



**Town Manager**  
Mark W. Haddad

**TOWN OF GROTON**  
173 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237  
Tel: (978) 448-1111  
Fax: (978) 448-1115

**Municipal Building  
Committee for  
Prescott School**

Gregory Sheldon, *Chair*  
Anna Eliot, *Vice Chair*  
Halsey Platt, *Clerk*  
Gary Green, *Member*  
Becky Pine, *Member*  
Lynwood V. Prest, *Member*

**For Immediate Release:**

## ***Prescott School Survey Released***

**Groton, MA – October 1, 2015** – The Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School conducted a Town Survey in July and has released its results and analysis. The Survey was mailed to town residents through the July monthly GELD bill and distributed to Groton parents through the Groton Dunstable Regional School District email list.

191 survey responses were received by the end of August. “We are grateful to those who took the time to participate in the survey and returned it to Town Hall,” said Greg Sheldon, Chair of the Committee. “The survey is part of our ongoing effort to engage the public by hearing their ideas and recommendations for the future use of Prescott School,” Sheldon added.

The survey covered a wide choice of 42 preferences among seven categories including Community, Education, Arts, Municipal, Leased/Commercial, Recreation/Fitness/Sports, Other, and use of the exterior space. These preferences reflect those recommended at the May 2 Open House/Public Forum held at Prescott School where 100 town residents participated in a “brain storming” session.

In addition to ranking individual preferences, the survey asked several specific questions on the School’s future use. When asked who would you most like to see use Prescott School, respondents indicated by 69% a public use – including multi-generational, youth centered and senior citizen. 31% responded private use – corporate business, retail or food service. To the question, what would you like to see as the primary focus of use, again the response was 68% public use – education, meeting space for clubs and organizations, visitor center/historical artifact storage and display, visual & performance arts space. 32% responded private business use.

When asked whether rents should be at market rate 28% said yes, but 72% said they would be OK if the building broke even and/or was subsidized by the town providing it is filled with vibrant community use. On the question of whether the Prescott School should be kept as a town asset or sold – 72% said keep it for the next twenty five years and/or for the long term vs. only 28% who said sell it.

There was an overwhelming response (96%) from those who want to see more than the current number of people using the building. “This speaks to the vision of creating a vibrant downtown”, Sheldon said.

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For further information contact: Fran Stanley  
Groton Town Hall 978-723-1913

**July, 2015 Prescott School Survey results and analysis on 191 total returns**

1. Who would you most like to see use Prescott School?
  - Youth centered public use 14
  - Multi-generational public use 98
  - Senior citizen public use 11  
123 (69% public use)
  
  - Private use for a corporate business 27
  - Private use for retail or food service business 27  
54 (31% private use)
  
2. What would you like to see as the primary focus of use?
  - Education  
(School District, adult ed, after school programs,  
classrooms, etc.) 57
  - Meeting space for clubs and organizations 23
  - Visitor Center/Historical artifact storage and display 12
  - Visual & Performance arts space 25  
117 (68% public use)
  
  - Business use 54 (32% private use)
  
3. How many people per week should be using the building to have it be considered a vibrantly used building? (approximately 100 users per week currently)
  - Less than 100 users per week 7 (4% less use)
  - 100 to 250 users per week 78
  - 250 to 400 users per week 54
  - Over 400 users per week 23  
155 (96% greater use)
  
4. How important is it to keep outdoor space for public use (car washes, plant sales, community garden, parking)
  - Not at all important 19 (10%)
  - Somewhat important 50 (28%)
  - Important 51
  - Very Important 61  
112 (62% public use)
  
5. How focused on market rate rent should the re-use committee be?
  - Focus only on market rate rents and have the building make money for the town 47 (28% market rate)
  
  - Focus on enough market rate rents to have the building break even and have the rest of the space available at no rent or reduced rent 69
  
  - It is OK for the town to subsidize the building operating costs if it is filled with vibrant community use 51  
120 (72% subsidize)
  
6. How important is it to maintain the ownership of the Prescott School Building as a town asset?
  - Not important – sell it 47 (28% sell it)
  - Keep it for at least another 25 years 32
  
  - Keep it for the long term – once we sell it we are unlikely to take it back 92  
124 (72% keep it)