



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

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

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

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

Members Absent: Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Ian Holliday.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Jim Furlong, 57 Fishtown Lane, stated that at the August 21, 2012, Town Council meeting, he criticized the quality of information being provided to land-use commissions by the Office of Planning and Development Services. He saw an email from the Mayor to an RTM Member in which the Mayor indicated that the complaints were without merit. He would like the problems recognized and corrected.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Somers stated that she does not recall saying that the complaints were without merit. She believes that she responded with the information that she had at the moment. Mayor Somers noted that she does not think that any complaint is without merit.

Mr. Furlong apologized, stating that he did not use the Mayor's actual words. He would, however, like his allegations investigated.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0319 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 7, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2012-0315 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

Marge Fondulas - \$50.00 - Spicer Trust Fund
Marie Andersen - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
W. K. Anhalt - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Johnny and Maria Armaos- \$20 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Jun and Jennifer Baldoz - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
June Barrack - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$7.19 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Raymond and Virginia Bousquet \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Michael and Rachel Brown - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Felipe and Irene Castro - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Elizabeth Colson - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Richard Davies - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Melencia Duyan - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert and Judith Elwood - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Fort Hill Counselors - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Gumersindo Gonzalez - \$2.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Richard Grudzinski - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Diane and Dennis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
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John Hamilton - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
James Harmon - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Darrell and Dorothy Haynes - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Hickey Family - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Paul and Dorothy Huber - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Raymond Hudson - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Katie Kietzman - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Cynthia LaFlamme - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Mary LaForce - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Sherry Meyer - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Nancy and Nancy Morin - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Barbara and Linwood Navarro - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Gerald and Elizabeth Newton - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Martha Oxnard - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
John and Anne Potter - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
John and Georgette Quilter - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
John and Eleanor Ralls - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Pauline Robillard - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Roger and Linda Roy - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Christopher Smarra - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert and Gisela Solt - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
John Trahey - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Gail Tyler - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Watrous Properties - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
James White - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Johnson, 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

Emails were received regarding the budget, grant possibilities, and the referendum.

The Mayor, along with the Town Manager, attended the Veterans Day Celebration.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next meeting of the RTM will be held on December 12, 2012.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that the Holiday Lights Parade will be held on December 1, 2012; the holiday distribution at Human Services will be held on December 21, 2012; and Town offices will be closed November 22nd and 23rd for the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Oefinger noted that a check was received from the Groton Rotary, Groton Lions, and Liberty Bank in the amount of \$9,291.24 to support the holiday distribution.

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

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

Mayor Somers noted that the Committee of the Whole discussed Sandy Hollow Road curbing, the Crystal Lake reconstruction fund, an Ethics Ordinance, setting up a meeting with State legislators, the budget process, and the adoption of meeting schedules. She noted that in 2013 committees will have special meetings as needed; the Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee will meet once a month prior to the Town Council meeting; and the Committee of the Whole will change its start time to 6:00 p.m.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2012-0314 Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction Project - CIP Reallocation

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REALLOCATION OF \$20,300 FROM THE
POQUONNOCK ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT TO A NEW FYE13 CIP PROJECT FOR THE
CRYSTAL LAKE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town is responsible for 10% of the project cost and the state has estimated the current Town match for preliminary engineering for the Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction Project to be \$63,620, and

WHEREAS, these funds will need to be available when the Town signs the agreement with the State, and

WHEREAS, authorized in the FYE12 Capital Improvement Program budget was \$34,000 for the local match, and

WHEREAS, remaining in a FYE09 Capital Improvement Program is \$36,338.34 for a recently completed project to remove ledge and construct an asphalt sidewalk on Poquonnock Road, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes reallocation of \$20,300 from account number 50108 5522E (Poquonnock Road Sidewalk) to a new FYE13 CIP project for the Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on January 9, 2013.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0259

Sandy Hollow Road Curbing

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF STANDARD ASPHALT CURBING
AND DRIVEWAY APRONS ON SANDY HOLLOW ROAD, A DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD

WHEREAS, the resurfacing of Sandy Hollow Road from Noank Ledyard Road east to Allyn Street was approved in the FYE 13 Capital Improvement Plan, and

WHEREAS, Sandy Hollow Road is designated a scenic road and all changes to a scenic road must be approved by the Town Council after conducting a public hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council held two public hearings, one authorizing the resurfacing and one after receiving a citizen petition for the installation of curbing, and

WHEREAS, a rainstorm had caused erosion of the loam on the edge of the road in certain locations after resurfacing, and

WHEREAS, the installation of curbing would help to eliminate future erosion and protect the roadway, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Works be authorized to install standard asphalt curbing and driveway aprons on Sandy Hollow Road, at the following locations: north of the roadway from existing curb in front of 600 Sandy Hollow Road through 500/502 Sandy Hollow Road and south of the roadway from just west of 581 Sandy Hollow Road through just east of 511 Sandy Hollow Road. For the portion of the road on the eastern downhill portion of 311 Sandy Hollow Road, the initial effort is to use standard sheet flow of water off the road and if that fails, the Department is authorized to install a standard curb, all in accordance with the map entitled, "Sandy Hollow Road Proposed Curbing" dated 11/15/2012.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be

Adopted.

Councilor Flax noted that there was enough money left from the recent paving of Sandy Hollow Road to cover this curbing.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0285 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

This matter was Tabled.

2012-0286 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

This matter was Tabled.

2012-0287 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

This matter was Tabled.

2012-0288 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

This matter was Tabled.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider a resolution regarding the purchase the Spicer property was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.

2012-0322 Agreement with the State of Connecticut for Financial Assistance to Purchase the Spicer Properties

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PURCHASE THE SPICER PROPERTIES ON THOMAS ROAD

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager of the Town of Groton, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Groton, an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement and a Conservation and Public Recreation Easement and Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to acquire permanent interest in lands known as the Spicer Tracts in Groton, Connecticut, OSWA 395, and to manage said lands as open space pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes. The three tracts as identified as follows:

Tract #1

Location/PIN: 155 Thomas Road/169813033078

Ownership: Doris Pulaski (Trustee)

Tract #2

Location/PIN: 0 Thomas Road/168816937659

Ownership: Doris Pulaski (Trustee) and Estate of Doris M. Spicer

Tract #3

Location/PIN: 0 Thomas Road/168820918875

Ownership: William C. Spicer III

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

In answer to Councilor Flax, the Town Manager stated that the original resolution will still be in effect. This resolution is simply to conform to the format required by the Attorney General's Office.

The motion carried unanimously

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Streeter and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant