



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.

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2005-0163	Proclamation Honoring Linda LeBuis Smullen	Proclamation - TC
2005-0188	Proclamation Honoring the Robert E. Fitch Senior High School Varsity Cheerleaders	Proclamation - TC
2005-0193	Proclamation Commemorating Flag Day	Proclamation - TC

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

2005-0195	Approval of Minutes (Town Council)	Resolution - Consent
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RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of June 7, 2005 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2004-0052	Future Disposition of Eastern Point Property	Referral
2004-0156	Information Technology Outsourcing	Referral
2004-0344	Town Department Services/Employee Hours Study	Referral
2005-0019	Status of Mystic Educational Center	Referral
2005-0022	School Bus Monitors	Referral
2005-0023	Eastern Regional Finance Group	Referral

2005-0043	Jabez Smith House Property Expansion	Referral
2005-0120	Fitch Varsity Cheerleaders Request for Donation	Referral
2005-0156	Fourth of July Town Council Float	Referral
2005-0045	Meals on Wheels Provider for Senior Center	Referral
2005-0078	Sandy Hollow Road Tree Removal	Referral
2005-0191	Railroad Quiet Zone	Referral

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2005-0189	Special Trust Fund Contributions	Resolution - Consent
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RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

Various donations - \$34.71 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Pequot Cyclists - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary

J. Donald & Jean Simpson - \$30.00 - Social Services Discretionary

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

2005-0045	Meals on Wheels Provider for Senior Center	Referral
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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS FOR THE DELIVERY OF MEALS TO
HOMEBOUND SENIOR CITIZENS

WHEREAS, since 1980 the Groton Senior Center has facilitated the delivery of "Meals on Wheels" by using Senior Center facilities and the TVCCA (Thames Valley Council for Community Action)

Elderly Nutrition Program, and

WHEREAS, there has been a waiting list of long standing, resulting in the denial of food service to some eligible seniors, and

WHEREAS, adding more meal recipients under the existing program would require funds in excess of the present cost to the Town of approximately \$75,000 per year, and

WHEREAS, TVCCA can take over the preparation and delivery of meals, with only one staff member at the Senior Center to handle referrals and coordination, and

WHEREAS, the proposed new arrangement will save a considerable amount of Town funds and will also free up space for better on-site service to seniors in the Senior Center kitchen and dining room, and

WHEREAS, a supplemental fee-for-service program to be added by TVCCA will make it possible to serve more clients who are in need of cooked meals but are not subsidized by Title III C, and

WHEREAS, TVCCA will enter into a six-month trial contract for the provision of meal delivery services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may contract with TVCCA for a Meals on Wheels nutrition program under Title III C, and may also contract for a supplementary fee-for-service Meals on Wheels program, and may execute such renewals and extensions as will facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

Legislative History

2/17/2005	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
2/22/2005	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

Director John Silsby, Director of Parks and Recreation reported on the Meals on Wheels program services. The Senior Center serves 77 homebound seniors through an agreement with TVCCA. Whereby TVCCA provides food and the Senior Center prepares and delivers it. 140 meals per day are delivered, and there is a waiting list for the program. Director Silsby continued to discuss the following issues. Sometimes seniors receive so much food they hoard it or waste it. There is a fee collected by the Town that goes back to TVCCA. TVCCA administers the program inconsistently from one town to the next and cannot accommodate the waiting list of seniors. Mr. Silsby is suggesting outsourcing to an outside vendor. This vendor would do the preparation, packaging and delivery and Parks and Recreation would administer the program. To contract it out would cost \$100,000, of which \$75,000 is for preparation and delivery. The Senior Center could remove two of the vans from their fleet and reduce the number of driver hours. Town Manager Oefinger stated that the proposal to contract with CW Resources would appear in the FYE 2006 Proposed Budget. It is a fairly large change and a sizable increase in the Parks and Recreation Senior Center budget. Town Manager Oefinger reported that it cost us \$75,000 right now, and under the new budget will cost us \$111,000. However, net cost to the Town would go down to \$69,000. Staff feels it would be a much better product for seniors that need this service.

2/22/2005	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Motion
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to recommend a resolution to contract with CW Resources for the Meals on Wheels program.

Councilor Sheets stated that TVCCA is funded through federal guidelines and takes donations. Mary Jo Riley, Supervisor of the Senior Center explained that the cost is \$1.83 now, and it will be \$2.50 for the new program. Councilor Sheets asked if this would adjust the waiting list, and Ms. Riley stated it would. Also, by going with CW Resources, it would be five meals, Monday through Friday. Councilor Sheets asked how the avoidance of the use of vans and drivers will be reflected in the budget. Mary Jo Riley answered that they would reduce hours by 45 hours and would reduce their vans by two. Councilor Sheets asked if the Senior Center would be monitoring meal deliveries and Ms. Riley replied, yes, they would be contacting them on weekends about deliveries. Councilor Bartinik asked what if 77 people say they do not like the new program. Ms. Riley stated that the agreement is for one year. Councilor Billing suggested that the net savings considering the reduction

in vans and drivers and increase in the cost of food would be \$5,000. Ms. Riley noted that CW Resources delivers cold meals that have to be microwaved. She reported that the Town has clients that use CW Resources in Groton and they have done research and compared services from New Britain, New Haven, Hartford and all have been very satisfied with CW Resources. Councilor Bond asked if they had ever eaten the food and Ms. Riley replied that CW Resources gave them a month's supply of food to try. Councilor Bond asked how the Town collects if someone is not paying. Ms. Riley stated that fees are collected ahead of time so there is no problem with people paying

3/1/2005 Town Council Not acted upon

Town Manager Oefinger noted he will obtain more information for the Town Council regarding this item. No motion was made.

3/15/2005 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger noted a letter that was received from TVCCA presenting another proposal for the Meals on Wheels program, which is currently under review by Town staff. He asked the Council to delay further action on the pending resolution. TVCCA is also going to meet with the Council of Governments to address the issue of different towns paying different amounts for the program. The Town Manager noted that the highest cost proposal was used to calculate the FYE 2006 Proposed Budget. The consensus of the Committee was to delay action on this item.

6/14/2005 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

2005-0078

Sandy Hollow Road Tree Removal

Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TREE REMOVAL ON SANDY HOLLOW ROAD

WHEREAS, on January 19, 1999, by resolution, the Groton Town Council designated Sandy Hollow Road as a scenic road, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 200 (Scenic Roads) forbids the removal of trees except for good cause determined by the Council after a public hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has found a certain tree to be largely hollowed out and in danger of falling and has informed the Town Council, and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2005, the Town Council held a public hearing on the proposed tree removal, in which removal of the tree was requested and supported by the closest property owner, with no opposing statements having been offered, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the removal of a red oak tree at or near 104 Sandy Hollow Road.

Legislative History

4/26/2005 Town Council Committee of the Whole Motion

5/3/2005 Town Council Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken

5/3/2005 Town Council Adopted

6/14/2005 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

2005-0191

Railroad Quiet Zone

Referral

RESOLUTION FOR A NOTICE OF INTENT AND DESIGNATION OF A RAILROAD CROSSING QUIET ZONE

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration has approved a Final Rule, effective June 24, 2005, by which a town government, as a local public authority, may designate railroad quiet zones to prevent the sounding of locomotive horns where recognized Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs) are in place at all highway grade crossings within the quiet zone, and

WHEREAS, the School Street crossing at West Mystic includes the quad gates with presence detector, which is the most advanced and recommended form of protection for high-speed railroad crossings, and

WHEREAS, residents of Groton in the area near the School Street grade crossing have persistently petitioned for a quiet zone, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton is a public authority within the meaning of US FRA regulations, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is advised that a town ordinance is not necessary, either under the Town Charter or under Federal laws and regulations, to effectuate this purpose, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to issue a Notice of Intent providing a 60-day comment period for the purpose of designating a railroad quiet zone of at least one-half mile in length, to apply to trains approaching and passing through the School Street grade crossing (FRA Inventory Number 500-278J), under the authority stated in 49 CFR 222.39 (a) (1).

Legislative History

6/7/2005	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
6/14/2005	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT