



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise, Representatives Karin Adams, Scott W. Aument, Sr., Joseph Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Susan Chase-Hildebrand, Michael Collins, Christine Conley, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Nancy Driscoll, Neal Gardner, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Karen Hatcher, Keith L. Hedrick, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Jim Loughlin, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Newsome, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Pam Ryley, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Richard Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Richard Waselik, Lori A. Watrous, Amanda L. Whewell and Ivy R. Williams

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

34 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Harrell, Swindell and Williams are unable to attend this meeting. Superintendent of Schools Sean McKenna is also unable to attend.

Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Ryley, Rep. D. Semeraro, Rep. R. Semeraro, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Waselik and Rep. Watrous

Members Absent: Rep. Harrell, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Whewell and Rep. Williams

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Planning and Development Director Michael Murphy, Economic/Development Specialist Kristin Clarke, Neighborhood & Community Planner Susan Cullen, Manager of Inspection Services Kevin Quinn, Program Project Manager Rick Norris and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by several Tiger Cubs from Mystic Pack 34.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 11, 2013 Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2013 meeting was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Adams.

The vote on approval of the minutes carried 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Hedrick)

2. September 30, 2013 Joint Meeting with Town Council Committee of the Whole

A motion to approve the minutes of the joint meeting of September 30, 2013 was made by Rep. Steinfeld, seconded by Rep. D. Semeraro.

Rep. Granatosky requested that the second paragraph under FYE 2015 Budget be amended to replace the words "executive session" with the word "caucus."

The vote on approval of the minutes as amended carried 29 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Cerf, DeMatto, Hatcher, Hedrick and Heede)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Kevin Treho, 536 Shennecossett Road, thanked the members for their service to the Town and congratulated those who were elected on November 5.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Moderator noted that the following items have been provided to members: a communication from Superintendent Sean McKenna addressing questions from the September 11, 2013 meeting and the Evaluation of Police Services in the Town of Groton, City of Groton and Groton Long Point (Police Study).

The RTM has been invited to participate in the Groton Holiday Lights Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Moderator Ambrose attended a School Facilities Initiative Task Force meeting, a BOE/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting, and the Police Study presentation. He also served on the committee which hired the new Superintendent of Schools, Mike Graner.

1. Presentation of certificates of appreciation

Certificates in appreciation of their service with the RTM were presented to outgoing Representatives Aument, Barnhart, Cerf, Chase-Hildebrand, Collins, Driscoll, Gardner, Gilly, Hedrick, Kotowski, Ryley, D. Semeraro, Steinfeld and Streeter.

Moderator Ambrose expressed thanks to all who gave their time and effort to the Town over the last two years.

2. Planning Department presentation on economic development

Planning and Development Director Michael Murphy introduced staff from the Office of Planning and Development Services (OPDS).

Economic/Development Specialist Kristin Clarke addressed the definition, goals, functions and activities of economic development.

Manager of Inspection Services Kevin Quinn informed the members about recent activity in commercial and residential development.

Program Project Manager Rick Norris described recent and upcoming projects.

Neighborhood and Community Planner Susan Cullen spoke about the over \$10 million in Community Development Block Grants received by the Town since the program's inception, including a recent grant for housing rehabilitation.

Mr. Murphy asked for RTM support for his department's efforts.

OPDS staff addressed members' questions and concerns, including commercial airline service at Groton/New London Airport; development of a walkway along the river from the bridge north to the SubBase; Phase II of the Mystic Streetscape; the need for additional parking in downtown Mystic; partnering with Stonington for downtown parking and shuttle service; the status of the Central Hall project; the recent grant received by the SubBase under the Microgrid Pilot Program; and application of zoning regulations to new businesses.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2013 is approximately \$9.3 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000 with no expenditures to date; the Capital Reserve balance is estimated at 2,295,833.

2. Monthly briefing

The Manager highlighted items from the Town Manager's News, including the construction of trails on the Copp Property, Human Services holiday distributions, and the FYE 2015 Budget calendar.

In response to Rep. Loughlin's frustration over the fact that Groton is not getting any income from

public access television, Mr. Oefinger reviewed the history and status of this issue.

Answering Rep. McDermott's concern about the failure of the referendum on upgrades to the Police Station, the Town Manager noted that improvements will probably be done in stages through a CIP after discussion by the Council and the RTM.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

None.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky

No meeting; no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Aument

No meeting; no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Hedrick

No meeting; no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting; no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins

No meeting; no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Massett

No meeting; no report.

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Rep. Kotowski asked for a description of the plan to offset the loss of tax revenue from the demolition of Pfizer Building 118.

Mr. Oefinger noted that Town Operations returned \$900,000 to the General Fund last year and the Town received \$1.5 million in additional revenue over what was anticipated. He added that the Town would be wise to rely less on EB and Pfizer and to do more to invest in infrastructure improvements to attract and retain small businesses. He suggested that elected officials have an opportunity to set the direction on this issue.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

2013-0237 2014 RTM Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2014 RTM MEETING SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, Freedom of Information Statutes require filing a calendar-year schedule of meetings with the Town Clerk, and

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has met regularly on the second Wednesday of each month, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby approves the meeting schedule for 2014 as follows:

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
Wednesday, May 14, 2014
Wednesday, June 11, 2014
Wednesday, July 9, 2014
Wednesday, August 13, 2014
Wednesday, September 10, 2014
Wednesday, October 8, 2014
Wednesday, November 12, 2014
Wednesday, December 10, 2014 and
Wednesday, January 14, 2015

All meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, 102 Newtown Road, Groton, CT 06340.

A motion was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. Barnhart, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

Rep. Granatosky thanked all the members for their service, especially those who will not be returning. She expressed appreciation to Moderator Ambrose and led the members in a round of applause.

Rep. and Town Councilor-elect Cerf stated that she has enjoyed being a part of the RTM; she thanked the members and expressed hope for their continued participation in the affairs of the Town.

The Moderator thanked the members, the Town Clerk and her staff, the Town Manager and his staff, the Town departments, the Superintendent and the Board of Education for their assistance over the past two years.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. was made by Rep. Steinfeld, seconded by Rep. Barnhart and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Janet L. Downs, Deputy Town Clerk