



Michael F. Luth
Chief of Police

GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Rachael E. Bielecki
Deputy Chief

September 18, 2026

Mark Haddad, Town Manager
Town of Groton
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Mr. Haddad,

I am writing to you to show my support for the improvement project of the Cow Pond Brook Fields. The current parking area is not designed to accommodate the number of cars that are frequently there during sporting events. The lot itself is on a steep grade creating a rolling hazard. The number of cars that end up parking on the roadway and the driveway to the Department of Public Works impede traffic flow and obscure line of sight of pedestrians walking on and crossing Cow Pond Brook Road.

The planned improvements to this Town facility will enhance the user experience, as well as make it a safer one.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Michael Luth
Chief of Police



TOWN OF GROTON

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Select Board

Peter S. Cunningham, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Nicholas J. Degaitas, Jr., *Clerk*
John F. Reilly, *Member*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

August 17, 2026

Community Preservation Committee
Town of Groton
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Re: Community Preservation Funding Recommendation – Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvement Project

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee:

The Groton Select Board is pleased to express its strong support for the revised Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvement Project and respectfully urges the Community Preservation Committee to recommend Community Preservation Act funding for this important investment at the 2026 Fall Town Meeting. The Select Board recognizes and appreciates the Community Preservation Committee's willingness to approve the project's out-of-cycle application, allowing this revised proposal to move through the Community Preservation Act review process. We believe the project now before the Committee is substantially improved from the proposal considered at the 2026 Spring Town Meeting and reflects a genuine effort by the Parks Commission, Town Manager, user groups, Town staff, and project consultants to listen to residents and respond meaningfully to the concerns expressed by the community.

The revised project maintains the long-term vision of creating an improved recreational facility while reducing the overall project cost by an estimated \$800,000 to \$1 million from the original \$4.8 million proposal. These savings have been achieved without compromising the project's most critical objectives, demonstrating a commitment to fiscal responsibility and thoughtful stewardship of public resources.

The project will:

- Rehabilitate and modernize one of Groton's most heavily used recreational facilities.
- Address long-standing access road issues necessary to comply with Natural Heritage and Conservation Commission requirements.
- Improve accessibility through ADA-compliant pathways and amenities, ensuring residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy the facility.
- Enhance drainage, parking, traffic circulation, and supporting infrastructure to improve safety and year-round usability.
- Create a recreational complex that will serve Groton families, schools, youth organizations, and residents for generations to come.

Community Preservation Committee
Letter of Support – Cow Pond Brook Fields Project
August 17, 2026
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Beyond these important local benefits, the project presents a remarkable financial opportunity for the Town. Approval of this project will preserve \$1 million in federal grant funding that has been awarded specifically for these improvements. Every federal dollar invested in this project is a dollar that does not have to be borne by Groton taxpayers. Opportunities to leverage this level of outside funding for a community recreational project are rare, and we believe the Town should make every effort to capitalize on this investment.

The Cow Pond Brook Fields have become one of Groton's most important recreational assets. Thousands of residents, youth athletes, families, and visitors use these facilities each year. Investing in this project is not simply about improving athletic fields, it is also about preserving public open space, expanding recreational opportunities, improving accessibility, enhancing public safety, and ensuring that this valuable community resource continues to meet the needs of current and future generations.

The Community Preservation Act was established to preserve and enhance the community assets that define Groton's quality of life. This project embodies those objectives by protecting and improving a public recreational resource that has served the Town for decades and will continue to do so for many years to come.

For these reasons, the Groton Select Board respectfully requests that the Community Preservation Committee recommend Community Preservation Act funding for the revised Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvement Project at the 2026 Fall Town Meeting. We believe this proposal represents a thoughtful, fiscally responsible investment in Groton's future—one that responds to community feedback, leverages significant outside funding, and will provide lasting benefits for generations of residents.

Thank you for your continued dedication to preserving and enhancing the resources that make Groton such an exceptional community.

Sincerely,

GROTON SELECT BOARD

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter S. Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Cunningham" clearly legible.

Peter S. Cunningham, Chair

PSC/mwh



Office of the
PLANNING BOARD

TOWN OF GROTON

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August 20, 2026

Mr. Aubrey Theall, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

RE: Support for Cow Pond Brook Athletic Fields Renovation Project

Dear Mr. Theall:

The Planning Board voted unanimously on August 14, 2026, to support the Town of Groton's out-of-cycle application for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding in FY27 for the Cow Pond Brook Athletic Fields Renovation Project. The Planning Board also voted unanimously to approve the Town's proposed modifications to the original site plan.

The Cow Pond Brook Athletic Fields facility is one of the most important and popular public amenities in Groton. The proposed renovations will substantially improve pedestrian and vehicular convenience and safety at the facility. The project features dedicated parking areas with a stormwater management system, a new playground, and new accessible walkways along the parking lots, into, and around the site, including an accessible perimeter walkway around the fields. These enhancements will provide benefits for users of all ages and abilities.

Approval of the out-of-cycle application will allow the Town to utilize a Land And Water Conservation Grant of one million dollars to offset the project costs. The Planning Board urges you to act favorably on the Town of Groton's application for CPA funding in FY27 for the Cow Pond Brook Athletic Fields Renovation Project.

Sincerely,

Takashi Tada
Land Use Director / Town Planner



TOWN OF GROTON
173 Main Street
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conservation@grotonma.gov



September 9, 2026
Aubrey Thiall, Chair, Community Preservation Committee
173 Main Street, Groton

Dear Mr. Theall and members of the Groton Community Preservation Committee,

During its regular meeting on September 8th, 2026, the Groton Conservation Commission voted to support the environmental benefits of the Groton Park Commission's Fall 2026 Community Preservation Act application at the Cow Pond Brook playing fields.

From the perspective of the Commission, the project will be an enhancement to the surrounding wetland resource areas. The project will create a new access road and parking area which will divert traffic away from the current temporary access road which bisects two vernal pool habitats. As part of the plan, this road will be permanently closed and left to rewild. The project also involves the transfer of a parcel of land to the Conservation Commission to be permanently protected.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Steeves
Conservation Administrator