



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 Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Heather Bond Somers and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, March 04, 2014

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

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

2014-0074 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 18, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2014-0070 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:

Mystic Photo Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous

E. C. Lambert - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Groton Utilities Matching Funds - \$1,168.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Mary Atha - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$11.76 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Nancy Chester - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Mystic River Homes, Inc. - \$50.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous
 Anonymous - \$50.00 - DARE Miscellaneous

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2014-0022	Request for Police Chiefs to Appear before the Town Council to Comment on Town-Wide Police Study	Referral
2014-0057	Pre-Budget Open Discussion with the Public	Referral
2014-0062	Fair Housing Action Plan for 2014	Referral
2014-0038	Community Development Block Grant Application	Referral
2014-0066	Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Foundation Grant	Referral
2014-0061	Resolution Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in FYE 2014	Referral
2014-0072	Resolution #2 Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in FYE 2014	Referral
2014-0073	Resolution #3 Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in FYE 2014	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
- b. Economic Development
- c. Education/Health & Social Services
- d. Environment/Energy
- e. Finance
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules
- g. Public Safety
- h. Public Works/Recreation
- i. Committee of the Whole

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

2014-0062	Fair Housing Action Plan for 2014	Referral
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RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FAIR HOUSING ACTION PLAN FOR 2014

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States in 1866 (the 1866 Civil Rights Act, 42, U.S.C. 1982) has declared that all citizens of the United States shall have the same rights to inherit, purchase, lease,

sell, hold, and convey real and personal property;

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has further declared by the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Fair Housing Act (P.L. 90-284) (18 U.S.C. 245) (hereinafter called the "Act") that it is the policy of the United States to provide, within Constitutional limitations, for fair housing throughout the United States, thereby prohibiting discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex in the sale or rental of housing; and

WHEREAS, Section 808 and 809 of the Act provide that the authority and responsibility for administering the Act shall be vested in the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (hereinafter called the "Secretary") and the Secretary is required to cooperate with and render technical assistance to private agencies, groups, and institutions which are formulating or carrying on programs to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices and to undertake conciliatory activities which will further the purpose of fair housing and to work out programs of voluntary compliance with the cooperation and advice of the housing industry and other interested persons; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton believes that the national policy of fair housing can effectively be promoted through programs of affirmative action in the private housing industry and markets; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton believes it desirable to establish a local fair housing plan for the purpose of effectuating the requirements of all applicable fair housing laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to encourage public and private cooperation in achieving fair housing through affirmative action and other efforts, the Town of Groton establishes this Fair Housing Action Plan for 2014 ("Plan");

A. STATEMENT OF EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY POLICY

The Town Council affirms the Town's policy of promoting and assuring equal housing opportunity based on the aforementioned civil rights and legislation. This policy is intended to be consistent with, and to meet the requirements and objectives of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Title V or the National Housing Act (as amended), and all legislation related to non-discrimination in housing. To implement this policy, the Town has adopted this plan, the principal objectives of which are (1) to take steps to encourage full compliance with all the requirements of the fair housing laws by all affected private and public persons, institutions, agencies, or bodies, and (2) where appropriate, promote and encourage affirmative marketing and similar efforts within the Town.

The Town Council affirms that the Town of Groton is committed to promoting Fair Housing choice and not discriminating against any person, as prohibited in the General Statutes 46a-64c as amended. Pursuant to this legislation, the Town of Groton shall not discriminate against any of the following classes: race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

The Town Council affirms the Town of Groton's commitment to promoting racial and economic integration in any housing developed or supported with State or Federal Funding. Further, the Town Council affirms that the Town of Groton offers its fair housing services and assistance to beneficiaries from all racial and ethnic groups as well as the physically and mentally handicapped and families with children, and to a broad range of income eligible persons.

While the principal persons, institutions, agencies, and bodies who potentially will make the greatest contribution to achieving attainment of the above objectives are Realtors, Lenders, Developers, Apartment and other Rental Unit Owners and Managers and Town and Governmental units having responsibility for building and providing housing, the Town Council also believes that it is important to strive for maximum public awareness and participation in the process of achieving these fair housing objectives.

As representative for the Office of Planning and Development Services, the Neighborhood and Community Planner Susan C. Cullen, AICP, as the Town's Fair Housing Officer, exercises primary leadership in carrying out the Town's affirmative action efforts. To assist her in carrying out these policies, the Director of Planning and Development may assign one or more individual employees to assist the Neighborhood and Community Planner with responsibilities for implementing equal housing responsibilities. The Planner is located at 134 Groton Long Point Road, Groton, CT 06340 (860.446.5990).

Positive action and initiative should be taken if housing is to be open to all. Accordingly, specific educational and other goals will be established and good faith effort by all Town department heads in helping to achieve such goals will be required. The Town must reach out and draw upon all possible sources so that men and women of all backgrounds are aware of housing opportunities within the Town.

B. STATEMENT OF GOALS

1. To seek full compliance by all citizens with all Fair Housing Laws, including but not limited to, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Title V of the National Housing Act (as amended), and the Connecticut Public Accommodations Act (Title 53 of Connecticut General Statutes).
2. To identify and work with those persons, groups, or agencies having resources and ability to significantly impact the achievement of Fair Housing objectives set forth above.
3. To promote Fair Housing in the Town by dissemination of relevant information as to Fair Housing requirements to all persons having a direct involvement and interest in the provision of housing, including Realtors, Lending institutions, Developers, Apartment and other Rental Unit Owners and affected Town agencies. More specifically, it is intended that the Neighborhood and Community Planner will:
 - a. Keep current on all pertinent State and Federal legislation relating to Fair Housing;
 - b. Disseminate to Realtors, Developers, and Multi-family Dwelling Unit Owners, information concerning Federal and State Fair Housing Laws affecting them, and to offer guidance or assistance to such persons as to affirmative marketing and other techniques;
 - c. Assist affected Town agencies in the administration of Town programs or requirements, which impact housing opportunities.

C. ADMINISTRATION

1. General responsibility for the implementation and day-to-day administration of this plan shall be vested with the Neighborhood and Community Planner and any other staff so designated by the Director of Planning and Development.
2. General responsibility for periodically evaluating the extent to which the objectives of this Plan have been achieved, for identifying problem areas and recommending changes to this Plan and for working with providers and other private groups to develop educational and other programs to carry out the objectives of this Plan shall be vested with the Neighborhood and Community Planner. The Town Council may request the affected Town agencies, Boards, or Commissions to designate one or more persons from such organizations to work with or assist the Neighborhood and Community Planner in the performance of these obligations.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

1. Dissemination
 - a. Copies of this plan shall be distributed to all Town and local governmental departments,

agencies, boards, and commissions having any official responsibility relating to any aspect of housing opportunities within the Town.

b. Copies of this plan shall be made available to all persons, institutions, or agencies public and private, having a direct involvement and interest in the provisions of housing (hereinafter referred to as "providers") including those referred to in paragraph B (2) above, with a request that such be retained and made available for examination at their respective premises.

c. Each provider shall be requested to disseminate to their agents and employees having responsibility for housing functions, copies of the "Plan" in order that such agents and employees may be familiar with such policies.

2. Educational Programs

The Neighborhood and Community Planner shall have the responsibility to disseminate copies of the Plan; to participate in educational workshops or seminars concerning Fair Housing legislation; to provide information to all parties concerning the Fair Housing grievance procedure and to provide information regarding Fair Housing activities to the Town Council. Further, the Neighborhood and Community Planner shall celebrate Fair Housing month every April by making Fair Housing brochures and educational pamphlets available in Town Hall and at the public libraries. Further, the Neighborhood and Community Planner or his designee shall attend at least one Fair Housing Seminar a year as they become available within the State of Connecticut and shall attend any State sponsored event in recognition of Fair Housing month in April of each year.

E. REVIEW PROCEDURES

The Neighborhood and Community Planner shall be the assigned person within the Office of Planning and Development Services responsible for the implementation of the Plan and shall have the primary responsibility for reviewing the day-to-day effectiveness of the efforts to carry out the objectives of this Plan, including:

1. Developing and distributing the forms needed to properly file fair housing grievances;
2. Providing staff assistance for attending meetings of the Town Council and keeping the Town Council informed, through the Town Manager's office, of all grievances and other related fair housing activities.
3. Maintaining a separate Fair Housing file, which documents all actions taken to affirmatively further fair housing opportunities in Groton. Said file shall be open for inspection to the public to the extent consistent with privacy rights of individual citizens.

F. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Any person who feels that he or she has been discriminated against in an attempt to secure housing in the Town of Groton may file a complaint with the Fair Housing Officer of the Town of Groton at Town Hall Annex (134 Groton Long Point Road, Groton, CT 06340). Complaints shall be filed no later than sixty (60) days after the act of discrimination occurred. To facilitate and standardize the complaint filing procedure, forms provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may be used. Additional forms or background information will be developed as required. The Fair Housing Officer shall review the complaint and if the Fair Housing Officer cannot effect voluntary compliance with the law at the local level, the complainant shall be referred to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and/or the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. The Fair Housing Officer shall be responsible for keeping track of all referrals and providing whatever assistance is needed by the agencies involved. All complaints and follow-ups shall be recorded and kept in the Fair Housing file. As of the date of approval of this plan there have been no complaints filed or recorded. Should a complaint occur this Plan shall be updated to document how the complaint was handled.

G. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Neighborhood and Community Planner shall be authorized to request technical assistance from the Department of Urban Development as contemplated by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as to the extent deemed necessary, to aid in the effectuation and implementation of this Plan.

H. EVALUATION AND PERIODIC REPORTING

1. The Neighborhood and Community Planner shall review the progress achieved under this Plan every twelve months following adoption hereof by the Town Council and report his evaluations and recommendations in connection therewith to the Town Council and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
2. If during the term of this Plan, the Neighborhood and Community Planner shall determine that any of the provisions of this Plan require modification or amendment, he/she shall forward the recommendation to the Town Council for approval or disapproval.
3. In carrying out such review and evaluation, the Neighborhood and Community Planner and the Town Council shall use their best efforts to involve providers and other persons affected by the Plan for the purpose of obtaining their views as to the achievements, deficiencies, or other suggestions for improved implementation of this Plan.

Legislative History

2/11/2014	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
2/25/2014	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

2014-0038 Community Development Block Grant Application Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE GROTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. § 5301, et. seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton wishes to provide financial assistance to the eligible public housing authority to upgrade their residential buildings, making them decent, safe and sanitary; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton conducted public hearings to receive citizen comments on housing and community development needs, prioritizing the housing authority as a community need; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Groton make application to the State for \$800,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development project and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered; now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the State financial assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statute; and
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Groton in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 is hereby approved and that Mark Oefinger, Town Manager is hereby authorized and directed to file such application with the Commissioner of the Department of

Economic and Community Development; to provide such additional information; to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner; to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance if such an agreement is offered; to execute any amendments, recessions, and revisions thereto; to implement project activities, if approved; and, to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Groton and to execute any other agreement or contract relative to said project.

3. That it adopts or has adopted on behalf of the Town of Groton a policy to support the following nondiscrimination agreements and warranties provided in subsection (a)(J) of Connecticut General Statutes sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a, respectively, as amended by Public Act 07-142, and for which purposes the "contractor" is the Town of Groton and "contract" is said Assistance Agreement:

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut. The contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract, such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employee without regard to their sexual orientation.

Legislative History

1/21/2014 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

1/28/2014 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

Town Manager Oefinger noted that there is a fair amount of rehabilitation work needed at both facilities run by the Groton Housing Authority (Grasso Gardens and Pequot Village). Town staff has had discussions with the Housing Authority and ECHO regarding an application for Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of \$800,000. The funds would go to the Housing Authority, but the Town would have to formally submit the application. The first step in the process is conducting a public hearing, which was recommended for February 18th.

1/28/2014 Town Council Committee of Motion the Whole

to schedule a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant application on February 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m

2/18/2014 Town Council Heard at Public Hearing

Mayor Schmidt called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:36 p.m.

The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by Town Clerk Moukawsher.

Sue Cullen, Planner II - Neighborhood & Community, gave a brief summary of the Community Block Grant Program. She stated that throughout the project she will be working closely with Senior Project Manager Andrew Woodstock of Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities and Chairman Nancy Codeanne of the Groton Housing Authority. Ms. Cullen announced that this year's grant money will be used at Pequot Village Senior Housing to replace doors and windows and to convert some of the units for handicapped accessibility.

There being no further comments, Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing at 7:44 p.m.

2/25/2014 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

2/25/2014 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

2014-0066 Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Foundation Grant Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHARTER OAK FEDERAL CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Foundation offers grants geared specifically to non-profit organizations that foster economic development and social well-being in both New London and Windham counties, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department is seeking permission to apply for a \$1,000 grant to partially fund the Park RACE (Regional Adventure Challenge and Expedition) event scheduled for Summer 2014, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee is authorized to apply for a \$1,000 grant from the Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Foundation in support of the 2014 Park RACE event.

Legislative History

2/14/2014 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

2/25/2014 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

**2014-0061 Resolution Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in Referral
FYE 2014**

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE SOLD - THAMES STREET REHABILITATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized \$6,375,505 general purpose bonds for the Thames Street Rehabilitation Program pursuant to Ordinance No. 275, and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut validated such action pursuant to Public Act No. 11-57, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 275 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$5,230,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance and Section 7-369 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Legislative History

2/25/2014 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

2/25/2014 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

**2014-0072 Resolution #2 Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued Referral
in FYE 2014**

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE SOLD - ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized \$11,200,000 general purpose bonds for the Road Maintenance Program pursuant to Ordinance No. 277, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 277 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be

sold, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$3,715,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance and Section 7-369 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Legislative History

2/25/2014 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

2014-0073 Resolution #3 Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued Referral
in FYE 2014

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE SOLD -
SENIOR CENTER

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized \$11,770,000 general purpose bonds for renovation and additions to the Groton Senior Center pursuant to Ordinance No. 270, and

WHEREAS, \$8,925,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$9,675,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$2,845,000, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 270 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$375,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

Legislative History

2/25/2014 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT