

From the Board

Dear Friends,

Just when we thought we had turned the corner on the pandemic and were relaxing into a summer season with our friends and families, dining in restaurants, and doing a bit of travel, along came the delta variant. It has thrown us all a curve ball, for sure.

Here's the good news. Over the last 19 months Groton Neighbors has proven agile and able to adapt to the continuing challenges of COVID. Ensuring the safety of all our members remains our guiding principle and staying connected with one another our primary objective. So this fall we will offer all of our services to vaccinated members, including personalized transportation, technology help, indoor and outdoor handyman assistance, yard work and designated shopping.

Equally important, we will find safe venues to host our smaller events and activities—including our popular Zoom book and movie discussions, easy fall walks and more challenging hikes, bike rides, outdoor dining as the weather permits, and the well-received "Meet Your Neighbor" program.

We're excited that member Carolyn Perkins will host a private tour of the "Sense of Place" art exhibition at the Boutwell House and Groton Inn. Also new this fall is the "Single Women's Luncheon Group" being formed by member, Carol Jewitt. Keep an eye out for these special invitations and for all our events.

We are fortunate to live in a community rich in resources providing an impressive array of programs that will help us ease into the fall.

Beyond all these programs, I hope we will stay connected the good, old-fashioned way. Let's just continue to pick up the phone, call a friend, take a walk, drop off a meal, or drop a note in the mail—neighbors helping neighbors. These kindnesses make a difference and will see us through the next chapter.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon,

Diane Hewitt
Membership Chair



Summer Garden Tour

By Beverly Smith

Theresa Fisk and I have been acquainted for almost two years starting when I began to provide her transportation to various appointments in Ayer and Groton. During the pandemic, Groton Neighbors had to suspend transportation services, but introduced a program called “Front Porch Chats”, so Theresa and I kept in touch with outdoor, socially distant conversations – masks on.

Thankfully, this spring, restrictions lifted and Groton Neighbors was glad to resume offering limited events and services. Both Theresa and I were keen to attend the Early Summer Garden Tour hosted by Deborah and Edward O’Rourke, at their home in Harvard.



Giant rhododendron at Deborah & Ed O’Rourke’s garden in Harvard

Photo: D. Hewitt



Theresa Fisk and Irene Corsetti enjoy the garden tour in Harvard

Photo: B. Smith

We left Groton a bit earlier than needed so we made a small detour and drove up Prospect Hill Road where there’s a 180-degree vista across the valley to the Southern New Hampshire mountains and Mount Wachusett. This was familiar for me, but a new horizon for Theresa and thus began our delightful afternoon.

We arrived at the tour where our gracious hosts welcomed us with light refreshments and a brief, but very informative, history of their property. There were fourteen guests, many from Groton Neighbors including Zoe Eleftherio, Marion Stoddart, Lois Young, Carole Greenfield and others. The weather was

delightful, sunny and dry. Located just outside the center of Harvard, the O’Rourke’s home and beautiful perennial gardens were once part of the Fiske Warren estate, begun in the 1890s. Their home was built as the guest house to the grand summer home. The O’Rourke’s are lovingly restoring their five acres of gardens which include over thirty varieties of daylilies, many specimen trees and flowering shrubs.



Hosts Deborah & Ed O’Rourke

Photo: D. Hewitt

The touring group was divided into two smaller groups – Deborah led one group focused on the many unusual flowering plants, the other led by Ed focused on the specimen trees. For those of you who aren't familiar with the term "specimen trees" (I was not!), any tree planted singularly as a focus of attention is considered a specimen tree. And this property had them in abundance!

For me, the day was a bit nostalgic. Having grown up on a farm in Ayer in the 50s, my family would drive down route 111 (before route 495 was completed) to pick up sheep at a farm in Bolton. I remember riding by this home and always wanted to know more about it, I finally had my chance!

The visit ended all too soon and we reluctantly took our leave. Theresa shared that she loved learning about all the unfamiliar plants. We left with fond memories of a time when grand folks from Boston summered in Harvard, creating spectacular homes with amazing gardens, expansive lawns, fields and seasonal vistas of the rolling western mountaintops. 🏔️



New member Kathryn Ellis-Moore is impressed with the gardens.

Photo: B. Smith



Lost Lake Cruise

By Krys Salon



Smooth sailing as the sun sets over Lost Lake.

On July 19 an intrepid group of Groton Neighbors gathered under cloudy skies to take a leisurely ride on Lost Lake and Knopp's Pond. The group met at the home of Krys and Rick Salon where we boarded two pontoon boats, one piloted by Rick Salon and the other by Sue Nordberg, for an early evening cruise.



No civilized sunset cruise should be without beverage or snacks. Fortunately, a variety of wines and cheeses was available during the one-hour cruise while everyone took in the scenery and enjoyed one another's company. During our tour we also learned a little about the lake and the homes that dot the shore. As dusk fell we returned to the Salon's deck for a light dessert and more interesting conversation.

Sue Nordberg pilots her pontoon boat with Lois Young, Barbara Rich, Marion Stoddart and an unidentified crew member aboard.



Rick Salon pilots his boat with a salty crew including Bob & Judy Anderson, Pat Hartvigsen & Chuck Vander Linden, Betty Irelan, and Carole Greenfield

Everyone who attended was enthusiastic about this get together and we hope to repeat it in the future. A shout out and "Thank you" to Sue Nordberg for offering her time, her boat, and the generous contribution of wine for all to share. 🏠



Hollis Street painted with a touch of fall.

A Good Ol' Yarn

By David Smith

On September 9, Bob Anderson, Jane Fry, Judy Giger, Susan Hughes, Bill Knuff and Iris Staub met via Zoom to discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Kreuger. Set in Minnesota in 1932, the large and picturesque plot follows four orphans who escape in a canoe from a cruel Indian school, headed for Saint Louis, Missouri. Along they way, each of the children finds something that will make their life whole.



Against this grim-sounding backdrop, Kreuger entertains us with an up-beat adventure to keep the pages turning. We root for the characters' wit and resilience. In that way, the story resembles the novels of Dickens or Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. From the evil boarding school, the escapees dodge the manhunt seeking them, become the forced labor of a heartbroken farmer, get caught up in a revivalist tent show, and spend time in a camp of migrant workers before arriving in Saint Louis, where the many plot threads neatly tie themselves together.

The runaways' adventures also raise social concerns of the early 20th Century. Some of the group had not heard of Indian schools, where the motto was Kill the Indian, save the man. Along the way we also learn of Native American genocide. In the tent meetings, we ask whether the faith healers prey on the gullible or empower their faith? And in the migrant camp, we question an economy that could leave so many abandoned.

Although the plot stretches credibility at times, the reader feels they are in the hands of a skilled storyteller, and we go along for the pure entertainment of it all. The story is a bit of a yarn and well-suited for light summer reading. Those who gathered for the discussion all enjoy the book and agreed they would recommend it to others. 🏠

The discussion of this book was recorded. To watch the video, [Click HERE](#)

Biking the Nashua River Rail Trail

By William Knuff



Bill checks tire pressure before we begin.

There was just a hint of fall in the air as Diana Breed and I prepared for our bike ride on the Nashua River Rail Trail. The Nashua River Rail Trail stretches eleven miles from Main Street in Ayer through Groton and Pepperell to its terminus at Gilson Road in Nashua. Known as the Hollis Branch connecting Worcester and Nashua to Portland, this fifty mile right-of-way was built by the Boston & Maine RR around 1850. At its peak the B&M RR system moved freight and people over 2000 miles of track. By the 1930s the halcyon days of railroading were in the rear-view mirror. The decline driven by the depression, expanded truck freight, and the automobile was precipitous. In 1982 the last freight train rumbled down the Hollis Branch and a few years later the land was bought by the state. As part of a national project to convert abandoned rail rights-of-way to recreational use, construction of the Nashua River Rail Trail was completed in 2002 and is currently shared by pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycling traffic.



After putting air in the tires and buckling our helmets, Diana and I joined the Rail Trail at the Smith Street crossing. Soon we come upon the Groton School Pond where we see no activity from the beaver lodge in the middle of the pond nor from the apple pickers on the apple orchard beyond. Next on our path the new Indian Hill Music Center can be seen through the trees. We decided to take a detour to get a better look. Impressive!

Returning to the Rail Trail via Temple Drive we pass through Broadmeadow amid marsh grasses, red-winged blackbirds, and church steeples. Leaving Town Hall and Groton center to our right, we continue on crossing the old railroad bridge over north Main Street then Common Street on our way past the paddocks of Shepley Hill Farm. Just beyond Sand Hill Road the Rail Trail





Diana pedals along the Nashua River Rail Trail on this inaugural Groton Neighbors Bike Ride. Look for more.

follows closely along the banks of the Nashua River on to the dam in East Pepperell center...our turn-around.

As strange as it may seem, reversing direction offers a whole new experience – as if it is a different ride. We leisurely cruise next to the river where a fishing boat drifts in anticipation of a fish dinner. Passing under Pleasant and Peabody Streets the murals painted by students of Groton School depict scenes of life in Groton. Diana and I enjoy leisurely conversation on a myriad of topics, exchange ideas on bike safety and comfort, and generally solve the problems of the world.

Diana and I thoroughly enjoyed this first excursion and brief exploration of a side of Groton that can only be appreciated from a bicycle. We are excited and hopeful at the prospects of more such bike rides shared with more of fellow Groton Neighbors members. 🏠

Check the Groton Neighbors Event Calendar to register for the next ride at <http://www.grotonneighbors.org/>



Myanmar – A Quieter Time

By Bob and Sue Lotz

In recent years news about the Asian country of Myanmar, also known as Burma, included: accusations of ethnic cleansing; a military coup replacing



a fragile democracy; confining Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest; and the army brutally suppressing demonstrations.

As these stories and photographs have dominated the news about Myanmar, we remembered our quiet travel-adventure of nearly twenty years ago. Especially, we recalled our time away from the cities and their present-day protests.

In contrast to the current news cycle, we found Myanmar to be an attractive land of hard-working people often

interested in outsiders. We invite you to join us on a photo recollection -- a time warp, if you will -- to part of the Myanmar countryside. Following are four photos, one from each segment of our countryside travel-adventure in 2003.

Below the following four photos is a web link. Click it to see slideshow with many more photos. You may also click on any of the photos below to view the slideshow.



This photo taken from a ferry traveling downstream from Mandalay on the Irrawaddy River, is the principal river in Burma. The river is busy with working boats under sail, oar, and power. The riverbank is dotted with small villages and Buddhist pagodas called stupas which traditionally held sacred objects. They were places of worship or a pilgrimage destination. We de-barked on the riverbank at Bagan.



Irrawaddy River Scene

Bagan (also called Pagan) where we toured by pony cart then on our own by bicycle. A Buddhist kingdom flourishing in the 11th century built much of the city officially named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2019. Sue's bike developed a flat and a friendly home-based bike shop made repairs



Bagan World Heritage Site



Trek in Shan State

We hiked with a local guide for three days, spending two nights in monasteries. Porters carried potable water and prepared some food. The route traversed differing tribal lands but our guide knew the local languages. Sharing fun with kids needs no translation as digital camera images surprised and delighted everyone.

Myanmar's second largest lake is shallow and nutrient rich. Fishermen and other boaters adopted a distinctive standing rowing style to see ahead and navigate the reeds and floating plants. Fish were traditionally plentiful. Fertile float-ing fruit and vegetable garden began in the 1960s. More

recently, pollution and invasives became an issue. In 2015 Inle Lake was added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. 🏠



Inle Lake

[**CLICK HERE to view photo slideshow**](#)

Help Wanted

WHOA! *Please read this. We really do need your help.* Groton Neighbors is an all-volunteer organization. We welcome your help in whatever way you are able. If you or someone you know wants to learn more about helping Groton Neighbors grow, please give us a call (978) 272-0123 or email us at info@grotonneighbors.org and we will be happy to help you explore these or other way you might help.

MMO Committee:

We invite members to join our Membership Marketing & Outreach (MMO) Committee. Meeting once a month, MMO welcomes and orients new residents to Groton Neighbors and creates interesting programs and events that connect and support our members. In this time of COVID with the inevitable isolation that it brings, our work has never been more critical.

If you like organizing, reaching out to new friends or have computer skills to lend, you will fit right in. We'd be happy to share more about what we do and would love to hear from you.

Please contact Co-Chair Krys Salon (203) 770-9604 ksalon1953@gmail.com or Co-Chair Diane Hewitt (978) 448-6228 diane.hewitt@gmail.com to learn more.

Communications Coordinator:

This person will work closely with the MMO Team and Administration to develop and implement a communications plan and supporting materials to create visibility and awareness among our members and the larger Groton community. This position requires a creative individual able develop professional content for multiple media channels.

Office Staff:

We have two openings for the Office Staff. Join a team of volunteers who cover our virtual office two days each month. Requires good communication skills, dependability, and internet access. Training and support will be provided. This role offers a predictable schedule with freedom and flexibility.

Website Administrator:

Working with leadership and our web provider, this person is responsible for administrative oversight of the Groton Neighbors website and support for our volunteers working with our website. Familiarity with a web-based CMS is helpful but willingness to learn is more important.

GrotonFest 2021

By Lois Young

We woke up to a beautiful day after I was sure GrotonFest would be cancelled due to heavy rain the day before. The weather cooperated and it couldn't have been more perfect all day. We began setting up the booth at 8AM with a very experienced set-up team of volunteers including Dick Bettencourt, Mike Manugian and Bob Lotz. Everything went smoothly as visitors were due to arrive two hours later.

There was varied interest: friends and members just stopping by to say hello; people new to Groton wanting to know what we are about and how they might get involved in the community; people reaching retirement age who are beginning to plan on how to be more involved in Groton; family members who were interested in services for their parents. Many signed up to receive more information from our Membership Team about how Groton Neighbors might be a perfect fit for their particular needs.

There was a wonderful spirit at GrotonFest this year - lots of kids, dogs and families out to enjoy the day. The crowds lasted until 4PM when activities wound down.



Dick Bettencourt, Mike Manugian, and Lois Young prepared for GrotonFest 2021

Photo R. Lotz



Diane Hewitt and Martha McLure watch GrotonFest festivities and share our story with a visitor to the booth

Photos R. Lotz





Dick Bettencourt speaking with a visitor about the benefits of membership in Groton Neighbors

Photo R. Lotz

There was also great camaraderie among all the many volunteers who took shifts staffing our booth throughout the day. In addition to those pictured we had help from Carole Greenfield, John Boynton, Bob & Judy Anderson, Mary Minifie, and Pat Hartvigsen. Everyone was willing to “go the extra mile” and we all enjoyed the day immensely. To learn more about us, click the link below and explore our website. 🏡

<http://www.grotonneighbors.org/>

Help us fill this spot. We would love to hear from you and will include your comments and feedback in future editions. If you like some particular feature or content, we will try to do more of it. If you dislike something, we want to hear about that too. It will help us get better.

—Your Editor.

I finally printed and read the latest newsletter and especially enjoyed your article on food.

I was locked down the whole year (14 mo.) of the pandemic and the biggest concern I had was food; who delivers, what to eat, will I like it, how to store it. Nothing else mattered to me as long as I had my phone and my family was okay.

But I realize now how important Groton Neighbors was during this time, my touchstone to the outside world.

I am grateful for the book discussions and contact with members and the work the Board does to keep it all going.

Thanks for the newsletter.

Sally Russell

["You say Tomahto!"]

As the season for fresh tomatoes draws to a close, the time is ripe – no pun intended – for favorite tomato recipes. BLTs and Bruschetta are two of my favorites. 🍷

BLT: While the ingredients might be the same, everyone has their own process for building a sandwich. Here is mine.

Ingredients

- 6 Slices of Bacon *Well done not burnt*
- Several pieces of Iceberg Lettuce
- 2 large slices of Tomato
- 2 pieces Hearty White Bread *Lightly toasted*
- Hellman's Mayonnaise
- Salt

Assembly is Important:

1. Spread Mayonnaise on one side of *both* pieces of toast
2. Array Bacon in a crossing pattern covering one piece of toast
3. Pile Iceberg Lettuce on the other piece of toast
4. Place tomato slices on top of the lettuce
5. Salt tomatoes to taste
6. Flip the B toast on top of the LT toast
7. Enjoy!



Bruschetta:

Combine:

- 8 Roma Tomatoes, Chopped
- 2 Red Peppers, Roasted, Chopped
- 1/3 Cup Red Onion, Chopped
- 1/2 Cup Fresh Basil, Chopped
- 3 Cloves Garlic, Chopped
- 2 Cups Fresh Parmesan, Shredded
- 3 T Red Wine Vinegar
- 3 T Olive Oil
- Dash Kosher Salt
- Dash Black Pepper

Bread: Slice French baguette and place on baking sheet. Brush tops with olive oil and sprinkle with Italian seasoning. Bake 10 minutes at 400°F



Tech Tip

By William Knuff

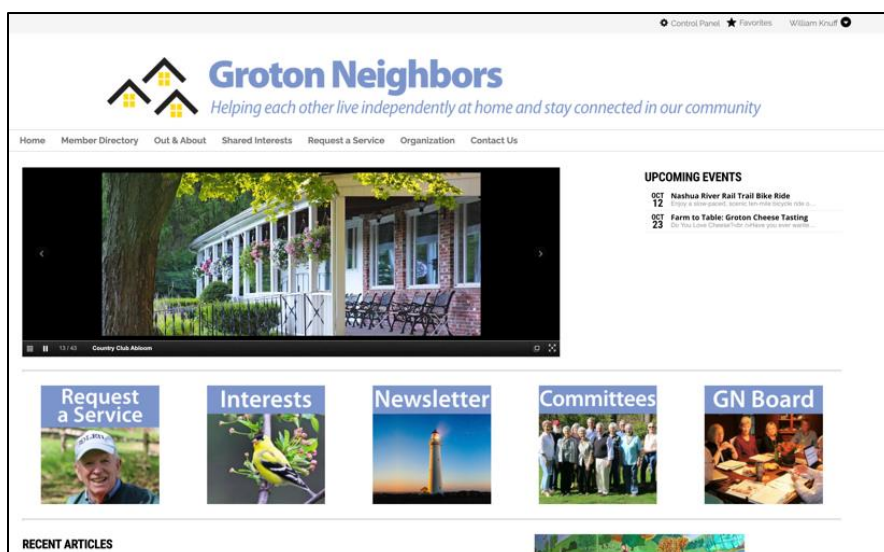
Our website has a new look! Click here to check it out www.grotonneighbors.org

More than a facelift, the Groton Neighbors home pages have simplified menus and more links making it easier to navigate.



The *Public Home* page is tailored for the non-member seeking to learn more about us. Members will also find it easy to access upcoming events, the latest newsletter, and other helpful information. Simply click on any of the images to learn more on the topic.

The *Member Home* page, similar in appearance and layout, is tailored to the needs of members making it easier to connect with other members, request a service, or register for an event.



This redesign was a year-long all volunteer effort to improve your website experience and we hope you find it both pleasing and helpful.

Please visit... and let us know what you think. 🏡

NEW!**Groton Neighbors Ladies Luncheon Group**

By Diane Hewitt

If you are a member of Groton Neighbors and a single woman (widowed, never married, separated, or divorced) we are excited to let you know about the Groton Neighbors Single Women's Luncheon Group, the newest way to connect and gather with your



friends. Initiated by member Carol Jewitt, this group will meet outside at local restaurants during the fall season. Carol joined Groton Neighbors last spring and brings to us her experience coordinating similar luncheon gatherings in her home state of Maryland.

Here are a few important details about this program. The dates and frequency of the luncheons will be decided by the participants and each member will pay for her own meal.

The Luncheon Group will meet in the afternoon assuring members will be home before dark. As with all Groton Neighbor programs, transportation to and from the restaurant is available to members by simply calling our office (978) 272-0123 or by email to service@grotonneighbors.org

To provide for the safety of our members, we will be choosing restaurants this fall that host outdoor dining. We ask that all members of the group be fully vaccinated and, when mandated, wear a mask in public and when entering a restaurant. The Groton Neighbors Covid protocols will be followed.

If you are interested and want to learn more or sign up, please call Groton Neighbor member, Carol Jewitt at (443) 206-1182 or email her at carol_jewitt@comcast.net We look forward to hearing from you and launching this new program. 🏡

Notice to Former members of the Groton League of Women Voters!

The Groton Oral History Committee, sponsored by the Historical Society, Groton Neighbors, The Center, and Friends of Prescott, would like to hear from you. We are planning a meeting at The Center in October to hear and video members recollections about the Groton LWV from its beginnings, mission, agenda, accomplishments, and why the local chapter ended.

Please contact Judy Anderson at judyandersongroton@me.com and we will let you know when we have a definite date and time.



Groton Neighbors

*Helping each other live
independently
at home*

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bob Pine
President

Bob Anderson
Treasurer

Mike Manugian
Secretary

Mimi Giammarino

Diane Hewitt

Bill Knuff

Krys Salon

Lois Young

*Contact us to learn
about joining our
growing community*

Poetry Corner

Memories, cherished and shared, are an important part of who we are. When memory fails us, we lose a bit of ourselves and the connection to those around us. The poet captures thoughts of those of us having experience with Alzheimer's as caregiver to a friend or family member. 🏠

Alzheimer's

By Bob Hicok

Chairs move by themselves, and books.
Grandchildren visit, stand
New and nameless, their faces' puzzles
Missing pieces. She's like a fish

In deep ocean, its body made of light.
She floats through rooms, through
My eyes, an old woman bereft
Of chronicle, the parable of her life.

And though she's almost a child
There is still blood between us:
I passed through her to arrive.
So I protect her from knives,

Stairs, from the street that calls
As rivers do, a summons to walk away,
To follow. And dress her,
Demonstrate how buttons work,

When she sometimes looks up
And says my name, the sound arriving
Like the trill of a bird so rare
It's rumored no longer to exist.

*Poetry 180 an anthology
of contemporary poems*

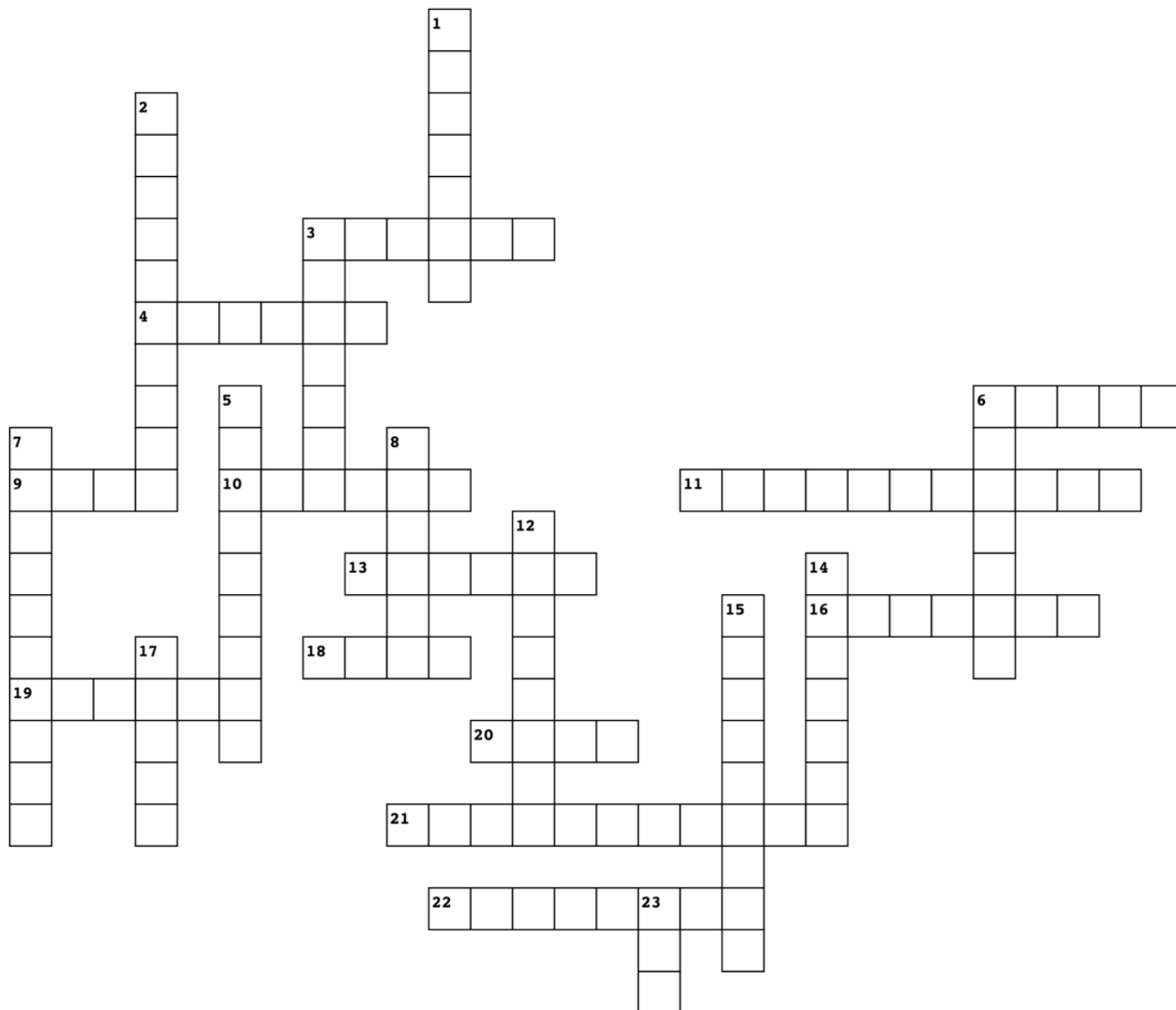
Puzzle

Groton Ways

Clues refer to the name of street, road, avenue, or lane in Groton.

Can you find them?

To solve the puzzle on-line click [HERE](#)

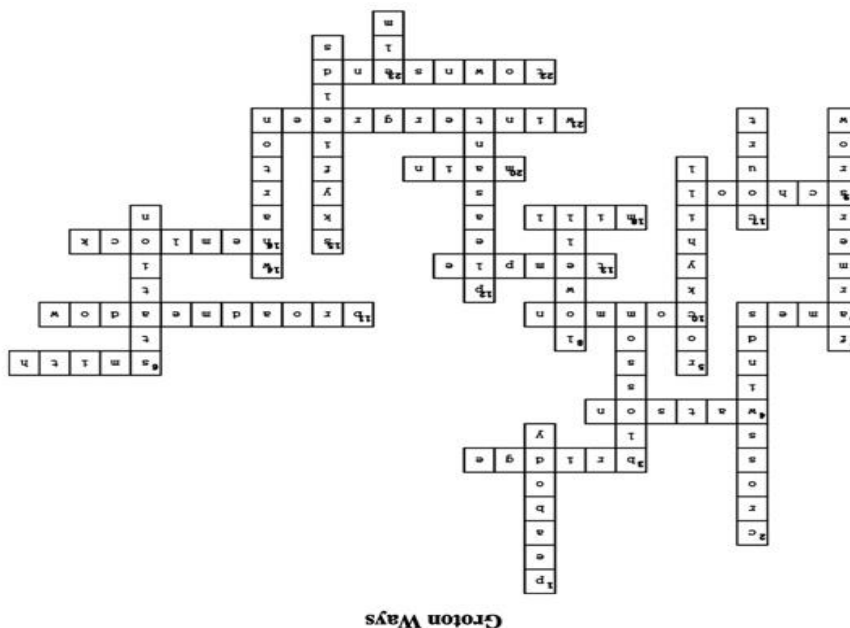


Across

3. Oral prosthetic
4. Holmes pal
6. Common surname
9. We__to please!
10. Unremarkable
11. Marshy expanse
13. Place of worship
16. Poison
18. Pepper grinder
19. Fish family
20. Water supply
21. Breath mint
22. Dead end

Down

1. Endicott__
2. Tornado
3. Come to life
5. Tor
6. Train stop
7. Farm furrow
8. Textile center
12. Agreeable
14. PA grad school
15. Orion's playground
17. Woo
23. Slippery tree

Answer key

Groton Ways