



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

## Meeting Agenda

### Town Council

*Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeeter, and Harry A. Watson*

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

### REGULAR MEETING

#### I. ROLL CALL

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2012-0309 Proclamation Recognizing the Fortieth Anniversary of  
Noank Group Homes & Support Services

Proclamation - TC

#### IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

#### V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

##### a. Approval of Minutes

2013-0017 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 18, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

##### b. Administrative Items

2012-0341 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Margaret and Frank Adams - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Austin and Carol Alvarez - \$120.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Anonymous - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cardinal Honda - \$404.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Russ Musante - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Mystic Lions Club - \$1,250 - Social Services Discretionary

Mystic River Homes Inc-Residents Council - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Northern Lights - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Par Four - \$600.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Barbara Palm - \$1,000 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Red Hats - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Saint David's Episcopal Church - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Susan Decorte-McMillan - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Pfizer - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 2163 - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Wanda Croxton - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Groton Board of Education Employees - \$88.53 - Social Services Discretionary  
 J. Dempsey Associates - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Peter Justin - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Edward and Catherine Kolnaski - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Mystic and Noank Library - \$3.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Old Mystic Fire District - \$362.50 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Pequot Health Center - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Progeny Systems - \$85.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Charles Rogers - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Gladys Rogers - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 St. Andrew Presbyterian Church - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 City of Groton Matching Funds - \$1,599.81 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Mary Dickson - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Peter and Ana Dikan - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Neal or Iris Dow - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Lee Hinerfeld - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Elizabeth Hogan - \$150.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Kay Janney - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Arthur Jerbert - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Lawrence and Beverly Lacerte - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Anna Marie Landry - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Raymond and Jane Macionus - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Donald Mosher - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Saranne Murray - \$150.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Herta Payson - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Louis Price - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Denise and Matthew Shafner - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Suisman Shapiro - \$1,000.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Richard Turner - \$250.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Wendell Windisch - \$75.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

2012-0001	Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0002	Republican Town Committee Appointments (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0003	Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0004	Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral

2012-0005	Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0006	Joint Meeting with Groton Long Point Board of Directors (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0007	Meeting with State Legislators (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0011	Groton Long Point Request for a Supplemental Appropriation	Referral
2012-0051	Joint Meeting with Stonington Board of Selectmen (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0101	Labor Negotiations (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0167	Pending Litigation (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0239	Revised Position Descriptions (2012 Standing Referral)	Referral
2012-0238	School Facilities Initiative Task Force	Referral
2012-0342	FYE 2012 CAFR	Referral
2012-0343	Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan	Referral
2013-0013	Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant	Referral
2013-0016	Pre-Budget Public Hearing	Referral

## VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

- a. Town Councilors
- b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting
- c. Clerk of the Council
- d. Town Manager
- e. Town Attorney

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson
- d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti
- e. Finance - Chairman Morton
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax
- g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter
- h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas
- i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

## IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## X. NEW BUSINESS

2012-0238	School Facilities Initiative Task Force	Referral
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## RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SCHOOL FACILITIES INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Board of Education recognize the need to address elementary and middle school redistricting and provide recommendations for the design of a school system that reflects the system's long-term vision, and takes into consideration educational programs, budgets, facilities, and demographic changes, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has authorized the Town Manager to enter in an agreement with Milone & MacBroom to assist a School Facilities Initiative Task Force and facilitate the development of a long-range facility plan for the schools, and

WHEREAS, the time schedule to perform this assignment is estimated by Milone & MacBroom to be seven months, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby establishes the School Facilities Initiative Task Force, consisting of the following representatives appointed by the Mayor:

Town Council (2) - James Streeter, Deb Peruzzotti  
 RTM (1) - Jean Claude Ambroise  
 Board of Education (2) - Rita Volkmann, Kim Shepardson Watson  
 Permanent School Building Committee (1) - Enrico DeMatto  
 Planning Commission (1) - Hal Zod  
 School Administrator (1) - Karen Bryer  
 School Teachers (2) - Tricia Semancik, Robert Beaulieu Jr.  
 Citizens-at-Large (9) - Kevin Fital, Holly Bresnahan, Jon Heller, Craig Koehler, Wes Greenleaf, Melissa Roode, Kevin Trejo, Dan O'Donnell, Marc Denno  
 Ex-Officio Members - Heather Somers (Mayor), Kirsten Hoyt (Board of Education Chair)  
 Staff - Mark R. Oefinger (Town Manager), Gary Schneider (Director of Public Works), Michael Murphy (Director of Planning and Development), John Ramos (Interim Superintendent of Schools), Bill Robarge (Director of Buildings and Grounds)

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the School Facilities Initiative Task Force shall issue a report of its findings to the Town Council upon completion of the long-range facility plan.

Legislative History

<b>8/6/2012</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Referred</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of th</b>
<b>8/15/2012</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Discussed</b>	

*A proposal was submitted to the Board of Education by Milone and MacBroom (M&M) for activities associated with the school facilities initiative. Mayor Somers feels that M&M would be a vital asset in moving forward on the schools noting that they would act as a facilitator for the School Facilities Initiative Task Force. M&M is currently working on the Plan of Conservation and Development update and with Board of Education on redistricting. The FYE 2013 CIP includes \$75,000 for the next phase of the school plan. M&M estimates that it will take about seven months for the committee to formulate a plan. The Town Manager reminded that Council that M&M does not provide architectural services. If the Task Force identifies an approach, the Town would still have to hire someone to come up with more definitive designs and cost estimates. Town Manager Oefinger noted that approximately \$50,000 in funding remains in an old CIP project for Phase II design work, which may be accessible.*

*Although this proposal is addressed to the Board of Education, historically these efforts have been managed by the Town. The Town Manager noted upcoming staff changes at Groton Public Schools including the retirement of Wes Greenleaf. Mayor Somers expressed support for entering into an agreement with M&M with the Town Council heading up the effort. Councilor Johnson feels the Town should wait until a Superintendent is in place to avoid the problems encountered in the last Phase II effort. Discussion followed on the Board of Education's role in making sure a new Superintendent is on board with the plan.*

Town Manager Oefinger also has concerns with bringing a new Superintendent on board in the middle of the process. He emphasized that this must be a joint effort of the Town Council and Board of Education, but managing the contract is strictly an administrative item. It is unknown how the two bodies can move forward without a point person (a Superintendent or Wes Greenleaf) to provide continuity. It has been difficult to even arrange meetings with the Board of Education and there must be active involvement by both the Town Council and Board of Education throughout the process. Wes Greenleaf played a large role in previous efforts and did a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes. The Town Manager questioned how this effort will fit into the Board's priorities since they will be particularly busy in upcoming months.

The Town Manager will reach out to Wes Greenleaf, Caroline Dickey and Mike Zuba regarding M&M's proposal and report back to the Council. Mayor Somers will speak to Kristin Hoyt about the plan when Wes Greenleaf retires.

**10/9/2012      Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole**

Town Manager Oefinger noted receipt of an updated proposal from Milone and MacBroom to provide consultant services for the long-range school facilities plan. If the Council wants to proceed with the effort, against staff's recommendation, the Town Manager needs authorization to sign the agreement.

The Town Manager reiterated that in light of issues the Board of Education is facing, the redistricting effort, and the POCD update, he would recommend waiting until the beginning of the year.

Mayor Somers agreed that the effort is premature. She fears that when the Committee is set up they will want to move forward, but the school administration has indicated that they do not have the staff to support the committee.

Councilor Peruzzotti stated she would like to see the redistricting results before moving forward.

Mayor Somers noted that the consultant expressed a desire to wait as well. He feels that having the redistricting and POCD demographic information in hand would be desirable. Mayor Somers stated that she knows people are eager, but the Town must have a direction before starting the effort.

Councilor Streeter agreed that it might be a good idea to wait given the staffing issues that the Board of Education is facing.

Councilor Morton noted that some people are afraid that nothing will get done, but she doesn't see the hurry. Councilor Johnson feels it is important to have the superintendent and facilities director in place before the effort begins. Councilor Schmidt agreed that the project is too important to rush into.

Councilor Flax supports moving forward in some respect noting that there is never an optimal time. He feels that monitoring the redistricting effort would be helpful for this committee. Councilor Flax expressed frustration with the delay. Councilor Antipas also expressed support for having the task force start meeting.

Councilor Peruzzotti asked if the potential issues being discussed will impact the consultant's proposed timeline. Mayor Somers explained that the committee needs to be up and running without gaps of time where they are being fed information. Mayor Somers noted that there is not even enough information in the Vision Reports from the Board of Education. She does not believe that the Town Council is responsible for the delay. Mayor Somers has tried to get more information and to get the Board of Education together, but there has been no cooperation. She does not feel comfortable setting up a committee that she can't support. The Town Council is not in charge of the schools' direction. It is the Board of Education's responsibility.

Councilor Morton noted the contract gives a specific deadline which is all the more reason to make sure that staff is able to provide the necessary information to the Committee. Councilor Peruzzotti suggested an informal meeting of the group to request their input. Councilor Johnson feels the committee should not be brought together until the contractor is brought on board and ready to go. Councilor Watson thinks it's fine if the group wants to meet, but once the contract is signed, the time clock starts. Councilor Flax suggested assigning a temporary moderator and giving the group some direction. He has no confidence that the effort will start in January. Councilor Morton asked what information the task force would familiarize themselves with and Councilor Flax stated historical data, the Phase II report, and redistricting information. Councilor Morton noted that the Town Manager and Groton Public Schools staff have said they do not have the time or the personnel to provide the information to the task force.

Town Manager Oefinger noted that his recommendation to wait is based on the redistricting effort (which is now being challenged by the Board of Education) and the update of the Plan of Conservation and Development. The Town Manager is concerned with staffing, especially with Wes Greenleaf retiring, but his real focus is that there are a lot of things in process that are critical that will feed this effort. He does not want to Spoil the well and hand out previous reports. He does not know where the redistricting effort is because of the challenge, but the Town Manager still feels that January will be a good time to start because the POCD information should be available at that time.

10/9/2012 Town Council Committee of Motion  
the Whole

to defer the first meeting of the School Facilities Initiative Task Force to Wednesday, January 23, 2013

10/9/2012 Town Council Committee of Motion  
the Whole

to authorize the Town Manager to sign the agreement with Milone and MacBroom with revised dates.

Councilor Antipas expressed concern with some of the terms and conditions of the contract, which he will discuss with the Town Manager

12/11/2012 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole

Mayor Somers noted this item was placed on the agenda to be in a position for the Task Force to start meeting in mid-January. However, the Mayor has spoken with Mr. Robarge and he has indicated that both he and the interim superintendent Mr. Ramos feel that starting this in January is too early because the Board is in a 'tricky' situation right now. Mayor Somers suggested a joint meeting with the Board of Education on January 8th to discuss the issue. She noted that she has heard there may be Board members who do not want to use Milone and MacBroom as the facilitator for the Task Force.

Councilor Flax encouraged citizens of the Town to talk to the Board of Education about what they want. He feels this constant moving around endangers the project.

1/8/2013 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole

1/8/2013 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a  
the Whole Resolution

2012-0342 FYE 2012 CAFR Referral

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FYE 2012 AUDIT REPORT

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the annual audit of the Town of Groton's finances, covering the fiscal year from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the Council has discussed the audit findings with the manager of the audit team from the firm of Blum Shapiro, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts and files the FYE 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the Auditor's Reports and Management Letter.

Legislative History

12/31/2012 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

1/8/2013 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole

1/8/2013 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a  
the Whole Resolution

2012-0343 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Referral

ADOPTION OF TOWN OF GROTON HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and is continues to be vulnerable to the effects of flooding, thunderstorms, high wind, winter storms, wildfires, earthquakes, and dam failure, resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and

threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, of whom the Town of Groton is a member, has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its Hazard Mitigation Plan Update under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town of Groton; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of Groton, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of Groton eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Groton that:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Groton;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Town Council by October 1 of each calendar year.

Legislative History

12/31/2012	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
1/8/2013	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
1/8/2013	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

**2013-0013 Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Referral**

RESOLUTION ENDORSING PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR A REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANT

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s, as amended by Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 establishes the Regional Performance Incentive Program to fund projects or studies designed to provide cost saving services to municipalities on a regional basis, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), of which the Town of Groton is a member, has identified two potential projects to benefit the 20 SCCOG municipalities, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council endorses the Regional Performance Incentive Program referenced in Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) and the proposals, submitted by the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), as follows:

- Comprehensive Plan and Model for Shared Services, Staff, and Equipment by SCCOG Municipalities
- Fire and Other Emergency Services Equipment Analysis and Plan for the Southeastern

Connecticut Region

Legislative History

1/8/2013      Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole

1/8/2013      Town Council Committee of      Recommended for a  
the Whole                              Resolution

**2013-0016      Pre-Budget Public Hearing**

**Referral**

RESOLUTION SETTING FYE 2014 PRE-BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to provide a formal opportunity for Citizen input on the FYE 2014 Budget prior to the Town Manager submitting the proposed budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a pre-budget public hearing on the FYE 2014 Town Budget on Tuesday, February 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

Legislative History

1/8/2013      Town Council Committee of      Recommended for a  
the Whole                              Resolution

**XI.      OTHER BUSINESS**

**XII.      ADJOURNMENT**