



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson and Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

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 lead by Chairman of the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community Zell Steever.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2010-0064 Proclamation Recognizing the Grand Opening of the Groton Senior Center

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson, who noted that the project was completed \$2 million under the budgeted amount.

2010-0070 Proclamation Recognizing National Arbor Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Sheets.

Councilor Johnson arrived.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Tim Evers, 82 Irving Street, Mystic, a member of Mystic Community Bikes, Inc., informed the public about a program for residents and visitors to utilize refurbished bicycles for a refundable \$10 deposit between May and October. He stated that the goal of the organization is to encourage bicycling as transportation, recreation, and physical fitness. Mr. Evers noted that Mystic Community Bikes, Inc. supports multi-use trails and plans to provide bicycle education courses at its distribution centers and local schools.

Joan Smith, 58 Mohegan Road, President of Groton Open Space Association, Inc. (GOSA), stated that GOSA is applying for a grant to purchase a 65-acre parcel of land at 245/255 Hazelnut Hill Road. The property is an in-tact eighteenth-century farm that has many natural features as well as the potential to be a significant educational resource. Ms. Smith submitted a petition with 327 signatures in favor of GOSA obtaining this property, and requested the Council's support by the generation a resolution approving GOSA's intent to purchase the property.

Zell Steever, 81 Main Street, Chairman of the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community, spoke as a private citizen. He requested that a written assessment be conducted by the Town to outline recent flooding damage and related costs to determine what changes need to be made to prevent similar problems in the future.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

In answer to Councilor Kolnaski's question, citizens may contact the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce to donate bicycles to Mystic Community Bikes, Inc.

It was noted that a referral has already been made to discuss approval of GOSA's intent to apply for a grant to purchase the 245/255 Hazelnut Hill Road property. Ms. Smith stated that she will conduct a tour for all Councilors who wish to view the property.

The Town Manager stated that a preliminary "After Action Report" outlining damages from the storm will be generated for the Council before the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0076 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of March 16, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0067 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

Frances Harkins - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Hannah Richardson - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary

Groton Public Library Circle of Friends - \$1,555.49 - Library Discretionary

In Memory of Olin Dwire from Stephen and Gwendolyn Manson - \$35.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Michael Mondello for Edward Jones - \$1,500 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2009-0305 Council Goalsetting

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

2010-0068 Got Breakfast? Foundation Silent Hero Grant

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

2010-0069 Summer Food Service Program (2010)

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

2010-0072 Appointment of David Hammerstrom to the Retirement Board

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

2010-0073 Reappointment of Eleanor Schoolcraft to Community Development Advisory Committee

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

2010-0074 Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency

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

2010-0075 Reappointment of Barbara Williams to Inland Wetlands Agency

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 Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, 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**

All Councilors received emails and letters regarding the budget.

Councilor Flax, along with Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Watson, Councilor Johnson, and Mayor Streeter, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Senior Center.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Permanent School Building Committee meeting and the Senior Citizen Coordinating Council meeting. She also received communications regarding Thames Street.

Councilor Monteiro, along with Mayor Streeter, attended the "Isn't It Grand" Dinner Dance at the Senior Center.

Councilor Sheets attended "Groton Climate Workshop 2" on adaptation to rising sea levels. She also attended special and regular meetings of the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community.

Councilor Watson toured Fitch Senior High School to view where leakage occurred due to the recent storm.

Councilor Peruzzotti attended a Phase II School Design Committee meeting.

Mayor Streeter attended a CCM training workshop entitled "Peak Performance in the Municipal Workplace", and spoke at an Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce meeting.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk stated that the RTM will hold its annual budget meeting on May 3, 2010.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be in Groton on April 7, 2010, to begin their assessment of damage due to recent weather conditions and flooding. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently working on the Poquonnock Road bridge, but it is open to two-way traffic. The bridge on Route 184 has failed and will be unusable for at least three months. The Town Manager noted that a preliminary estimate of damages from the storm has been submitted to FEMA. Mr. Oefinger attended the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce meeting. He stated that budget sessions will continue this week with the Board of Education (BOE), the Public Works Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department. The Town Manager reported that while the Mystic River Highway Bridge project is behind in the bid process, the project is on schedule. The ground-breaking ceremony for the Marine Science Magnet High School of Southeastern Connecticut is on April 7, 2010.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

Councilor Peruzzotti read the minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

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 O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0305 Council Goalsetting

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TWENTY-SEVENTH GROTON TOWN COUNCIL GOALS

WHEREAS, a statement of the vision and priorities of the Groton Town Council is beneficial as guidance for both the professional administrators and the citizens of the Town of Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 27th Groton Town Council adopts the following MISSION/ COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT:

- 1) The Town Council is committed to promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the community, fostering public awareness and active participation in safeguarding the community, and maintaining the confidence of the citizens.
- 2) The Town Council will plan for the community's future and represent Groton's citizens while maintaining the highest standard of ethical behavior.
- 3) The Town Council will foster positive communication with the Town's boards and commissions, political subdivisions, and state, regional, military and other federal agencies.

- 4) The Town Council will work to establish fairness and equity in taxation.
- 5) The Town Council will work to assure that Groton is a desirable place to live and work, by providing sufficient services, stimulating economic growth, protecting the environment, and preserving the community's historic character.
- 6) The Town Council will support Town staff and employees through improved communication and clear policy direction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 27th Groton Town Council adopts the following GOALS:

- Assess all information available to ensure there is merit for Phase 2 School Development to go to referendum.
- Assess and take action on the forthcoming 2010 Report and Recommendations of the Groton Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community, and support the Task Force and Groton staff energy conservation and efficiency program for Groton public buildings, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Study the availability of space in Town-owned buildings and schools to identify opportunities for use of the facilities including, but not limited to, purposes such as a community center, regional probate court, parks and recreation offices/program center, visitor center, and community meeting space.
- Evaluate, develop and promote, in partnership with the City, a new financial proposal and strategy to achieve voters' approval of a referendum to fund Thames Street Rehabilitation Project.
- Review the Property Maintenance Code as amended by proponents and approved for the Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, further amend as necessary or desired, and proceed for adoption Town-wide in Groton.
- Support and promote existing local business as well as work with the Economic Development Commission in three areas:
 1. Evaluate the viability of, and time frames for, projects listed in the 2006 Groton Strategic Economic Development Plan.
 2. Identify areas in the Town that would support commercial development and ideas for development.
 3. Establish a realistic percentage of Grand List growth with the Commission for year end 2011.
- Assess and support where appropriate the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Purpose and Vision.

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

The goals of the Twenty-Seventh Groton Town Council will be published on the Town website and regular discussions will ensue throughout the Council's term to determine progress toward achieving them.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0068

Got Breakfast? Foundation Silent Hero Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE GOT BREAKFAST? FOUNDATION SILENT HERO GRANT

Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs, and

WHEREAS, the Town was notified of a non-matching grant opportunity through the Got Breakfast? Foundation that aims to increase access to breakfast programs to help fight obesity and improve the overall health of children, and

WHEREAS, the Got Breakfast? Foundation Silent Hero Grant program will award grants ranging between \$2,000 and \$10,000 to create, support, and expand Summer Nutrition Programs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, or his designated agent, is authorized to apply for the 2010 Got Breakfast? Foundation Silent Hero Grant.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0069

Summer Food Service Program (2010)

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO OPERATE A 2010 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN GROTON

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides funding through the Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs, for a Summer Food Service Program for Children, and

WHEREAS, the Summer Food Service Program for Children promotes and provides good nutrition during the summer months when at-risk, low-income children are not receiving the benefits of the Federal School Breakfast/Lunch Program through their schools, and

WHEREAS, units of local government may act as sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program and the Town of Groton Parks and Recreation Department is capable of administering Groton's Summer Food Service Program for Children, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs for the purpose of establishing and operating a Groton based Summer Food Service Program for Children, overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department and Administrative Services Department, during the months of June, July and August 2010 and sign claims for reimbursement, and therefore be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the absence or incapacity of the first designated individual (Town Manager Oefinger,) the Town Finance Director, Salvatore M. Pandolfo, is designated to sign claims for reimbursement.

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

The motion carried unanimously

A motion to approve Resolutions 2010-0072 Appointment of David Hammerstrom to the Retirement Board, 2010-0073 Reappointment of Eleanor Schoolcraft to Community Development Advisory Committee, 2010-0074 Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency, and 2010-0075 Reappointment of Barbara Williams to Inland Wetlands Agency was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

2010-0072

Appointment of David Hammerstrom to the Retirement Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING DAVID HAMMERSTROM TO THE RETIREMENT BOARD

RESOLVED that the Town Council appoints David Hammerstrom, 112 Spyglass Circle, to the Retirement Board for a term ending 12/31/10.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0073 Reappointment of Eleanor Schoolcraft to Community Development Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ELEANOR SCHOOLCRAFT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Eleanor Schoolcraft, 350 Ring Drive, is hereby reappointed to the Community Development Advisory Committee for a term expiring 2/7/13.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0074 Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EUNICE SUTPHEN TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Eunice Sutphen, 120 Cedar Road, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/11.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0075 Reappointment of Barbara Williams to Inland Wetlands Agency

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BARBARA WILLIAMS TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Barbara Williams, 129 Elm Street, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/11.

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

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager stated that due to the recent flooding, the transfer station will be open at no charge for a limited time.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant