



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes Town Council

**Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton,
Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson**

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Sean Paddock.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2013-0091 Proclamation Celebrating the Mystic Irish Parade

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Schmidt.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2013-0067 Small Cities Community Block Grant - 2013 Application

Heard at Public Hearing

Mayor Somers called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m.

Susan Cullen, Planner II - Neighborhood & Community, stated that administrative expenses for this program are reimbursed. The Town received \$25,907.99 in 2012 and \$37,610.41 in 2011.

The Town Manager noted that there is a tight timeframe for this grant. A potential suspension of the rules is on the agenda so that the Council may act on the proposed grant.

There being no further comments, Mayor Somers closed the Public Hearing at 7:39 p.m.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Sean Paddock, 2 Plymouth Avenue West, is concerned about the time that it takes to get a pistol permit.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

The Town Manager stated that fingerprinting for pistol permits is done two days a month, but Chief Crowley is considering increasing that to three days. The Police Department budget will be reviewed on April 6, 2013, and the Manager suggested that Councilors address any concerns to the Chief at that time.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2013-0095 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of March 12, 2013 and March 19, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2013-0086 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2012-0228 Noank Fire District Response on Noank School Reuse**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2013-0079 Annual RTM Budget Meeting

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2013-0087 Groton Rotary Grant - Groton Sailing Program

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2013-0088 Poquonnock River Walkway Park - Remediation Work

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2013-0067 Small Cities Community Block Grant - 2013 Application

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 Flax, seconded by Councilor Antipas, 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**

Councilors received communications regarding the FYE 2014 budget, attended the FYE 2014 Budget Public Hearing, and attended a joint meeting with the Board of Education.

Councilor Watson announced that the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting scheduled for April 3, 2013, has been cancelled.

Mayor Somers encouraged citizens who have communicated budget concerns to the Council to watch or attend budget sessions. All budget sessions will be televised.

Mayor Somers spoke with Sean Paddock regarding the pistol permit process and attended the Mystic Irish Parade. Mayor Somers and the Town Manager met with the Governor's Chief of Staff regarding Pfizer building 118 and gave a potential buyer a tour through another building Pfizer is planning to sell.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next meeting of the RTM will be held April 10, 2013. The Town Clerk mentioned that the

budget review meeting schedule for subcommittees is almost complete.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk noted that she will be attending the Spring Town Clerk's Conference later this week.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that there will be a 'Carnevale' to benefit TVCCA Meals on Wheels at Port 'N Starboard on April 6, 2013; an FOI Conference in Haddam on April 8, 2013; and the 113th Submarine Birthday Ball on April 13, 2013. He noted that the Town has closed on the Spicer property and will close on the Fusconi property April 3, 2013. Once the Town owns the Fusconi property, demolition will begin for the Crystal Lake Road project.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Morton

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

Mayor Somers noted that the Committee of the Whole discussed the proposed rejection of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Noank Fire District for reuse of the Noank School, a sailing program grant, the FYE 2014 budget, and Judson Avenue drainage issues. Councilors went into executive session to discuss the acquisition/sale of property.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2012-0228 Noank Fire District Response on Noank School Reuse

RESOLUTION REJECTING THE NOANK FIRE DISTRICT'S NOANK SCHOOL REUSE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FOR REUSE OF THE FORMER NOANK SCHOOL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton's Noank School Reuse Task Force presented its final report and recommendation to the Town Council in October 2011, and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2011 the Town Council endorsed two of the three recommendations of the Task Force, specifically 1) The [Noank School] property remain publicly owned; and 2) As a publicly owned property the Noank Fire District be given a six month time frame (from the date of the resolution) to present a plan for the school and property, and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2012 and February 12, 2013 representatives of the Noank Fire District's Noank School Reuse Committee presented their ideas and plans for reuse of the property, and

WHEREAS, after reviewing potential terms of a Memorandum of Understanding and receiving comments from residents opposed to the plan, the Town Council feels that the reuse plan is not adequately supported financially or by residents of the Noank Fire District, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council chooses not to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for long term lease of the former Noank School Property to the Noank Fire District and re-refers the disposition of the Noank School and property to the Committee of the Whole.

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

Councilor Antipas stated that he will be voting against this resolution. There would be a direct financial impact to residents in the Noank Fire District if they use the school. Councilor Antipas is not sure whether a majority of citizens in the fire district are in favor or not.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Antipas

2013-0079 Annual RTM Budget Meeting

RESOLUTION SETTING RTM BUDGET MEETING DATE ON THE FYE 2014 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 Monday April 29, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road, Groton, Connecticut.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

The Town Clerk mentioned that the title should be changed to read FYE 2014.

MOTION TO AMEND the title to replace 2013-2014"with FYE 2014"was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Schmidt.

VOTE on Motion to Amend carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0087 Groton Rotary Grant - Groton Sailing Program

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SEEK GRANT FUNDING FROM THE GROTON ROTARY CLUB TO BENEFIT SUMMER ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE GROTON SAILING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, at-risk Groton youth will benefit from an on-going, instructional sailing program which includes summer activities that foster sailing skills and teamwork, and

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services, via its Groton Sailing Program, has the capacity and community connections to offer a summer sailing program geared to the needs of at-risk Groton

youth, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Rotary Club has grant funds available for community programs geared towards youth and families, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee to seek grant funding in the amount of \$1000 from the Groton Rotary Club which will be utilized by Groton Human Services to benefit the summer activities associated with the Groton Sailing Program.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0088

Poquonnock River Walkway Park - Remediation Work

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMEDIATION WORK AT THE POQUONNOCK RIVER WALKWAY PARKLET PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton owns property at 65 and 91 Depot Road known as the Poquonnock River Walkway parklet where there are two storm water outfalls that discharge water from the former Electric Boat Midway Facility on Industrial Drive, and

WHEREAS, the area around and below the outfalls is contaminated with low levels of heavy metals and Electric Boat has developed a remedial action plan that has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and

WHEREAS, remediation will require work on the Town's property consisting of excavation of the embankment area and capping of Poquonnock River sediments, said work requiring necessary permits, and

WHEREAS, Electric Boat has indicated that they will restore the Town's property to its original condition prior to the remediation work, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes remediation work at the Poquonnock River Walkway parklet property and further authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign necessary applications to permit the work.

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

The motion carried unanimously

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider the Small Cities Community Block Grant was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.

2013-0067

Small Cities Community Block Grant - 2013 Application

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION IMPROVEMENTS TOWN-WIDE

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. § 5301, et. seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community

Development is authorized to disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to provide financial assistance to eligible Groton property owners to upgrade their residential buildings, making them decent, safe and sanitary; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton conducted public hearings to receive citizen comments on housing and community development needs, prioritizing housing improvements as a community need; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest, that the Town of Groton make application to the State for \$400,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development project and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered; now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the State financial assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Groton in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 is hereby approved and that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager, is hereby authorized and directed to file such application with the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development; to provide such additional information; to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner; to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance if such an agreement is offered; to execute any amendments, recessions, and revisions thereto; to implement project activities, if approved; and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Groton and to execute any other agreement or contract relative to said project.
3. That it adopts or has adopted on behalf of the Town of Groton, a policy to support the following non-discrimination agreements and warranties provided in subsection (a)(1) of Connecticut General Statutes Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a, respectively, as amended by Public Act 07-142, and for which purposes the "contractor" is the Town of Groton and "contract" is said Assistance Agreement:

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract, such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental or physical disability, including but not limited to blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut. The contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated fairly when employed, without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental or physical disability, including, but not limited to blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract, such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated fairly when employed, without regard to their sexual orientation.

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

The Town Manager stated that this grant application is for \$400,000 for community housing activities. Fort Hill Homes is one of the targeted areas, but the money is used throughout the

community. Some of the previous uses of this grant have been: sidewalks and curbing in the Fort Hill Homes area; construction of Sutton Park; handicap access for Town Hall and the Social Services building; and projects at the Senior Center.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Somers received a request from the Audubon Society to have access to coastal waterways to observe migratory birds.

She also received a request from the State encouraging towns to purchase "clean" vehicles.

2013-0103 Lighting at Calvin Burrows Field

Mayor Somers requested a referral to consider lighting for night games at Burrows Field.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant