



# 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 Bruce Flax, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Diane Barber, Joe de la Cruz, Greg Grim, Karen F. Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson*

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Tuesday, September 6, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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*Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.*

#### I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

*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 Councilor Antipas.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

##### 2016-0227 Proclamation Recognizing Constitution Week September 17 - 23, 2016

Read

*The proclamation recognizing Constitution Week was read by Councilor Peruzzotti.*

#### 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

##### 2016-0225 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 16, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This matter was Pass the Consent Calendar.**

##### b. Administrative Items

##### 2016-0219 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Amy Stone - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Delores Ryans - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Janice Frink - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Peter & Debi Miller - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Meredith Russell - \$120.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Victoria Rossman - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Gail MacDonald - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Anonymous - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous

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

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

**2016-0179 North Stonington Road Bridge**

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

**2016-0201 Referendum Date, Form of the Question, and Explanatory Text for the Design and Construction of the Groton 2020 Plan**

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

**2016-0220 Allocation of Funds from Capital Reserve Fund Balance for Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction**

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

**2016-0226 Request for Letter of Support for CTNext Innovation Places Project**

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CT NEXT INNOVATION PLACES PROJECT

**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 Peruzzotti, 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 announced that the First Annual Sober Softball Tournament will be played at Washington Park on October 1, 2016. He reported that there was a Community Speaks Out meeting on August 17, 2016. He stated that one of the individuals that had received help for his addiction attended the meeting. He stated that the next meeting will be on October 12, 2016 at the Groton Public Library. He mentioned that he has received positive comments regarding the upcoming school referendum.*

*Councilor Nault reported that she had attended the Shellfish forum at the Groton Elks Club on August 24, 2016. She reported that she had attended the Economic Development Commission meeting on August 25, 2016. She reported that the Commission is in need of new members. Town Manager Mark Oefinger responded by stating that he has received an application for an appointment.*

*Councilor Watson reported that he had attended the softball game between the City and Town Police Departments.*

*Councilor Antipas reported that on August 17, 2016 he, along with Mayor Flax and Councilor Nault, attended the press conference regarding the disposal site for dredged materials from the Thames River.*

*Councilor Barber reported that she had attended the August 17, 2016 Economic Development Commission meeting. She also voiced her opposition to the upcoming referendum and stated that she supports allowing the voters to decide.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti announced that she will not be attending the September 20, 2016 Town Council meeting.*

*Mayor Flax reported that he had attended the Electric Boat Stakeholders meeting on August 23,*

2016. He stated that he had attended the press conference regarding the Thames River dredging on August 17, 2016. He reported that he met Rabbi Mark Ekstrand, the new Rabbi for the Temple Emanu-El in Waterford. He attended the City and Town Police softball game on August 13, 2016. He received an email from a citizen regarding the blasting at the new U-Hall site on Route 184. He reported that he received a letter from Rosanne Kotowski regarding the Town of Old Lyme joining the Ledge Light Health District. He made a request for the Town Manager to investigate the siren policy of the Mystic River Ambulance Company.

Councilor Watson requested that the Town Manager review the Town policy and verify what is considered appropriate behavior for Town Councilors during a pending referendum for an ordinance.

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

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the next RTM meeting will be on September 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Groton Senior Center.

**c. Clerk of the Council**

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the Town Clerk's Office received notification from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management that they had received the Town of Groton's Plan of Conservation and Development.

**d. Town Manager**

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reviewed items that may appear on the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Rules - Chairman Antipas**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax**

Mayor Flax reported that the Committee of the Whole met at a Special Meeting earlier this evening and reviewed and voted on all the item on the agenda.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**2016-0179 North Stonington Road Bridge**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITMENT TO FUND FOR THE NORTH STONINGTON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OR REHABILITATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has reviewed the Town of Groton's preliminary application for the replacement or rehabilitation of the North Stonington Road bridge and determined that the project qualifies for Local Bridge Program funding, and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has committed to funding \$597,554.50, which is 50% of the estimated eligible project costs, subject to program regulations and statutory requirements, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign the Commitment to Fund for the replacement or rehabilitation of the North Stonington Road bridge over Whitford Brook under the Local Bridge Program.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0201 Referendum Date, Form of the Question, and Explanatory Text for the Design and Construction of the Groton 2020 Plan**

RESOLUTION SETTING REFERENDUM DATE AND FORM OF THE QUESTION AND AUTHORIZING EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROTON 2020 PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Groton have approved an "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$184,500,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROTON 2020 PLAN", now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the ordinance be submitted for approval or rejection at a referendum to be held Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Electors approving the ordinance will vote "Yes" and those opposing the ordinance will vote "No", and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the question to be printed on the ballots shall be worded as follows:

"SHALL THE ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$184,500,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROTON 2020 PLAN, CONSISTING OF A NEW, CONSOLIDATED MIDDLE SCHOOL AND CONVERSION OF THE EXISTING MIDDLE SCHOOLS INTO "RENOVATED LIKE NEW" ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BE APPROVED?", and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to issue any and all warnings, publish all such notices, and file all such statements and reports concerning said referendum as provided by law, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to prepare a concise explanatory text regarding said ordinance, such text and explanatory material to be subject to the approval of the Town Attorney and the Groton Town Mayor and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0220 Allocation of Funds from Capital Reserve Fund Balance for Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF \$120,000 OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND BALANCE TO THE CRYSTAL LAKE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, a total of \$558,210 was approved in the fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 from the Capital Improvement budget for the 10% local match for the reconstruction of Crystal Lake Road, and

WHEREAS, the \$558,210 was based on the preliminary \$5,582,100 cost estimate of the project prepared by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Project Development Unit, and

WHEREAS, the final plans have been completed and the current final Connecticut Department of Transportation estimate for the project is \$6,744,120, and

WHEREAS, the project is expected to be publicly bid by September 2016, and

WHEREAS, additional funding in the amount of \$120,000 is necessary to fund the local 10% match, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the allocation of \$120,000 from Capital Reserve Fund Balance to project 1) I) Reconstruction of Crystal Lake Road/Military Highway.

Refer to RTM under Rule 6.5.3.

**A motion was made by Councilor Grim, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0226**

**Request for Letter of Support for CTNext Innovation Places Project**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CTNEXT INNOVATION PLACES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has recently promoted a new program named CTNext Innovation Places that seeks to support entrepreneurs and leaders developing places that will attract the talent high-growth enterprises need, and

WHEREAS, the CTNext program has initiated a competitive grant round for both planning and implementation grants available to most organizations, and

WHEREAS, collaborative-based projects involving multiple jurisdictions and organizations focused on sense of place will score the highest, and

WHEREAS, SPARK Makerspace and CURE Innovation Commons have offered to lead a proposed "Story of Place" initiative and grant application focused on the area including Groton and New London partnering with the City of New London, City of Groton, Town of Groton, seCTer, Connecticut College, New London Public Schools, the SECT Cultural Coalition, Electric Boat, Pfizer, and UConn, and

WHEREAS, SPARK Makerspace and CURE Innovation Commons as the official applicants have submitted a letter to the Town of Groton seeking formal endorsement including both project support and limited financial contributions, and

WHEREAS, support is also being provided by all other partners and limited financial contributions of approximately \$5,000 each are being pledged by the City of New London and City of Groton for this initiative, and, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby provides its project endorsement towards this competitive grant request and authorizes the transfer of \$5,000 from General Contingency #1074 to Legislative Policy #1001 towards this regional CTNext initiative.

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

*Councilor Nault made the suggestion that an invitation be made to the members of the Groton Board of Education, members of the Ella Grasso Technical School administration, Captain Paul Whitescarver of the Groton Sub Base, members of the Mitchell College administration, and members of the Heritage Park Foundation to participate in developing this project.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

*Councilor Watson made a motion to suspend the Town Council rules in order to take up item 2016-0194. The motion was seconded by Councilor Grim and the vote was unanimously in favor, 9-0-0.*

**2016-0194**

**Town Council/Board of Education Joint Task Force on Shared Services**

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TOWN COUNCIL/BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINT TASK FORCE ON SHARED SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Board of Education have agreed to explore opportunities to

share services, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education voted on August 22, 2016 to participate in the joint task force, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council and Board of Education establish a Joint Task Force on Shared Services consisting of three Town Councilors and three Board of Education members to investigate duplicate departments/services and find potential cost savings, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force will report to the Town Council and Board of Education by January 31, 2017, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Town Councilors Greg Grim, Karen Morton and Bruce Flax and Board of Education members Jay Weitlauf, Katrina Fitzgerald, and Lee White are appointed to the Task Force.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Peruzzotti made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Watson. Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher  
Groton Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Town Council*