

MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF CHAIRPERSONS  
JULY 18, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bates, Martin, Nado, Pritchard, Rafferty, Scott, Williams  
Staff: Murphy, Silsby

Acting Chairperson Williams called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 18, 2011

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 18, 2011

Motion made by Scott, seconded by Rafferty, so voted unanimously

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Clean Water Act Grant for WPCF Improvements

Due to the Public Works Director not being available tonight, Staff suggested to table this item in addition to the next item pertaining to River Road Design Standards.

Staff is unsure whether DEEP's requirements can be met in accordance with the time schedules.

Questions were raised about the timeline for painting and re-shingling at the pump station located in Noank.

MOTION: To table discussion of this item until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Motion made by Pritchard, seconded by Nado, so voted unanimously

2. River Road – Design Standards Update

As noted above, Public Works Director Schneider is not present tonight to present this item. Staff explained that this reconstruction is needed due to damage incurred from the March floods. Staff stated that construction is imminent.

MOTION: To table discussion of this item until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Motion made by Pritchard, seconded by Nado, so voted unanimously

3. Property Maintenance and Blight Prevention Program – Update

Staff gave an update and distributed information provided to the Town Council about a possible ordinance. An update about the Chipperini property on Library Street was given. Details were shared about the agreement between the Town of Groton and Ms. Chipperini. The homeowner was supposed to sell the property by June 30, 2011,

which has not happened. Staff noted that the town is looking to remove the chimney. An inquiry was made about the costs involved to the Town relative to the Chipperini property.

Staff distributed a tentative timeline for the blight program in addition to Town Council Group II minutes. The Council has asked Staff to come up with a draft ordinance for discussion and educational purposes. Staff explained the importance of clarifying the language in the ordinance, requesting public input, and educating the public. He explained about the challenges that exist in creating a blight ordinance.

Staff is trying to revise a building inspector's position description, in order to incorporate the work that will be involved with the code. A Citation Appeals Board is recommended if this blight ordinance is enacted by the Town Council. Staff believes that a full time position would be required in order to support enforcement of the code properly. These files are available from the Planning Department.

4. Flood Management Regulations and FEMA Coastal Hazards Mapping – Update

Staff explained that the new FEMA maps went into effect today, July 18, 2011. Staff stated that FEMA intends to make additional changes in the near future, which will make the new maps obsolete. Discussion ensued about how future flood map changes will affect the public. Staff explained that relative to the flood areas, the Central Block location approval is grandfathered.

5. Spicer Property Open Space Grant – Update

Staff gave a recap of the \$650,000 grant money that the town has obtained as well as other money received from subdivision fees. The Town is continuing to look for additional funding through other sources to close the gap, including specialized grants for prior agricultural use and animal habitat. Staff will include this on the next agenda.

6. Noank School Reuse – Update

Staff stated that a survey has been distributed by the Reuse Committee, to get public input. The survey can be obtained by visiting the Town's website ([www.groton-ct.gov](http://www.groton-ct.gov)). The chairperson will be communicating with the Town council to close out this process. A suggestion was made to publish this survey in local newspapers.

7. Identification of Topics for Discussion

The next meeting will be held on October 17, 2011. The following items will be added to the agenda for the next meeting: everything on tonight's agenda as well as an update on the Mystic Streetscape Project.

V. REPORT OF CHAIRPERSONS

Bates inquired about redoing a sewer pipe that was installed incorrectly at the Mystic Streetscape Project on Gravel Street. Staff noted that the pitch wasn't right and was redone to conform to the streetscape plan and our Department of Public Works Specifications.

Details and timelines were given relative to the construction work being done in front of Chelsea Groton Bank in Downtown Mystic and further down Water Street.

Staff explained that the developers of Central Hall Block could not install the original propane tank at its planned location due to conflicts with electrical lines, and have approached the Town Council to request relocating the propane tank. Staff stated that a 1-year extension to begin construction has been granted to the developers by the Planning Commission. This item will be brought back to the Planning Commission in the future for site plan modification approval.

Bates gave an update about the harbor masters and the new Mystic River speed limit bill that recently passed about safeguarding the harbors from speeders.

VI. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff noted that the Town's new email domain is [www.groton-ct.gov](http://www.groton-ct.gov)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to Adjourn was made by Pritchard, seconded by Nado, so voted unanimously at 7:22 p.m.

---

Prepared by: Robin M. Silsby  
Office Assistant II  
OPDS