

# Candidate Background Information Sheet

**Position: Commissioner of Trust Funds**

**Candidate: Diane K. Hewitt**

**1. *I would like to be re-elected to this position*** to continue the strong and collaborative work of our team of Commissioners. Having been privileged to serve one term with the current commissioners and our able administrator, Karen Tuomi, I have acquired a solid understanding of the purpose and general management of the various funds and our unique role in evaluating and granting a wide variety of requests. Having the opportunity to support individuals and families, school and library programs, and the educational aspirations of students has been most satisfying, and I would greatly enjoy continuing this work on behalf of the Groton community. Our role as Commissioners has taken on particular significance in this difficult economic climate and I believe that the knowledge I have accrued and the work we have done during my first term will provide me and the other Commissioners with a sense of continuity and ability to move forward in an efficient and thoughtful manner. Last, but certainly not least, I believe strongly that a great community is built by the hands of many willing citizens. To continue to *serve* as a Commissioner allows me to do my part; to learn and contribute my skills in support of our exceptional town.

**2. *My background and qualifications include the following:***

My family and I have been residents of Groton since 1978. While raising two sons and working professionally for 25+ years in higher education, I have been actively involved in a variety of substantial community outreach and fundraising capacities for the Groton-Dunstable Regional Schools, the First Parish Church, the Groton Public Library and the Parker Charter Essential School.

I am currently completing my first, 3 year term as a Commissioner of the Trust Funds. My current professional work as an educator and *career* counselor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and prior to that, my 10 years at Middlesex Community College, call upon many of the key skills required to be an effective Commissioner—an ability to engage a diversity of individuals, to maintain a clear understanding of our purpose and role, to protect confidentiality, to make thoughtful, sound decisions, and to keep *an* open and non-judgemental mind. I am an effective collaborator and listener and believe I have demonstrated in my first, 3 year term the capacity to problem-solve and to work well with the other 2 members of the board and our administrator. Throughout my educational career and my service to Groton community, I have been drawn to roles and achieved success in supporting individuals and families and developing and promoting programs to enhance opportunities for students. *Serving as a* Commissioner of the Trust Funds allows me to connect my skills to the needs of our community. It is a role I value and hope to continue.