



# 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 Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter*

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Tuesday, December 2, 2008

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### SPECIAL MEETING

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Watson convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.*

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter  
Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent.*

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

**2008-0294 Home Connecticut Program**

**Discussed**

*A presentation with visual aids was made by John Bolduc, executive director of the Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors.*

*Mr. Bolduc talked first about a program aimed at getting "full market value" for properties that are owned by the town but have not been effectively considered for sale. He said it has worked in Baltimore. He emphasized that, by law, commissions are negotiable.*

*Mr. Bolduc then talked about the "Home from Work" program. Many people think they cannot afford to buy a house, and there is a great benefit to be gotten from one-to-one counseling that will help people see themselves as potential homeowners. He mentioned a grant program for up to \$500 when employers provide financial assistance to employees who want to purchase a home. He said that the city of New London is using this program. Groton is one of the towns that already meet the state's goal of having at least 10% of its housing stock meet the definitions of "affordable," but more can be done, and there is assistance available.*

*Mr. Oefinger stated that the Town of Groton does have what seems to be a substantial number of properties; however, nearly all of them are very small, are awkwardly situated, and are unsuitable for the erection of a dwelling or for business use.*

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

*There were no motions or other action by the Committee of the Whole, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:48 p.m.*