Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council

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

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 | **7:30 PM** | **Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

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

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Ava Johnson.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2013-0254 Proclamation Recognizing Bryce Jacobson

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Antipas.

2013-0273 Proclamation Recognizing Russell Travis Parker

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Morton.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Rod Desmarais, 81 High Street, Mystic, president of the Downtown Mystic Merchants' Association, thanked Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas and Councilor Streeter for their participation in the Pirate Invasion in downtown Mystic on October 6, 2013. The $900 raised will be presented to the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation on November 29, 2013.

Beth Robinson, 25 Lemont Road, presented Mayor Somers with a rock signed by the members of Mrs. Wilson's fifth grade class at S.B. Butler School. The Mayor visited the school earlier in the day to speak to the students about Groton government.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Somers described her visit to S.B. Butler School.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2013-0275 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 4, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2013-0255 **Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
Adrianne and Bill Loweth - $1,000.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
City of Groton - July - $124.18 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Mystic Photography Group - $75.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Emily Burke - $13.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Patricia Carrigan - $20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eileen Cicchese - $31.74 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Karen Colgan - $10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jane W. Coutu - $60.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Diane Darling - $12.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
SusanneMcMillan - $1,500 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kelsey A. Fournier - $200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mark Fournier - $100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Heather Frost - $50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Patricia Garcia - $10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lillian Green - $10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
SECADD Inc. - $300.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
James Ledwidge - $10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Janet Ledwidge - $12.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eric Motin - $10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Emily Nelson - $5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Knights of CCoulombs - $300.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Daniel Pineault - $20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Barbara Strother - $105.80 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Phyllis Walsh - $190.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Wesley Williams - $10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lillian Zabinsky - $100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Neil Zabinsky - $10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kirsti Zarn - $52.91 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Groton Public Library Circle of Friends - $2,192.69 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2013-0256 **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Senior Center Generator**

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

2013-0257 **Resale of Town-Owned Property**

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

2013-0260 **Adoption of 2014 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule**

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

2013-0261 **Adoption of 2014 Town Council Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule**

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

2013-0262 **Adoption of 2014 Personnel, Rules, and Appointments Committee Regular Meeting Schedule**

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

2013-0263 **City of Groton Notification of Use of Highway Paving Funds**

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

2013-0264 **Appointment of Allan Gaudet to Permanent School Building Committee**

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

2013-0265 **Reappointment of Laura Bradley to Fair Rent Commission**

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

2013-0266 **Reappointment of June DeCarlo to Fair Rent Commission**

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

2013-0267 **Reappointment of Catherine Talbot to Harbor Management Commission**

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

2013-0268 **Reappointment of William Gaynor to Harbor Management Commission**

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

2013-0269 **Reappointment of Robert Austin-LaFrance to Permanent School Building Committee**

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

2013-0270 **Reappointment of Laura Baller to Water Pollution Control Authority**

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

2013-0271 **Appointment of William Middleton to Zoning Commission**

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 Antipas, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Antipas attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Bryce Jacobson.

Mayor Somers met with Mystic merchants and with the Noank School public gardens group. She attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Russell Parker, a meeting of the School Facilities Initiative Task Force, and the open house sponsored by the Fitch Robotics Club, as well as visiting with students at S.B. Butler School. The Mayor noted that the Robotics Club will host a pancake breakfast on December 7, 2013 and the Senior Center will hold its annual Santa Breakfast also on December 7. The School Readiness Program was awarded five extra seats, which will allow five additional students to attend either the Riverfront Children's Center or the Early Childhood Development Center through Child and Family Services.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs noted that the Twenty-eighth Representative Town Meeting held its final meeting on November 13, 2013. The newly-elected Twenty-ninth RTM will meet for the first time on December 11, 2013.

c. Clerk of the Council

Ms. Downs added that this is the final meeting of the Twenty-eighth Town Council. The first meeting of the Twenty-ninth Council will be held on December 3, 2013.

d. Town Manager

Mr. Oefinger noted that there will be a Plan of Conservation and Development workshop on November 21, 2013, and that there is a related questionnaire for citizen input on the Town's web site. The Thanksgiving holiday distribution will take place on November 22, 2013, at Groton Human Services. The Holiday Lights Parade will begin at 5:00 p.m. on December 7, 2013. Councilors are urged to participate in both events.

The Town Manager reported that there are only two items of business on the Committee of the Whole agenda for November 26, 2013.

There was consensus among the Councilors to cancel the November 26, 2013, Committee of the Whole meeting.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Morton

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of November 1, 2013, which are on file at the Town Clerk's office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

The resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2013-0256 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Senior Center Generator

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT A FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security offers grants to mitigate or eliminate damage resulting from natural disasters, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department and the Emergency Management Office are recommending the installation of a new diesel generator, enclosure, transfer switch and electric distribution panel at the Groton Senior Center to carry additional building load when the center is used as a shelter/respite location, and

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost of the project is $500,000 and the FEMA grant will reimburse 75% of those costs or $375,000, and

WHEREAS, the Town match of $125,000 will be requested in the FYE 2015 Capital Improvement Program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to submit an application for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant for a generator at the Senior Center.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0257 **Resale of Town-Owned Property**

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SALE OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY

WHEREAS, in December 1994 the Town Council approved a process for the resale of Town-owned property acquired through a tax sale and/or foreclosure, and

WHEREAS, in November 2007 the Town Attorney reviewed the process relative to applicable State Statutes, Town Charter provisions, and ordinances, and

WHEREAS, modifications of the process are necessary to comply with the Town Attorney's findings, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council amends the Process for Resale of Town Owned Property as presented to the Committee of the Whole on November 12, 2013 and implements the procedure regarding resale of acquired property, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the sale of applicable properties be referred to the Planning Commission and RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on January 8, 2014.

The motion carried unanimously

This matter was Referred to the Planning Commission.

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The resolutions adopting meeting schedules on tonight's agenda were moved by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Schmidt and voted on at the same time. All schedules were adopted by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Councilor Antipas.)

2013-0260 **Adoption of 2014 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule**

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2014 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Town Council regular meeting schedule for 2014 as follows:

Tuesday, January 7, 2014
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Tuesday, March 4, 2014
Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Tuesday April 1, 2014
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Tuesday, May 6, 2014
Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Tuesday, June 3, 2014
Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Tuesday, July 1, 2014
Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Tuesday, August 5, 2014
Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Tuesday, September 2, 2014
Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Tuesday, October 7, 2014
Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Monday, November 3, 2014
Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Tuesday, December 2, 2014
Tuesday, December 16, 2014

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, except in November because of Election Day.

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Schmidt
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Antipas

2013-0261 **Adoption of 2014 Town Council Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule**

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2014 TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole regular meeting schedule for 2014 as follows:

Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Tuesday, March 11, 2014
Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Tuesday, April 8, 2014
Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Tuesday, June 10, 2014
Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Monday, November 3, 2014

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the First Tuesday of each month, except in November because of Election Day.

A motion was made that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Schmidt
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Antipas

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The appointments/reappointments on tonight's agenda were moved by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Johnson and voted on at the same time. All appointments/reappointments passed unanimously.

2013-0264 **Appointment of Allan Gaudet to Permanent School Building Committee**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALLAN GAUDET TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Allan Gaudet, 160 Walker Hill Road, is hereby appointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/15.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0265 **Reappointment of Laura Bradley to Fair Rent Commission**

REAPPOINTMENT OF LAURA BRADLEY TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Laura M. Bradley, 38 Round Hill Road, is hereby reappointed to the Fair Rent Commission for a term expiring 7/1/16.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0266 **Reappointment of June DeCarlo to Fair Rent Commission**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JUNE DECARLO TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that June DeCarlo, 16 Eastwood Road, is hereby reappointed to the Fair Rent Commission, for a term expiring 7/1/15.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0267 **Reappointment of Catherine Talbot to Harbor Management Commission**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CATHERINE TALBOT TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Catherine Talbot, 10 Florence Drive, is hereby appointed to the Harbor Management Commission for a term ending 9/1/16.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0268 **Reappointment of William Gaynor to Harbor Management Commission**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING WILLIAM GAYNOR AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

the Harbor Management Commission, for a term ending 9/1/15.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0269 Reappointment of Robert Austin-LaFrance to Permanent School Building Committee

REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J. AUSTIN-LAFRANCE TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE.

RESOLVED, that Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, 207 Plant Street, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term expiring 9/29/16.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0270 Reappointment of Laura Baller to Water Pollution Control Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LAURA BALLER TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Laura Baller, 30 Brook Street, is hereby appointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending 5/24/16.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0271 Appointment of William Middleton to Zoning Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING WILLIAM MIDDLETON AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that William Middleton, 3 Fort Rachel Place, Mystic, is hereby appointed as an alternate member to the Zoning Commission for a term ending 9/30/17.

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

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider Item 2013-0276 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Antipas and so voted unanimously.

2013-0276 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAY SAFETY 2014 DUI GRANT

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police plans to utilize The Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety 2014 DUI grant funding to support their DUI enforcement operations that go beyond normal police patrols, and

WHEREAS, the grant provides for a concerted year-round effort to enforce DUI laws and consists of both field sobriety checkpoints as well as vehicular detection patrols, and

WHEREAS, the goal of the grant is to increase law enforcement presence above and beyond normal police patrols in order to address the increased incidents of drinking and driving during the DUI grant period, running until September 30, 2014, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may apply for the Connecticut Department

of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety 2014 DUI grant with an anticipated total state grant amount of $89,700 including the Police Department soft match portion (25%) amount of $22,425 as provided under the grant provisions.

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

Town Manager Oefinger noted that this is a year-long grant. He added that funds for the match are set aside in the Police budget.

The motion carried unanimously

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Councilor Antipas expressed gratitude for having been able to serve on the Town Council.
Councilor Morton noted that it has been a privilege to serve.
Councilor Johnson expressed gratitude for citizen support and for the opportunity to serve the Town.

Deputy Town Clerk Downs presented certificates of appreciation to Councilors Antipas, Johnson and Morton.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Mayor Somers, seconded by Councilor Johnson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Janet L. Downs, Deputy Town Clerk