



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

Town Council

Mayor Bruce S. Flax, Councilor Dean G. Antipas, Councilor Diane Barber, Councilor Greg Grim, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Karen F. Morton, Councilor Bonnie Nault, Councilor Deb Peruzzotti, and Councilor Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read the roll call of the meeting.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik

Mayor Flax declared a quorum with nine Town Councilors present.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by City Mayor Keith Hedrick.

Mayor Flax requested that all attendees rise and observe a moment of silence in recognition of the tragedy befallen the people of Las Vegas on October 1, 2017.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

Recess for Public Hearing on:

Mayor Flax recessed the meeting in order to hold the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m. Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read the call for the Public Hearing which ran in The Day on September 28, 2017.

2017-0218 Proposed Charter Revision - Draft Report

Mayor Flax invited comments from citizens and instructed them to state their name and address for the record. He stated that each speaker would be limited to five minutes for their presentation.

Neil Spillane, 147 High Street, Mystic, made reference to the current form of government and that he supports the representation of the RTM. He does not support a public referendum for a budget because of the lack of knowledge and the threat of special interests.

Chuck Stevens, 12 Stony Hill Drive, Mystic, thanked the members of the Charter Revision Commission for their efforts in trying to come up with improvements for the town. He stated that the proposed Charter changes seem to diminish individual power and that he cannot support them. He stated that the RTM is closest to the electorate. He stated that his RTM representatives are his neighbors. He stated that they are responsive to him because if they are not, they may not be re-elected every two years. He stated that minority representation protects against domination of one political party or interest group. He stated that the proposed Finance Board can be elected from any part of the town and they are up for re-election every four years; four years is too long. He stated that presently the Town Council is elected every two years. He stated that if the Councilors are not doing a good job, they will not be re-elected. He stated that four-year staggered terms for the Council reduces his ability to quickly change the make-up of the Council. He stated that we currently have a budget referendum every two years. He stated that term limits for the Town Council artificially reduce his ability to make choices. He thanked the people that

worked so hard on the Charter changes, but he would only support changes that enhance his ability as a voter rather than dilute it.

Mike Edgerton, 113 Seneca Drive, offered his thanks to the Charter Revision Commissioners for the many hours that they have put into developing the proposed revisions to the Town Charter. He stated that he supports the budget referendum, eliminating the RTM, and establishing a Board of Finance. He suggested a few additional changes. Mr. Edgerton's statement is on file at the Town Clerk's office.

Ed Ettinger, 174 Cedar Road, Mystic, spoke in favor of the amendments that are proposed to the Town Charter.

Robert Bailey, 179 Michigan Drive, stated that he is opposed to a budget referendum. He stated that the RTM spends time looking at the budget line by line; voters would not put that kind of time in. He stated that a referendum would only be a YES or NO vote on the entire budget.

Kathy Chase, 146 Indian Field Road, thanked the Town Council for allowing her to sit on the Charter Revision Commission. She stated that this was her first stint in the political arena. She thanked fellow commission members and staff for their efforts. She asked the Town Council to accept the draft report as written and to send it to the voters in Groton. Ms. Chase's statement is on file at the Town Clerk's office.

Troy Bree, 145 Indian Field Road, thanked the Charter Revision Commissioners for their efforts. He stated that he has a growing concern for the taxpayers of Groton. He stated that he will remain a resident of Groton for as long as he can afford it. He referred to the 8.7% increase in the mill rate for 2018. He stated that he fully supports the changes in the draft report in order to run the town more efficiently. He stated that he supports the elimination of the RTM, instituting a budget referendum, and creating a Board of Finance. He stated that he appreciated reading the member's statements. Mr. Bree's statement is on file at the Town Clerk's office.

Jennifer White, 7 Crosswinds Drive, stated that she is a member of the Charter Revision Commission; she thanked the Town Council for appointing a diverse group to form the Commission. She encouraged the Town Council to approve the draft report as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission.

Patrice Granatosky, 30 North Prospect Street, thanked the members for allowing her to serve on the Charter Revision Commission. She encouraged the general public to review the draft report and the two minority reports that are available on the Town's web-site. She stated that she wrote one of the minority reports because she does not support the changes to the Charter. She referenced the Committee of 19 that was formed in 1955 to study the Town government. She stated that at that time there was 25,000 people living in Groton. She stated that the government at that time was made up of a traditional Town Meeting, Board of Selectman, and a Board of Finance. She stated that the Committee of 19 study suggested that the Town of Groton was too large for this type of government. She stated that at that point the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, and Town Meeting and instituted a representative Town Meeting and professional Town management. She stated that with a population of 25,000 people fifty years ago, it was determined that the form of government that the current Charter Revision Commission is suggesting was not appropriate. She stated that Groton is currently well managed and fiscally responsible. She stated that Groton is respected as being one of the most fiscally responsible towns in Southeastern Connecticut. She stated that she is a strong believer of the RTM, and she served many years on it. She stated that the RTM represents the whole town of Groton. She stated that we are a Republic not a Democracy; we send people to Washington to represent us, we send people to Hartford to represent us, and we send our neighbors to the RTM to represent us. She stated that every neighborhood is represented. She stated that not every corner of town is represented in a budget

referendum; every budget will become a political battle. She stated that the RTM makes informed decisions on the budget. She stated that the towns that were compared to Groton by the Commission are nothing like Groton. She stated that we have budgets of \$130,000,000.00; we cannot rely on amateurs to give us financial advice. She stated that she wants a paid professional giving her Town Councilors financial advice. She stated that elections cost about \$22,000 each. She stated that she is opposed to all of the proposed revisions of the Charter.

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to serve on the Charter Revision Commission. She complimented the Town Clerk and her assistant for their excellent work in support of the Charter Revision Commission. She stated that she would not comment on the minority reports due to the time limitations. She highlighted some of the changes in the draft report. She stated that the budget process is broken. She stated that the taxes have increased 16.5% over the past three years. She urged the Town Council to publicly support the Charter Revision Commission's proposal and send the draft to the voters of the Town of Groton. She stated that the City of Groton taxpayers are allowed to vote every year on their budget at the Freeman's Meeting. Ms. Kotowski's statement is on file at the Town Clerk's office.

Bryon Niemann, 76 Allen Street, stated that he opposes the elimination of the RTM. He stated that in theory, a budget referendum opens everything for all voters. He stated that in reality, it does not take into account demographics. He stated that there are certain areas of the Town of Groton that are predominately single parent families. He stated that other areas have a larger proportion of rentals. He stated that renters do not generally support budget referendums. He stated that the RTM ensures equal representation throughout the Town. He said that it would be nice if everyone eligible to vote in a referendum came out and voted. He stated that in reality, that is not the case.

Fred Kent, 120 Warren Avenue, Mystic, stated that he supports the recommendations from the Charter Revision Commission. He stated that we are watching the demise of the State of Connecticut. He stated that this is a result of out of control spending, primarily spending for special interests. He stated that the State has run out of other people's money and is now passing the bill to Groton taxpayers. He stated that it will get worse every year. He stated that Groton has struggled to reduce costs and spending. He stated that the RTM has been a rubber stamp for spending. He stated that the last stand is to give Groton taxpayers the ability to say YES or NO to spending. He urged the Town Council to support the Charter revisions and the budget referendum. He stated that the referendum on the budget gives taxpayers a direct say in spending.

Keith Hedrick, 156 Shennecossett Parkway, stated that he is the Mayor of the City of Groton. He stated that he is opposed to the dissolution of the RTM. He stated that the RTM has provided a balance toward the Town Council on some occasions and has made more significant cuts than that of the Town Council. He stated that he has concerns with the qualifications of those who serve on the Board of Finance. He stated that he agrees with the minority reports. He stated that he supports representation of all districts that the RTM provides. He stated that the Town Manager's powers are diminished with some of the changes to the Charter; the Town Manger should issue the annual report. He noted that he is concerned that there is not a minimum voter turnout for the referendum and the cost of it. He stated that with the time-line, there is enough time for no more than two referendums. He stated that one becomes familiar with the budget when he or she is on the RTM and that is another reason to keep it. Mr. Hedrick's statement is on file at the Town Clerk's office.

Bobbi Jo Cini, 316 Groton Long Point Road, thanked the members of the Charter Revision for their hard work. She stated that she is not in support of the Charter changes. She stated that having the voters decided the budget isn't the best practice. She stated that she doubts people will study the budget book compared to the time that RTM puts in. She stated that she agrees with speaker Mike Edgerton.

Peggy Adams, 30 Circle Avenue, GLP, stated her gratitude to the Commission. She stated that she attended many of their meetings. She stated that she represents the over 2000 non-resident taxpayers who became disenfranchised after the last Charter Revision eliminated their right to vote at budget referendum. She stated that their concern is that they pay taxes, therefore they should be able to vote as to how their dollars are spent. She stated that their status is taxation without representation. She referenced the September 15, 2017 legal opinion that was issued by Judith Blank, Attorney from Day Pitney, noting that in summary if a combination legislative body were to be incorporated into the Charter, and the Charter was to require that the Town Meeting be adjourned to referendum vote, then non-resident taxpayers could be permitted to vote in referenda. She respectfully requested that resident taxpayers be reinstated with this new Charter Revision.

Roscoe Merritt, 19 Birmingham Court, stated that he represents District 1 on the RTM. He stated that his district is not as affluent as other districts in town, however, the representatives of his district take care of any of the residents throughout the Town. He stated that he does not believe the same representation will be available with the changes in the propose Charter Revision.

Bob Frink, 144 Seneca Drive, stated that he is a member of the Charter Revision Commission. He urged the Town Council to accept the Draft Report and send all recommendations to the voters at the earliest possible time. Mr. Frink's statement is on file at the Town Clerk's office.

Kevin Trejo, 536L Shennecossett Road, thanked everyone who was involved in the Charter Revision process. He stated that he is opposed to the abolishment of the RTM and a budget referendum. He stated that Groton is affordable. He offered another form of government where there is an elected Mayor and twenty-one elected Councilors with representation from each district. He stated that we are just tossing ideas into the air to make people happy. He stated that there are people running for the RTM who want to get rid of it.

Jean Claude Ambroise, 169 Shennecossett Parkway, made a request that the Town Council reject the Charter Revision Commission proposals. He stated that this is a flawed document that intends to radically alter Groton's government. He stated that he is a past member of the RTM and that he had been in support of a budget referendum when he was a member. He stated that his biggest concern is the elimination of the RTM and the establishment of an at large Board of Finance. He stated that a Board of Finance would not represent all seven districts. He stated that absenteeism is the reason why the Commission is seeking to eliminate the RTM. He suggested several statistics to illustrate the meeting attendance for both the RTM and the Charter Revision Commission. He stated that of the eighteen speakers, ten were against the Draft Report and eight were in favor. He stated that of the eight in favor, four were members of the Charter Revision Commission. He stated that the Commission used several towns as comparison. He stated that with the industry and the Navy Sub Base located in Groton, no other town in Connecticut can be compared to Groton. He stated that by eliminating the RTM, a large portion of the town will not be represented. He stated that he would support a Board of Finance elected by district. He stated that he will not support a budget referendum without a minimum required turnout.

Jim Streeter, 64 Pleasant Street, stated that he is currently a member of the RTM and he is there to represent the entire Town of Groton. He noted that he rejects the changes proposed in the Draft Report. He stated that the current form of government has been in effect since 1956 and in his opinion it is not broken. He stated that the current Charter needs a few tweaks. He pointed out that the RTM accepts or rejects ordinances. He asked where the check and balance is in the new Charter and stated that there is none. He stated his opinion of minority representation as being someone elected to the Board of Finance from each district. He stated that barring town employees from serving in an elected position may be violating current law. He questioned whether the Board of Finance should make its own rules. He stated that a budget referendum would be very costly. He stated that he appreciated the time that the Charter Revision Commission put into the Draft Report, but that he recommends that the Town Council reject it.

Lian Obrey, 8 Vista Point, thanked the many people for the time that they put into this project. She stated that she is adamantly opposed to the proposed changes. She stated that the Town Council and the RTM are the true representation for the people of the town. She stated that most people in town do not understand the budget. She stated that it is the job of the Town Council and the RTM to study the budget. She stated that the RTM is the incubator for our Town government. She commented on the small attendance at City of Groton Freeman's meetings. She stated that revenue and economic development are the reason why people are upset. She stated that she is opposed to the elimination of the RTM.

Gary Welles, 5 Route 27, Old Mystic, stated that he represents the fifth district on the RTM. He stated that he doesn't see anything in the proposed changes that will show how we will be able to get more done with less money. He stated in his district, he can say with some certainty that they do not like changes.

Natalie Burfoot Billing, 15 Ashby Street, Mystic, thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to speak and she thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their effort. She stated that she supports applying the minority representation law to the Town Council. She stated that she always wondered why it was applied to the Board of Education, the RTM, and all our Boards and Commissions, but not the Town Council. She stated that minority representative rule prevents a board from being from one political party. She stated that she is not necessarily opposed to a budget referendum, but she is not in favor of this particular proposal; she is not opposed to a Board of Finance. She stated that she could not find another town in Connecticut that has a Town Manager and a Town Council, with an elected Board of Finance that has no authority. She stated that the Board of Finance that is being proposed is advisory to the Town Council. She stated that the Town Council could appoint an advisory board to assist it with the budget. She stated that every function assigned to the Board of Finance has been a function of the Town Council. She suggested that authority should be given to the Board of Finance to do the budgeting and the Town Council be the legislative body. She stated that clarification is needed to address budget timeliness. She stated that a minimum required affirmative vote to pass any resolution should be applied to the Board of Education as it is with the Town Council. She stated that the Board of Education can close a school or hire a Superintendent with as little as three members of a nine member body. She stated that her bottom line advice is for the Town Council to take its time, and that it is too rushed. She stated that voters may blame the RTM for their increased taxes. She stated that the RTM has repeatedly reduced spending including this year. She stated that the Town Council had proposed a 8.7% increase, and the RTM actually lowered that increase. She stated that this has been true for many years, but that a lot of voters do not know this. She stated that the Council should take the time to get this right, do not create confusion, and she suggested this if they want to have a Board of Finance, give them the teeth to do something and take that off their plate.

Dan Mello, 263 Bridge Street, thanked the Town Council for his appointment to the Charter Revision. He stated that this was his first venture into politics and that it may be his last. He stated that this process was a series of compromises. He referred to a broad picture that included a historic review of government from our early 1700s New England Town Meeting to the early 1900s. He stated that during the progressive movement in the early 1900s and as a result of the abuses of government, today we have the Town Council form of government. He stated that only six towns have an RTM. He mentioned the duplication of resources in our community and that it is time to consider the consolidation of services to save money. He stated that he supports the changes proposed by the Charter Revision Commission.

Porta Bordelon, 159 Shennecossett Parkway, stated that her concern is that we will lose our diversity if we take away the RTM. She pointed out that the Town Council does not effectively represent her district. She stated that if we are to have a seven member Board of Finance, it needs

to have a member elected from each district. She stated that the RTM is made up of people from our neighborhoods. She asked how the Charter Revision Commission was appointed. She stated that she thinks the Charter Revision is being rushed and that it was only formed to get rid of the RTM and institute a budget referendum. She stated her resentment of the criticism that some members of the RTM have received because of their absence. She stated that one of the members on the RTM has been sick with cancer and this has prevented her from attending the meetings. She stated that she is against the revisions of the Charter and that more time needs to be spent on reviewing it.

Susan Dean-Shinbrot, 116 Dartmouth Drive, Mystic, thanked the people who served on the Charter Revision Commission and the people who spoke at this Public Hearing. She stated that she is not opposed to change but that more thought need to be put into this proposal. She stated that she takes personally the section that prevents a Board of Education employee from serving on the RTM or Council. She stated that she is an employee of the Board of Education and a member of the RTM. She stated that she recluses herself at every Board of Education vote and she does not serve on the Education Committee. She stated that she takes this action personally and feels that she is being singled out. She stated that Stonington, Clinton, Newtown, and Gilford are not comparable to Groton, by size or socioeconomics. She stated that for educational purposes, the Board of Education uses Killingly, Middletown, Putnam, and Torrington for comparisons. She stated that she likes the RTM, but recognizes her bias because she is a member. She stated that she has learned much about Groton and she has gained an appreciation as to where our money is spent. She suggested that this report should go back to the drawing board.

Kate Richards, 78 Algonquin Drive, stated that she is opposed to the changes proposed for the Charter. She agrees with the opposition statements that have already been presented. She stated that she is opposed to the separation of the Board of Education budget from the rest of the budget. She stated that this could be perceived as artificial and problematic because they are intimately linked.

Councilor Barber read an email from Jay Dempsey. Mr. Dempsey's statement is on file.

Juilette Parker, 520 F Shennessocett Road, stated that she is a current RTM member and a frequent speaker. She stated that she is against the dissolution of the RTM and a budget referendum. She stated that if we are trying to save money, then why send the budget to a referendum. She stated her concern with having a Board of Finance without any check or balance. She stated that the RTM is the check and balance for the Town Council.

Councilor Dean Antipas read a statement from Barbara Tarbox. Mrs. Tarbox's statement is on file.

Councilors Barber and Grim left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik

Members Absent: Councilor Barber and Councilor Grim

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Thomas Potter, 154 Walker Hill Road, stated that he was there to address the continual wasting of tax payer's money as being bad business. Mr. Potter stated that he received confirmation from a Town official that he would meet with him at any time to discuss some question that he had about a selection process for a contract award. Mr. Potter stated that this matter involves an expenditure of at least \$208,000. He stated that after this response, he had not heard from the official for nearly a year. He stated that he recently sent a follow-up email and received a quick response stating that the official could see no need to meet at this time or in the future on this matter. Mr. Potter asked the Town Council where they currently stand on the issue of the need for an Code of Ethics and an Ethics Commission for the Town of Groton. He requested a special meeting to

address the matter involving the Town official. Mr. Potter's statement is on file.

The next speaker, Aimie Gresham, was not present to speak. Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that Ms. Gresham was there to address the need for a noise ordinance.

William Munson, 148 Yetter Roar, Mystic, distributed a newspaper article for the Town Council to review that had been printed in the Mystic River Press on August 31, 2017. A copy of the article is on file.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Antipas responded to Mr. Potter regarding his Code of Ethics comments. He stated that the proposed Code was not necessarily seven full years worth of work. He pointed out that it was a product of research that included looking at codes from many different communities though out the state. He stated that the draft, if it were adopted, contains provisions for just about everything, including the establishment of the Commission. Councilor Antipas stated that he is not opposed to forming an Ethics Code. He stated that the Town Council took the advice from the Town Attorney and decided that there may be more mischief involved than it would be worth. Councilor Antipas prefaced his question of clarification by saying that if we had a Code of Ethics and a Commission, that we could get to the bottom of this problem. Councilor Antipas ask Mr. Potter if he had read the proposed Ethics Code and where this issue would fall within it as a violation of those ethics. Mr. Potter responded by saying that this matter should be discussed within an Executive Session. Mr. Potter stated that the Town Charter still requires the Town Council to adopt an Ethics Code and to appoint an Ethics Commission. Mr. Potter made the suggestion that the Charter Revision Commission should delete that section of the Town Charter.

Councilor Nault stated that she is in favor in adopting a Code of Ethics and an Ethics Board.

Town Manager John Burt stated that a referral has been recorded for the COW to review a Code of Ethics.

Councilor Antipas explained the scope of power associated with a Code of Ethics.

Mayor Flax stated that the proposed Code of Ethics is going to be reviewed again in Committee. Mayor Flax assured Mr. Potter that his other issue will be reviewed by the Town Manager.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2017-0204 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of August 1, 2017 and September 5, 2017 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2017-0196 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Kaydence Foreman - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Leigh Sammons - \$95.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Michelle Baker - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Patrice Granatosky - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Ellen Russo - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Jeanette Dostie - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Michelle Coope - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Jay Levin - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Suisman, Shapiro - \$45.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Richard Foreman - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Theodore & Annette Ainslie - \$75.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Anonymous - \$83.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Raymond & Virginia Bousquet - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Richard Davies - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Eaves - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Darwin & Elizabeth Geronimo - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Diane & Denis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Hickey Family - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Peggy Johnson - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Cynthia Miffit - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 James Miller - \$24.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lisa MoneyPenny - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Armand & Nancy Morin - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Barbara & Linwood Navarro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Demetrios Orphanides - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Patricia Pearce - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Eleanor Ralls - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Adam Reckelhoff - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Stebbins Real Estate - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Vela - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Victoria Williams - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Alicia & Jill Bauer - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Robert & Phyllis Boggs - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Everest Brustolon - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Julia Campisi - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Felipe & Irene Castro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Franklin & Diane Davis - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Dowd - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Michael & Marilyn Francis - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Charles & Rosemary Hall - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Ronald & Margaret Stoven - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Emily Thomas - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Fred & Gail Yeo - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Marsha Zimmermann - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0208

Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRINUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Lindsay Devona - \$5.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Katrina Bercaw - \$10.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Anonymous - \$10.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Victoria Rossman - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Adele Barclay - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Sandra Cataldi - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Hector Correa - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Richard Davies - \$25.00 - Groton Untilities Energy Assistance Program
 Robert & Judith Elwood - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Barbara Gay - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Nathaniel Gray - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Hickey Family - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Donna Holmes - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Patricia Kemme - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Barbara Loso - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Gloria Marshall - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Richard McGirr - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Thomas & Majorie Morris - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Henry & Pamela Olexy - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Michael Pane - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Debra Russ - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 James & Ann Sailors - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Massimo Sardelli - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Louis & Alma Vendetti - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Nina Nelson - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Nicholas Carter - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Katrina Bercaw - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Club 55 - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 First United Methodist Church - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Kathryn Beck - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Robert & Phyllis Boggs - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Kathleen Borys - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Felipe & Irene Castro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 David & Deborah Downes - \$40.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Sidney & Lynette Gardner - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Diane & Dennis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Darnelle Johnson - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Katie Kietzman - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Eunice Medalen - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Lisa MoneyPenny - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Donald & Maggie Sebastian - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Ronald & Margaret Stoven - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 City of Groton Matching Funds - \$65.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Flax commented on the generosity of our citizens with their donations to the Special Trust Funds.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2016-0178 Groton Heights School/Bill Memorial Library Land Swap

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

2017-0172 Adoption of Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission

2017-0173 Participation in Joint Action Lawsuit Against Pharmaceutical Companies

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

2017-0190 Police Department - Update

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

2017-0192 Enterprise Information Management System - Update

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

2017-0193 Hiring Freeze

- 2017-0198** This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Reappointment of Donald Levenson to Historic District Commission
- 2017-0201** This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Senior Center Consignment Shop Operations Agreement
- 2017-0209** This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Contingency Transfer for Wage Increases
- 2017-0210** This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Department of Transportation Easement - Route 1/Newtown Road
- 2017-0212** This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Filling the Office Assistant II, Assessment Position in the Finance Department
- 2017-0214** This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
Modification of Retirement Plan for Non-Union Police Officers
- 2017-0219** This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Modification of Noank School Public Gardens Task Force Guiding Document

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 Antipas reported that he had attended a Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut meeting in which he Chairs. He reported that on Sunday, October 1, 2017, he volunteered to be captured by a rather nasty group of pirates and held for ransom to raise funds for Terri Bordure Cancer Research Foundation. He stated that the event raise a pile of money.

Councilor Watson stated that Council Antipas did a fine job representing the Town Council at a recent press conference..

Mayor Flax reported that he had met with the Town Manager a few times and he attending a Council of Governments meeting.

Mayor Flax confirmed with Mr. Munson that the reason for his distribution of the Mystic River Press article was to illustrate the fund balance comparisons between Stonington and Groton.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that the RTM will be meeting on October 11th at 7:30 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that as of October 1, Public Act 17-54 will require that sixteen or seventeen years old minors must have the Probate Court Judge of the jurisdiction in which the minor resides, approve the issuance of a marriage license. For minors under sixteen years of age, no marriage license may be issued.

She announced that Absentee Ballots will be available on October 6th for the November 7th election. Municipal offices will be on the ballot which include the Town Council, Town Clerk,

Board of Education, and Representative Town Meeting. She stated that if you find that you will be unable to get to the polls on Election Day during voting hours, you may apply for an absentee ballot. Applications are available through the Secretary of the State website and at the Town Clerk's office. The Secretary of the State's web address is www.sots.ct.gov. She stated that the complete list of candidates is posted on the Town website.

She reported that the Clerk's Association has been lobbying the Legislature for many years in an attempt to increase some of the fees that are collected. She stated as an example that a Marriage License fee is currently \$30.00 of which \$19.00 is sent to the State and \$11.00 is shared with the Town. It is proposed to increase the fee to \$50.00 of which \$34.00 would go to the State and \$16 would be shared with the Town.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager John Burt announced that the AOPA Fly in Event is scheduled for this coming Friday and Saturday. He mentioned that the Groton Ambulance roof replacement began today. He announced that Grasso Tech is gathering items to send to Puerto Rico for hurricane victims. He reported that State Representative Christine Conley gave him a briefing that the House of Representatives were called into session today to discuss the veto over-ride. Both the Minority and the Majority Leaders spoke, but no one made a motion. They discussed taking measure both in the Democrat and Republican plans to create a temporary budget in order to provide some relief to the towns.

In response to Mayor Flax, Town Manager John Burt stated that the town received the first quarter of the Education Cost Share Grant payment, which was reduced to \$7.5 million for the year. The first quarter was received this week in the amount of \$1.8 million which compared to \$6.3 million received for the same quarter last year. In total, \$18 million was cut from our ECS funding, because of the stall with the State budget. He stated that if the Town has to use all of the Town's Fund Balance, we should be able to support our operation expense obligations up until the end of June.

Councilor Antipas stated that it has taken years to get the Fund Balance to the current level.

Town Manager John Burt stated that there is a required amount that must remain in the Fund Balance in the event of unforeseen debt obligations.

In response to Councilor Antipas, additional funds received from the state would be place in the Fund Balance to make up for what has been used during the shortfall.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson

Chairman Watson reported that the Committee met this evening with a very full agenda. He stated that they were not able to finish their business. He stated that the August 1, 2017 minutes were not read. He stated that there is one person, Donald Levinson, on the agenda this evening for a reappointment. He reported that in August, the committee voted to approve some changes to the appointment policy.

b. Rules - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

Mayor Flax stated that the Committee of the Whole met a couple of times and those action items are on the agenda tonight.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2017-0172 Adoption of Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON AND TO ABOLISH THE ZONING COMMISSION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:

1. Although the Planning and Zoning Commissions have provided the townspeople of the Town of Groton consistently exemplary service, changing economic and other conditions, including the increasing uncertainty of the State of Connecticut's ability to provide revenues to the municipalities, have caused the Town Council to reconsider the utility of having two separate commissions. Information obtained by the Town Council strongly indicates that it would be in the Town's best interest to create a combined Planning and Zoning Commission in order to, among other things, unify and expedite the processes of obtaining zoning approvals and thus encourage economic development.
2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-4a, the Planning Commission is hereby designated as the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Town of Groton, and said Planning and Zoning Commission shall have all powers granted to planning commissions, zoning commissions, and planning and zoning commissions by the laws of the State of Connecticut, including without limitation the powers granted planning and zoning commissions by Chapters 124 and 126 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
3. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall consist of seven regular members and three alternates, all of whom shall serve five-year terms, and each of whom shall be a resident elector of the Town and appointed by a majority vote of the Town Council. The present terms of office of the five regular and three alternate members of the Planning Commission, including any currently vacant seats, shall continue until their current expiration date. Thereafter, the Town Council shall appoint regular and alternate members for terms of five-years. The terms of the two additional seats for regular members created hereby shall terminate on December 31, 2021, and shall thereafter be filled for five year terms. No regular or alternate member of the Planning and Zoning commission may concurrently be a regular or alternate member of the Town of Groton Zoning Board of Appeals.
4. Alternate members shall have all the powers and duties conferred on alternate members of a planning and zoning commission by the General Statutes. Alternates shall be designated to act according to a regular rotation process so as to assure to the extent practicable equal participation by each in the affairs of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
5. The Town Council shall by majority vote fill all vacancies of the regular and alternate members of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the unexpired portion of any term.
6. The Zoning Commission is abolished and shall cease to exist.
7. This Ordinance shall be effective 45 days after enactment by the Council unless vetoed by the RTM.

Re-referred

Councilor Antipas made a motion to amend section one in order to include the ability to return tax revenue, seconded by Councilor Nault. Councilor Watson announced that the proper procedure to adopt an Ordinance would require five affirmative votes. The motion and matter was discussed and agreed by consensus to send the Ordinance back to the Committee of the Whole.

2017-0193

Hiring Freeze

RESOLUTION REQUIRING JUSTIFICATION FOR FILLING VACANT POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the Town Council and Representative Town Meeting adopted the FYE 2018 budget by May 25, 2017 as required by the Town Charter, and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has yet to adopt the FY 2018 - FY 2019 biennium budget for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the various revenues that the Town of Groton will receive from the State of Connecticut are unknown as is the potential impact on the Town's budget, and

WHEREAS, delaying the filling of vacant positions in the Town will help decrease the potential shortfall between expenses and revenues in the FYE 2018 budget, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective immediately, all vacant positions are frozen and may not be filled until reviewed by Human Resources for evaluation of pressing need, and without the express written authorization of the Town Manager and consent of the Town Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall not apply to positions falling under enterprise funds including the Shennecossett Golf Course and the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the hiring justification requirement shall continue in full force and effect until the end of FY 2017/2018 or a subsequent resolution reversing this resolution is adopted by the Town Council.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0198 Reappointment of Donald Levenson to Historic District Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DONALD LEVENSON TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Donald Levenson, 223 Ensign Drive, Mystic, is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/21.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0201 Senior Center Consignment Shop Operations Agreement

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SENIOR CENTER CONSIGNMENT SHOP OPERATIONS AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the goal of the Groton Senior Center is to encourage independent living for older adults in our community, and

WHEREAS, the Local Creations Consignment Shop at the center has afforded seniors in the community a way to earn money from their crafts, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has selected the ARC of New London County to manage the shop, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Groton Senior Center division of the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into an agreement with the ARC of New London County for the management of the operations of the Center's Local Creations Consignment Shop.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0209 Contingency Transfer for Wage Increases

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2018 GENERAL CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for General Contingency transfers during the year, and

WHEREAS, during FYE 2018 budget deliberations, only the labor agreements for the CILU-Telecommunicators employees had been settled and those wage increases were included in a department's FYE 2018 Budget, and

WHEREAS, during FYE 2018 budget deliberations, labor agreements/pay plans were not known and were not included in a department's budget for the remaining employee groups: CILU-Clerical, United Steelworkers-Parks/Public Works, Police, AFSCME-Supervisors, and Non-Union, and

WHEREAS, wage increases for three of those groups (CILU-Clerical, AFSCME-Supervisors, Non-Union) are now known and should be incorporated into a department's FYE 2018 budget through a General Contingency transfer, and

WHEREAS, the employment agreement for the Town Manager requires a wage increase to the budgeted salary and other contractual obligations not included in the FYE 2018 budget, and

WHEREAS, during budget deliberations funds were included in the General Contingency in anticipation of wage adjustments occurring during the fiscal year for a total Contingency appropriation of \$650,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$298,123 is transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions and referred to the RTM 6.5.3 for approval:

Legislative Policy #1001	\$19
Voter Registration #1003	\$502
Town Clerk #1005	\$7,997
Executive Management #1010	\$29,289
Information Technology #1011	\$16,667
Human Resources #1012	\$13,315
Finance #1013	\$41,818
Emergency Communications #1014	\$2,557
Public Safety #1024	\$15,686
Public Works #1035	\$49,486
Planning & Development #1046	\$29,855
Human Services #1051	\$20,334
Library #1063	\$44,549
Parks & Recreation #1064	\$26,049

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0210

Department of Transportation Easement - Route 1/Newtown Road

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EASEMENT AT FORT HILL ROAD (ROUTE 1) IN THE VICINITY OF NEWTOWN ROAD (ROUTE 117) FOR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has requested a 224 square foot easement over a portion of Town -owned property on the south side of Fort Hill Road (Route 1) in the vicinity of Newtown Road (Route 117) for installation and maintenance of traffic signalization devices and appurtenances thereto, and

WHEREAS, DOT has offered the Town \$500.00 in exchange for the easement rights, and

WHEREAS, the Town's Public Works Department has recommended that the Town Council grant the easement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager John Burt to sign and process paperwork necessary to grant an easement on Fort Hill Road (Route 1) in the vicinity of Newtown Road (Route 117) to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) as depicted on a map provided by DOT in a letter dated July 20, 2017.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0214

Modification of Retirement Plan for Non-Union Police Officers

RESOLUTION ADJUSTING THE NON-UNION POLICE OFFICER RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, under the "Retirement Plan for Non-Union Police Officers of the Town of Groton" the definition of "Annual Pay" is "a Police Officer's yearly salary plus the total of longevity, sick incentive and education incentive payments not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000). In addition, non-union officers shall be credited with an additional three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for purposes of calculating annual pay to compensate for the unavailability of overtime;" and

WHEREAS, compression in the annual pay for purposes of calculating retirement benefits exists between union and non-union police officers due in part to the inability of non-union officers to credit a larger amount of overtime toward the calculation of annual pay; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the overtime credit for non-union police officers from three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) will significantly relieve that compression;

WHEREAS, the estimated impact on the annual actuarially determined employer contribution ("ADEC") of an increase in the overtime credit for non-union police officers from three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) is approximately twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500); now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the definition of "Annual Pay" in the "Retirement Plan for Non-Union Police Officers of the Town of Groton" be amended to "a Police Officer's yearly salary plus the total of longevity, sick incentive and education incentive payments not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000). In addition, non-union officers shall be credited with an additional fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for purposes of calculating annual pay to compensate for the unavailability of overtime."

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

In response to Councilor Antipas, Town Manager John Burt stated that he has discussed the strip of land along Route 117 with the Department of Transportation. He stated that he intends to prepare a letter for the Town Council to authorize the negotiations for that land.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0219

Modification of Noank School Public Gardens Task Force Guiding Document

RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE GUIDING DOCUMENT ESTABLISHED FOR THE NOANK SCHOOL PUBLIC GARDENS TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, in Resolution #2014-0198 the Town Council established the Noank School Public Gardens Task Force in accordance with a Guiding Document dated October 21, 2014, and

WHEREAS, the Noank School Public Gardens Task Force has requested a modification of the Guiding Document to allow activities that address three primary initiatives (recreation, education,

donation), and

WHEREAS, the Task Force requested four years to complete their work plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Guiding Document for the Noank School Public Gardens Task Force approved by the Town Council in Resolution #2014-0198 is hereby rescinded and replaced with the Noank School Public Gardens Task Force Guiding Document October 3, 2017 Update (attached).

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

Councilor Nault stated that she had voted in favor of this in committee, but upon speaking to Bob Frink, it has come to light that some serious zoning changes need to be implemented into this proposal. She stated that she would like to postpone this item and return it to the COW in order to determine the zoning issues.

Councilor Antipas stated that the zoning issue could be handled internally.

Councilor Nault would like to reviewed this item and consider reducing the agreement to two years.

Councilor Morton stated that the plan is to obtain all their projects within the four years, including approvals from Noank Zoning.

Councilor Watson agrees with Councilor Morton. He stated that the Noank Garden presents an annual report and if they are not meeting what we have agreed to, the Council can change the agreement.

Councilor Peruzzotti stated that she was not at the COW meeting and she is questioning their ability to charge fees. She stated that she can not support this resolution at this time.

In response, Town Manager John Burt stated that the original agreement included a provision that they could change a fee for a garden plot of land. He included this provision because he did not envision the Parks and Recreation Department continuing to maintain this property.

Mayor Flax stated that they are proposing sports fields.

Councilor Antipas stated that we collect fees for the collegiate baseball club to use our fields.

Councilor Perruzzotti stated that we already have issues with not having enough playing fields in this Town. She stated that it would be a shame not to make sure that there is language in this document that makes it clear that the Noank Community Garden can use this land, but that our priorities come before theirs.

Town Manager John Burt stated that included in the document is the statement that Groton Parks and Recreation have no obligation to participate on site or contribute any portion of it budget or staff to activities, thereon. He stated that at this time, we provide general mowing and water.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik

Opposed: 1 - Councilor Peruzzotti

X. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Peruzzotti made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Watson and so declared by Mayor Flax at 10:26 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher
Groton Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

NOANK SCHOOL PUBLIC GARDENS TASK FORCE GUIDING DOCUMENT
October 3, 2017 Update

GENERAL:

The former Noank Elementary School property ("Site") is comprised of approximately six acres of land. The Town Council's current desire is that the Site remains publicly owned and not be sold for development purposes. This Guiding Document shall supersede and replace the Guiding Document dated October 21, 2014 previously approved by the Town Council.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Noank School Public Gardens Task Force is to provide oversight and manage the day-to-day functions of Town sanctioned public gardens, as well as to provide certain recreational activities as approved by the Town Council, on the Site. The Task Force promotes the educational, cultural, and general welfare of the public through public gardens initiatives such as collaborating with Fitch High School and Grasso Tech to offer educational opportunities related to gardening for students. Additionally, the Task Force may collaborate with the Town of Groton Parks and Recreation Department and other agencies approved by the Town Council to plan and implement certain recreational activities on the Site; provided, said Parks and Recreation Department shall have no obligation to participate in any program at the Site or to contribute any portion of its budget or staff towards the Site or activities thereon.

The Site will remain open to, and is envisioned as a gathering spot for, the public, provided the Task Force may charge a fee to individuals who desire to rent individual gardening plots at the Site within an approximately two acre community garden to be located at the Site. The Task Force may also charge participants for their participation in any approved programs and recreational activities provided by or through the Task Force at the Site.

WORK PLAN/SCOPE/RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Task Force shall generally follow the work plan presented to the Town of Groton Committee of the Whole on September 12, 2017 (see Attachment A). The work plan shall continue until December 31, 2021 at the discretion of the Town Council.

The Task Force shall ensure that all applicable laws are complied with related to the public gardens and recreational activities at the Site, including but not limited to Noank zoning laws. The Town will continue to maintain insurance on the Site, shall provide a water source to the Site, and will perform general maintenance at the Site (e.g., lawn mowing) in accordance with its normal customs and schedules, except that the Task Force shall perform all maintenance related to the public gardens and any recreational facilities, if such facilities are approved by the Town Council, established after this Guiding Document is approved by the Town Council. The Task Force shall practice sound organic principles to the fullest extent possible in connection with the public gardens. The gardens will be open from dawn to dusk. The public gardens and any recreational activities at the Site shall be cost neutral to the Town.

REPORTING:

Unless otherwise directed by the Town Council, the Task Force shall provide the Town Council, through the Town Manager's office, with written reports on a semi-annual basis as to the progress of the work

plan and any other noteworthy circumstances that have arisen outside the work plan related to the use of the Site of which the Town Council should be apprised. In addition to the semi-annual reports, the Task Force or representatives thereof shall update the Town Council on an annual basis in person as to the same matters. The Task Force shall seek the Town Council's approval before engaging in any major activities on the Site outside the scope of the work plan. The Task Force may devise a membership system with respect to the public gardens, or other approved activities, and may accept donations, engage in fundraising and/or sell gardening plots within the community garden at the Site, all proceeds of which shall be deposited into a special Noank Public Gardens fund with the Town and managed by the Task Force solely for utilization in carrying out the Purpose set forth above unless otherwise approved by the Town Council.

Groton Community Recreation and Garden Facility (Phase II, 3 to 5 years)

Phase II Business Plan Framework

This phase is designed to be more inclusive of the greater Groton community, especially children and families and those considered 'at risk and disadvantaged'

This phase will have 3 primary initiatives:

- 1) **Recreation** – this will be planned and executed in close collaboration with the Groton Parks and Rec team
- 2) **Education** – we are engaging with public schools, special ed programs and social services
- 3) **Donation** – this encompasses the food grown at the Facility, fund raising and volunteerism

To accomplish the community goals of the Facility, we will be using Coogan Farm and ECCGA models. This past year Coogan generated **13,000 pounds** of food for donation, delivered on a strong community base of participation and volunteers exceeding capacity for program support and donations

APPENDIX A

3

RECREATION

- Children's Baseball
- Children's Soccer
- Children's Lacrosse
- Children's Playground
- Summer Camp Programs
- Ice Skating & Winter Recreation
- Relaxation and Picnicking

EDUCATION

- Teaching Farming Program (for at-risk and disadvantaged)
- Mystic Garden Club
- Children's Special Ed Gardening Program
- Children's Fall Harvest Festival
- School Club

DONATION

- Food for the Food Insecure Families (33,000 in New London County)
- Vegetables for Local Food Pantries
- Fund Raising for Community Charities
- Volunteers to Drive and Enable Donations

High Level Impact Estimation (participation)

Recreation	Group size	# of teams	Games/day	Game Days	Children/ week	Parents	Total/week
Baseball	15	2	2	2	120	120	240
Soccer	15	2	2	2	120	120	240
Lacrosse	15	2	1	2	60	60	120
Ice Skating							50
Education	Group size	# of groups	sessions/day	session days	Children/ week	Parents	Total/week
Farming	25	2	2	1.5	150	38	188
School Club	25	2	2	1.5	150	2	152

➤

Potential impact from learning programs
~1,000 community members

GROTON COMMUNITY PARK AND GARDENS at the Noank School



Promote and Facilitate Groton Community Services (Phase 2)

Health and Safety

- Childproof playground
- Childproof equipment
- Childproof playground
- Childproof playground
- Childproof playground
- Childproof playground

Education

- Learn from the experience of others

Parental Involvement

- Encourage parents to be involved in their children's education
- Encourage parents to be involved in their children's education
- Encourage parents to be involved in their children's education
- Encourage parents to be involved in their children's education
- Encourage parents to be involved in their children's education
- Encourage parents to be involved in their children's education

