



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

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Tuesday, December 15, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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#### I. ROLL CALL

*Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 8:22 pm.*

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

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

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by the Town of Groton Police Chief L. J. Fusaro.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

*None.*

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

*Thomas Potter, 154 Walker Hill Road, discussed the sale of the William Seely School property and the proposed legislation that the Town Council approved to sell the property to Kincora Development, LLC. He read an excerpt from an editorial printed on October 17, 2015 in The Day newspaper. He stated that he would like to see the sale and purchase agreement include a written condition stipulating any access to the William Seely School property for commercial development only be from Route 12. He urged the Town Council to rewrite the agreement that has been sent to the RTM for their consideration. He stated that this would fulfill the Town Council's promise and duty to protect the existing residential neighborhood and still achieve their goal of expanding the Town's tax base. He submitted a petition signed by 77 residents from the neighborhood stating their desire to include the suggested stipulation for primary access to the property to be at or near Route 12. Mr. Potter used a map depicting the neighborhood adjacent to the William School property to illustrate his statements.*

*The petition is on file in the Town Clerk's office.*

*Mr. Fernald and Mr. Seabury had signed up under Citizens Petitions, but declined to speak.*

*Joan Chambers, 130 Walker Hill Road, stated that her family had been residents of the Walker Hill Road area since before World War II. She questioned the management of school maintenance. She stated that a new roof, new windows, and new floors were installed and asbestos had been removed a year before the William Seely School was closed. She stated that this was poor management.*

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

*Mayor Flax offered no comment at this time, but he indicated that he would be contacting Mr. Potter to ask some questions.*

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Approval of Minutes

**2015-0293      Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of November 4, 2015, November 17, 2015, and December 1, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

**b. Administrative Items****2015-0282 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Donald and Kathleen Crowell - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Liberty Bank - \$8,885.24 - Social Services Discretionary

Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Circle of Friends - \$200.00 - Library Renovations

Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Anonymous - \$3.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Robert Ashworth - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cardinal Honda - \$300.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Barbara Frucht - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Matthew and Karen Morton - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Kathleen Neugent - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

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

**2015-0294 Tax Refund**

## RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX REFUND

WHEREAS, the following, for the reason indicated, has overpaid taxes in the amount specified, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the amount be refunded, be it

RESOLVED, that the tax refunds indicated below are hereby approved.

Hawthorne Machinery - \$2,757.92 - Excess Payments

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

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List****2015-0018 Fishtown Road Pump Station Rehabilitation/Effluent Pump Station Refurbishment Bond Ordinance**

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

**2015-0216 Creation of Town Poet Laureate Position****2015-0286 Trails Coordinating Task Force - Update/Term Extension**

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

**2015-0289 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant**

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

**2015-0290 Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations Grant**

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

**2015-0291 Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District**

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

**2015-0292 GMEA/CILU Collective Bargaining Agreement**

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

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor 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 the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Naval Dive Center on December 3, 2015. He stated that he has been working with Richard Cady regarding his complaints and concerns.*

*Councilor Morton reported that she attended the installation of the new Mayor for the Town of Ledyard, Michael Finkelstein, on December 7, 2015.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti reported that she received several emails regarding the William Seely School property.*

*Councilor de la Cruz reported that he attended, on behalf of his niece Sergeant Nell, the 192nd Military Police Christmas Party on December 12, 2015. He announced that the next Community Speaks Out meeting will be held at the Groton Public Library at 6:00 pm on December 17, 2015. He encouraged anyone who is interested in learning about the prevention of drug addiction to attend.*

*Councilor Nault attended the Mystic Chamber's Annual Dinner on December 3, 2015 in honor of the United States Navy and Tony Manfredi of the Mystic Fire Department. She attended the Sub Base Change of Command ceremony on December 14, 2015, where Captain Carl Lahti was relieved by Captain Paul Whitescarver.*

*Councilor Watson attended the installation of the 30th Representative Town Meeting where the membership elected Rep. Scott Newsome as the new Moderator of the RTM. He also attended the installation of the new Board of Education where the body elected Board member Kim Shepardson Watson as the new Board of Education Chairperson.*

*Mayor Flax attended the planning meeting for the CT Sub Century celebration on December 4, 2015, the holiday mixer at the Nautilus Museum with the Sub Base Commanders on December 10, 2015, and the 30th Representative Town Meeting installation on December 9, 2015. He reported that he received emails from the Groton Long Point Association regarding street resurfacing on Shore Avenue, a citizen suggesting ideas for a COW meeting, a citizen with comments regarding a Charter Revision Commission, and a citizen with ideas for Groton Schools. He also received an email from Jon Heller regarding the Schools Initiative Task Force.*

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

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the Representative Town Meeting met at their first meeting on December 9, 2015, where they were installed as the 30th Representative Town Meeting. The members elected Rep. Scott Newsome as their Moderator and Rep. Bruce McDermott as the Republican Floor Leader and Rep. Christine Conley as the Democratic Floor leader. The RTM has a referral for the Finance Committee that will be presented to the RTM at their January meeting. She stated that she will provide the information for committee assignments to the Town Council as soon as they are appointed.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that she distributed a communication to the Town Council*

that she had received from Gretchen Chipperini. She reported that she attended the CT Department of Health ConnVRS training on December 15, 2015. She explained that the State of Connecticut plans to use a web-based system to process birth certificates. She stated that when the program is in full swing, every Town Clerk will have access to their resident birth certificates. She stated that she expected a decrease in revenues as a result of this program.

**d. Town Manager**

Town Manager Mark Oefinger confirmed that the Town Council wishes to cancel the December 22, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting. He proposed that the Town Council have a Special Committee of the Whole meeting with the Town Auditor on January 19, 2016 for a review of the Town Audit. He updated the Town Council on the Neighborhood Assistance Program grants for the Library and the Odd Fellows Home. This grant allows businesses that pay taxes to the State to set aside a portion toward funding a Neighborhood Assistance Program grant. The grants are used for energy efficiency related projects. The Groton Public Library applied for this grant. Groton Utilities allocated funding in the amount of \$56,000, and Eversource funded \$6,000 toward the Library's grant. He explained that the Town needs to put more of an effort toward advertising this program to area businesses that are eligible to participate.

Town Manager reminded the Rules and Procedure Committee to let his office know when the committee would like to meet so that an agenda can be issued.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Community Relations -TBD**
- b. Finance - TBD**
- c. Personnel & Appointments - TBD**
- d. Rules - TBD**
- e. Public Safety -TBD**
- f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**2015-0286 Trails Coordinating Task Force - Update/Term Extension**

RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE TRAILS COORDINATING TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2012, the Town Council authorized the formation of the Trails Coordinating Task Force consisting of 18 voting members and staffed by the Parks and Recreation Department, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has requested that its term be extended by three years to continue pursuing its objectives of assisting in the planning and development of trails; seeking funding for trail development; making recommendations regarding signage, markings and use policies; and serving as an educational and advocacy group for the use and expansion of the trail network, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council extends the term of the Trails Coordinating Task Force and its members to January 1, 2019.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0289 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAY SAFETY 2016 DUI GRANT

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police plans to utilize the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety 2015 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, 2015, 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 2015 DUI grant with an anticipated total state grant amount of \$64,500 including the Police Department soft match portion (25%) amount of \$16,125 as provided under the grant provisions.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0290      Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations Grant**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC FLEET ELECTRIC VEHICLE AND PUBLIC WORKPLACE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) offers competitive funding for municipalities to purchase electric vehicles (EV) and/or to purchase and install electric vehicle charging stations at municipal facilities, and

WHEREAS, the EV Connecticut program will reimburse 100% of the cost differential between a traditional vehicle and an electric vehicle up to \$15,000 and 100% of the cost to purchase and install electric charging stations up to \$10,000, and

WHEREAS, the estimated \$800 annual cost of operating an electric vehicle represents a 60% cost savings, and

WHEREAS, Town staff recommends the purchase of one electric vehicle and installation of two charging stations to serve as a pilot project to enable actual cost savings over time, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his authorized representative to submit an application to the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for Public Fleet EV and Public Workplace EV Charging Station funding.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0291      Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL GRANT FOR THE LEDGE LIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Ledge Light Health District can apply for a Local Prevention Council grant in the amount of \$7,116, and

WHEREAS, grant funds will be used by the Groton Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (GASP) Coalition for programs designed to reduce the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and

prescription drugs in the Town of Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign the Local Prevention Council Grant Application in the amount of \$7,116 for Ledge Light Health District.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0292**

**GMEA/CILU Collective Bargaining Agreement**

RESOLUTION APPROVING TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND GROTON MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (GMEA)/UNITED ELECTRICAL LOCAL 222, CONNECTICUT INDEPENDENT LABOR UNION LOCAL #62, INC., AFFILIATED WITH UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton and the Groton Municipal Employees Association/United Electrical Local 222, Connecticut Independent Labor Union Local 62, Inc., affiliated with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, reached a tentative agreement on a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the bargaining unit membership voted to approve the agreement, and

WHEREAS, approval is recommended by the Town's negotiators, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council hereby approves the agreement and the expenditure of funds necessary to implement the agreement between the Town and the Groton Municipal Employees Association/United Electrical Local 222, Connecticut Independent Labor Union Local 62, Inc., affiliated with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0296**

**Police Union Collective Bargaining Agreement**

RESOLUTION APPROVING TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND GROTON POLICE UNION LOCAL #3428, COUNCIL #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton and the Groton Police Union Local #3428, Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, reached a tentative agreement on a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the bargaining unit membership voted to approve the agreement, and

WHEREAS, approval is recommended by the Town's negotiators, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Groton Town Council hereby approves the agreement and the expenditure of funds necessary to implement the agreement between the Town and the Groton Police Union Local #3428, Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO on a successor bargaining agreement for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so taken.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*