



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 Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Natalie Burfoot Billing, Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Paulann H. Sheets, Thomas J. Skrmetti, and Elissa T. Wright.

Wednesday, November 03, 2004

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

IV. 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 ten 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

2004-0309 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council of October 19, 2004 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2004-0280 Public Hearing to Consider Alterations to Sandy Hollow Road - Scenic Road

Resolution

2004-0184 Establishment of Charter Revision Committee

Referral

2004-0252 Elimination of Pull Off Area - River Road

Referral

2002-0009 Establishment and Guidelines for Open Space Fund

Referral

2004-0274 Sandy Hollow Road Curbing

Referral

2004-0295 Town Hall Annex Complex Safety/Environmental Improvements

Referral

2004-0297 Adoption of 2005 Group I Committees Regular Meeting Schedule

Referral

2004-0298 Adoption of 2005 Group II Committees Regular Meeting Schedule

Referral

2004-0299	Adoption of 2005 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule	Referral
2004-0300	Adoption of 2005 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule	Referral
2004-0304	Landfill Gas Rights	Referral
2004-0310	Appointment of Daniel Madden to Historic District Commission	Referral

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2004-0306	Contributions To Special Trust Funds	Resolution - Consent
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RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Various Donations - \$191.22 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

June Vizcaino - \$5.00 - Dog Pound

Myra Babb - \$5.00 - Dog Pound

Sean Mackey - \$5.00 - Dog Pound

Montville Dog Day Raffle Proceeds - \$50.00 - Dog Pound

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

- a. Town Councilors
- b. Representative Town Meeting
- c. Clerk of the Council
- d. Town Manager
- e. Town Attorney

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Billing
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski
- d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets
- e. Finance - Chairman Wright
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne
- g. Public Safety - Chairman Skrmetti
- h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik
- i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

2002-0009	Establishment and Guidelines for Open Space Fund	Referral
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RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION FUND

WHEREAS, the 24th Town Council recognizes that the Town of Groton is a desirable place to live,

work and visit in part because of the existence of natural, scenic coastal, historic and other open space areas within the Town; and

WHEREAS, pressures of development are diminishing open space lands and threatening the character of the town in its natural diversity of wildlife, open spaces, historic sites, and coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of open space lands will benefit the public by protecting and preserving fragile and environmentally threatened lands, historic resources, scenic areas, farm, forest, and riverfront lands, coastal areas, wetlands and beaches, reservoirs and aquifers; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the 23rd and 24th Town Councils address the importance of preserving open space lands and water resources as a high priority to ensure that the quality of life is preserved for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Commission has recommended the establishment of an open space acquisition policy to facilitate the identification, acquisition and protection of key parcels of land; and

WHEREAS, the Plan of Conservation and Development recommends the establishment and implementation of an open space plan including the creation of an open space land acquisition fund; and

WHEREAS, the 24th Groton Town Council recognizes the importance of preserving open space land and the need to designate funds for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Town to take advantage of the state's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program which provides up to 65 percent of the cost of purchasing approved open space and watershed lands; now therefore be it

RSEOLVED, that an open Space Land Acquisition Fund in the Town of Groton is hereby established pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-131r, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Council and RTM shall determine annually the amount, if any, to be appropriated for the fund. By statute, in no case can the annual deposit exceed two mills, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that by statute, the fund shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year. Funds deposited in the account shall be used solely for the identification, determination of suitability, appraisal and purchase of parcels of land to be designated open space.*

*For purposes of this Land Acquisition Fund, open space land means any land which if preserved would conserve natural or historic, or scenic resources, including the promotion of conservation of soils, wetlands and beaches, historic sites, farmland and forest land, and other designated areas deemed necessary or desirable for the preservation of the town's natural resources. Such areas shall emphasize passive recreation sites, natural resource protection sites or areas related to public health and safety including flood plain, wetlands, and watercourses, public drinking water reservoirs and their tributaries, and areas that shape community design such as green belts, stream belts, and buffer strips.

Legislative History

1/3/2002	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
2/12/2002	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

Director of Planning and Development Oefinger was present for discussion of this item. Town Manager LeBlanc reminded the Council that there are three referrals concerning open space and thought the logical

order would be to discuss the guidelines for all acquisitions followed by discussion on funding and the third step would be to establish priorities for specific parcels.

Councilor Wirzbicki stated he has read the suggested alternatives and thought that a fund should be developed at the same time as developing guidelines. The Town Manager thought we should look at the resources available which may include State or Federal grants and perhaps partnering with land trusts. He noted the State Statute that establishes a fund is a meaningful statute and he will be proposing to put some funds aside to do some preliminary work to acquire property such as title work, appraisals, etc. He said if \$1 million were to be included in the budget it would raise the mill rate by .5 and he is not comfortable with that option. He cautioned the Council that, if you have a fund in place, the prices escalate on possible property acquisitions.

Councilor Wright indicated she thinks that the Conservation Commission is the appropriate entity to handle this item. Councilor Hauber stated the Council is the body to make the decision on what properties to purchase, not the Conservation Commission.

Councilor Wirzbicki stated the guidelines could be developed before the final budget is adopted in June.

Councilor Skrmetti indicated he does not see the need for another Committee as we already have the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Oefinger indicated that guidelines need to be defined as to what we mean by open space as it can mean different things to different people. He noted that a lot of this information is documented already but what we have not done is to establish priorities.

Councilor Kolnaski thought this item should be handled by staff. Mr. Oefinger stated that much of the work has already been completed.

1/27/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Discussed
3/23/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Discussed
5/11/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Not Discussed
6/8/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Discussed
6/29/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Discussed
7/27/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Discussed
8/10/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Discussed
9/14/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Not Discussed
10/26/2004	Town Council Environment & Recreation Committee	Recommended for a Resolution

2004-0274

Sandy Hollow Road Curbing

Referral

RESOLUTION APPROVING CURB CONSTRUCTION ON SANDY HOLLOW ROAD, A DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Department of Public Works has recommended the installation of curbing to guide storm water along a portion of Sandy Hollow Road, and

WHEREAS, Sandy Hollow Road is a designated scenic road, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council held a public hearing on Tuesday, October 19, 2004, at which no opposition was stated against the proposed curbing, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Works may install curbing on Sandy Hollow Road according to the plan presented to the Town Council Public Works Committee at its regular meeting on September 14, 2004.

Legislative History

8/24/2004	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Public Works Com
9/14/2004	Town Council Public Works Committee	Discussed	
10/26/2004	Town Council Public Works Committee	Recommended for a Resolution	

2004-0295 **Town Hall Annex Complex Safety/Environmental Improvements** **Referral**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE TOWN HALL ANNEX COMPLEX

WHEREAS, the master plan for long term improvement of the Public Works areas in the Town Hall Annex Complex includes the construction of new access roadways, improved storm drainage, and a water line to sprinklers in the Vehicle Storage Garage, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed plans from the Department of Public Works that will provide safer and more convenient access to various buildings, as part of the completed work of extending the necessary water line for fire protection, and

WHEREAS, the planned improvements will be clearly advantageous for several long standing environmental concerns, and

WHEREAS, this project will be funded from existing appropriations under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works, and

WHEREAS, this project will be carried out by the Town's own engineering and highway crews so as to provide a great benefit for a relatively modest cost, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves and authorizes the engineering and construction for sprinklers and roadway improvements at Town Hall Annex Complex.

Legislative History

10/6/2004	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
10/26/2004	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

2004-0297 **Adoption of 2005 Group I Committees Regular Meeting Schedule** **Referral**

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2005 GROUP I COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group I Committees meeting schedule for 2005 as follows:

- Tuesday, January 11, 2005
- Tuesday, January 25, 2005
- Tuesday, February 8, 2005
- Tuesday, February 22, 2005
- Tuesday, March 8, 2005
- Tuesday, March 22, 2005
- Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Tuesday, April 26, 2005
 Tuesday, May 10, 2005
 Tuesday, May 24, 2005
 Tuesday, June 14, 2005
 Tuesday, June 28, 2005
 Tuesday, July 12, 2005
 Tuesday, July 26, 2005
 Tuesday, August 9, 2005
 Tuesday, August 23, 2005
 Tuesday, September 13, 2005
 Tuesday, September 27, 2005
 Tuesday, October 11, 2005
 Tuesday, October 25, 2005
 Wednesday, November 9, 2005
 Tuesday, November 22, 2005
 Tuesday, December 13, 2005
 Tuesday, December 27, 2005

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road - the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

Legislative History

	10/12/2004	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
	10/26/2004	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
2004-0298	Adoption of 2005 Group II Committees Regular Meeting Schedule			Referral

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2005 GROUP II COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group II Committees meeting schedule for 2005 as follows:

Tuesday, January 11, 2005
 Tuesday, January 25, 2005
 Tuesday, February 8, 2005
 Tuesday, February 22, 2005
 Tuesday, March 8, 2005
 Tuesday, March 22, 2005
 Tuesday, April 12, 2005
 Tuesday, April 26, 2005
 Tuesday, May 10, 2005
 Tuesday, May 24, 2005
 Tuesday, June 14, 2005
 Tuesday, June 28, 2005
 Tuesday, July 12, 2005
 Tuesday, July 26, 2005
 Tuesday, August 9, 2005
 Tuesday, August 23, 2005
 Tuesday, September 13, 2005
 Tuesday, September 27, 2005
 Tuesday, October 11, 2005
 Tuesday, October 25, 2005
 Wednesday, November 9, 2005
 Tuesday, November 22, 2005

Tuesday, December 13, 2005
 Tuesday, December 27, 2005

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 3, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road - the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

Legislative History

10/12/2004	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
10/26/2004	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

2004-0299 Adoption of 2005 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule Referral

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2005 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole meeting schedule for 2005 as follows:

- Tuesday, January 11, 2005
- Tuesday, January 25, 2005
- Tuesday, February 8, 2005
- Tuesday, February 22, 2005
- Tuesday, March 8, 2005
- Tuesday, March 22, 2005
- Tuesday, April 12, 2005
- Tuesday, April 26, 2005
- Tuesday, May 10, 2005
- Tuesday, May 24, 2005
- Tuesday, June 14, 2005
- Tuesday, June 28, 2005
- Tuesday, July 12, 2005
- Tuesday, July 26, 2005
- Tuesday, August 9, 2005
- Tuesday, August 23, 2005
- Tuesday, September 13, 2005
- Tuesday, September 27, 2005
- Tuesday, October 11, 2005
- Tuesday, October 25, 2005
- Wednesday, November 9, 2005
- Tuesday, November 22, 2005
- Tuesday, December 13, 2005
- Tuesday, December 27, 2005

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road - the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

Legislative History

10/12/2004	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
10/26/2004	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

2004-0300 Adoption of 2005 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule Referral

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2005 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the meeting schedule for 2005 as

follows:

- Tuesday, January 4, 2005
- Tuesday, January 18, 2005
- Tuesday, February 1, 2005
- Tuesday, February 15, 2005
- Tuesday, March 1, 2005
- Tuesday, March 15, 2005
- Tuesday April 5, 2005
- Tuesday, April 19, 2005
- Tuesday, May 3, 2005
- Tuesday, May 17, 2005
- Tuesday, June 7, 2005
- Tuesday, June 21, 2005
- Tuesday, July 5, 2005
- Tuesday, July 19, 2005
- Tuesday, August 2, 2005
- Tuesday, August 16, 2005
- Tuesday, September 6, 2005
- Tuesday, September 20, 2005
- Tuesday, October 4, 2005
- Tuesday, October 18, 2005
- Tuesday, November 1, 2005
- Tuesday, November 15, 2005
- Tuesday, December 6, 2005
- Tuesday, December 20, 2005

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road - the First and Third Tuesday of each month.

Legislative History

10/12/2004	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
10/26/2004	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
2004-0304	Landfill Gas Rights		Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO COMMERCIAL ENERGY GENERATION FROM GROTON'S LANDFILL GAS

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has received a proposal for the conversion to energy of underground gases generated in the Flanders Road Landfill, and

WHEREAS, the local production of electricity from landfill gas is highly desirable for the environment and for its value in creating another source for business and residential users of electricity, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered a proposal from Access Energy and G.A.S., now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Access - G.A.S. may have an exclusive right for ninety (90) days to negotiate an agreement for energy conversion that is good for Groton, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to negotiate such an agreement, to be presented to the Town Council for final approval.

Legislative History

	10/15/2004	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
	10/26/2004	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
2004-0310	Appointment of Daniel Madden to Historic District Commission			Referral

RESOLUTION APPOINTING DANIEL A. MADDEN AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Daniel A. Madden, 40 Pearl Street, Mystic, is appointed as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/05.

Legislative History

10/26/2004	Town Council Personnel/Appointments/Rules /Legislation Committee	Recommended for a Resolution
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XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT