



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager 860-441-6630

Meeting Agenda

Representative Town Meeting

Representatives Karin Adams, Alicia T. Bauer, Portia Bordelon, Jordan Brayman, Clarence Casper, Kathy Chase, Bobbi Jo Cini, Mallory Doyle, Syma Ebbin, Thomas Frickman, James Gustavson, Autumn Hanscom, Rosanne Kotowski, Brandon Marley, Douglas R. Marshall, Robert Martin, Susan Marquardt, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Juan Melendez, Roscoe Merritt, Doug Monaghan, Scott Newsome, Cutter Oliver, Richard Pasqualini, Sheila Perry, Shawn Powers, Carolann Quinn, Kate Richards, Reginald Stanford, Judith Strode, Irma Streeter, James Streeter, Latisha Thompson, Patricia Wagner, Gary Welles, and Michael Whitney

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL BY TOWN CLERK

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

C. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-FIRST RTM

1. Administration of oath to all representatives by Town Clerk

2. Adoption of Rules

2017-0280 Adoption of Rules

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADOPTION OF RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST RTM

BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Rules and Procedures of the Thirtieth RTM are temporarily adopted as the Rules and Procedures of the Thirty-first RTM elected November 7, 2017.

3. Election of Moderator

4. Presentation of gavel to Moderator

5. Brief recess to allow Moderator to review correspondence, etc.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2017

E. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

This is the portion of the RTM agenda where the RTM welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to ten minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be limited to matters pertinent to Groton. The Moderator, or members through the Moderator, shall ask questions only in order to clarify the speaker's presentation. Responses may be given by the Moderator and/or by the Town Manager. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

F. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

2017-0281 Appointment of Temporary Rules & Procedures Committee

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE TO PREPARE RULES FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST RTM

G. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS**H. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER****1. Financial report****2. Monthly briefing****I. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****J. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS****K. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS****L. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Town Council approved this ordinance on November 8, 2017. By Charter Sec. 5.5.5.3, the Representative Town Meeting shall have the power to reject any legislative ordinance passed by the Town Council, except for an ordinance of consolidation as defined in Sec. 2.6. This veto requires a two-thirds vote of the entire membership, to be filed with the Town Clerk not more than forty-five (45) days after the enactment of such ordinance by the Town Council.

2017-0172

Adoption of Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON AND TO ABOLISH THE ZONING COMMISSION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:

1. Although the Planning and Zoning Commissions have provided the townspeople of the Town of Groton consistently exemplary service, changing economic and other conditions, including the increasing uncertainty of the State of Connecticut's ability to provide revenues to the municipalities, have caused the Town Council to reconsider the utility of having two separate commissions. Information obtained by the Town Council strongly indicates that it would be in the Town's best interest to create a combined Planning and Zoning Commission in order to, among other things, unify and expedite the processes of obtaining zoning approvals and thus encourage economic development.
2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-4a, the Planning Commission is hereby designated as the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Town of Groton, and said Planning and Zoning Commission shall have all powers granted to planning commissions, zoning commissions, and planning and zoning commissions by the laws of the State of Connecticut, including without limitation the powers granted planning and zoning commissions by Chapters 124 and 126 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
3. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall consist of seven regular members and three alternates, all of whom shall serve five-year terms, and each of whom shall be a resident elector of the Town and appointed by a majority vote of the Town Council. The present terms of office of the five regular and three alternate members of the Planning Commission, including any currently vacant seats, shall continue until their current expiration date. Thereafter, the Town Council shall appoint regular and alternate members for terms of five-years. The terms of the two additional seats for regular members created hereby shall terminate on December 31, 2021, and shall thereafter be filled for five year terms. No regular or alternate member of the Planning and Zoning commission may concurrently be a regular or alternate member of the Town of Groton Zoning Board of Appeals.
4. Alternate members shall have all the powers and duties conferred on alternate members of a planning and zoning commission by the General Statutes. Alternates shall be designated to act

according to a regular rotation process so as to assure to the extent practicable equal participation by each in the affairs of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

5. The Town Council shall by an affirmative vote of five fill all vacancies of the regular and alternate members of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the unexpired portion of any term.

6. The Zoning Commission shall be abolished and shall cease to exist and the Planning Commission shall become the Planning and Zoning Commission on the earlier of January 4, 2019 or 45 days after the day on which written certification is given by the Director of the Office of Planning and Development Services to the Town Council and Town Clerk that the comprehensive re-write of the Zoning Regulations pending before the Zoning Commission on the date of passage of this Ordinance by the Town Council has been adopted by the Zoning Commission. As of the date on which the Zoning Commission is abolished hereunder, the Planning and Zoning Commission shall have jurisdiction over all applications, referrals, and other matters of any kind pending before the Zoning Commission and the Planning Commission.

7. This Ordinance shall be effective 45 days after enactment by the Council unless vetoed by the RTM.

Legislative History

6/21/2017	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
7/11/2017	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

Director of Planning and Development Jon Reiner and Assistant Director Deb Jones were present. Mr. Reiner noted the memo he submitted at the public hearing and explained that there will be delays in rewriting the Zoning Regulations if the Planning and Zoning Commissions are combined. Councilor Nault noted receipt of a call from Susan Dowling. Councilor Nault raised the issue of the size of the combined commission and Ms. Jones stated that five (with three alternates) would be desirable. The ordinance is written for seven, but that number can be reduced prior to adoption. Councilor Nault expressed support for eliminating both commissions. Councilor Antipas noted the Town Attorney's opinion based on statutory requirements that the Council chose one of the existing bodies for the combined commission. Councilor Barber noted the market analysis recommends combination of the commissions, and she supports it being done now. Mr. Reiner noted he has not polled the Planning Commission to see who would stay.

Discussion followed on the status of the project to rewrite the Zoning Regulations, the anticipated timeline for completion of the project, and the impact of combining the commissions.

A motion was made by Councilor Nault, seconded by Councilor Barber, to adopt the ordinance with the modification of five regular members and 3 alternates, effective in the middle of October.

Mayor Flax noted the comments received at the public hearing. Discussion followed on an appropriate timeline and whether or not members of the Planning Commission would continue to serve. The general consensus of the Council is to combine the commissions. Mayor Flax stated he will reach out to Planning Commission members to see who is interested in staying on a combined commission. Mayor Flax asked Mr. Reiner to provide a suggested timeline for the transition and to identify activities that the Zoning Commission is working on.

By consensus, Councilors postponed action on the motion.

8/22/2017	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution
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Director of Planning and Zoning Jon Reiner and Assistant Director Deb Jones were present. Mr. Reiner reported on items that are pending before the current Planning and Zoning Commissions. It will take about 18 months to finish the Zoning Regulation rewrite, hence his recommendation that the ordinance become effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Reiner explained the project timeline and discussion followed on establishing an earlier effective date.

8/22/2017	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Motion
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to adopt the ordinance designating the Planning Commission as the Planning and Zoning Commission and

