



# 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, September 16, 2014

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

#### REGULAR MEETING

#### I. ROLL CALL

*The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Mayor Schmidt.*

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

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

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Watson.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

##### 2014-0245 Proclamation Honoring Carol Pratt and the 20th Anniversary of the "Welcome to Groton" Show

**This matter was Read.**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Peruzzotti.*

##### 2014-0255 Proclamation Honoring the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

**This matter was Read.**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Cerf. Mayor Schmidt attended the ceremony and commented on how impressive the proceedings were. She stated that nearly 400 people from across the country, representing other auxiliary organizations, were in attendance.*

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

*Ed Eckelmeyer, 75 High Street, Noank, expressed his displeasure with the Land Fill permit policy. He requested that the Town Council allow one day passes to be applied as credit toward a full year permit. He also suggested that credit cards should be accepted for payment for any services.*

*Catherine Young, 14 Bushnell Street, Groton, expressed her support for the Best Projects Study, along with hiring a consultant to consider which projects have the best opportunity to bring income into the Town. She also supports the Town's application to the State of Connecticut for the creation of an Airport Development Zone.*

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

*In response to Mayor Schmidt's questions, the Town Manager stated that he will look into Mr. Eckelmeyer's issue and get back to him. He also explained the current policy on the acceptance of credit cards for payments. Councilors discussed the pros and cons of offering the use of credit cards and they expressed their desire for this option to be explored.*

*The Town Manager explained that the application for a Airport Development Zone is being developed with a consultant. He expects to present this, along with the Opportunity Zone and consultant proposal, to the Committee of the Whole, so that Councilors will have the opportunity to discuss how best to move forward with the process.*

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR****a. Approval of Minutes****2014-0253 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 2, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

**b. Administrative Items****2014-0243 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Joseph and Susan Bennett - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Bonnen - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Juliet Cafara - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Felton Clayton - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Richard Davies - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Penelope Dawley - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Robert and Judith Elwood - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Lora Feldman - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Jean and Frederik DeGrooth - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Hickety Family LLP - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Philip Hulsizer - \$150.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Jean Kennedy - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Gloria and Robert Kenyon - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Nancy Kolb - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Donna Lane - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Adrienne and Bill Loweth - \$2,000.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Michael Mahoney - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
William Martin - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Barbara McNeil - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Pauline and Kevin Robillard - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Robert and Gisela Solt - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Nidia and Bernard Somers - \$3.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Fitch Class of 1954 - \$400.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Aimee Allaire - \$4.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Benjamin Anderson \$24.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Marcy Casey - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Sandra Champion - \$9.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Carl Conrad - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Nora Belle Du Rocher - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Chinwe Erike - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
James Eskra - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Larry Grundy - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Elizabeth Hogan - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Lauren Huck - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Arnold Jordan, Sr. - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Pride Kelleles - \$6.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Heather King - \$10.00 Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Lisa Knobloch - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Beverly L. Lavalley - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Eric Martin - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Rebecca Martin - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Amy Matteson - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Emily Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Katherine S. Nelson - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Nina Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Kathryn A. Roschmann - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Katy M. Stoddard - \$6.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Lawrence Taylor - \$1.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Merin Troutman - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Arianna Turello - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Katherine Wilhelm - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Jeanne M. Yellow Robe - \$2.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Marsha Zimmermann - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Katherine Zod - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Chelsea Groton Bank - \$160.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous  
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Barbara Sawyer - \$75.00 - Library Miscellaneous

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

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

**2014-0211 Line Clearance Trimming and Removals, Sandy Hollow Road**

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

**2014-0223 Rubino Driveway Apron, River Road**

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

**2014-0235 Lease of Town Equipment to Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA)**

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

**2014-0239 North Stonington Road Bridge**

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

**2014-0240 Reallocation of CIP Funds for Boiler Replacement at Water Pollution Control Facility**

**This Matter was Referred for Information to RTM to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on November 12, 2014 on the Consent Calendar.**

**2014-0251 Spicer Park Dock Replacement**

**This Matter was Adopted and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on October 8, 2014 Referred under 6.5.3 on the Consent Calendar.**

**2014-0252 West Shore Avenue Paving Project, Groton Long Point**

**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 Moravsik, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

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

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

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor de la Cruz reported on the water activity on the Thames River and concluded that the trial water taxi between Groton and New London was a success. He also commented on the*

*opening of an old time capsule on September 6th.*

*Councilor Frink attended the Economic Development Commission meeting.*

*Councilor Moravzik attended meetings with the Mystic Merchants, the Economic Development Commission, and the Town Council Finance Committee meeting.*

*Councilor Watson reported on a communication regarding the procurement of the Submarine Groton's sail. He reported on the recent Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison meeting, and clarified that Councilor Cerf will be attending the negotiation meeting for the Board of Education Administrators.*

*Councilor Flax attended the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison meeting.*

*Councilor Cerf attended the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison meeting and commented on the free water taxi and encouraged the public to participate in the survey that the Avery Copp House is sponsoring.*

*The Mayor attended the September RTM meeting, and she reported on the success of the water taxi that ran between Heritage Park in Groton and Fort Trumbull in New London.*

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

*The Town Clerk reported on the September RTM meeting and noted that the RTM has asked for an opinion from the Town Attorney regarding the formation of an RTM Economic Development Corporation. She noted that the next meeting will be October 8, 2014 at the Groton Senior Center.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*No report.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager announced that the new Director of OPDS, Jon Reiner, will be starting with the Town on Monday, September 29th. He recapped some job postings including the Assistant Town Manager, Finance Director, and Chief of Police. He mentioned that the GIS Coordinator will be leaving at the end of the month and he expects this position to be filled. He went over a few items that he expects to present at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. He reminded Councilors that Tom Hennick from FOIA will be at their next committee meeting and that if they have any subjects or questions that they would like addressed to please forward that information to him or the Town Clerk.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Finance - Chairman Frink**

*Councilor Frink noted that the Finance Committee met with Timothy Ryor, Senior Vice President and Consulting Actuary with Hooke and Holcome, Inc. He gave a presentation with a detailed overview of the Town's retirement plan. The full report is on file at the Town Clerk's office.*

**c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Rules - Chairman Frink**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt**

*The Committee of the Whole discussed all of the items that are on the Town Council agenda this*

evening. In addition, she noted that the Committee met with members from the Mystic Fire District and members from the Pleasant Valley Fire District. They discussed the request for seasonal banners for downtown Mystic and referred the item to the Historic District Commission for an opinion.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS****2014-0211 Line Clearance Trimming and Removals, Sandy Hollow Road**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CL&P LINE CLEARANCE TRIMMING AND REMOVALS ON SANDY HOLLOW ROAD

WHEREAS, on January 19, 1999, by resolution, the Town Council designated Sandy Hollow Road as a Scenic Road according to Town Ordinance #200, Town Code Sec. 13.5-121 to 13.5-124, and

WHEREAS, the Scenic Road Ordinance prohibits the removal of trees except for good cause determined by the Council after a public hearing, and

WHEREAS, Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) has a planned program to clear around power lines, which has been reviewed by the Town's Tree Warden, and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2014 the Town Council held a public hearing on the proposed tree trimming/removal program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes CL&P's line clearance trimming and removals on Sandy Hollow Road.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0223 Rubino Driveway Apron, River Road**

RESOLUTION CONCERNING INSTALLATION OF A DRIVEWAY APRON ON THE RUBINO PROPERTY, RIVER ROAD

WHEREAS, on January 19, 1999, by resolution, the Town Council designated River Road as a Scenic Road according to Town Ordinance #200, Town Code Sec. 13.5-121 to 13.5-124, and

WHEREAS, the Scenic Road Ordinance prohibits alterations or improvements on scenic roads except for good cause determined by the Town Council after a public hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Road and Drainage Standards require the installation of a driveway apron to protect the edge of pavement from vehicles accessing property on River Road owned by Michael Rubino, which is the site of a proposed dock, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council held a public hearing on the proposal on September 2, 2014 and after thoughtful consideration agreed that a driveway apron is not necessary in this location, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council determines that it is not necessary for Mr. Rubino to construct a driveway apron to access his property on River Road and therefore no finding is necessary under the Scenic Road Ordinance.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0235 Lease of Town Equipment to Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRA)**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF TOWN EQUIPMENT TO SOUTHEASTERN

## CONNECTICUT REGIONAL RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY (SCRARRA)

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRARRA) provides the service of grinding woody vegetation to its member towns, and

WHEREAS, there is sometimes the need to transport excess chipped material from towns' transfer stations, and

WHEREAS, SCRARRA has offered to transport the excess material to other member towns or other regional food waste recycling sites using a piece of Town-owned equipment known as a "walking floor trailer," and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed the terms of SCRARRA's proposal and is supportive of a regional solution to the issue of chipped wood, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the lease of the Town's walking floor trailer to SCRARRA under the terms outlined by SCRARRA in its April 29, 2014 letter to Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0239**

**North Stonington Road Bridge**

## AUTHORIZATION TO USE SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR AN ENGINEERING ANALYSIS OF THE NORTH STONINGTON ROAD BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the North Stonington Road Bridge has been closed since May 2012 due to severe deterioration, and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2014 the Town Council authorized a settlement agreement whereby Alfred Benesch & Company (formerly James P. Purcell Associates, Inc.) paid the Town of Groton \$90,000 to settle a claim related to engineering inspection work previously conducted on the bridge, and

WHEREAS, representatives from the Town of Groton and Town of Stonington have discussed how to proceed with the bridge project and agreed that it should move forward if possible, and

WHEREAS, it is proposed that the settlement funds be used to hire a consulting engineering firm to completely analyze the bridge abutments and beam pockets, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council, with the concurrence of the Stonington Board of Selectmen, authorizes the use of settlement funds associated with the North Stonington Road bridge to hire a consulting engineering firm to conduct a complete analysis of the bridge.

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

*Councilor Cerf mentioned that she discussed the replacement project with two residents from Old Mystic. It was their opinion that replacement was necessary to provide vital emergency services to the area. Councilor de la Cruz reviewed the area in person and agreed that this project is necessary. He had hoped for more communication from residents, but realized that this project has been delayed.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0240**

**Reallocation of CIP Funds for Boiler Replacement at Water Pollution Control Facility**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REALLOCATION OF \$382,972 FROM ACCOUNT NUMBER 50100 5572B (WPCF RENOVATIONS) TO A NEW FYE15 CIP PROJECT, WPCF

**BOILER REPLACEMENT**

WHEREAS, there are funds in the amount of \$382,972 remaining from a Water Pollution Control Facility FYE 2010 Capital Improvement Program project [9)E) Facility Renovations totalling \$1.9 million], and

WHEREAS, the previously authorized project has been completed under budget and the remaining funds are sufficient to undertake the replacement of the existing boiler, and

WHEREAS, reallocation of the funds will allow the bid specifications, bidding, award and procurement of the materials to allow construction to begin at the end of the heating season in March of 2015 along with other benefits, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, to reallocate \$382,972 from account number 50100 5572B (WPCF Renovations) to a new FYE15 CIP project for the Water Pollution Control Facility Boiler Replacement.

Refer to RTM.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0251****Spicer Park Dock Replacement****RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NEW DOCK SYSTEM AT SPICER PARK**

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has proposed the purchase of a replacement dock for Spicer Park using funds from the Community Boating Account and Special Needs Donations, and financing a portion of the purchase using the Capital Reserve Fund, which is anticipated to be repaid over a two-year period, and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2014 the Town Council authorized the donation of the old Spicer Park dock to the Noank Rowing Club, with the understanding that proceeds from the dock will be donated to the Town and applied to the purchase of a new dock, and

WHEREAS, the new proposed replacement system is an 80' x 12' modular dock with an additional adaptive feature that allows for greater accessibility for users, and

WHEREAS, the total cost for the dock and installation is \$61,000 and there are \$54,000 in funds currently available leaving a balance of \$7,000 to be financed using the Capital Reserve Fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a new FYE15 CIP project for the Spicer Park Dock Replacement.

Refer to RTM.

**A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0252****West Shore Avenue Paving Project, Groton Long Point****RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO PERFORM THE RESURFACING OF WEST SHORE AVENUE**

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department was requested by the Town Council to submit a cost proposal for resurfacing West Shore Avenue, which was placed out to bid by the Groton Long Point Association, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department submitted a cost proposal that included labor, equipment and subcontractor cost to CME Associates, that Association's engineer of record, and

WHEREAS, the cost proposal has shown that Public Works performing the work is cost competitive with the bids received by the Groton Long Point Association, and

WHEREAS, the only charges to the road maintenance and rehabilitation bond will be for materials and subcontractors, further reducing the amount charged to the bond authorization, and

WHEREAS, discussions with officials of the Groton Long Point Association have been supportive of the Department performing the work in the spring of 2015, and

WHEREAS, this action supports the Council's desire of cooperation between all subdivisions of the Town, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Public Works Department of the Town of Groton to perform the resurfacing of West Shore Avenue for the Groton Long Point Association.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Mayor Schmidt requested each Councilor review the current referral list to consider any item for deletion.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Cerf and so voted unanimously.*