



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

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
21 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Espada, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Heede, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Morton, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Powers, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams and Rep. Brayman

Members Absent: Rep. Adams, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Luck, Rep. Marley, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Wagner and Rep. Wilson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Groton Town Mayor Rita Schmidt, Town Councilor Bruce Flax, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II 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.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2015

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

*The vote on the motion to approve January 14, 2015 minutes carried 20 in favor, 1 abstention.
(Abstaining: Rep. Ambroise.)*

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Reps. Adams, DeMatto, Longino, Luck, McDermott, Merritt, Meyer, Parker, Pasqualini, Semeraro, Wagner and Wilson notified the Town Clerk they are not able to attend the meeting.

The Moderator referred Town Council Referral 2014-0337 to the Finance Committee to be reported on at the March regular RTM meeting.

Moderator Conley was in receipt of an email from Rep. Semeraro regarding an editorial in The Day newspaper entitled "Only in Groton."

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of January 31, 2015 is approximately \$11.3million; the General Contingency amount for FYE 2015 is \$350,000. There is a transfer to Public Works for costs associated with Fitch Middle School pending RTM approval of \$56,370. If this transfer is approved the balance would reduced to \$293,630; the Capital Reserve balance as of January 31, 2015 is \$2,359,006, an increase from the previous month's balance due to interest income.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News. Mr. Oefinger reported Groton's snow removal budget has been depleted and is exploring the possibility of FEMA funding. He mentioned dates related to the Annual Budget meeting. Also mentioned was notification of SEAT meetings relating to a comprehensive analysis of routes.

Rep. Loughlin questioned the possibility of a Town program in which young people help the elderly shovel snow similar to other towns. Mr. Oefinger stated this type of program would be put in place by the Senior Center or Public Works Department. He suggested contacting Towns that are currently implementing this type of program to determine how it is run.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

Rep. Watrous reported that the BOE Town Council RTM City Council Liaison held meetings on January 7, 2015 and February 4, 2015 to prepare for the budget. She noted Project Learn will not continue to lease Fitch Middle School.

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

None.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Ambroise stated the School Facilities Task Force will be holding a special meeting tomorrow evening, to meet with consultants about costs. He also mentioned that information about the Task Force can be found on the Town of Groton website.

Rep. Loughlin discussed a recent article in the Mystic River Press regarding the professionalism of the Groton Police. A motion was made by Rep. Loughlin to salute the Groton Police Department, seconded by Rep. Turnbull, and so voted unanimously.

Rep. Ambroise expressed his concern for a local family whose home and belongings were destroyed in a recent fire. For those interested in providing assistance to the family, please contact him, Rob Markee or John Grossman of the Groton-Mystic Youth Football League.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Swindell. The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Michael P. Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II