



# 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**

### Town Council

**Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson**

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Tuesday, February 3, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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#### I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Antipas

*The Town Clerk announced that all councilors were present. Also present were the Town Manager, Mark Oefinger, and the Town Clerk, Betsy Moukawsher.*

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Mr. Thomas Green.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

*None.*

##### Recess for Public Hearing on:

*Mayor Schmidt recessed the meeting to hold a Public Hearing at 8:35 pm. The Town Clerk read the call for the Public Hearing that was advertised in the New London Day on January 30, 2015.*

##### 2014-0340 Building 114 - Request for Financial Incentive

*Tom Green, 31 Ridgewood Road, Niantic, gave a brief overview of the current condition of building 114, located at 23 Eastern Point Road, Groton. He explained his intention for purchase and renovations to the building. He is requesting financial incentives while he is renovating the property prior to renting.*

#### 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

##### 2015-0013 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of December 16, 2014 and January 20, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

##### b. Administrative Items

##### 2015-0017 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:  
Steps, Inc. - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

**2015-0015 Revised Agreement with Milone and MacBroom for a Long-Range School Facilities Plan**

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

**2015-0016 National Recreation and Parks Association Arthritis Walking Program Grant**

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action.

**2015-0020 Public Hearing on FYE 2016 Proposed Budget**

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

**2015-0021 Annual RTM Budget Meeting**

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

**2015-0024 FYE 2016 Pre-Budget Public Hearing**

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor de la Cruz attended the Permanent School Building Committee School meeting and thanked Public Works for a great job with the snow removal from his neighborhood.*

*Councilor Frink attended the interviews of five companies for the initiative to increase revenue RFQ.*

*Councilors Moravsik and Watson reported that their three meetings had been cancelled due to the inclement weather.*

*Councilor Flax reported that he received an email by a non-profit group with a request to purchase some surplus kitchen equipment at Noank School. He plans to forward the email to the Town Manager to respond.*

*All Councilors commented on the outstanding efforts of our Public Works crews with snow plowing and street cleaning.*

*Councilor Cerf attended the same interviews that Councilor Frink reported and she agrees that they received some outstanding proposals. She also received a call from Susanne Roy with concerns for elderly people trying to pay their taxes that were due on Monday. She explained that the Governor announced a one day reprieve on payment of taxes because of the blizzard, but it wasn't issued until late in the afternoon. She would like the Governor to announce this type of information early in the morning before people try to travel in treacherous conditions.*

*The Mayor reported that the Public Works snow crews cleared 91 miles of roads in Town. She announced her pride in their accomplishments. She reported that she attended the School Facilities Task Force meeting, the Eastern Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting with Joe Courtney where the new Cadillac Tax was discussed. She also attended the Culture and Tourism meeting. She received a call from Groton Elk, John Espada, regarding their upcoming Law Enforcement Night on February 7, 2015 at 6:00 pm.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*The Clerk of the RTM reported that the RTM will meet on February 11, 2015 at 7:30 pm, at the Groton Senior Center. The Clerk announced two vacancies, a Republican seat in the 5th District and a Democratic seat in the 7th District. Any citizens interested in more information regarding these vacancies, please contact the Town Clerk.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*The Clerk of the Town Council reported that she attended the weekly Groton Rotary meeting, the MASH quarterly meeting and a MASH Annual Gala planning meeting. The Annual Gala "No Place Like Home," will be on May 1, 2015. More details to follow. The clerk reported that she received a resignation notice from Library Board Member Willard Welch. She listed the current vacancies for all Boards and Commissions.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager reported on winter Storm Juno and echoed the Town Council's sentiments for the Public Works and Parks and Recreation snow crews. He reminded the Town Council of the next COW meeting and the need for a Groton Resource Recovery Authority meeting. GRRRA is Groton's commercial solid waste program and the Town Council serves as its members.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS****a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Finance - Chairman Frink**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Rules - Chairman Frink**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt**

*Mayor Schmidt reported that they had a presentation from Nancy Keenan, of the Eastern Regional Tourism District, and Ed Dembroski, the Executive Director with the Tourism District. They also met with Town Auditor to review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, CAFR. Town Planner Deb Jones reviewed the Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land in an Executive Session. They didn't have time to discuss the Walking Program Grant or the Police Study. She stated that all the other business will be discussed in tonight's meeting.*

**IX. NEW BUSINESS****2015-0015 Revised Agreement with Milone and MacBroom for a Long-Range School Facilities Plan**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A REVISED AGREEMENT WITH MILONE AND MACBROOM FOR A LONG-RANGE SCHOOL FACILITIES PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town Council authorized Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign a Scope of Services and enter into an agreement with Milone and MacBroom for a long-range school facilities plan in October 2012 and a revised agreement in March 2013, and

WHEREAS, Milone and MacBroom is working with the School Facilities Initiative Task Force to provide recommendations for the design of a school system that reflects the Town's long-term vision and takes into consideration educational programs, budgets, facilities, and demographic changes, and

WHEREAS, Milone and MacBroom has submitted a contract addendum with a lump sum fee of

\$121,000 (not including direct expenses) to study the feasibility for middle school co-location and renovating existing middle schools into elementary schools, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM have appropriated \$125,000 in a FYE 2014 capital improvement project to define a plan addressing the needs of Groton's public schools, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign the contract addendum with Milone and MacBroom for a long-range school facilities plan.

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 8 - Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson  
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Antipas

**2015-0016 National Recreation and Parks Association Arthritis Walking Program Grant**

*This item was deleted in committee. No further action is required.*

**2015-0024 FYE 2016 Pre-Budget Public Hearing**

RESOLUTION SETTING FYE 2016 PRE-BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to provide a formal opportunity for citizen input on the FYE 2016 Budget prior to the Town Manager submitting the proposed budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a pre-budget public hearing on the FYE 2016 Town Budget on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

**A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0020 Public Hearing on FYE 2016 Proposed Budget**

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON FYE 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing on the FYE 2016 Proposed Budget, pursuant to Section 9.3.1 of the Town Charter, on Monday, March 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road (Route 117), Groton, Connecticut.

**A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0021 Annual RTM Budget Meeting**

RESOLUTION SETTING RTM BUDGET MEETING DATE ON THE FYE 2016 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, Section 9.3.1 of the Groton Town Charter requires that the Town Council determine the date for the annual budget meeting of the Representative Town Meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road, Groton, Connecticut.

**A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilor Watson moved to suspend the rules to make appointments to the School Facilities Task*

*Force. The motion was seconded by Councilor Flax and passed unanimously.*

**2015-0022**

**Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments**

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

RESOLVED, that the following individuals are appointed as noted:

School Facilities Initiative Task Force - Andrew Ilvento (Teacher) and Jackie Massett (Citizen at Large)

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 9:16 pm was made by Councilor Peruzzotti and so taken.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*