



GROTON BOARD OF TRADE

*... come grow with us*

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## Programs

The Groton Board of Trade is an organization formed in the fall of 2010 to support businesses and farmers within Groton, Massachusetts. The Board of Trade hopes to demonstrate the value of membership to all businesses and farms in Groton, encouraging them to become part of the team which will further the interests of all Groton businesses.



## Welcome

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## Membership

Membership is open to any business in Groton. "Business Representatives" for each member business need not live in Groton. There are two kinds of membership in the Board: corporate membership and individual membership. A corporate membership costs \$100 per year and includes 3 pre-paid individual memberships. Corporate membership includes a business listing on the GBOT web site and eventually a monthly newsletter.

Individual memberships are for Groton residences who do not necessarily own or run a business but are interested in participating on the Groton Board of Trade. Individual memberships cost \$50 per year.

Any business or individual that wants to join the GBOT may do so online by clicking Apply Online button on the left. Once payment has been received, the business or person will be enabled as a member.

## Organizational Structure

The leadership of the organization is made up of four officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer (aka the Executive Committee). The Board of Directors is made up of the four officers and five other at large members: total of nine board members. The president only votes in case of a tie. The Board meets monthly except July and August. Board terms are one year, two years or three years. The officers will serve one or two terms, lasting twelve months each. The administrative year begins in September and ends in June.

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## Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled (monthly) meeting of the Groton Board of Trade is Wednesday, September 19 at the Gibbet Hill Grill at 6:00 pm.

Unless something comes up, every monthly meeting is on the third Wednesday of the Month (excluding July and August when there is no meeting).

## Why Join

There are many potential benefits of membership:

**Increased Business** – One of the principles upon which GBOT is founded is the idea that people do business with others that they know and trust.

**Strength in Numbers** – When issues arise that could affect the Groton business and farming community (e.g., changes in the sign by-law), being part of a group gives you a stronger voice.

**What's Going On?** – GBOT's monthly meetings will provide a format that will inform members about changes in the community: businesses that are coming or going, changes in Town by-laws that affect business, significant events in town, etc. It will also give you a chance to meet fellow business leaders in a casual, collegial setting.

**Common Cause** – As a group, Groton businesses and farms will be able to identify opportunities for one-time or recurring events that benefit the residents and businesses (e.g., Shop Groton Days).

**Community Service** – The GBOT will do a lot of positive things in the community (see the examples of GBOT programs that follow). As a member, you'll enjoy and participate in the benefits of the equity that the GBOT builds with Groton residents. It's a lot easier to serve the community as part of a group than it is to do so individually. Over time, giving back to the community is not only good karma, it is good business.