



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

Town Council

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

Mayor Bruce Flax, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Diane Barber, Joe de la Cruz, Greg Grim, Karen F. Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, November 01, 2016

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

2016-0259 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of October 18, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2013-0249 Parking Ticket Fees

Referral

2016-0254 Recreation Trails Grant

Referral

2016-0256 Merritt Property Conversion

Referral

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

c. Clerk of the Council

d. Town Manager

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson
- b. Rules -
- c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2013-0249 Parking Ticket Fees Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF AN ORDINANCE FOR PARKING VIOLATION, NON-RESIDENT FINGERPRINT, SOLICITOR PERMIT, AND ANIMAL CONTROL FEES

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered increasing and/or establishing various fees in the Police Department as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes, and

WHEREAS, a survey of surrounding towns' fees revealed that increasing the Town of Groton's fees would make them consistent with other towns in the region, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes and directs Town staff and the Town Attorney to prepare an ordinance for parking violation, non-resident fingerprint, solicitor permit, and animal control fees for the Town Council's review.

Legislative History

10/15/2013 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

10/22/2013 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Town's parking ticket fees, which are set by ordinance at \$10, have not changed for many years. The Town would like to raise the fees and amend the ordinance in such a way that future fee changes do not require amending the ordinance. The Town Manager distributed a referral memo from the Chief of Police.

10/22/2013 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

Councilor Antipas noted in the budget that parking tickets are not a big source of revenue for the Town. The Town Manager explained that higher fees may act as more of a deterrent for people who choose to park illegally. Councilor Flax feels that parking tickets are not a high priority for the Police Department so there is no need to raise the fees unless there is a concerted effort to write tickets. The Town Manager noted that the Town is trying to be user-friendly in Mystic as much as possible. People are consciously parking illegally knowing they only have to pay \$10. Raising fees is not designed to raise revenue, but to encourage appropriate behavior without escalating to towing vehicles. Councilor Morton noted that No Parking areas are designated for safety reasons and the fines should be a deterrent; \$10 is unreasonably low. Councilor Streeter noted that parking tickets are also issued for other violations and he was supportive of the increase. Councilor Antipas expressed support for amending the ordinance in such a way that the amount can be changed, but he does not support raising the fee because people will feel they are being hickel and dined."

10/19/2016 Town Council Re-referred Town Council Committee of th

10/25/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

10/25/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

2016-0254 Recreation Trails Grant Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A RECREATION TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Groton Parks and Recreation is seeking authorization to apply for a \$100,000 grant from the State of Connecticut to fund the construction of two trail projects within the Copp Family

Park, and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is \$125,000 with the Town's required 20% match of \$25,000 coming from funds approved in the FYE 2015 Capital Improvement Program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee is authorized to apply for a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the State of Connecticut Recreation Trails Grant program for two trail construction projects within the Copp Family Park.

Legislative History

10/18/2016	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
10/25/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
10/25/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

2016-0256 Merritt Property Conversion Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR CONVERSION OF MERRITT PROPERTY TO NON-CONSERVATION USE

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton purchased the Merritt property on Fort Hill Road/Groton Long Point Road for the future construction of recreation fields, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton proposes to build a new combined middle school on the Merritt property consistent with the Groton 2020 School Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton is proposing to substitute the Boulder Heights property located at the end of Colver Avenue for the Merritt property for future recreation use, and

WHEREAS, in the future the Town will plan for the development of recreational trails and/or fields at the Boulder Heights property, and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes will serve the needs of the Town, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and all other necessary documentation between the Town of Groton and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to remove the recreation and conservation restrictions on the Merritt property.

Legislative History

10/19/2016	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
10/25/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
10/25/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

X. ADJOURNMENT