



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Brown-Tracy

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Watson.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2009-0020 Proclamation Recognizing National Mentor Month

Read

The proclamation was read by Mayor Watson.

Expression of Gratitude

Councilor Kolnaski extended a special thanks on behalf of Senior Citizens to neighbors and friends for their kindness and thoughtfulness during this recent bout of snowy weather.

Unveiling of Portrait

The Mayor announced that a portrait of Councilor Kolnaski will be unveiled Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the foyer of the Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2009-0026 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 6, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

The Mayor extended his appreciation to all of the organizations and individuals that have made contributions.

Lee Vincent highlighted a combined donation from Liberty Bank/Groton Rotary/Groton Lions to Social Services Discretionary for \$6,527.44.

2008-0309

Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Charlie Ewers - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Elga O'Dell - \$5.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Barbara Winters - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Linda Barrett - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Mary-Lou Brockett-Devine - \$30.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
George and Elaine Adams - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Margorie Adams - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Anonymous - \$4.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Robert Ashworth - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary
William Beaman - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Cardinal Honda Employees - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Harry and Betty Curry - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Church of Christ - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Post Office - \$22.23 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Regency - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Paul and Carol Henschel - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
James and Marjorie Hollister - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Rick Hunter - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lawncrest Apartments - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Liberty Bank/Groton Rotary/Groton Lions - \$6,527.44 - Social Services Discretionary
George Marshall - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mistic River B&PW Inc. - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Russ Musante - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic River Homes Residents - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lana Orphanides - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Robert Panucci - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Janet Parcell - \$300.00 - Social Services Discretionary
John and Dana Parfitt - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Danette Robinson - \$785.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Sharon Sanders - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Erika Vassell - \$5.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Anonymous - \$250.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Patricia Sparkman - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Sally McBee and Bruce Campbell - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Southeastern Connecticut - \$150.00 - Library Discretionary
Various Donations - \$447.50 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
City of Groton Matching Funds - \$126.74 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert and Edith McHugh - \$50.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous
Charlene Dexter - \$25.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous
Jim Loomis - \$5.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous
Alan Martin - \$5.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous
Anonymous Donation - \$20.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Jeffrey Callahan - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Marilyn R.Nelson - \$20.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Paul Bates - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Janet Passehl - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
 Paula Stauffer - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
 Barbara Heuer - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
 John Sutherland - \$150.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0017

Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Genevieve Cerf - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Connecticut Elks Association - \$450.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Cutler Middle School - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Cutler Middle School Team A - \$165.90 - Social Services Discretionary
 Cindie Davis - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Chris Johnson - \$475.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Jesse Lallo - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Natalie Lindberg \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Anonymous - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Brandi Romero - \$566.77 - Social Services Discretionary
 Albert and Janice Rudolph - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Sacred Heart School 5th Grade Class - \$12.61 - Social Services Discretionary
 Erin Scanlon - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Robert and Renate Schneider - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Barbara Servidio - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Waterford Group - \$700.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Marlene Terry Ziegler - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary
 Andrew Blacker - \$200.00 - DARE Program
 Dr. John and Marcia McGowan - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
 Melanie Greenhouse - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2008-0001

Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2008 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0002

Republican Town Committee Appointments (2008 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0003

Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2008 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0004

Revised Position Descriptions (2008 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0005

Town Council Rules Revisions (2008 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0006

Property Acquisition/Sale (2008 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0007

Labor Negotiations (2008 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0008

Pending Litigation (2008 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

- 2008-0009 **Legislative Policy (2008 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0010 **Town Participation in CCM Lawsuits and Interventions (2008 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0011 **Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2008 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0012 **Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2008 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0028 **Neighborhood Online Watch Website**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0036 **Shortage of Recreation Fields**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0232 **ID Cards for Retired Police Officers**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0016 **ICMA Public Library Innovation Grant**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0026 **Policy Concerning Disposition of Foreclosed Properties**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0235 **Mortimer Wright Preserve Trail Proposal**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0307 **Annual Dates for Shennecossett Golf Course Season Passes**
- 2008-0308 **Supplemental Agreement for Revised Engineering Costs for the Mystic Streetscape Project**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0310 **Acceptance of Patricks Court and Open Space at Emerald Estates Subdivision**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0023 **Reappointment of Joyce Kaiser to Library Board**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0024 **Reappointment of Edward Brennan to Water Pollution Control Authority**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0025 **Reappointment of Tom Manning to Zoning Board of Appeals**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Streeter received a letter he has not completely read regarding announcements of Town Council meetings in the library bulletin.

Councilor Kolnaski was present at a retirement celebration for Al Dion. She attended the Ledge Light Health District meeting and the Board of Education (BOE) proposed budget meeting. There

will be a BOE Public Hearing on January 26, 2009 at the Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School and a Liaison Committee meeting on January 21, 2009 at the School Administration Building.

Councilor O'Beirne received an email from Mike Weber regarding a locked chain on Farm Road, which is the path that he uses for access to his property. The Town Manager replied that in May 2006 the Town sent the Webers a letter stating that they do not have the right to use a motorized vehicle for passage to their property, but they may walk to it.

Councilor Sheets received a communication from Dr. French regarding the next steps for the trails on the Mortimer Wright Preserve. The Town Manager stated that he met with Dr. French last week and is setting up a meeting with Dr. French, Deb Jones, and the Planning Department. Councilor Sheets also received compliments regarding the condition of the roads after all of the recent snow.

Councilor Schmidt met with the boating group from Parks and Recreation. She also met with Bob Congdon, the new president of the Groton Long Point Association.

Councilor Monteiro received an email from an individual concerned about the Parks and Recreation questionnaire sent to a random selection of people. Councilor Monteiro, along with Councilor Streeter, met with Bob Congdon from the Groton Long Point Association.

Mayor Watson attended the Council of Governments meeting to discuss "shovel ready" projects with Congressman Courtney. He received an email from Mary Jo Riley at the Senior Center praising the Public Works Department for the job they did moving the seniors to the temporary facility in Noank. The Mayor went to a regional water meeting where First Selectmen, Mayors, the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Health were in attendance.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Office Assistant Lori Watrous announced that the RTM meeting scheduled for January 21, 2009 has been cancelled due to lack of business.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that this week's Phase II School Design Committee meeting has been cancelled as well. As a reminder, he noted that there is a Committee of Chairpersons meeting on January 26, 2009 at the Town Hall Annex. The Town Manager received notice from the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding that it is holding its annual meeting on January 30, 2009 in Hartford.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy

Councilor O'Beirne stated that the committee discussed community gardens and will continue the discussion at its next meeting.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

Councilor Schmidt read the minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2009, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

Councilor O'Beirne read the minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2009, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro

Councilor Monteiro read the minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2009, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

Mayor Watson stated that three of the items on tonight's agenda, a library grant, the trails project, and the Mystic Streetscape, were discussed in the Committee of the Whole meeting. The Mayor remarked that there was a Special Committee of the Whole meeting just prior to tonight's meeting at which department heads were asked to relay what it would take to come in at various percentages of increase/decrease to their budgets (level service, +2%, 0%, -3%, and -5%). The Chief of Police and the Public Works Director were present at tonight's meeting, and other department heads will be scheduled to meet with the Committee of the Whole at a future date.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0016 ICMA Public Library Innovation Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY INNOVATION

WHEREAS, the International City/County Managers Association, ICMA, offers grants for special municipal projects such as advances in library technology, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Town of Groton continuously increase their use of, and reliance on, the Town's web site for the greatest variety of information, and

WHEREAS, a grant could be employed for a professional redesign of the Town's web site and the inclusion of more video content, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves and ratifies an application for an ICMA grant of \$47,500 for library innovation.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0026 Policy Concerning Disposition of Foreclosed Properties

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICY ON TOWN ACQUISITION OF FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

RESOLVED, that the Town Council policy is that notice shall be given to the Council upon the acquisition by the Town of any real estate by foreclosure, and that the Council shall make a determination as to whether such property shall be used or reserved for Town purposes as specified in the Town Charter, or disposed of by sale. If said property is deemed to be reserved for Town

purposes, it shall not be disposed of without the approval of the Council and, if required, the RTM. Any proposed disposal shall be referred to the Planning Commission in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

For clarification, it was noted that this resolution includes any acquisition for unpaid taxes.

As part of the history of this item, Councilor Sheets would like the Committee of the Whole minutes of January 13, 2009 revised. She will bring up her concerns at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0235

Mortimer Wright Preserve Trail Proposal

RESOLUTION ENDORSING TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MORTIMER WRIGHT PRESERVE

WHEREAS, citizens have proposed a project, using volunteers along with some Town of Groton support work such as provision for parking space, to improve and extend walking trails on Town-owned land known as the Mortimer Wright Preserve, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission, on December 9, 2008, made an affirmative report pursuant to CGS Section 8-24, along with four recommendations, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Inland Wetlands Agency, on December 10, 2008, made certain suggestions concerning the trails proposal, and stated that a wetland permit will be required based on the final plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council endorses and authorizes the proposed Mortimer Wright Preserve trails improvement project, based on compliance with the recommendations and/or approval of the Planning Commission and the Inland Wetlands Agency.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor O'Beirne thinks that this resolution is premature and would like to see Inland Wetlands rules laid out before voting on this item.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

2008-0308

Supplemental Agreement for Revised Engineering Costs for the Mystic Streetscape Project

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT TO THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE TOWN OF GROTON FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTRACT PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND ESTIMATES FOR THE MYSTIC STREETScape (GROTON) UTILIZING FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has requested that design activities be undertaken in conjunction with the Mystic Streetscape (Groton) improvements and will utilize federal funds from the High Priority Projects Program for design and construction of said Mystic Streetscape (Groton) improvements under the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century of 1998, and

WHEREAS, the State and Municipality executed an Agreement No. 8.08-02 (1) entitled "Agreement Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Groton for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Mystic Streetscape (Groton) utilizing Federal Funds from the High Priority Projects Program", dated August 16, 2001, hereinafter referred to as

the Original Agreement, and

WHEREAS, said improvements include, but are not limited to design of streetscape and public access improvements, and additional construction phase engineering services, and

WHEREAS, the First Supplemental Agreement will provide additional High Priority Project Program funds under State Project No. 58-283 and Federal aid Project No. HPP-H018 (1), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager, be, and hereby is, authorized to sign the first supplemental agreement entitled "First Supplemental Agreement to the Original Agreement Dated August 16, 2001 Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Groton for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications, and Estimates for the Mystic Streetscape (Groton) Utilizing Federal Funds from the High Priority Projects Program."

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0310

Acceptance of Patricks Court and Open Space at Emerald Estates Subdivision

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OPEN SPACE AND PATRICKS COURT IN THE EMERALD SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, following initial approval of a subdivision on March 22, 2005, and the subsequent development of that subdivision, the Groton Planning Commission on December 9, 2008 recommended acceptance by the Town of a parcel of open space and a road named Patricks Court within the Emerald Estates Subdivision, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the open space and the road named Patricks Court in the Emerald Estates Subdivision.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

A motion to approve Resolutions 2009-0023 Reappointment of Joyce Kaiser to Library Board, 2009-0024 Reappointment of Edward Brennan to Water Pollution Control Authority, and 2009-0025 Reappointment of Tim Manning to Zoning Board of Appeals was made by Councilor O'Beirne, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

2009-0023

Reappointment of Joyce Kaiser to Library Board

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JOYCE M. KAISER TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Joyce M. Kaiser, 12 Windrose Drive, Noank, is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for a term expiring 12/31/11.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0024

Reappointment of Edward Brennan to Water Pollution Control Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD L. BRENNAN TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Edward L. Brennan, 247 Neptune Drive, is hereby reappointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term expiring 5/24/11.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0025 Reappointment of Tom Manning to Zoning Board of Appeals

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TOM MANNING TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Tom Manning, 66 Little Gull Lane, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring 12/31/13.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant