



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 Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Thursday, February 21, 2013

9:30 AM

Noank Aquaculture Co-op, 98 Main Street

SPECIAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Councilor Antipas, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Mayor Somers, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Streeter

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

2013-0049

Department of Agriculture Aquaculture Division Interaction with Shellfish Commission and Noank Hatchery

The meeting was a non-meeting of the Groton Town Council Committee of the Whole due to lack of a quorum. Councilor Watson started discussion off with Councilors Antipas and Schmidt also present. A signup sheet was passed around to record those present (attached).

H. Watson opened the meeting with a few remarks explaining why the meeting was called and gave some background of the hatchery and its function/purpose and connection to Groton's Shellfish Commission.

Key items that were discussed were:

1) *Opening the lower Mystic River during the winter months to facilitate better business working conditions for the Co-operative during inclement weather and, for safety. The reasons for this request by the co-operative was to assure safety of co-operative members working during the colder months and to have access closer to shore for business reasons.*

2) *Pursuance of a wet storage facility for the co-operative in the facility to be able to continue marketing of shellfish while waiting for closures to be assessed and reopened.*

3) *Delay of results for samples at the State laboratory. A hold up to reopen areas closed because of an event for both the co-operative and the Shellfish Commission's recreational grounds.*

The following resolutions to discussion were made:

As for 1) above: The four years of frustration by the co-operative were addressed by the Department of Agriculture (Commissioner Revitsky, David Carey DA/BA, and David Lamoureux DA/BA). Senator Maynard stated he would address the under staffing of the lab which runs samples. An alternate lab of the Department of Health is an alternative. Data for a two inch closure has been established for the lower Mystic River for a winter seasonal opening. Data from sewer treatment facilities needs to be reviewed before opening can occur. The DA/BA committed to a review completion within three weeks from today.

As for 2) above: The DA/BA agreed to work with the co-operative for this facility. A few goals

need to be established. The well needs to be tested twice per year for drinking quality water (minus salt). The flow in the tanks needs to be established for even flow while storage area is being used (a control experiment needs to be run). The well needs to be protected to keep out flood water during an event. The tanks would have to be run and tested one time per month whether they are used or not.

As for 3) above: Frustrations over sampling and reopening after closures were brought up. The DA/BA staffing would help here.

Other comments made during the meeting:

Commissioner Revitsky stated that he and the Governor are committed to aquaculture in the State and there are grants available up to \$49,999.

The possibility of a FDA certified lab at Avery Point would make sense.

Job opportunities could come from getting concerns addressed by the co-operative.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned around 11:00 a.m.