



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

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

Town Council

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Presentation of plaques to former Town Councilors Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah Monteiro and Paulann Sheets

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0060 Approval of Minutes (Town Council) Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 7, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2012-0046 Special Trust Fund Contributions Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Lois Constantine - \$25.00 - Maritime Academy Miscellaneous

Joellen Anderson - \$200.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Alan M. Major - \$66.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Mystic Congregational Church - \$158.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2009-0039 Recommendations of the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community Referral

2012-0033 Senior Center Modifications Referral

2012-0037 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Implementation Committee Request Referral

2012-0043 Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee Membership Modification Referral

2011-0257 Groton Parks Foundation - Memorandum of Understanding Referral

2012-0020 Reappointment of Raymond Munn and Michael Kane to Planning Commission Referral

2012-0026	Department of Transportation Division of Highway Safety Equipment Grant	Referral
2012-0039	Aquarion License Agreement	Referral
2012-0054	Appointment of Mark Somers to the Historic District Commission	Referral
2012-0055	Appointment of Karen Morton to the Board of Assessment Appeals	Referral
2012-0056	Appointment of Deborah Monteiro to Board of Assessment Appeals	Referral
2012-0059	Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments	Referral
2012-0065	Resolution to Not Reappoint Nancy Mitchell to Historic District Commission	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 O'Beirne
- 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

2011-0257	Groton Parks Foundation - Memorandum of Understanding	Referral
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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GROTON PARKS FOUNDATION TO MANAGE GRANTS FOR THE COPP PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Groton Parks Foundation, Inc. has received two grants from the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to create a meadow/field and to improve the existing trail system at the Copp Property, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Parks Foundation would like the Town to manage the projects with the Foundation retaining the responsibility to pay invoices for the projects, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Groton Parks Foundation, Inc. to manage the Copp property grants for a meadow/field and trail system improvements, and to proceed with the two projects.

Legislative History

12/30/2011 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th
2/14/2012 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

Doug Ackerman, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation, and Neill Brown, Treasurer of the Groton Parks Foundation, were present to address the Council. A grant was previously received by the Groton Parks Foundation to build a small parking lot. The project was completed by Public Works and Parks Maintenance. Remaining funds have been redirected to a passive meadow project. The Foundation has also received a grant to make improvements to the trail system. There is a need to move ahead so the dollars are not lost. Parks and Recreation and Public Works are looking for authorization to move forward and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Groton Parks Foundation for the Town to build the facilities on the Foundation's behalf.

2/14/2012 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

Councilor O'Beirne asked what an 'events park' is. Mr. Ackerman explained that it would be a meadow and the work will prevent it from being reforested. There is a long term potential for additional uses when there are more amenities such as parking. Mr. Brown noted that originally Poquonnock Plains Park was envisioned as an events field, but it was determined to not be appropriate for that location because of the fields. The Copp Board has determined that there is opposition to active development of the property so they are leaning toward passive recreation. The private initiative by the Groton Parks Foundation to open the dog park led to more use of the property. The priority now is to develop existing trails and to make space available for other purposes.

The group that still feels there is a need for an events field is associated with the Submarine Base. The Copp Board wants this area to be a low impact, passive field that fits in with the surrounding environment. Councilor O'Beirne asked about the availability of parking. Mr. Brown estimated the carnival at Burrows field used about 10 acres. The Sub Base's carnival would require 6 acres so that parking would be on the field.

Mr. Brown also made the Council aware of areas on the property considered to be vernal pools that need to be protected.

Councilor Watson asked if an archaeological study has been done. Mr. Brown stated that the original farm site is in the middle of the property and this proposal is not anywhere near there.

2012-0026 Department of Transportation Division of Highway Safety Equipment Grant Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAY SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police plans to utilize The Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety Equipment grant funding to obtain traffic cones and traffic signs to supplement the existing inventory for use at OUI sobriety checkpoints and seatbelt checkpoints increasing the visibility for all motorists entering the transition area and activity areas of the spot checks and reduce the risk to officers assigned to work within those areas, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the grant is to remain in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as published by the Federal Highway Administration, increasing overall safety by enhancing visibility for motorists entering transition areas and activity areas of any spot checks conducted and reduce the risk to officers assigned to work within those areas further supporting the driving under the influence law enforcement efforts in the prevention, detection, and apprehension of OUI offenders, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Police Department participates in and regularly conducts OUI sobriety checkpoints and Seatbelt checkpoints each year, and

WHEREAS, during the years 2008 through 2009 the Town of Groton has made over 500 OUI Arrests and investigated over 100 OUI related crashes (21 with injuries and 3 fatalities), and

WHEREAS, with the purchase of new traffic safety equipment it is expected the Town of Groton Police Department will increase the number of OUI sobriety check points conducted in a calendar year, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may apply for the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety Equipment grant with an anticipated total state grant funding portion of \$3,000 (86%) and the additional police department soft match (14%) portion of \$488.45 as provided under the grant provisions.

Legislative History

2012-0039	1/11/2012	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Finance Commi
	2/14/2012	Town Council Finance Committee	Recommended for a Resolution	
		Aquarion License Agreement		Referral

RESOLUTION APPROVING A LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND AQUARION WATER COMPANY FOR PARKING SPACES

WHEREAS, Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut is a domestic corporation having an office at 600 Lindley Street, Bridgeport, CT 06606 ("Aquarion") and owns a 0.48-acre parcel of real property located at 258 High Street, Groton, Connecticut, which contains Aquarion's High Street Booster Station Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton ("Town") operates a facility for public recreation at 230 High Street, Groton, Connecticut, adjoining Licensor's property on the south and east; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires, pursuant to a License Agreement, to utilize a portion of Aquarion's High Street Booster Station Property for the purpose of providing off-street parking for Town employees, agents, and members of the public utilizing the public recreation facility, the specific location of such parking spaces to be determined by Aquarion; and

WHEREAS, in exchange for such license, Aquarion requires no fee, but requires that the Town accept responsibility and any resulting liability from its acts or omissions on the licensed premises during its authorized term; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may execute the License Agreement referred to herein along with any ancillary documents that may be required.

Legislative History

1/23/2012	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
2/14/2012	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

Town Manager Oefinger provided a history of this issue. When the Mystic Academy parcel was sold by the Town, all of the off-street parking for the retained parklet was lost. Aquarion is willing to allow people to park in the lot associated with their pump station, but they are requiring a license agreement. There are no fees associated with the agreement.

2/14/2012	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution
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Councilor Antipas noted that the Town is assuming the risks associated with the agreement. The Town

Manager indicated there will be no increase in liability insurance costs.

- 2012-0020 Reappointment of Raymond Munn and Michael Kane to Planning Commission Referral**

RESOLUTION REAPPPOINTING RAYMOND MUNN AND MICHAEL KANE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Raymond S. Munn, 26 Middlefield Street, Groton Long Point, is hereby reappointed to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/16, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Michael D. Kane, 51 Jupiter Point Road, is hereby reappointed to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/16.

Legislative History

2/14/2012 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee (2011)

- 2012-0054 Appointment of Mark Somers to the Historic District Commission Referral**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARK J. SOMERS AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Mark J. Somers, 67 Ramsdell Street, is hereby appointed as an alternate member to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/15.

Legislative History

2/14/2012 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee (2011)

- 2012-0055 Appointment of Karen Morton to the Board of Assessment Appeals Referral**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING KAREN F. MORTON AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Karen F. Morton, 67 Mariners Lane, Mystic, is hereby appointed as an alternate member to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending 12/31/12.

Legislative History

2/14/2012 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee (2011)

- 2012-0056 Appointment of Deborah Monteiro to Board of Assessment Appeals Referral**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEBORAH B. MONTEIRO TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Deborah B. Monteiro, 70 Spyglass Circle, is hereby appointed as a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending 12/31/13 pursuant to Town Ordinance No. 253.

Legislative History

2/14/2012 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee (2011)

- 2012-0059 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments Referral**

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, the Town Council makes appointments to miscellaneous and ad hoc local and regional

committees as well as appointing liaisons to other groups, and

WHEREAS, upon its election every two years the Town Council should reconsider these appointments, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following individuals are appointed to the groups as noted:

Boating Advisory Board Liaison - Councilor Dean Antipas
 Economic Development Commission Liaison - Councilors William Johnson and Deborah Peruzzotti
 Golf Advisory Board - Councilor James Streeter (ex-officio, non-voting)
 Long Island Sound Advisory Council - Councilor Harry Watson
 Mystic Cooperative Task Force - Mayor Heather Somers
 New London Ledge Lighthouse Board of Directors - Councilors James Streeter and Rita Schmidt
 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee - Councilor Bruce Flax
 Pequot Woods Board of Trustees - Councilor Frank O'Beirne
 Sister Cities Committee - Councilor William Johnson
 Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments - Mayor Heather Somers and Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger (Alternate)
 Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority - Gary Schneider and John Carrington (Alternate)
 Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board - Councilor Dean Antipas and Resident Mary Lou Smith
 Town Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Councilors Frank O'Beirne, Deborah Peruzzotti, Harry Watson and Bruce Flax

Legislative History

2012-0065	2/14/2012 Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	Referral
	Resolution to Not Reappoint Nancy Mitchell to Historic District Commission		

RESOLUTION TO NOT REAPPOINT NANCY A. MITCHELL TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council does not reappoint Nancy A. Mitchell of 711 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, whose term expired on 12/31/11, to the Historic District Commission.

Legislative History

2/14/2012	Town Council Personnel/Appointments/Rules /Legislation Committee (2011)	Recommended for a Resolution
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XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT