



# 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 Harry A. Watson, Councilors Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Bruce S. Flax, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streefer*

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

### REGULAR MEETING

#### I. ROLL CALL

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2009-0106 Proclamation Recognizing Silver Star Banner Day Proclamation - TC

2009-0109 Proclamation Recognizing Earth Day 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

2009-0101 Approval of Minutes (Town Council) Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of April 7, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

##### b. Administrative Items

2009-0094 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:

Lauren Gorham - \$10.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Jana Flaherty - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Joan Moffett Cook - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Benjamin Philbrick - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Various Donations - \$87.54 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Helen Kirby - \$15.00 - Social Services Discretionary

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Treadway - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Groton Utilities Matching Funds - \$493.50 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

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

2009-0068	Town Participation in Silver Star Banner Day - May 1st	Referral
2009-0081	Pfizer Community Grant - Library	Referral
2009-0084	Lily Lane Trail Grant Contract Extension	Referral
2009-0086	Connecticut Dial-A-Ride Grant	Referral
2009-0089	Historic Document Preservation Grant (FY2010)	Referral
2009-0034	Disposition of Eastern Point School Property	Referral
2009-0065	Disposition of Colonel Ledyard School Property	Referral
2009-0074	FYE 2009 Fourth Quarter Transfers	Referral
2009-0075	Approval of Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual	Referral
2009-0082	National League of Cities Prescription Discount Program	Referral
2009-0091	Summer Food Service Program (2009)	Referral
2009-0092	Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)	Referral
2009-0093	Endorsement of a Grant Proposal by the Nature Conservancy	Referral
2009-0098	Manager of Library Public Services Job Description	Referral
2009-0099	Program/Project Manager - Planning Job Description	Referral
2009-0095	Reappointment of Charles Stevens to the Board of Assessment Appeals	Referral
2009-0096	Reappointment of Theodore Hespeler to Community Development Advisory Committee	Referral
2009-0097	Reappointment of Richard Wood to Shellfish Commission	Referral
2009-0100	Town Manager Authorization to Register for Stimulus Funds	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 Brown-Tracy
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski
- d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

- e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne
- g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter
- h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro
- i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**2009-0081 Pfizer Community Grant - Library Referral**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO PFIZER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Pfizer Community Grant Program provides funds for community vibrancy programs that revitalize communities and support local civic and cultural organizations, and

WHEREAS, funds from such a grant would allow the Town of Groton Public Library to purchase new computers and monitors for the new Teen Area, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to apply for a grant of \$6,000 from the Pfizer Community Grant program.

Legislative History

3/19/2009	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Finance Commi
4/14/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
4/14/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

**2009-0084 Lily Lane Trail Grant Contract Extension Referral**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT AND GRANT FUNDING EXTENSION FOR THE LILY LANE TRAIL GRANT

WHEREAS, as authorized by a previous resolution of the Town Council the Town, in 2006, received a Recreational Trails grant from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and

WHEREAS, the Town is now ready to begin construction of this project and DEP has recently advised that they will require a new resolution from the Town in support of the project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council reaffirms its support for the Lily Lane trail improvement project and grant, Phases 1 and 3, and the matching application of Town funds, in all respects as previously agreed with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and the Town Council desires that the grant be made available and used for the trail as intended, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to execute all documents, assurances and reports as may be necessary for this purpose.

Legislative History

3/25/2009	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Finance Commi
4/14/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	



WHEREAS, leasing the Eastern Point School property to LEARN at a nominal rent could also allow for other, concurrent use of some part of the property for the public benefit, and

WHEREAS, in the interest of due diligence concerning the value of a Town property that may be leased, sold, or otherwise encumbered, the Town Manager has obtained a standard professional appraisal of the Eastern Point School property, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council referred the issue of leasing this property to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS. 8-24, said Planning Commission now having returned a favorable recommendation to the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may conduct negotiations over all terms and conditions of a lease of the Eastern Point School property in favor of LEARN, such lease to be returned to the Town Council for approval.

**Legislative History**

**1/29/2009 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the**

**2/10/2009 Town Council Committee of Motion  
the Whole**

*to enter executive session at 8:42 p.m. to discuss the disposition of the Eastern Point School property, and to invite the Town Manager to attend.*

**2/24/2009 Town Council Committee of Motion  
the Whole**

*to enter executive session at 6:16 p.m. to discuss the disposition of Eastern Point School property, and to invite the Town Manager, Bruce Kellogg of JCJ Architects, Doreen Marvin of LEARN, and Virginia Sachem of LEARN, to attend*

**2/24/2009 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*The executive session concluded at 7:14 p.m.*

**2/24/2009 Town Council Committee of Motion  
the Whole**

*to recommend two resolutions regarding the disposition of Eastern Point School, the first resolution setting a public hearing and the second resolution referring it to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24*

**3/10/2009 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*Members discussed having a public hearing on the possible sale of the property on Tuesday, April 7th.*

**3/10/2009 Town Council Committee of Motion  
the Whole**

*to conduct a public hearing on the disposition of the Eastern Point School property on April 7, 2009*

**3/10/2009 Town Council Committee of Motion  
the Whole**

*to refer the disposition of Eastern Point School property to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24*

**4/7/2009 Town Council Heard at Public Hearing**

*Doreen Marvin, 9 Brown Street, Norwich, Director of Development of LEARN gave a presentation about the program including their search for a site for the Marine Science Magnet School. She went on to discuss curricula and community partnerships with Project Oceanology and Mystic Seaport. Ms. Marvin stated that environmental stewardship and giving back to the community are essentials within the curriculum.*

*Bruce Kellogg, JCJ Architecture, showed aerial views of both the Eastern Point School and the Spicer Tree Farm properties. He then showed conceptual drawings for the building structure, floor plans, and an artist's rendering of the completed project.*

*Ken Biega, O&G Industries, Inc., outlined an aggressive schedule including site approval, demolition,*

construction beginning October 01, 2009, and the completion of the building in May 2011. If all goes according to schedule, the school would be ready for use in September 2011.

Mayor Dennis Popp, 41 Cottage Street, on behalf of the City of Groton, stated that there are legislative efforts being made to help project LEARN obtain the Spicer property, which he believes is their preferred site out of the two. Regardless of which site they choose, Mayor Popp would like to see some designated slots for Groton students.

William C. Spicer III, 49 Noble Avenue, Noank, stated that in a discussion of what to do with the Spicer Tree Farm, Town Manager Oefinger stated that LEARN was looking for a site for a Marine Science Magnet High School. Subsequently, Mr. Spicer contacted project LEARN with a proposal. He also donated some shellfish beds to LEARN, stating that the best way to learn is by immersion. Mr. Spicer feels that Eastern Point School, coupled with the Spicer Tree Farm, will make a superb facility and will provide children with the best marine experience.

Paul Bates, 47 Church Street, suggested caution regarding the disposition of school properties, as things tend to run in cycles. In the early twentieth century schools were multi-story, in the mid-twentieth century they were single story, and in the twenty-first century it is multi-level again. At some point it may be determined to go back to many small schools scattered throughout Town, and acquiring appropriate properties won't be an easy task.

Lori Hesch, 185 Morse Avenue, stated that her property abuts Eastern Point School and she strongly supports this project.

Tim Viesel, Ivoryton, representing The Sound School Regional Vocational Aquacultural Center, has been involved in both the Bridgeport and New Haven Sound School facilities. He is currently working at the New Haven school which is on the water near salt marshes. He remarked that the Spicer property is a wonderful site with different types of water, and he hopes that this project will move forward.

Beverly Herbert, 88 Branford Avenue, is concerned that Groton students will not be a part of the school. She was hoping that the Eastern Point School property would be used for a community center or for recreational purposes, perhaps with the assistance of stimulus money. Ms. Herbert would like the property to become something that would benefit the children in the neighborhood.

Mark Oefinger read the affirmative response to the CGS 8-24 referral made to the Planning Commission regarding the lease of the Eastern Point School property to LEARN, which also stated that the Planning Commission still supports the approved site plan for a Marine Science Magnet School at the Thomas Road site. The Town Manager stated that an appraisal of the Eastern Point School property was performed and the appraised value is \$947,000. The terms and conditions of the lease have not been fully negotiated, and perhaps either the upper or lower area of the property could be developed into a recreational area.

Mayor Watson asked Ms. Marvin for the number of Groton students that would attend the Marine Science Magnet School being proposed.

Doreen Marvin, Director of LEARN, stated that Groton students will be able to attend the school as would other students within the region. There will be 250 students attending the school, adding about ten students from each district per year.

4/14/2009 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a  
the Whole Resolution

2009-0065 Disposition of Colonel Ledyard School Property Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE LEASE OF THE COLONEL LEDYARD SCHOOL TO THE CITY OF GROTON/GROTON UTILITIES

WHEREAS, recent construction of new schools has left the Town of Groton with properties that are currently unused, including the Colonel Ledyard School, located on West Street in the City of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council deems it to be the best use of that property, and to be in the long term interest of the Town's taxpayers, that the Town retain ownership of the property for civic purposes, and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has stated its urgent need for space adjacent to its Municipal Building, and

WHEREAS, leasing the Colonel Ledyard School property to the City at a nominal rent could also allow for other, concurrent use of some part of the school building and/or property for the public benefit, and

WHEREAS, in the interest of due diligence concerning the value of a Town property that may be leased, sold, or otherwise encumbered, the Town Manager has obtained a standard professional appraisal of the Colonel Ledyard School property, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council referred the issue of leasing this property to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS. 8-24, said Planning Commission now having returned a favorable recommendation to the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may conduct negotiations over all terms and conditions of a lease of the Colonel Ledyard School property in favor of the City of Groton/Groton Utilities, such lease to be returned to the Town Council for approval.

**Legislative History**

3/4/2009 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the

3/10/2009 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole

*A previous resolution in this matter resulted in its referral to the Groton Planning Commission, on a potential lease of the property to the City of Groton. A public hearing will be necessary, and April 7th at 7:30 p.m. was discussed.*

3/10/2009 Town Council Committee of Motion  
the Whole

*to hold a public hearing on the disposition of Colonel Ledyard School property on April 7, 2009*

4/7/2009 Town Council Heard at Public Hearing

*Mayor Dennis Popp, 41 Cottage Street, representing the City of Groton, stated that the City has expressed interest in the Colonel Ledyard School property on many occasions. He remarked that the City needs expansion space and has even considered utilizing 200 square feet of the Municipal Building auditorium, and stated that the City of Groton is still interested in acquiring this property for future expansion.*

*Paul Bates, 47 Church Street, questioned procedure. He was under the impression that when a new school is occupied and the old school is turned over to the Town, a committee is established to explore the possibilities for the disposition of the old school.*

*The Town Manager stated that neighborhood task forces were not discussed for either the Colonel Ledyard or Eastern Point School. However, he acknowledged that there have been discussions of setting up neighborhood task forces to investigate possibilities for the disposition of Groton Heights and Noank Schools, but noted that no meetings have occurred for either of these task forces as their memberships have not been fully determined.*

*Mr. Bates continued by stating his pleasure that the City is being considered for reuse of this property; and, more importantly, that it is a lease. He was upset in the past when the Town gave a water tower to the City. Mr. Bates believes that if the property where the water tower is located is ever sold, the proceeds should go to the Town of Groton.*

*Mark Oefinger read the affirmative response to the CGS 8-24 referral made to the Planning Commission regarding the lease of the Colonel Ledyard School to the City of Groton, which stated that the Planning Commission would also endorse a sale of the property. The Town Manager stated that an appraisal of the Colonel Ledyard School property was performed and the appraised value is \$774,000.*

4/14/2009 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a  
the Whole Resolution





WHEREAS, Justice Assistant Program grants provide funds under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance program for a broad range of activities and expenses aimed at crime prevention, and

WHEREAS, mobile data terminals make patrol officers and investigators more effective by giving them rapid access to a great range of urgently needed information on the scene, and allow officers to prepare and submit accident and other reports and thereby reduce time spent at their station, and

WHEREAS, a Justice Assistance grant would allow the installation of mobile data terminals in Town of Groton Police vehicles that are not currently so equipped, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a non-matching Justice Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$22,684.

Legislative History

4/8/2009	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of tt
4/14/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
4/14/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
<b>2009-0093</b>	<b>Endorsement of a Grant Proposal by the Nature Conservancy</b>		<b>Referral</b>

RESOLUTION ENDORSING A GRANT PROPOSAL AND THE RELATED ESTUARINE SURVEY PROJECT BY THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

WHEREAS, the Nature Conservancy has evaluated coastal estuary systems across the Connecticut shoreline and has selected as its best research target the watershed system that feeds the sub-estuaries of Mumford Cove, Palmer Cove, West Cove, and Beebe Cove, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton was also selected for a major watershed research project because of the respect accorded by state officials to Groton's Shellfish Commission, the Groton Shellfish Task Force, and the Town's advanced Geographic Information System, and

WHEREAS, the Nature Conservancy has applied for project funding from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and

WHEREAS, the Nature Conservancy will also contribute its own retained funds to the proposed research project, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton can expect to obtain numerous benefits from a thorough scientific study of watershed-to-estuary flows, including improved shell fishing conditions and information that will be valuable in making land use policies and decisions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council endorses the LISFF grant proposal by the Nature Conservancy and endorses the field research project that is to be funded by such a grant.

Legislative History

4/8/2009	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of tt
4/14/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
<b>2009-0095</b>	<b>Reappointment of Charles Stevens to the Board of Assessment Appeals</b>		<b>Referral</b>

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHARLES STEVENS TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Charles Stevens, 12 Stony Hill Drive, Mystic, is reappointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term expiring 12/31/11.

Legislative History

4/14/2009      Town Council                      Recommended for a  
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution  
/Legislation Committee

2009-0096      **Reappointment of Theodore Hespeler to Community Development Advisory Committee**                      **Referral**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING THEODORE HESPELER TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Theodore Hespeler, 21 Tower Avenue, is hereby reappointed to the Community Development Advisory Committee for a term expiring 2/7/12.

Legislative History

4/14/2009      Town Council                      Recommended for a  
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution  
/Legislation Committee

2009-0097      **Reappointment of Richard Wood to Shellfish Commission**                      **Referral**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RICHARD WOOD TO THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Richard Wood, 150 Dogwood Lane, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Shellfish Commission for a term expiring 12/31/13.

Legislative History

4/14/2009      Town Council                      Recommended for a  
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution  
/Legislation Committee

2009-0098      **Manager of Library Public Services Job Description**                      **Referral**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR MANAGER OF LIBRARY PUBLIC SERVICES

WHEREAS, the proposed budget for FYE 2010 provides for the consolidation of the positions of Supervisor of Library Services/Adult and Supervisor of Library Services/Children, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job description and pay plan for the position of Manager of Library Public Services, dated March 2009.

Legislative History

4/14/2009      Town Council Committee of      Recommended for a  
the Whole                              Resolution

2009-0099      **Program/Project Manager - Planning Job Description**                      **Referral**

RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGER - PLANNING

WHEREAS, the Town Manager in his FYE 2010 Proposed Budget is proposing the creation of a new position in the Office of Planning and Development Services (OPDS) entitled Program/Project Manager - Planning, and

WHEREAS, this position is needed to take on a foreseen increase in new projects and related tasks in project management and regulatory compliance, and

WHEREAS, concurrently with the creation of this position the Town Manager is proposing to

