



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

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

Representative Town Meeting

Representatives Jeffrey Armstrong, Joseph Baril, Lori Bartinik, Genevieve Cerf, Wayne Chiapperini, Michael Collins, Joseph delaCruz, Luanne DeMatto, Debra Dickey, Susan Dowling, Shirley Dunbar-Rose, George Edwards Jr, Suzanne Elliot, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Barbara Hoelck, David Miner, Nancy Mitchell, Deborah Monteiro, Matt Morton, Scott Newsome, Nora Patterson, Darcy Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Rita Schmidt, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, George Swift, Patricia Thunberg, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, John Waller and Elizabeth Weil.

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

- A. ROLL CALL
- B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2004
- D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS
- E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS
- F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:
 - 1. Financial report
 - 2. Monthly briefing
- G. LIAISON REPORTS
 - 1. Town Council - Rep. Cerf
 - 2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Schmidt
 - 3. Town Council/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Rep. Patterson
 - 4. Permanent School Building Committee - Rep. Miner
 - 5. P.B.F.D. Consolidation Review Committee - Reps. Steinfeld & Svencer
 - 6. Economic Development Strategic Planning Steering Committee - Reps. Dowling & Mitchell
- H. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. FINANCE
 - a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Schmidt
 - 2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Dickey
 - 3. EDUCATION

- a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Newsome
- 4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
 - a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman DeMatto
- 5. RECREATION
 - a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman delaCruz
- 6. PUBLIC SAFETY
 - a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Vivirito
- 7. PUBLIC WORKS
 - a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Collins

2004-0263 Study for Water and Sewer Extension - Flanders Road Industrial Area

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT AND COST ESTIMATE STUDY FOR THE FLANDERS ROAD INDUSTRY AREA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered at length the needs, as expressed by local business owners, for extension of water and sewer facilities for the area known as the Flanders Road industry area, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has discussed these water and sewer concerns with the Groton Economic Development Commission, which now supports a professional study of whether sewer and water should be obtained for the Flanders Road area, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager should arrange for an engineering assessment study of the advantages or disadvantages of potential routes for sewer and water extensions, including detailed engineering costs and other costs affecting design, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a supplemental appropriation of \$100,000 is hereby made to the Capital Reserve from Contingency for this purpose.

Refer to RTM.

Legislative History

8/10/04	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution
8/17/04	Town Council	Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken
8/17/04	Town Council	Adopted
9/7/04	Town Council	Adopted and Referred

Representative Town Meeting
Councilors Kolnaski and Billing questioned if proper procedure was being followed in regards to the suspension of the rules of reconsideration. Mention was made of "opening Pandora's Box", going down a "slippery slope", and setting a precedent for the future.

Councilor Skrmetti asserted that this has been done before, and that it does take a two-thirds vote.

Councilor Bartinik noted Councilor Wright could make a motion to reconsider since she was on the prevailing side of the original vote that would eliminate any doubt that procedure is being followed correctly. Councilor Wright declined to make the motion.

Councilor Bartinik feels since the majority of the Council is in agreement they should move forward and vote on the item as presented.

10/13/04 Representative Town Meeting Referred RTM Public Works Committee
2004-0272 Steamboat Wharf Dredging

RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM GENERAL CONTINGENCY FOR DREDGING AT STEAMBOAT WHARF

WHEREAS, silt accumulation has again occurred in a lagoon of the Mystic River adjacent to the property known as Steamboat Wharf, and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the silt at that location results from a combination of runoff from both State and Town of Groton surfaces, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Transportation has obtained permits for five years of dredging, including permits for the placement of the dredged material, and

WHEREAS, if this dredging is carried out promptly, it can be performed at a reasonable cost by using Town staff and equipment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a transfer of \$21,000 from the General Contingency appropriation for FYE 2005 to the Department of Public Works.

Refer to RTM

Legislative History

8/27/04 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of tl
9/14/04 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

Director of Public Works Gary Schneider explained the request for a supplemental appropriation of \$21,000 for disposal costs associated with dredging the Mystic River next to Steamboat Wharf. Mr. Schneider stated that the material was tested and a disposal site identified. Councilor Wright stated that siltation is caused by runoff from the Town and the State roads and she wanted to know to what extent is the State participating in this dredging. Director Schneider explained that the State made an in-kind contribution to the first permit to dredge the area, and the State applied for a permit from DEP. The Town up-fronted the engineering cost of the permit application, which was close to \$10,000. The State also trucked material to Welles Road and paid for the dredging. Councilor Wright wanted to know if there was any way the State could help out with transporting material to New Hampshire. Councilor Billing stated that her understanding is that we really don't have a choice, if we let the silt pile up in the river it could eventually threaten using the river for the boats as well as damage the marine life there, and it would be a foolhardy decision for us not to do this. Unfortunately it is going to cost \$100,000 every five years and the price will go up over time. Natalie asked why the responsibilities were not shared with Stonington. Town Manager Oefinger answered that this is not silt that is in the middle of the river, it is in the lagoon area and it services the Groton side of Mystic. We are not dredging the Stonington side of the river. He said we would find a way to stop or slow down siltation, but we are not at that point. The permit allows us to do this twice a year.

9/14/04 Town Council Committee of Motion
the Whole

to recommend Alternative 1 for resolution.

Councilor Bartinik suggested waiting in the hope of finding a closer disposal facility. The Town Manager told him that we would not be able to remove the silt ourselves at that point and have to hire somebody with a dredging machine. He noted that sometime within five years there would be some sort of drainage improvement to catch the silt. Councilor Sheets spoke of Mumford Cove, that they did very extensive dredging of the cove and got permission to replenish the beach. She asked if we could replenish Esker Beach. Director Schneider answered no. This type of material is stuff for covering. In the future, the Town will sweep in the middle of winter to catch the material before it gets into the basin

9/21/04 **Town Council** **Deleted from Referral List -
Action to be taken**

9/21/04 **Town Council** **Adopted and Referred** **Representative Town Meeting**
Councilor Skrmetti suggested Groton dispose of the dredged material with similar material New York is disposing of from a larger area of water they are dredging. Town Manager Oefinger speculated that New York is probably dumping the dredged material into the ocean, but he will find out for sure.

10/13/04 **Representative Town Meeting Referred** **RTM Public Works Committee**
2004-0293 Road Acceptance

ACCEPTANCE OF PROSPECT STREET AT THE MYSTIC SHORES OVERLOOK SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, at its September 28, 2004 meeting, recommended the acceptance of Prospect Street at the Mystic Shores Overlook Subdivision, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby accepts Prospect Street at the Mystic Shores Overlook Subdivision.

Legislative History

10/4/04 **Planning Commission** **Referred** **Representative Town Meeting**

10/13/04 **Representative Town Meeting Referred** **RTM Public Works Committee**
**2004-0261 Land/Easement Acquisitions - Pleasant Valley Road
South Reconstruction**

RESOLUTION APPROVING LAND EASEMENT ACQUISITION FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD SOUTH

WHEREAS, the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road South was authorized by a bond referendum of \$3,833,986 in November, 2001, and

WHEREAS, the ordinance for this project included funds for the acquisition of necessary property rights for right-of-way and drainage, and

WHEREAS, care was taken in the road's design to minimize impacts to the abutting property owners, and

WHEREAS, the cost of the project is now expected to be substantially lower than the amount that was approved for borrowing, and

WHEREAS, the land needed by the Department of Public Works has been professionally appraised at a total value of about \$44,700, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town staff may negotiate with each property owner, and if the needed land or easements can be purchased for not more than the total appraised value, may enter into legal agreements for such acquisitions, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may execute all legal and related documents necessary for the effectuation of this Resolution.

Legislative History

8/6/04 **Mayor** **Referred** **Town Council Committee of tl**

9/14/04 **Town Council Committee of the Whole** **Recommended for a Resolution**

Director Gary Schneider reported that the Town went to referendum several years ago for reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road South. \$3.8 million was bonded and included money to purchase land and drainage

