Main Street View

I want to begin my column by expressing my personal gratitude and that of the Board of Directors to the voters in the Town of Groton who unanimously supported the Society's proposal for a $176,525 Community Preservation Grant at this year's Town Meeting. The vote of confidence shown in the future of this organization by our friends, members and townspeople has brought a new sense of determination to the Board to complete its Long-range Plan and get back in business. The Historical Society has assembled a team of experienced preservation consultants and leadership personnel from related town committees to make sure the work we are about to begin will be done well and long serve the Society and its mission.

To that end, we have asked individuals from the Board of Selectmen, the Historical Commission, and the Finance and CPC Committees to help direct and guide our project. It will be a challenge to do all we want to do with the resources we have but the CPC grant is the foundation upon which we will build our fundraising campaign. We are also looking at other state agencies, including the Massachusetts Cultural Council through its Cultural Facilities Fund, to secure additional monies to implement energy-saving changes, safety and fire suppression systems, foundation and drainage work, and further ADA improvements to be sure that the Governor George S. Boutwell House will be a well-cared-for and accessible town museum for all.

Besides the *physical renovations* to Boutwell House, the Society must also make improvements to its *financial foundation*, by growing its membership and proving to donors and contributors that it is a skillful manager of its resources and a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to its care. We can do this by building an endowment that will have the assets to protect and guarantee the preservation of the collections, archives and property we hold as trustees of Groton's historic legacy. The process has to begin with individual memberships,

business support and partnerships between organizations who share and care about preserving Groton's story. I want to encourage every member, every friend of the GHS, to think about other family members and friends who might like to join us by having them visit our website for more information. Every journey needs a starting point and www.grotonhistoricalsociety.org is just a click away. Have a safe summer and watch for news of our upcoming programs and tours.

John H. Ott
President
July 2011