



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

## Meeting Minutes

### Representative Town Meeting

**Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Jordan Brayman, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Karen Morton, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strode, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson**

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Wednesday, January 14, 2015

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

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#### Regular Meeting

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#### A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.  
29 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Espada, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Heede, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Morton, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Strode, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams, Rep. Wilson and Rep. Brayman

Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Luck, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Smith, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Turnbull

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher, Assistant Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly and Town Clerk Office Assistant Michael Thorpe.*

#### B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.*

*Moderator Conley welcomed Jordan Brayman, new member of the RTM from the 5th district.  
Also welcomed was Michael Thorpe, from the Town Clerk's office.*

#### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2014

*A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Garcia.*

*The vote on the motion to approve December 10, 2014 minutes carried 28 in favor, 1 abstention.  
(Abstaining: Rep. Bauer.)*

#### D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

*None.*

#### E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

*Reps. Ambroise, DeMatto, Hubbard, McDermott, Smith, Svencer and Turnbull notified the Town Clerk they are not able to attend the meeting.*

#### F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

##### 1. Financial report

*Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of December 31, 2014 is approximately \$11.3 million; the General Contingency amount for FYE 2015 was appropriated at \$350,000. No transfers have been made from General Contingency; the Capital Reserve balance as of December*

31, 2014 is estimated at \$2,357,917, a decrease of the previous month's balance primarily due to the \$125,000 appropriated for the Noank School demolition project..

## 2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News. Mr. Oefinger noted the generosity of the residents and corporations within Groton. A total of 485 Groton household benefited from the holiday food basket distribution, with 280 of the families also receiving toy bags for the children in their households.

## G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Graner gave a quick review of the racial balance plan, and a ten year history of the changes that Groton has made to comply. He explained the process for the plan to address the current racial imbalance in Groton schools. Dr. Graner mentioned the next meeting for the School Facility Task Force will take place on January 22nd.

Rep. Neugent noted measures to correct racial imbalance over the last ten years have only worked for a short period time. She questioned Dr. Graner as to why he felt this plan to correct racial imbalance will work. Dr. Graner explained a controlled lottery for the proposed intradistrict magnet schools that would attract students district wide, should achieve racial balance.

## H. LIAISON REPORTS

### RTM Economic Development Corporation Task Force

Rep. Scott reported the task force met on January 14, 2015. The topic of discussion was the legal opinion from the Town Attorney regarding the feasibility for an RTM Economic Development Corporation.

A motion to disband the task force was made by Rep. Meyer, seconded by Rep. Heede, and so voted unanimously.

## I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky

No meeting; no report.

### 2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro

No meeting; no report.

### 3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting; no report.

### 4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer

No meeting; no report.

### 5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting; no report.

### 6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede

No meeting; no report.

### 7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise

No meeting; no report.

## J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Moderator Conley made a motion, on behalf of Rep. McDermott in his absence, to include RTM members names in the Budget Book.

The vote on the motion to include RTM members names in the Budget Book carried 19 in favor, 3

*opposed, 7 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Espada, Heede and Marley. Abstaining: Reps. Granatosky, Loughlin, Monaghan, Powers, Watrous, Williams and Wilson.)*

*Rep. Monaghan raised the question of the Economic Development Corporation Task Force being created by the RTM. Moderator Conley clarified it was created within the Moderator's ability to create new task forces or committees within the RTM.*

*Rep. Swindell acknowledged Rep. Scott deserves credit for pursuing the Economic Development Corporation. He outlined several areas he feels are important to attracting new business to Groton. He encourages the Town Council to pay attention to them when commissioning another study on this matter.*

*Moderator Conley noted the budget is being put together now and encourages anyone with budget questions to set up meetings with the Town Manager or any of the other departments within the Town.*

#### **K. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Rep. Scott offered his resignation from the RTM, citing conflicts with his schedule in Hartford, as a newly elected State Representative. He thanked the RTM members for their support and encouragement, and he looks forward to the challenges of representing this district in Hartford.*

*Rep. Loughlin questioned the Town Manager about the cost associated with the Astronomic Time Switch being used on the top of Fort Hill Road, and if there are plans to use this in other areas of Town. Mr. Oefinger responded he needs to research the costs further. He noted this is currently an experiment to see how effective it is, and depending on the outcome, it may be possibly used in the future at other Town buildings.*

#### **L. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Monaghan. The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Dawn G. Rahilly, Assistant Town Clerk*