER

GROTON SUMMER CAMP



Honor of the week

Honor of the week

The honor of the week goes to campers who stand out not just for their skills, but for their positive attitude, leadership, and ability to contribute to the camp environment in a meaningful way. And the campers who showed this the first week of camp was Emma, Liesl, Brennan, Ophelia, Ben, and Isabella .



Flower Mural

This week the kids got to learn about different kinds of flowers. Then the kids got to suggest ideas of different kinds of flowers, plants, and animals that will be painted on a mural. at Groton Hometown Pizzeria by Margalo. If you want to report back you can email her at melilin.loves.cats@gmail.com



Second week of camp Newsletter

Groton Summer Camp

Crocheting with Brynn Blaszc



This week the students got to learn how to crochet with Brynn Blaszc. While crocheting, campers learned essential skills like mastering basic stitches, following patterns, and improving fine motor coordination. They also develop patience, focus, and creativity as they design their own projects. Crocheting teaches problem-solving, time management, and teamwork, while offering a relaxing, mindful activity that encourages self-expression and the joy of creating something meaningful. You can also check out Brynn Blaszc shop of stuff she has crocheted. It is called BlaszcCrochets.

This week the kids got to walk to the Groton Public Library. At the public library, campers can explore a wide range of books, from adventure stories to informational texts. The campers also got to play musical instruments at the Public Library. They also got a book read to them from a Librarian.

Groton Public Library



Second week of camp Newsletter

Groton Summer Camp

Honor campers of the week



The Honor Campers of the Week stood out for their outstanding character, positive attitude, and leadership. They consistently showed kindness to others, and took initiative. Their respect for camp values, teamwork, and willingness to lend a helping hand made an impact on their peers and counselors alike. They truly represent the spirit of camp and what it means to be a role model.

This week's honor campers awards went to Addi, Dominic, Miles, Ben, Piper, and Carter.

This week the campers took a tour at the Groton Museum and got to learn more about the town. The campers learned about the founding of the town, significant events that shaped the area, and key figures in the town's history.

Groton Museum



WEEK 3 NEWSLETTER

Groton Summer Camp

National Bank Of Groton

The campers also got a tour of The National Bank Of Groton. On the local bank tour, the campers learned about different types of bank accounts, the importance of saving, and how ATM's and debit cards work. They also discovered how banks keep money secure, the basics of loans and credit, and the various roles bank employees play. The tour helps them understand how money is managed and the importance of financial responsibility.

Nutritionist

The nutritionist taught the campers about healthy eating by explaining the benefits of different food groups, how to create balanced meals, and the importance of hydration. They also guide kids in understanding food labels, portion control, and the impact of sugar on health. Fun activities, like making healthy snacks, helped engaged the campers in learning to make better food choices.

Sykes Park



Sykes Park

The campers also spent a lot of time at Sykes Park this week. They played fun games like volleyball, Soccer, And Gaga Ball. The Campers ran, climbed, and explored nature, developing physical skills and a connection to the environment.

WEEK 3 NEWSLETTER

Groton Summer Camp

Honor Campers



Honor Campers

The Honor Campers of the Week are exceptional individuals who truly embody the spirit of the camp. They go above and beyond, demonstrating kindness, responsibility, and leadership in everything they do. Whether it's helping others, showing a positive attitude, or putting in extra effort during activities, they stand out as role models. These campers inspire their peers by leading with respect, enthusiasm, and a commitment to making the camp experience better for everyone. The Honor Campers of The Week go to Lucy, Ben, Alice, Azzy, Kameryn, and Tommy.

Watkins Glen State Park



Watkins Glen State Park

This week the campers got to go to Watkins Glen State Park. The kids got to swim in the pool, the kids also played on the playground, and they got to hike the waterfalls.

Board Meeting – August 18, 2025

Ted Skibinski, Code Enforcement Officer

Reporting and Accomplishments:

1. Building and Zoning Complaints in August – 3
 - Center Village Court apartments – Letter redirected to Kris Buchan, board member.
 - Zheng Xiao Ting (Tina) 144 Main St. – Sidewalk repair request for information, and building/roof damage resulting from an overgrown neighboring tree.
 - Code office call – 208 E Cortland St. Brian Nichols (607) 229-4751 Tenant without lease occupying a room. Complainant reports absentee landlord (Pirro) is responsible for maintenance for a plugged toilet, broken windows, inoperable stove, inoperable wall electric plugs. Also reporting illicit drug activity in (separate) basement apartment. Text sent report to officers Ninivaggi and Boyce.
2. 2025 Life Safety Inspections completed August – 1
3. Code Violation letters sent in July (includes sidewalks) – 1
 - a. Property maintenance – Jennifer Wolfard – 722 Elm St.
4. Building Permits opened – 3
5. Building Permits closed – 1
6. Town Court appearance tickets in August – 1
 - a. Dion Hobert 219 and 302 Spring St. Property maintenance.
 - i. Mr. Hobert did not appear in court on 8/11
7. Active Building Permits – 14
8. 2024 NYS Code enforcement continuing education – 0 hrs.



Village of Groton Lightboard

308 Main Street
Groton, NY 13073

AMI Meter Upgrade Customer Engagement Plan

1. Village of Groton Lightboard will post the customer brochure 30 days prior to installations starting on the Village's website and electric bills.
2. We will place a door hanger notification at each home before the meter is set to notify you approximately when it will be installed.
3. Village of Groton Lightboard will provide a notification on the back of all customer's billing statements 30 days prior to installations starting.
4. There will be an opportunity for customers to view the meters and ask questions at our September 8th informational meeting at 7:30pm, which is open to the public.

Village of Groton Lightboard
308 Main Street
Groton, NY 13073

CONSUMER OWNED AND
MUNICIPALLY OPERATED



Customer Service (607)898-3966

A better meter will be here soon.

Dear Customer,

Your electric meter is getting an upgrade. As our meters have begun to reach the end of their lifespan, they need to be updated to continue to provide reliable service. We'll be upgrading all existing electric meters. The new advanced metering system will provide reliability through faster outage response. The new advanced meters record and securely communicate daily energy usage, voltage information and power supply disruptions back to us. The technology delivers more comprehensive and frequent readings than the current meters.

The typical installation should take Village of Groton Electric staff only minutes to complete and will not require you to be at home. However, if you have an indoor meter, we will need someone there to allow us access to it.

Key Benefits of advanced meters:

Detect outages faster

If your power goes out, advanced meters can identify service disruptions immediately in most cases, and how widespread it is, which means we will get the lights back on quicker.

Quick Customer Service

Our team will collect meter readings remotely as well as start and stop service without a visit to your home or business.

The project is expected to start September 2025, with meter change outs being completed by May 2026.

For more information, please visit www.grotonny.org or call 607-898-3966 with questions.

