



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

Tuesday, July 01, 2008

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

### REGULAR MEETING

#### I. ROLL CALL

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2008-0163 Proclamation for Relay for Life

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

2008-0170 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 17, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

##### b. Administrative Items

2008-0172 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:

Bruce and Kathleen Flax - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

John and Lisa Reeves - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Susan and Scott Berry - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Lori Smith - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Cidalia Schott - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Duane and Patricia Grant - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Chad and Tina Copeland - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Robert Cronan - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Marie Streimer - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Ronald and Christina Adams - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
 Mark and Debra Luke - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
 Luanne and John Hespeler - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
 Various Donations - \$110.73 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Union Baptist Church - \$1,680.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 John and Linda Crosskey - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
 Betsey Fox - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
 Dorothea B. Moore - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
 Rivka Horowitz, M.D. and Harold Pessirilo - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
 David G. Williams - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
 Paul and Sheila Scott - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
 Robert and Sarah McQuilkin - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
 Dr. John and Marcia McGowan - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
 Fitch High School Association Key Club - \$900.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
 Groton/Ledyard Rotary - \$1000.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
 James Lanyon - \$6.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
 Pequot Cyclists - \$75.00 - Library Discretionary  
 Pfizer United Way Campaign - \$50.00 - Library Discretionary  
 G. Thomas Couser - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

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

2007-0310	FYE 2009 Budget	Referral
2008-0167	Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant	Referral
2007-0072	Citizen Committee on Property Tax Relief - Update	Referral
2008-0088	Reconstruction of the Packer Road/Godfrey Road Intersection	Referral
2008-0166	Meeting with Copp Board	Referral
2008-0169	State Grant - Tercentennial Legacy Playground	Referral
2008-0171	Appointment of Hal Zod to the Zoning 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 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**

**2008-0167 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant Referral**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FY 2009 YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

WHEREAS, Youth Services Bureau Enhancement Grant Program Funding is available in the amount of \$7,550 from the State of Connecticut Department of Education to enhance existing Groton Youth and Family Services programs that provide direct services to youth in areas ranging from counseling to youth enrichment, outreach programs and positive youth development, and

WHEREAS, Groton Youth and Family Services has demonstrated its success in providing a program, Groton SeaLegs, via Virtual Voyages, Inc., that will subsequently be expanded with FY 09 Enhancement Funding to serve additional at-risk Groton youth, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, or his designee is authorized to apply for and contract with the State of Connecticut Department of Education for FY 09 Youth Services Enhancement Grant Program Funding in the amount of \$7,550.

Legislative History

6/12/2008	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Finance Commi
6/24/2008	Town Council Finance Committee	Recommended for a Resolution	

**2007-0072 Citizen Committee on Property Tax Relief - Update Referral**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF AN ORDINANCE FOR TAX RELIEF

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the advisability of offering a program of property tax relief for elderly and disabled taxpayers as authorized by Section 12-129n of the Connecticut General Statutes, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council deems it necessary and appropriate to enact such a tax relief by means of a Town ordinance, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes and directs Town staff and the office of the Town Attorney to prepare an ordinance for elderly and disabled tax relief for preliminary review and approval by the Town Council.

Legislative History

3/22/2007	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
3/27/2007	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

*Seven individuals have expressed an interest in serving on this Committee. Councilor Bond stated she will attend the meetings. Absent any objections, the Town Manager stated he would make the appointments.*

**6/12/2007 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*No date has been chosen yet for the first meeting of the Committee.*

**7/10/2007 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*The first meeting of the Committee is scheduled for tomorrow night, Wednesday, July 11th at 6:00 p.m.*

**9/11/2007 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*The report of the Citizens Committee on Property Tax Relief was distributed to the Council. The Committee would like to address the Council at the September 25th Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**10/2/2007 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*Mayor Watson thanked the Committee for its service. Maryellen French, Vice Chairman, read a statement, thanking Secretary George Reed for his service to the Committee. Mr. Reed introduced the remaining members of the committee in attendance and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. He noted that the Committee's report was approved by a majority vote, and contains four general recommendations and 36 detailed recommendations. There are also a number of appendices and attachments including minutes of the Committee's meetings.*

*Councilors Scott, Streeter, and Schmidt arrived at 6:06 p.m.*

**10/2/2007 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*Mr. Reed noted the topics to be reviewed as follows: Committee Task, Committee Deliberations Perspective, Program Fiscal Effect, Qualification of Applicant, Relief Provided for Qualified Applicant, Applicant Obligations, Other Towns' Programs, and a Summary.*

*Connecticut General Statutes allow for an optional tax relief program, require the establishment of a committee to study and investigate a program, and require a report from the committee. The Citizens Committee on Property Tax Relief proceeded conservatively given the lack of demographic data needed to predict the costs and benefits of the program. The Committee also chose to cap the total program relief and provide for recovery of the costs over time.*

*Councilor Bond arrived at 6:11 p.m.*

**10/2/2007 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*The Committee chose to provide relief to elderly and disabled persons impacted by tax increases resulting from escalating values and the shifting tax burden associated with the revaluation. The Committee focused on the applicant, not the heirs, in the hope of avoiding foreclosures and preserving capital gain. Mr. Reed noted that statutes allow the program to be amended by the Town as experience is gained.*

*The Committee recommends a maximum annual appropriation equal to 1% of the real property tax assessed in the preceding year. The minimum would be set at the Town's discretion, based on budgetary restrictions.*

*Recommended applicant qualifications are residing in the property for at least five years before the tax relief; maximum qualifying income of \$53,800 single or \$60,300 married; no unresolved tax delinquencies; age requirements (65 years or older, surviving spouse 60 years of age or older, or under age 65 and permanently disabled); and determination of qualification by Tax Assessor.*

*Under the program, the tax base of qualified applicants would be frozen at the level preceding acceptance into the program or the current year's tax, whichever is less. The relief could not be granted retroactively. Relief would be prorated if it exceeded the program appropriation in a given year. Relief would also be prorated if the property is in the name of the applicant and any person other than a spouse. Total relief from all programs cannot exceed the property value nor can it exceed the amount of tax which would otherwise be levied. This program does not affect an applicant's ability to receive relief under other programs.*

*The program would require applicants to file applications annually between February 1 and May 15 and agree to liens on the property at an interest rate established by the Town. Applications would be processed by Town staff, with appeals made to the Town Council.*

The Committee reviewed other towns' programs and how they were implemented, and reviewed demographic data for comparison purposes with Groton.

Mr. Reed summarized his presentation.

Councilor Bond thanked the Committee. She asked if any members of the public spoke to the Committee, and Mr. Reed noted public comments are included in the report. He summarized the comments. Councilor Bond asked if the Committee researched the time limit for residency and Mr. Reed stated that statutes require a minimum of one year, but they do not restrict longer time periods. Councilor Bond asked if consideration was given to deducting medical expenses from qualifying income. Ms. French noted that this program is based on federal taxes and medical expenses can be deducted from federal taxes. Mr. Reed noted the Committee had not specifically discussed that issue.

Town Manager Oefinger noted that the lien consists of the tax, the interest, and a lien fee that is currently \$24.00. The fee would be assessed every year that the applicant applies.

Mr. Reed reviewed income inclusions and exclusions as noted in the report.

Councilor Scott asked about privacy protection under this program. Mr. Reed noted the Poor and Unable to Pay Program requires applicants to come before the Town Council and that may be a deterrent. This application process would be similar to existing programs where applicants work with Town staff.

Councilor Sheets yielded the floor to Edward McKay of 981 Groton Long Point Road who read a prepared statement in support of the 8% program currently in place.

Councilor O'Beirne noted that the Council will determine what the income limits/ requirements are. He stated that relief offered under this program is relatively small and will remain so until the next revaluation year (2011) since the track record of the Town Council over the last 10 years is a stable mill rate between revaluations.

Mayor Watson asked if fire district taxes are included in this program. Mr. Reed noted that the Committee only looked at Town taxes.

Councilor Streeter commended the Committee on completing its work in such a short period of time and he asked if the Committee would be willing to provide further guidance if necessary. Mr. Reed stated yes.

Mr. Reed noted that two Committee members voted against or abstained and their reasons are noted in the report.

**10/9/2007      Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole**

Councilor Bond asked that this item be considered at a later date to allow her more time to review the Committee's proposal.

**11/13/2007      Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole**

Discussion of this item was tabled to the next regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The Council indicated they would like Citizen Committee members to attend.

**11/27/2007      Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole**

Five members of the Committee were present to address the Council. Genevieve Cerf distributed a printed "minority opinion". George Reed noted there has been no committee activity since the previous presentation was made to the Council. Mr. Reed provided an overview of the primary recommendation of the Committee. Mr. Reed and Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo answered questions posed by Councilors. Mr. Reed added that the minority views of Committee members have been well documented in the Committee's report and he does not feel there is a need to debate the issue again.

Ms. Cerf expressed concern that deferments and liens will discourage people from applying for relief. People want the security of owning their homes free and clear. She added that 7 out of 8 towns that have enacted this program have chosen outright tax credit rather than deferment.

*Mr. Reed noted that he does not feel the deferment program that is currently in place in Groton is sufficient.*

*Councilor Sheets suggested that the Council establish a subcommittee to make a recommendation. Councilors Bond and Streeter also expressed support for more discussion of this item.*

*Councilor Bond asked if a donation fund could be set up for tax relief similar to what is done for utility bills.*

**12/11/2007      Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole**

*Councilor Bond noted that she has been too busy to work on this item, and she asked if this could be postponed until after the holidays. The Committee concurred.*

**1/8/2008              Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole**

*Councilor Bond asked that this item be tabled to January 22nd. Councilor O'Beirne asked staff to prepare a one page summary of the Citizens Committee's recommendation.*

**1/22/2008            Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole**

*Councilor Bond asked how the Council feels about pursuing or not pursuing this issue. She suggested that the Council have a working meeting on a Saturday.*

*Councilor Bond is personally more interested in developing a tax credit for the elderly versus a deferral and she feels the Town Council should have more authority with regard to capping of the fund. Further, she would recommend a different residency requirement and eliminating significant medical expenses from qualifying income. Councilor Bond would also like to see the Town Council notified regarding interest in the program, the number of applicants, and the number of denials.*

*Discussion followed on what direction to take and the role of the Town Council in light of the significant amount of work done by the Citizen Committee on Tax Relief. Staff was asked to provide background information on this issue to the two new Councilors. Mayor Watson asked Councilor Bond to prepare a written proposal based on her recommendations.*

*Councilor Sheets supports a 3% cap and feels the major policy issue is deferral versus credit.*

*Further discussion of this item was postponed to the end of meeting. When discussion resumed, Councilor Sheets stated she would prepare a presentation on the research done and the information previously gathered by Councilors on this issue. Councilor Bond stated she would prepare information on tax credits. The consensus of the Committee was to place this item on the next Committee of the Whole agenda.*

**2/26/2008            Town Council Committee of      Discussed  
the Whole**

*Councilor Bond spoke with towns that have approved elderly tax relief programs. She does not want to give the impression that the Committee's work is being "thrown out". After doing some research, Councilor Bond discovered that tax credits actually amount to very little and it does not appear that they would help the people she is trying to help. She noted specific changes to the proposed program that she would like to see.*

*Councilor Sheets would like to appropriate a fixed amount in the FYE 2009 budget and figure out later what to do with it so that last year can be captured as the base from which to work.*

*Town Manager Oefinger stated that he is not sure of the mechanics for this type of program. It may not necessarily be a matter of budgeting a specific amount, but perhaps adjusting the anticipated percentage of taxes collected when setting the mill rate as is done for similar programs like the veterans exemption.*

*Councilor Bond reiterated her proposed changes to the Committee's recommendation and noted she would put it in writing.*

**3/25/2008            Town Council Committee of      Tabled  
the Whole**

*Discussion of this item was tabled to allow the Council time to read a report distributed with the agenda packet.*

**4/22/2008            Town Council Committee of      Tabled  
the Whole**

*Mayor Watson asked that this item be tabled to another meeting.*

**5/13/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*Councilor Bond distributed proposed changes to the Citizen Committee's recommendation. She asked Councilors to review it for discussion at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. The Tax Collector has indicated a significant increase in the number of people inquiring about tax deferral this year.*

**5/29/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bond, to adopt the program as revised by Councilor Bond, with the following modifications:*

- 3% vs. 6% interest rate
- review of five year minimum residency requirement by the Town Attorney
- maximum income limits matching the Town of Durham's on a residency sliding scale
- a June 1st application deadline date
- a program maximum of 1% of the entire budget, including the Board of Education.

*Significant discussion ensued on the filing deadlines, the interest rate, income limits, the catastrophic events clause, the minimum residency requirement, the maximum yearly amount of the program, and the Council's ability to adjust interest rates and other aspects of the program.*

*Town Manager Oefinger noted this program needs to be adopted by Ordinance, so it can not be applied this year. He also suggested that the Council choose indexes where possible (interest rate, income) to avoid having to make changes to the ordinance in the future and look at establishing a cumulative cap for the program.*

*A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bond, to amend the motion to set the program maximum at 0.5 % of the entire budget and to add a provision for authorizing the Town to revisit the maximum amount available and the interest rate without going through ordinance process.*

*Councilor O'Beirne suggested there are too many questions to vote on the motions. Councilor Bond noted that an overall exposure cap needs to be identified and agreed that the proposal needs more discussion.*

*A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bond, to amend the motion to change the application deadline to May 15th.*

*Councilor O'Beirne asked for the resolution in writing. Mayor Watson suggested withdrawing the motions and scheduling a work session. All motions and seconds were withdrawn.*

*The consensus of the Committee was to place this referral on the June 10th Committee of the Whole agenda, as the only item for discussion.*

**6/10/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

*Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent provided background on this effort and the work of the Citizen Committee on Property Tax Relief.*

*Councilor Brown-Tracy arrived at 6:25 p.m.*

**6/24/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole**

**6/24/2008 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a  
the Whole Resolution**

**2008-0088 Reconstruction of the Packer Road/Godfrey Road Referral  
Intersection**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LAND EXCHANGE AT THE INTERSECTION OF  
GODFREY AND PACKER ROADS**

WHEREAS, Godfrey Road and Packer Road are scheduled for repaving which could increase traffic and vehicular speeds, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Department of Public Works has recommended a realignment of the intersection of Godfrey and Packer Roads, creating a "T" intersection to improve safety, and

WHEREAS, the realignment to create a safer intersection requires a land swap between the Town and an adjacent property owner, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission considered the proposed land exchange pursuant to CGS 8-24 at its May 13, 2008, meeting and views the proposal favorably, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has held a public hearing on June 17, 2008 concerning this potential land exchange at which no testimony was presented contrary to the proposed land exchange, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the land exchange at the intersection of Godfrey and Packer Roads.

Refer to RTM

Legislative History

**3/27/2008 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th**

**4/22/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole**

*Director of Public Works Gary Schneider noted that a neighborhood meeting was held regarding road condition and traffic issues in the area of Packer and Godfrey Roads. The residents' suggestion was to provide a 'T' intersection at Packer and Godfrey Roads which will require a small parcel of land from the adjacent property owner. Mr. Dan Hall of 330 Godfrey Road offered the parcel to the Town at no charge. It was subsequently discovered that a portion of Mr. Hall's house and septic system are on Town property, so it is proposed that a parcel of excess right-of-way be transferred to Mr. Hall. Once the intersection improvements are complete, the Town will resurface Godfrey and Packer Roads and do some minor drainage improvements.*

**4/22/2008 Town Council Committee of Motion the Whole**

*to refer the Godfrey Road/Packer Road realignment to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24*

**5/29/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole**

*Town Manager Oefinger stated there is an issue as to whether or not a public hearing is required. He reviewed statutory exemptions to the public hearing requirement and noted it is a judgment call. The Town Manager suggests scheduling a public hearing and erring on the side of safety. Town Manager Oefinger explained the reasons for the intersection reconfiguration, with speed being the biggest issue. The roads were already scheduled for repaving, and the intersection reconfiguration is not a costly project and it will result in traffic flow and circulation improvements.*

**5/29/2008 Town Council Committee of Motion the Whole**

*to schedule a public hearing on June 17, 2008*

**6/17/2008 Town Council Heard at Public Hearing**

*Lee Vincent gave a brief overview of the proposed project. Town engineers want to realign this intersection to a more traditional "T" where there is a 90 degree left or right choice. The Town will swap property with a homeowner and a cash exchange will not be necessary as the Town is receiving more square footage than it is giving up. Mr. Vincent further stated that this transaction is a routine land exchange, and the intersection will be better engineered for public safety.*

**6/24/2008 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a the Whole Resolution**

**2008-0166 Meeting with Copp Board Referral**

RESOLUTION ENDORSING A REVISION OF THE 2006 COPP PROPERTY CONCEPTUAL PLAN

WHEREAS, in January 1989, the Town of Groton obtained a 240 acre parcel of land, then known as

the Center Groton Farm and thereafter designated as the Copp Family Park, and

WHEREAS, the Town and the Copp Board of Overseers are parties to an "Agreement of Land Restrictions and Covenants" concerning this property, which restricts the uses of the land to "public purposes as open space, park and recreation," and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2006 the Town of Groton entered into a Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding with the Copp Family Park Board of Overseers, in which both parties mutually agreed that "no activity can be undertaken on the property that is not expressly agreed to by the Town and the Board," and

WHEREAS, the Copp Board prepared a Copp Property Conceptual Plan and Features Specification to aid them in justifying and raising future funds for recreation facilities and improvements, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has met with the Copp Board in June 2006 and again in June 2008, pursuant to the Copp Board's desire to further clarify and interpret features of the Proposed Conceptual Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council expects that the Copp Board will seek an advisory opinion from the Connecticut Department of Public Health as to whether construction of structures per the Conceptual Plan is feasible under applicable watershed regulations, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council asserts that its endorsements of aspects of the Copp Park plans, both now and heretofore, are intended to aid the Copp Board and the Groton Parks Foundation to raise funds and refine their plans, and do not embody either an obligation or a specific intention on the Council's part to approve building or development plans, or the appropriation of Town funds or other funds, for any specific future project within the Copp Park, without further review and action, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby endorses the "Interpretation and Modification" approved by the Copp Board November 30, 2006, as transmitted by letter dated May 24, 2007.

Legislative History

6/24/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed  
the Whole

6/24/2008 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a  
the Whole Resolution

**2008-0169 State Grant - Tercentennial Legacy Playground Referral**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR A TERCENTENNIAL LEGACY PLAYGROUND GRANT

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager of the Town of Groton, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of this municipal corporation a Personal Services Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance in the amount of \$50,000 for the Tercentennial Park Playscape (CSAP 2008-24), and be it further

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that Mark R. Oefinger was appointed Town Manager. His term of office began on July 1, 2002 and continues to date. As the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of Groton, and is duly authorized to enter into agreements and contracts on behalf of the Town of Groton.

Legislative History

	6/20/2008	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of t
	6/24/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
2008-0171		Appointment of Hal Zod to the Zoning Commission		Referral

RESOLUTION APPOINTING HAL ZOD AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Hal Zod, 140 High Meadow Lane, Mystic, is hereby appointed as an alternate member to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/10.

Legislative History

6/24/2008	Town Council	Recommended for a Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution /Legislation Committee
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**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING**  
**THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S**  
**TENTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT**  
**OF NEW LONDON COUNTY SHORELINE**  
**IN GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

- WHEREAS, cancer is a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells which, if not controlled, can result in premature death; and
- WHEREAS, more than 19,000 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in Connecticut in 2008 and nearly 7,000 Connecticut residents are expected to lose their battle with cancer this year; and
- WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society has been the nation's largest and most respected voluntary health organization since 1913 and has funded research which has contributed to every known method for detecting and treating cancer, significantly increasing the cancer survival rates; and
- WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society is a voluntary community-based coalition of local citizens dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem through financial support and education awareness; and
- WHEREAS, the color purple is the signature color of the American Cancer Society's RELAY FOR LIFE events, signifying the passion that cancer survivors and their loved ones feel for the eradication of this disease; and
- WHEREAS, the RELAY FOR LIFE event financially benefits the American Cancer Society's research and patient support programs, and educationally benefits our local citizens; and
- WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society's RELAY FOR LIFE of New London County Shoreline in Groton is a community event that allows an opportunity to network with businesses, associates, family and friends, with the same goal of making a difference in the battle against cancer: now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Groton proclaims June 21 & 22, 2008 as RELAY FOR LIFE days throughout the Town and invites all residents to recognize and participate in this anti-cancer event held in the Groton community.

Dated at Groton, Connecticut this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2008.



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

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Tuesday, June 17, 2008

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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#### I. ROLL CALL

*The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.*

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Monteiro

*Also present were Director of Administrative Services Doug Ackerman, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Watson.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

##### 2008-0077 Proclamation Recognizing Seabird Enterprises Inc.

Read

*Mayor Watson gave a brief summary of the growth and mission of Seabird Enterprises Inc., and extended appreciation on behalf of the Town Council and citizens of Groton for their 25 years of service to both individuals with disabilities and to the community as a whole.*

##### 2008-0118 Proclamation Recognizing the TRIAD Program

Read

*Councilor Kolnaski read a proclamation recognizing the TRIAD Program.*

#### Recess for Public Hearing

*Mayor Watson called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m.*

##### 2008-0088 Reconstruction of the Packer Road/Godfrey Road Intersection

Heard at Public Hearing

*Lee Vincent gave a brief overview of the proposed project. Town engineers want to realign this intersection to a more traditional "T" where there is a 90 degree left or right choice. The Town will swap property with a homeowner and a cash exchange will not be necessary as the Town is receiving more square footage than it is giving up. Mr. Vincent further stated that this transaction is a routine land exchange, and the intersection will be better engineered for public safety.*

*There being no further comments, Mayor Watson closed the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m.*

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

*None.*

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

*None.*

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Approval of Minutes

**2008-0161 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 3, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items****2008-0164 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Patricia Schnappinger - \$25.00 - Library Donation Funds  
Genette D. Gerow - \$10.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Bruce and Kathleen Flax - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
John and Lisa Reeves - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Susan and Scott Berry - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Lori Smith - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Cidalia Schott - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Duane and Patricia Grant - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Chad and Tina Copeland - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Robert Cronan - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Marie Streimer - \$20.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Ronald and Christina Adams - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Mark and Debra Luke - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Luanne and John Hespeler - \$15.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Various Donations - \$110.73 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)  
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund  
Union Baptist Church - \$1,680.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund  
John and Linda Crosskey - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
Betsey Fox - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
Dorothea B. Moore - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
Rivka Horowitz, M.D. and Harold Pessirilo - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
David G. Williams - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
Paul and Sheila Scott - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
Robert and Sarah McQuilkin - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
Dr. John and Marcia McGowan - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous  
Fitch High School Association Key Club - \$900.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Groton/Ledyard Rotary - \$1000.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
James Lanyon - \$6.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous  
Pequot Cyclists - \$75.00 - Library Donation Funds  
Pfizer United Way Campaign - \$50.00 - Library Donation Funds  
G. Thomas Couser - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List****2008-0154 FYE 2008 Suspense List**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

**A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Brown-Tracy, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

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

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor O'Beirne received two emails from residents of Noank supporting the use of the Noank School as a temporary Senior Center.*

*Councilor Kolnaski attended a Ledge Light Health District meeting, a Phase II Committee meeting, and a TRIAD program presentation.*

*Councilor Streeter received the same emails as mentioned previously. In addition, he received an email regarding volunteer firefighter legislation and a concern about volunteer firefighter coverage in Noank. Councilor Streeter attended a Groton Animal Foundation fundraiser and remarked that GAF is continuing to strive to reach the fundraising goals that it has committed to the Town.*

*Councilor Sheets, along with Mayor Watson, attended the Council of Governments meetings in Hartford. Legislation regarding the extension of the conveyance tax passed and the current Town conveyance tax rate will be extended for another two years.*

*Councilor Schmidt received no communications.*

*Councilor Brown-Tracy received the same emails as reported by the other Councilors.*

*Mayor Watson received the same emails as other Councilors. He attended the Retirement Ceremony for Board of Education employees, a Pfizer breakfast to thank those who greeted individuals from Ann Arbor last year regarding their possible relocation to Groton, a 25th Anniversary of Seabird Enterprises at which he read a proclamation, and a SCWA meeting. The Mayor was also present at a Flag Day ceremony in Mystic, a Mystic Cooperative Task Force meeting, a TRIAD meeting, a meeting regarding the trail from Preston to Bluff Point, and a joint Town Council/Stonington Board of Selectmen meeting to talk about mutual issues.*

*Councilor Bond arrived at this point in the meeting.*

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Monteiro

**Town Councilors (continued)**

*Councilor Bond had no additional items other than those already reported.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*At its meeting on June 11, the RTM approved 4th quarter transfers, reappropriation of funds for the Fitch High School auditorium, and the sale of two parcels of land on Buddington Road. The ordinance creating the OPEB Trust was not vetoed and will become effective on July 27.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*No report.*

**d. Town Manager**

*Lee Vincent informed the Council that Group I and Group II will meet on June 24, 2008. Two interviews will be conducted for appointments to various boards and commissions, and there will be a discussion on the Climate Change Initiative in the Environment and Energy Committee.*

**e. Town Attorney**

*No report.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS****a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne**

*No meeting, no report.*

**g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**

*No meeting, no report.*

**h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro**

*No meeting, no report.*

**i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

**X. NEW BUSINESS****2008-0154 FYE 2008 Suspense List****RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 SUSPENSE LIST**

WHEREAS, State law requires that once a year a list shall be compiled of taxes that should be suspended, and

WHEREAS, the accounts which have been determined as uncollectable have been contacted at least nine times with no response, and

WHEREAS, placing uncollected items on the Suspense List helps avoid waste of money and staff time, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers remain liable for all amounts that are placed on the Suspense List, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amounts be added to the Suspense List as reported to the Town Council:

Town: \$453,881.26  
Sewer District: \$1,453.71  
Mumford Cove: \$13.59  
Total: \$455,348.56

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Lee Vincent clarified that none of this tax is being "forgiven". If property is sold or there is another opportunity to recover these taxes, the Town will attempt to do so. The suspense list simply gives the finance staff permission to stop sending letters and hiring collection agencies. These particular tax delinquencies are simply being shifted to another mode of administration.*

The motion carried unanimously

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilor Bond was present at the Noank Zoning Commission meeting just prior to attending this Town Council meeting. She reported that there will be a Public Hearing on July 15, 2008, concerning the use of the Noank School for the temporary relocation of the Senior Center.*

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*