



# 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 Scott L. Newsome, Representatives Karin Adams, Robert Bailey, Jeanne Baker, Joe Baril, Alicia T. Bauer, Rafael Burgos, Jr., Clarence Casper, Bobbi Jo Cini, Christine Conley, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Jim Evans, Thomas A. Frickman, Bob Garcia, Nancy Gilly, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Emily Maher, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Lisa McCabe, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe L. Merritt, Jim Nault, Kathy Neugent, Lian Obrey, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Carolann Quinn, Dutcha Sliker-Hersant, Joan Steinfeld, Irma J. Streeter, James L. Streeter, Archie Swindell, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Gary Welles, Ivy R. Williams, and Jonathan Wilson.**

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Wednesday, April 13, 2016

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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*Moderator Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.*

#### A. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burgos, Jr., Rep. Casper, Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Maher, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Quinn, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Welles

Members Absent: Rep. Cini, Rep. Evans, Rep. Marley, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson

*He stated that 35 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*Also present were Town Manger Mark Oefinger, State Representative John F. Scott IV, Town Councilor Bonnie Nault, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and 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 MARCH 9, 2016

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Conley. The vote on approval of the minutes carried 33 in favor, 2 abstentions. Abstaining: Reps. DeMatto and Gilly.*

#### D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

*John Scott, 674 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, addressed the RTM as the State Representative of the 40th district. He gave a brief summary of the Governor's proposed revised FYE 2017 budget and the impact it would have on Groton. He noted that the Appropriations Committee has proposed a 4.6 million dollar cut for the Education Cost Share for the Groton Board of Education, but that the Governor's proposed budget would be to reduce ECS by only \$975,000. He stated that he would be working on reducing that figure as well. He gave his interpretation of how to compute the minimum budget requirement for the Town of Groton as required by State Statute.*

*Helen Rush, 72 Buddington Road, stated that she is a proud member of the Groton Club 55. She explained that the club unites the City of Groton and the Town of Groton. She also stated that the club supports the community and the Senior Center with generous donations. She invited everyone to come to Groton Club 55 and become a member.*

*Barbara Winkler, 121 Riverview Ave, voiced her concerns about reductions to the Groton Senior*

Center and price increases at the Groton Senior Center. She stated that the Groton Senior Center keeps seniors healthy and active.

Nancy Vaill, 301 Buddington Road, asked the RTM to protect the Parks & Recreation budget from any cuts. She stated that the percentage of baby boomers will be increasing for years to come and that the Groton Senior Center is needed more than ever. She wanted to thank the staff of the Groton Senior Center for their professionalism.

Cee LeCara, 167 D Street, stressed the importance of the Groton Senior Center for the local seniors. She would like to see an increase in their budget if possible.

Faith Richardson, 21 Boulder CT, Mystic, asked the RTM to restore any potential cuts made to the Groton Parks & Recreation budget. She explained that studies show a strong Parks & Recreation division helps build a strong community with values that include, economic, health and social benefits.

Christina Post, 76 Daniel Brown Drive, Mystic, stated that the Parks & Recreation Department is very important to the community. She noted that some cuts are needed in other departments but not to the Parks & Recreation Department.

#### **E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Moderator Newsome stated that Reps. Cini and Wilson notified the Town Clerk that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

Moderator Newsome referred the Town Council Referral 2016-0069 Resolution for FYE 2016 General Contingency Transfers to the Finance Committee to report on at the May 11, 2016 regular RTM meeting.

#### **F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

##### **1. Financial report**

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of March 31, 2016 was approximately \$9.1 million. He reported that the General Contingency amount for FYE 2016 was appropriated at \$550,000 with a pending transfer of \$337,296 which would leave of balance of \$212,704. The Capital Reserve Fund balance as of March 31, 2016 is \$391,341.

##### **2. Monthly briefing**

Town Manager Mark Oefinger highlighted items from the Town Manager's News. He stated that there is a recent agreement between the Town and Community Meals to offer a free meal program on four Monday nights at the Groton Senior Center. He mentioned that there is an invitation to attend the 9th Annual Walk to Help End Homelessness on April 24th at 2:00 p.m. at 325 Huntington St., New London. Other events mentioned were The Mystic Schooners Fundraiser scheduled for April 20th at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Seehund German Pub, 345 Bank St., New London and the Freedom of Information Annual Conference scheduled for April 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station, 55 Bridge Road, Haddam. He noted that a notification was received from the Fitch Ratings Inc. regarding Groton's General Obligation Bonds Rating Outlook and an e-mail from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities showing grant estimates for the Town of Groton as part of the Governor's Revised FY17 State Budget Impact.

Rep. Pasqualini asked about an article that had been included in the February edition of the Town Manager's News pertaining to a waiver granted to able-bodied adults, aged 18-49, without dependents, to receive food stamps for more than three months within a 36 month period, unless they meet certain work requirements.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger responded that he would have to get back to him on the specifics of

*that waiver.*

**G. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger made references to the Office of Planning and Development Services Update dated March 2016 that was presented to all RTM members and attachment 8 of the Town Manager's News. The updates highlighted efforts, initiatives, and various projects in different stages in the Town of Groton.*

**H. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

*None.*

**I. LIAISON REPORTS**

**Economic Development Commission**

*Rep. Obrey reported that the Connecticut Department of Transportation is replacing all signs on I-95 from New London to the Rhode Island border. She stated that this is a multi-million dollar project. She stated that plans have been provided to municipalities for review and comment. She stated that CT DOT Staff are working with Groton officials and other individuals with this effort. She stated that maps are available at the Planning Department. She added that staff members of the Town Economic Development Department have participated with the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region regarding the Community Economic Development Strategy. She stated that this will be an ongoing multi-month effort involving Groton, Stonington, North Stonington and Ledyard.*

*Rep. Parker departed at 8:20 p.m. 34 members present.*

*Rep. DeMatto asked about the traffic light that was requested for the intersection of Sandy Hollow Road and Allyn Street.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger acknowledged that the request for traffic lights for that intersection and at the end of the exit 90 ramp off I-95 have been requested more than once. He stated that it may be a funding issue with the Department of Transportation. He continued by saying that this is something for the DOT to take another look at.*

**Town & City/RTM Board of Education Liaison Committee**

*Rep. Massett reported that the Committee met on April 6, 2016. She stated that they discussed the DARE program which now focuses on making smart choices across a broader range than just drugs. She stated that Chief Fusaro is looking into some other programs that are available. She stated that the Town Council would like to put the minimum budget requirement on the table because of a decrease in student enrollment and that this would allow for an additional \$263,000 reduction in the FYE 2017 budget. She stated that at the time of the meeting the Board had not had a chance to discuss the impact of this possible reduction. She added that there is a meeting scheduled with a staff member of Senator Chris Murphy's office to discuss the reductions we face due to the privatization of Navy Housing. She stated that the BOE has submitted their initial request for \$141 million dollars to the Federal Government and there should be a decision as to how much the Town will receive by the last week in May.*

**J. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. FINANCE - Chairman Quinn**

*No meeting, no report.*

**2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Conley**

*No meeting, no report.*

**3. EDUCATION - Chairman Neugent**

*No meeting, no report.*

**4. RECREATION - Chairman Wilson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman McDermott**

*No meeting, no report.*

**6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Dean-Shinbrot**

*No meeting, no report.*

**7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Massett**

*No meeting, no report.*

**K. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

*Moderator Newsome stated that the Annual Budget Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday April 28. He stated that members who have questions or concerns about the budget sessions may contact the Town Clerk's office.*

*Rep. Conley expressed her concern for the FYE 2017 budget increase. She stated that residents could not afford the proposed tax increase. She has proposed a 5% budget cut across the board in all departments with a few exceptions. She provided handouts to the RTM members showing her proposed reductions.*

*Rep. Parker returned at 8:50 p.m. 35 members present.*

*Rep. Massett thanked the Finance Committee for all their hard work but reminded them that the Ledge Light Health District account could not be cut because of state statute.*

*Moderator Newsome responded that this issue would be addressed at the appropriate budget meeting.*

**L. OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Garcia, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini and so voted unanimously. Moderator Newsome adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II*