



# 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**

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

#### SPECIAL MEETING - REVISED

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Somers called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.*

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Schmidt

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

#### 3. Calendar and Communications

*Town Manager Oefinger distributed a letter from the Town Attorney regarding the Mystic Streetscape Project and noted it will be on next week's Committee of the Whole agenda.*

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

##### 2013-0135 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 April 23, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

**A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Flax, to adopt.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*None.*

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

*Councilor Johnson arrived at 6:10 p.m.*

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

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Schmidt

##### 2013-0122 Battle of Mystic Battlefield Project Update by Kevin McBride

##### **Discussed and Recommended no action taken**

*Kevin McBride conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the Battle of Mystic Battlefield Project. Town councilors received an abbreviated public report on the Battle of Mystic Fort in their agenda packets. The project is funded by the National Park Service to locate and document battlefields supporting American history. The Mashantucket Pequot tribe also applied for a grant to study the English retreat from the battle. The group found more than 400 battle related objects. Most of the work was conducted on Town of Groton property and other open space. The group's goal is to make a more dynamic reconstruction of the battle by reviewing and matching narratives with the archeological record. Mr. McBride reviewed field methods and survey techniques which include metal detecting. The group has applied for a grant for the second half of the retreat which is*

*expected to begin in late summer or early fall. Mr. McBride provided a history of the Pequot War. He reviewed the study sites and artifacts that were found.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti arrived at 6:35 p.m.*

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

**Discussed**

*Mr. McBride then reviewed the sites associated with the English retreat from the Pequot Fort. Going forward the group is working to identify preservation strategies. The web site address is [www.pequotwar.org](http://www.pequotwar.org). Work continues on the final report. A total of \$750,000 has been received from the National Park Service with the dollars matched in kind by the tribe.*

*Town Manager Oefinger suggested that Mr. McBride make a presentation to the Pequot Woods Board of Trustees that oversees the property where quite a few of the artifacts were found.*

**2013-0128 RTM Reapportionment**

**Discussed**

*Councilor Antipas questioned the way the numbers of district representatives were calculated and whether it complies with the Charter. After discussion, the Council asked that the method of calculation be reviewed by the Town Attorney.*

**2013-0137 Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction Design Agreement**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger explained that this is a request to authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement for the next phase of the Crystal Lake Road Project (design).*

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

*In response to Councilor Flax, the Town Manager reviewed when he must seek authorization from the Town Council to sign agreements.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2010-0215 Community Access Television Application to DPUC**

**Not Discussed**

*Consideration of this item was tabled to the next meeting.*

**2012-0069 Police Station Renovations**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger noted that the Council decided they would look at these three projects after FYE 2014 budget deliberations were completed to determine if they should go to the voters in November 2013.*

*The Town Manager reviewed aspects of the three projects and whether or not it would be cost effective to phase them.*

*For Judson Avenue, value in the project is to do it all at one once and not in phases. Two outfalls would be first. Engineering costs not prorated by components.*

*Councilors expressed their level of support for the projects. Councilor Peruzzotti supports one referendum for the Police Station project because of safety issues. She does not feel that the Judson Avenue drainage project is a priority for the Town as a whole.*

*In response to Mayor Somers, the Town Manager noted that the Town has spent in excess of*

\$200,000 on the Judson Avenue project. The design will improve the situation under some storm events but there is no guarantee that flooding will not take place in the future.

Mayor Somers suggested that the Council should only put projects forward for referendum if the Council supports them.

Councilor Streeter expressed support for the necessary improvements at the Police Station, but does not support the Judson Avenue drainage project. He suggested delaying the Flanders Road project for a year in light of recent interest in the area expressed by a developer. Councilor Morton expressed support for all three projects. Councilor Johnson also suggested that the Flanders Road utility extension can wait. Mayor Somers noted that the potential developer is looking for assistance with covering the utility costs and she feels it is important to extend the utilities at least to I-95. Councilor Flax supports the Flanders Road and Police Station. Projects, but not the Judson Avenue drainage project. Councilor Antipas also does not support the Judson Avenue project or the entire menu for the Police Station.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to authorize the preparation of bond ordinances for the Police Station Renovations and Flanders Road Utility Extension (the southern segments).

The motion carried unanimously

**2013-0018 Flanders Road Utility Installation - Future Bond Referendum Potential**

**Discussed**

See discussion in 5/21/13 Committee of the Whole minutes under 2012-0069 Police Station Renovations.

**2013-0090 Judson Avenue Drainage Project**

**Discussed and Recommended no action taken**

See discussion in 5/21/13 Committee of the Whole minutes under 2012-0069 Police Station Renovations.

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

None.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Johnson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.