



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### 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**

---

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

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 Schmidt.*

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Watson and Councilor Antipas

Members Absent: Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz and Councilor Peruzzotti

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti arrived at 7:35 p.m. and Councilor de la Cruz arrived at 7:41 p.m.*

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

Members Absent: Councilor Cerf

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Trisha Cunningham.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

##### 2015-0164 Proclamation Honoring Kathryn Sullivan

Read

*Councilor Antipas read this proclamation.*

##### 2015-0166 Proclamation Recognizing Jacob Henry Newsome

Read

*Councilor Frink read this proclamation.*

##### Recess for Public Hearing on:

*By consensus, Mayor Schmidt recessed the meeting to hold the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.*

##### 2015-0162 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Application (2015)

*Library Director Betty Anne Reiter gave a brief overview of the project. The grant application is for \$150,000 to be used to defray the cost of the project. She stated that she became aware of this grant program through Thames Valley Communications. Connecticut businesses may contribute their Connecticut State taxes toward this program, in lieu of paying some State taxes. The business must submit an application between September and October. It will then be determined if there is a suitable project submitted by non-profits or municipalities for these funds. She noted that energy efficiency projects may receive 100% reimbursement, while other projects may receive up to 60% reimbursement.*

*Trisha Cunningham, Director of Community Development for Fairview, gave a brief overview of the application that Fairview is applying for. If awarded the \$120,000 grant, they will use the funds for an ongoing project to replace the existing Packaged Thermal air conditioners within resident's rooms.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger explained the steps involved in this application process. He stated*

that after the application is reviewed, the Town Council must hold a Public Hearing. If the application is approved, the proposals will be submitted to the State of Connecticut Revenue Services. The Town will be actively seeking other businesses in the Town that might be interested in applying for the tax credits through this program in the future.

Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m.

#### IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, addressed the Town Council with her opinions and suggestions regarding terms and conditions offered to non-union employees. She stated that the Non-Union Employee Agreement has been in effect since July 1, 2006 and should be updated. She quoted the agreement stating that a non-union employee's contribution to health care benefits, is only 10% of the premium. In addition, each non-union employee has a \$100,000 life insurance policy maintained by the Town. She read a provision in the plan that stipulates payment to non-union employees for accrued vacation and sick time that isn't used. She stated that this policy needs to be abolished and that employees should use their vacation time or lose it at the end of the fiscal year.

Scott Aument, 127 Rogers Road, Mystic, would like the Town Council to approve the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program. He suggested reviewing the Schools Facilities Task Force questionnaire being used for the phone survey. He stated that some of the questions are suggestive or biased toward the current school project. He plans on attending the next School Facilities Task Force meeting to state his opinion.

#### V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Frink requested that Ms. Kotowski send her comments from tonight's meeting to the Town Clerk for distribution to the Town Council.

Councilor Peruzzotti requested that the Town Manger send a copy of the Non-Union Employee Agreement to all Town Councilors.

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Approval of Minutes

##### 2015-0172 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 2, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

##### b. Administrative Items

##### 2015-0157 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Bernie Boylan - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Marilyn Comrie - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Victor & Paula Dufault - \$300.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Lawrence & Betty Anne Reiter - \$500.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Mystic Lions Club - \$1,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Richard Semeraro - \$250.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Peter Wilson - \$5.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Joan Cohn - \$250.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Everest Brustolon - \$200.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Janina Nawarskas - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Carol Majewski - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 James Streeter - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Gail Chianese - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Mark Hogan - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Jerie Catillo - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Marc Zimmer - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Anna Wesbrook Works - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Linda Massucci - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Todd Gipstein - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Nicholas Checker - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Donnamarie Inc - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Janet Barrett - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Shelia Adams - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Terrylynn Avery - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Adriana Lublin - \$50.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Robert & Lorna Occhialini - \$500.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Alexis Dudden - \$100.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Robert Palm - \$100.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Clinton S. Wright - \$100.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Raymond B. Johnson - \$100.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Elizabeth L. Raisbeck - \$100.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Tulsa & Janice Scott - \$25.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Miscellaneous Donations - \$602.00 - Noank School Public Gardens  
 Alan W. Shearer - \$2,400.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park  
 Joseph Turco - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Gerardo Pacheco - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Susan Kietzman - \$200.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Joellen Anderson - \$350.00 - Library Miscellaneous

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

*Councilor Watson and Mayor Schmidt commented on the generosity of the many citizens who contributed to the special trust funds.*

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

**2014-0098 Status of Mumford Cove Roads**

**2014-0257 FYE 2016 Budget Discussion**

**2014-0286 Implementation of Police Study Recommendations**

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

**2015-0032 Possible Mooring Fee for Mystic River**

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

**2015-0077 FYE 2016 Proposed Budget Deliberations**

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

**2015-0158 FYE 2015 Suspense List**

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

**2015-0159 Adoption of Ordinance to Amend Sections 3 and 4 of Ordinance No. 239**

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

**2015-0168 Reappointment of Jeffery Blevens to Jabez Smith House Committee**

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

- 2015-0169 Reappointment of Barbara Block to Inland Wetlands Agency**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0170 Reappointment of William Mencer 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 Watson, 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. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Frink attended the Economic Development Commission meeting on June 4, 2015.*

*Councilor Moravsik attended the U.S.S. Groton Sail Steering Committee meeting on June 10, 2015 and reported that they have selected the property at the Groton Heights School to be the best location for the display of the sail and other items.*

*Councilor Watson attended a fund raising event for the Groton Veterans' Park on June 6, 2015. He complimented Jim Streeter, Bob Walker, Karen Morton, Nancy Barnhart and Irma Street for their efforts with this event and reported that the event and other contributions raised \$5,660. He also attended the June 3, 2015 Town Council/City Council/Board of Ed/RTM Liaison Committee meeting and noted that the committee will not meet again until September. He also attended the U.S.S Groton Sail Steering Committee meeting on June 10, 2015.*

*Councilor Flax attended the Town Council/City Council/Board of Ed/RTM Liaison Committee meeting on June 3, 2015 and the Lady Falcons Softball final game on Friday, June 12, 2015 and the Whalies Awards in New London.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti congratulated the Lady Falcons Softball team on their record of accomplishments.*

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

*The Town Clerk reported that the RTM met on June 10 for their regular meeting. Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, was elected to fill the vacancy in District 5. The RTM approved the 4th quarter transfers by a vote of 26 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention. The finance committee postponed the City of Groton Highway Maintenance FYE2016 referral until the next RTM Finance Committee meeting. The next regular RTM meeting will be held on July 8th at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. She also reported that RTM members Christine Conley, Bill Smith, Bruce McDermott, Jordan Brayman, Ivy Williams, Juliette Parker, Patrice Granatosky and Scott Meyer have said that they plan to march in the 4th of July parade.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*The Town Clerk reported that Rick DeMatto resigned his Chairman position on the Permanent School Building Committee and that Robert Austin-LaFrance was elected as the new Chairman. She reported that she received a resignation notice from Board of Education member Joey Schick. She also reported that she attended the Groton Rotary meeting last week and the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Annual State of Groton and Ledyard meeting on June 16, 2015.*

**d. Town Manager**

*Town Manager also noted that the U.S.S. Sail Committee has selected Groton Heights School as the preferred site. He stated that the Bill Memorial Library Board will discuss this item at a special meeting on Friday, June 19, 2015. He stated that he will be meeting next week with*

officials from DEEP to discuss this proposal. He suggested that the Town Council schedule a public information meeting in the near future to explain the proposal to the adjacent property owners. He announced that the Town will be having a July 4th parade on Saturday, July 4, 2015. He announced that the Gorton Senior Center issued three \$500 Achievement Awards to three graduating high school seniors from Groton.

## 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

*Councilor Flax reported that his committee met on June 2, 2015. The committee favorably endorsed Jeffrey Blevens to the Jabez Smith House Committee, Barbara Block to the Inland Wetlands Agency, and William Mencer to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Minutes of that meeting are on file with the Town Clerk.*

### d. Rules - Chairman Frink

*No meeting, no report.*

### e. Public Safety - Chairman Moravsik

*No meeting, no report.*

### f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

*Mayor Schmidt reported that the Committee of the Whole met and approved all of the resolutions that are on tonight's agenda.*

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### 2015-0158 FYE 2015 Suspense List

#### RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 SUSPENSE LIST

WHEREAS, State law requires that once a year a list shall be compiled of taxes that should be suspended, and

WHEREAS, the accounts which have been determined as uncollectible have been contacted at least nine times with no response, and

WHEREAS, placing uncollected items on the Suspense List helps avoid waste of money and staff time, and

WHEREAS, taxpayers remain liable for all amounts that are placed on the Suspense List, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amounts be added to the Suspense List as reported to the Town Council:

Town: \$429,735.89  
Sewer District: \$656.64  
Total: \$430,392.53

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

### 2015-0159 Adoption of Ordinance to Amend Sections 3 and 4 of Ordinance No. 239

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 3 AND 4 OF ORDINANCE NO. 239

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON: that §§ 3 and 4 of Ordinance No. 239 (§§ 13-3 and 13-4 of the Code of Ordinances) shall be amended as follows:

1. § 13-3. Delete the reference to § 6.2 of the Charter of the Town of Groton and replace it with a reference to § 7.2 of the Charter of the Town of Groton as amended effective 2009.

Pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 7-273aa-7-273oo, inclusive, there is hereby created a municipal resource recovery authority, to be known as the "Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority", 45 Fort Hill Road, Groton, CT 06340. Pursuant to C.G.S. § 7-273aa(b), the town council of the Town of Groton is hereby designated to be the resource recovery authority and in such capacity it shall have all those rights, powers, and duties set forth in the Connecticut General Statutes relating to municipal recovery authorities.

The town council, acting in its capacity as the Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority, shall have the power to adopt resolutions, rules and regulations and to set rents, fees, or charges as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. Copies of any such resolutions, rules and regulations, and the amount of any such rents, fees or charges shall be made available upon request at the town hall, which shall constitute the principal office of the authority.

The town manager shall be the chief executive officer for the authority and shall have the administrative responsibilities on behalf of the Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority, set forth in Section 7.2 of the Charter of the Town of Groton.

The town council shall also have the power to designate, within the geographical area one or several residential and/or commercial improvement districts, and to enter into contracts, or grant franchises, for the provision of solid waste collection, transport and/or disposal services within those districts.

2. Amend the existing § 13-4 as follows:

Effective January 1, 1999, the removal, transport and/or disposal of solid waste from commercial units and from residential units within the geographical area shall be regulated, managed, supervised and/or performed by the Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority or its agent(s) in conformance with such rules and regulations as the authority has or shall from time to time adopt. Effective on a date to be established by the authority, the removal, transport and/or disposal of solid waste from commercial units and from residential units within the geographical area shall be managed, supervised and/or performed by the Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority or its agent(s) in conformance with such rules and regulations as the authority has or shall from time to time adopt, and from the date determined by the authority for commercial and residential units as aforesaid, all other persons are hereby prohibited from removing, transporting and/or disposing of solid waste generated within the geographical area by the commercial or residential units, respectively. The authority may, however, provide by regulation an exception for generators of solid waste to self-transport and self-dispose of such waste.

**A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted as Amended and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on July 31, 2015.**

*Town Charter 5.5.5.4 Veto*

*The RTM, upon a two-thirds vote of the total membership, shall have the power to reject any legislative ordinance passed by the Council, except for an ordinance of consolidation as defined in Section 2.6. Such veto shall be filed with the Town Clerk not more than forty-five (45) days after the enactment of such ordinance by the Council, be recorded in the ordinance book, and Notice of Veto shall be published.*

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

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

**2015-0168**

**Reappointment of Jeffery Blevens to Jabez Smith House Committee**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JEFFERY BLEVENS TO THE JABEZ SMITH HOUSE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Town Manager chooses to reappoint Jeffery Blevens to the Jabez Smith House Committee, and

WHEREAS, appointments to the Jabez Smith House Committee by the Town Manager require the formal consent of the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Jeffery T. Blevens, 17 Ashby Street, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Jabez Smith House Committee for a term expiring 09/07/18.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0169 Reappointment of Barbara Block to Inland Wetlands Agency**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BARBARA BLOCK TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Barbara Block, 142 Bay View Avenue, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/16.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0170 Reappointment of William Mencer to Zoning Board of Appeals**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING WILLIAM MENCER AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

RESOLVED, that William Mencer, 68 Bel-Aire Drive, Mystic is hereby reappointed as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring 12/31/19.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Council Frink requested that the Town Manager's Annual Review be referred to the Committee of the Whole.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so taken at 8:10 p.m.*