



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 Patrice Granatosky, Councilor David Atwater, Councilor Conrad F. Heede, Councilor Rachael Franco, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Lian Obrey, Councilor Juliette Parker, Councilor Rita Schmidt, and Councilor Joe Zeppieri

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Granatosky called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Chairperson Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Obrey, Councilor Parker, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Zeppieri

Also present were Town Manager John Burt and Assistant to the Town Manager Nicki Bresnayan.

3. **Calendar and Communications**

Councilor Heede reported that a Personnel and Appointments Committee meeting was held, and miscellaneous and ad hoc committee appointments were discussed. A list of appointees has been completed and minutes of the meeting were mailed to the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Councilor Schmidt noted there was a meeting of the Eastern Connecticut Tourism District and they will be moving their office from the Bailey Agencies to seCTer.

Councilor Zeppieri received a communication regarding an increase in Chapter One noise. Town Manager Burt reported that OPDS staff has gone to the restaurant on the weekend and found no excessive noise. The Town Manager does not believe there is a zoning option and the Town may need a noise ordinance. Patrol officers in the community policing program will check in on the establishment regularly.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2017-0305 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 meeting of December 12, 2017 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Heede, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2017-0297 Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut, Inc.

Discussed and Recommended no action taken

Town Attorney Eric Callahan, Director of Finance Cindy Landry, and Assessor Mary Gardner were present. Attorney Callahan reviewed a history of the Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut taxing issue, subsequent appeal, agreement negotiations, and the final court stipulated 10-year agreement. Mr. Callahan answered questions from Town Councilors as they arose.

Mayor Granatosky thanked staff and Attorney Callahan for the presentation.

2017-0293 Adoption of Rules for the Thirty-First Town Council

Referred

The draft Rules were referred back to the Temporary Rules Committee to address comments from the Town Attorney.

2017-0299 Liberty Bank Grant

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Parker, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0094 Vergennes Court Project - Update

Discussed

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, provided a history of this project which originally called for the dead-ending of Vergennes Court utilizing a state grant. The design would have allowed emergency and pedestrian access to Route 1. Residents objected to the proposal at a public information meeting. The Town Council asked staff to look at alternatives, but street lighting, traffic markings, and cross walk signage have all been addressed, and there are no viable alternatives. The state is requesting a letter from the Town of Groton to close out the project.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Obrey, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2018-0004 Pending Litigation (2018 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Chairperson Granatosky, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that members of the Town Council Committee of the Whole, Town Manager John Burt, Tax Assessor Mary Gardner, Finance Director Cindy Landry, and Town Attorney Matt Auger go into executive session at 7:24 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200 (6) (B) for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations related to pending litigation and/or pending claims concerning lawsuits filed separately by Pfizer, Inc. and by Groton Long Point Association.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 9:00 p.m. and the Committee recessed until 9:06 p.m.

2017-0296 Thomas Road Project - Update

Discussed

Director of Public Works Gary Schneider and Director of Parks and Recreation Mark Berry were present. Mr. Schneider reviewed cost estimate for the project and available funding. One alternative being proposed would be a modified roadway and improved pedestrian shoulders for approximately \$450,000. If the Council chooses to continue with the original multi-use trail project, additional land acquisition, permitting, and funding will be required. Mr. Schneider reviewed some of challenges of moving forward with the original project. It is unknown if existing funding is earmarked for Thomas Road or for trails in general. Staff recommends the alternative design, with paving being completed in 2018.

Mr. Schneider answered questions from Town Councilors.

Mr. Berry provided an overview of a study done by VHB consultants for a proposed Depot Road to Tower Avenue bikeway.

Mr. Schneider responded to additional questions from the Council.

The consensus of the Council was to pursue the alternative recommended by staff.

A motion was made by Councilor Zeppieri, seconded by Councilor Parker, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0308 Introduction of Illicit Stormwater Discharge Ordinance

Referred

Director of Public Works Gary Schneider and Assistant Director of Public Works Chris Lund were present. Mr. Lund explained that adoption of the ordinance dealing with illicit discharges into storm sewer systems is a requirement of the revised State of Connecticut General Permit for Stormwater Discharge.

Mr. Lund responded to Councilors' questions. It was noted that the Town Manager will appoint existing employee(s) to be the Stormwater Compliance Officer and Citation Hearing Officer at no additional pay.

2017-0309 Resolution Setting a Public Hearing on Illicit Stormwater Discharge Ordinance

Discussed

The recommended date for the public hearing is March 6, 2018.

A motion was made by Councilor Parker, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0306 Parks and Recreation Department - Update

Not Discussed

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

2016-0043 Use of Recycling Building on Flanders Road for Fire Training

Recommended for Deletion

2016-0184 Sale or Lease of Town Owned Excess Property

Not Discussed

2016-0203 Establishment of an Ad Hoc Public Safety Committee

Recommended for Deletion

2016-0204 Review of Town Services and Operations

Recommended for Deletion

2016-0205 Citizen's Academy

Recommended for Deletion

2016-0206 Build-a-Budget

Recommended for Deletion

2016-0207 Review of Scenic Road Ordinance

Recommended for Deletion

2016-0244 Charter Revision - Update

Recommended for Deletion

2017-0071 Town Council/Board of Education Joint Task Force on Shared Services - Update

Recommended for Deletion

2017-0090 Combined Planning and Zoning Commission

Not Discussed

2017-0105 Fuel Charges for Outside Agencies

- 2017-0107 **Recommended for Deletion**
Town-Wide Dispatch Discussion
Not Discussed
- 2017-0108 **Employee Vacation/Sick Day Balances**
Recommended for Deletion
- 2017-0136 **Pension Fund**
Not Discussed
- 2017-0139 **FYE 2017 Budget - State Reductions**
Recommended for Deletion
- 2017-0186 **Elimination of FYE 2019 Funding for Groton Long Point Police Department**
Recommended for Deletion
- 2017-0187 **Elimination of FYE 2019 Funding for City of Groton and Groton Long Point Streetlights**
Recommended for Deletion
- 2017-0205 **Board of Education/City of Groton Liaisons**
Recommended for Deletion
- 2017-0211 **Presentation by Town's Actuary**
Not Discussed
- 2017-0218 **Proposed Charter Revision - Draft Report**
Recommended for Deletion
- 2017-0284 **Office of Planning and Development Services - Overview of Initiatives**
Recommended for Deletion

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. ADJOURNMENT