



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

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

**Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson**

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

#### SPECIAL MEETING

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.*

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski and Councilor Watson

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.*

#### 3. Calendar and Communications

*None.*

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

##### 2010-0154 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

##### RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meetings of June 8, 2010 and June 14, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

**A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adopt.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

##### 2010-0156 Reauthorization of Funds - Catherine Kolnaski to Fitch High School for Water Infiltration

##### Discussed

*The Town Manager explained that there are continuing water infiltration issues at Fitch High School. This request involves using remaining funds from the Kolnaski School to hire a consultant to develop proposed schematic repair options.*

*Councilor Johnson arrived at 7:45 p.m.*

**Roll Call:** Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets  
Members Absent: Councilor Kolnaski and Councilor Watson

##### Discussed

*The firm being engaged is an engineering firm originally involved in the project as a third party reviewer and this is their area of expertise. Councilor O'Beirne expressed concern with having someone involved in this process that might ultimately be determined to have liability. The Town Manager does not feel that is the case. The funds requested should be sufficient for investigations at this time, but they may not be sufficient for a fix, depending on what is found during the investigation. Councilor Sheets expressed a concern with having someone originally involved in the process involved in the investigation. The Town Manager suggested that a further discussion of this item may be more appropriate in executive session.*

**Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2010-0157**

**Proposed Eagle Scout Project on Town-Owned Property, Route 1/Poquonnock Road**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger noted the information received from Nick Woviotis about a proposed Eagle Scout project on property immediately adjacent to the Avery Memorial. Mr. Woviotis stated that he received word today from the Environmental Planner about requested modifications to the proposal. The property will be left in a natural state. There will no benches or use of chemicals. The project has been scaled back to clean up and path installation only. Mr. Woviotis is awaiting project approval from the Eagle Scout Council. The request to eliminate the benches was characterized as a maintenance issue. Mr. Woviotis is still working to identify the path surface, but he would like to do woodchips.*

*The Town Manager explained that the Town does maintenance of the site once a year and it is not a very active area. Discussion followed on the Avery Memorial and the group that maintains it. The clean up may inspire community involvement in long term maintenance and clean up. The Council thanked Mr. Woviotis for his interest in doing a project in Groton.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2006-0282**

**School Improvement Project - Phase II**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger provided a history of the discussions leading up to identifying a preferred location for a single middle school. The Phase II School Design Committee has not made a decision on a preferred site and would like to do additional research. This request involves using previously approved CIP funds earmarked for Phase II for additional traffic studies.*

*Craig Koehler, a member of the Phase II School Design Committee, noted that the issue is the potential cost of off site traffic improvements at the two sites under consideration since those costs are not reimbursable by the state. The Committee seeks to identify what is best for Groton's children as well as the taxpayers of the Town. Councilor Peruzzotti asked who would be in charge of the additional study and the Town Manager stated it would be Public Works that would engage a traffic engineering firm (Fuss & O'Neill). The Town Manager further explained the concern about what may be required by the State Traffic Commission, especially at Claude Chester. With respect to the CIP funds, a number of items identified in the CIP project for further study have already been accomplished with the Board of Education's McKissick study.*

*Councilor Sheets again asked how this could be an issue given the investment in infrastructure at the King property. The Town Manager explained that when a middle school was previously discussed at the King property, it was envisioned that there would be two middle schools. Things have changed and there is value in examining all options for a single middle school. The Council was encouraged to share their concerns about either of the sites with the Phase II School Design Committee so they can take them into consideration.*

*Councilor O'Beirne questioned the cost of the McKissick study and source of the funds. Wes Greenleaf, Director of Building and Grounds for Groton Public Schools, stated the cost of the study was \$50,000 and it was taken out of the professional services budget. Councilor Monteiro questioned the role of the Permanent School Building Committee in this decision. The Town Manager explained that the opinions of Permanent School Building Committee members are valued, including "lessons learned" from Phase I. However, their role is more construction oriented.*

*Councilor Flax asked why the McKissick study did not examine traffic. Councilor Peruzzotti noted that it was a timing issue. There was a desire to get information out on Claude Chester as quickly as possible. The Town Manager noted that the Phase II School Design Committee was not involved in the McKissick study. The Committee deferred action to allow the Superintendent of Schools to commission the study and advocate for Claude Chester.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to authorize the Phase II School Design Committee to pursue additional studies of the former King Property and Claude Chester sites in an effort to identify a preferred site for a single middle school.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2010-0146 Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding**

**A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2010-0147 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger explained the purpose of the grant funds. Mayor Streeter had questions about the vendor used for the SeaLegs program, but staff was not available to answer the questions. There is no direct match required, but staff time is expended on the program. Mayor Streeter explained his questions have to do with the status of the contractor and the number of children in Groton that utilize the program. Councilor Sheets noted that the program is open to non-Groton residents as well.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

*Discussion followed on noting in the resolution that the Council reserves the right to withdraw the application pending receipt of additional information on the SeaLegs program*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2010-0150 Autism Speaks Grant**

**A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

*Discussion followed on continuation of the program after the grant is no longer available*

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 6 - Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

Opposed: 1 - Mayor Streeter

**2007-0238 Groton Heights School Reuse Task Force - Update**

**Discussed**

*Mayor Streeter noted that there are still two vacancies on this task force and the full membership will be announced when the remaining two members are appointed.*

**2010-0133 Appointments to Noank School Reuse Task Force**

**Discussed and Recommended no action taken**

*Mayor Streeter distributed a list of the appointed Noank School Reuse Task Force members as follows:*

*Town Council - Bruce Flax*

*RTM - Peter Fairbank*

*Noank Fire District - Frank Socha*

*Noank Zoning Commission - Carl Reichard*

*Planning Commission - Hank Steinfeld*

*Parks and Recreation Commission - Richard McCarthy*

*Neighbors (3) - Daniel Crowley, Annie Payne, and Pat Doyle*

*Community at Large (2) - Robert MacBain and Ed Stebbins*

**2010-0124      Review of Town Council Goals**

**Tabled**

**6.      ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Sheets, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*