



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 Crocket Hubbard, Susan Dean-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, Joan Steinfeld, Irma J. Streeter, James L. Streeter, Archie Swindell, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Gary Welles, Ivy R. Williams, and Jonathan Wilson.

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL BY TOWN CLERK

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.
39 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burgos, Jr., Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Evans, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, 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. Swindell, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson
Members Absent: Rep. Williams

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, State Representatives John F. Scott IV and Aundre Bumgardner, Town Mayor Bruce Flax, Town Councilors Dean Anitpas and Diane Barber, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Representative Brandon Marley.

C. ORGANIZATION OF THIRTIETH RTM

1. Administration of oath to all representatives by Town Clerk

Town Clerk Moukawsher administered the Oath of Office to the 39 members that were present.

A caucus was called by Rep. Massett at 7:37 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:53 p.m.

2. Adoption of Rules

2015-0283 Adoption of RTM Rules

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADOPTION OF RULES & PROCEDURES OF THE TWENTY-NINTH RTM

A motion was made by Rep. Pasqualini Jr., seconded by Rep. Adams, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

3. Election of Moderator

The Town Clerk called for nominations for the office of Moderator.

Rep. Scott Newsome was nominated by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

Rep. Christine Conley was nominated by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.

Rep. Jackie Massett was nominated by Rep. Obrey. Rep. Massett respectfully declined the nomination.

There were no further nominations. The Town Clerk declared nominations closed.

The vote for the office of Moderator was 22 in favor of Rep. Newsome, 17 in favor of Rep. Conley. Voting for Rep. Newsome were Reps. Adams, Bailey, Burgos, Dean-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Evans, Frickman, Gilly, Hubbard, Longino, Maher, Massett, McDermott, Nault, Newsome, Quinn, Steinfeld, I Streeter, J Streeter, Swindell, Watrous and Wilson. Voting for Rep. Conley were Reps. Baker, Baril, Bauer, Casper, Cini, Conley, Garcia, Loughlin, Marley, McCabe, Merritt, Neugent, Obrey, Parker, Pasqualini, Wagner and Welles.

4. Presentation of gavel to Moderator

The Town Clerk presented the gavel to Moderator Newsome. Moderator Newsome acknowledged former Moderator Conley for her professionalism and thanked her for her service to the RTM and the Town of Groton.

5. Brief recess to allow Moderator to review correspondence, etc.

The meeting resumed after a brief recess.

Rep. Marley departed at 8:15 p.m. leaving 38 members present.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Garcia, seconded by Rep. Parker. The vote on approval of the minutes carried 30 in favor, 8 abstentions. Abstaining: Reps. Burgos, Casper, Frickman, Gilly, Massett, I Streeter, J Streeter and Wilson.

E. CITIZENS PETITIONS

None.

F. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

2015-0284 Appointment of Temporary Rules & Procedures Committee

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE TO PREPARE RULES FOR THE THIRTIETH RTM

Adopted

The Moderator hereby appoints the following members as the Temporary Rules & Procedures Committee to review and recommend Rules and Procedures for the Thirtieth RTM:

- 1. Rep. Jackie Massett*
- 2. Rep. Kathy Neugent*
- 3. Rep. Christine Conley*
- 4. Rep. Matthew Longino*
- 5. Rep. Karin Adams*

G. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rep. Williams notified the Town Clerk that she would be unable to attend this meeting.

Moderator Newsome read an email from Thomas W. Potter, 154 Walker Hill Road in the Town of Groton. He voiced his concern over the pending sale of the William Seely School property which is scheduled to be referred to the Finance Committee of the RTM. He quoted a October 17, 2015 editorial in The Day titled Go Slowly on Seely Reuse. The article states that future development of the site must balance two compelling needs, protecting the residential neighborhood and expanding the tax base. It also mentions that any Sale and Purchase Agreement between the Town of Groton and Kincora Development LLC must contain a written condition stating that any access

to the William Seely School property for commercial development can only be from Route 12.

Moderator Newsome read Town Council Referral 2015-0232 Resolution Authorizing the sale of the William Seely School and stated that he would refer it to the new Finance Committee once it is formed.

Former Moderator Conley noted that she had referred said referral to the Finance Committee at the November RTM meeting.

H. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial Report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the unaudited Fund Balance as of November 30, 2015 is approximately \$9.1 million which is 7.3% of the FYE 2016 General Fund Adopted Budget. The General Contingency amount for FYE 2016 was appropriated at \$550,000 and no transfers are pending. The unaudited Capital Reserve Fund balance as of November 30, 2015 is estimated to be \$984,702.

2. Monthly Briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager News including the Groton Basketball Association Sponsorship update in which the Parks and Recreation Department recognize local businesses that have sponsored youth basketball teams. He reported that the Groton Human Services Thanksgiving distribution served 476 Groton households and he asked for volunteers for the December Holiday distribution scheduled for December 18th. It is expected that this distribution will reach the maximum of 500 households. He proudly announced that the Town of Groton, for the twenty-second consecutive year, received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. He commented on the donations received from some area service clubs which have teamed up with the Liberty Bank Foundation for Holiday Distributions. Members of the Mystic Rotary Club, along with representative from the Liberty Bank, presented Town of Groton Human Services with a check for \$1,445.20 and the Groton Rotary Club, Groton Lions Club and Liberty Bank presented a check for \$7,440.04.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger discussed the Town Department Issues and Projects that was distributed. He stated that this information is normally made available after every election in order to update Town Councilors and RTM members on current issues and projects. He stated that the Planning and Development Services Department provided detailed information in this handout. He stated that he had given an extensive presentation on Planning and Development issues during the RTM Meeting on November 18, 2015. He urged new members to watch that presentation on the web through Groton Municipal Television, GMTV. He offered his availability to answer any questions pertaining to the handout at the next meeting or in his office.

I. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Town Manager gave a brief presentation on Economic Development and suggested that the Planning and Development Department give a presentation to the RTM on their mission and goals in the near future.

J. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

K. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Moderator Newsome stated that there will be a budget orientation session scheduled and that he will advise the members of the date. He added that he looks forward to working with Republican Floor Leader McDermott and Democratic Floor Leader Conley.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

Moderator Newsome reminded RTM members to complete their individual RTM information forms

and return them to the Town Clerk as soon as possible.

Rep. Neugent asked if the FOI Presentation in the Town Council Committee of the Whole Special Meeting would be televised.

Mr. Oefinger stated that because it was a Special Meeting it would not be televised but advised everyone that they are welcome to attend the meeting on tuesday December 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex-Community Room 1.

M. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. was made by Rep. Garcia, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Michael Thorpe, Office Assistant II