

Main Street View

If you have been following the newspaper stories in the *Groton Herald* and *Groton Landmark* about the Groton Historical Society, it would appear that things are under control. Long-range planning is underway, the new Society President has taken charge, Boutwell House is being cleaned up, and the Society is both promoting itself in the local community and preparing to offer meaningful programs to members and citizens. All this activity speaks well of the Society and the planning benchmarks it is striving to reach in the next year.

However, with all its good work and efforts to bring about change, at this time to bring about *real* change, we need more than anything the support of our whole Groton community, not just the friends and members currently on our books. On April 25th, the Groton Historical Society will come before Town Meeting with its request for approval of a CPA grant of \$176,525, administered by the Community Preservation Committee. This grant is for critical work to again make Boutwell House and the collections housed therein available to the public. Our beloved museum and its collections are not any one person's or one family's historic materials but represent the lives and legacy of generations of citizens who have made Groton their home. So we need everyone who cares about the past, present, and future of our town to lend their support by attending Town Meeting and speaking out. We are a community of people, leaders, businesses, social organizations, and various faiths, and we need to preserve the past and promote current activities.

It is also important that we not lose sight of the educational mission of the Historical Society, which began in collaboration with groups like the Groton Woman's Club, our great public library, and area schools. While our headquarters and museum buildings are closed for repairs we must now look to carry our programs to our audience in the schools and display our collections in other venues like our Town Hall. There you will find a large marble plaque on which are inscribed the names of the forty Groton men who died in the Civil War, and there as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of that calamitous event, we might explore the role Groton played in that war and the costly impact it had on our town.

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Whatever we come to do this year in making our presence and collections known to members and the general public, we need *your support*-- through *a raised hand* in voting at Town Meeting, by *a check* in the way of a contribution to help with repairs, and through *your membership* as citizens who want to add their story to our town's history. Thank you for making the GHS a part of your civic responsibility and reward for a town worth preserving.

John H. Ott

President, GHS

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