



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 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, September 4, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

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

Members Absent: Councilor Streeter

*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 Niel Spillane.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Niel Spillane, 147 High Street, Mystic, is concerned that the trustees of Pequot Woods were not
consulted about possible land restrictions before granting permission for an archeological study
by the National Battlefield Protection Program. He hopes that the Council will be pro-active in its
attempt to keep any artifacts here in Groton. Furthermore, Mr. Spillane stated that the Pequot
War was the largest colonial battle. He believes that the John Mason monument should be
returned to Groton and placed at the north end of Pequot Woods.*

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Councilor Watson noted that metal detectors were used to locate evidence of battles and
skirmishes, but the war didn't take place only in Groton. He stated that Dr. Kevin McBride should
be contacted for an update on the status of the study.*

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0263 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 21, 2012 are hereby
accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2012-0262 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2011-0235 Amtrak Gate, School Street

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

2012-0205 Fiscal Impact Statement - Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action 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. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Schmidt stated that there will be a benefit to raise money to build homes for severely wounded troops on September 16, 2012, and an Autism Speaks walk on September 22, 2012.

Councilor Watson attended an informational session regarding the Groton Long Point Road bridge and, along with the Town Manager, the 18th Annual Commemoration Wreath Laying at Fort Griswold. He was also present at a presentation by Nicholas Francone, the Ledge Light Health District intern appointed through the Harry Watson Intern Program." Councilor Watson was told about a sink hole on Route 117, which has since been repaired.

Councilor Morton noted that Fort Griswold is not mentioned in the literature of the State's twenty-seven million dollar tourism campaign "Still Revolutionary." Fort Griswold is a revolutionary battleground and a letter should be sent to the Governor's office to have it included as part of this tourism campaign.

Mayor Somers noted that there will be a benefit for the homeless shelter in New London on September 7, 2012.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next regular RTM meeting will be held on September 12, 2012.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager announced that Mark T. Berry of Williston, Vermont was appointed as Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Berry will begin his duties on September 24, 2012. He noted that Michael Kane and Lian Obrey have been appointed by City Mayor Marion Galbraith to the City's Community and Economic Development Committee. Mr. Oefinger stated that Geraldine Brooks, author of Caleb's Crossing, will give a presentation September 18, 2012; a one-man show entitled Mark Twain 100 Years Later will be held on September 23, 2012; and the Town surplus sale will be held on September 8, 2012.

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 O'Beirne

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

The Committee of the Whole met prior to tonight's meeting to discuss the Town Manager's evaluation.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Per Councilor Flax's request, the Town Manager will put together the criteria for distressed towns and a listing of the available grants and special opportunities associated with that designation.

The Town Manager stated that the Board of Education will meet on September 17, 2012, to be briefed on redistricting and plans for the future. Town Councilors are invited to attend.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Johnson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant