Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

Town Council

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

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, October 07, 2008 **7:30 PM** **Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2008-0211 **Proclamation Recognizing the Dedication of the Tercentennial Legacy Playground** — **Proclamation - TC**

2008-0231 **Proclamation Recognizing Morton F. Plant Day** — **Proclamation - TC**

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

a. Approval of Minutes

2008-0239 **Approval of Minutes (Town Council)** — **Resolution - Consent**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 16, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2008-0228 **Special Trust Fund Contributions** — **Resolution - Consent**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
Various Donations - $607.87 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Heather Dubrule - $5.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
James R. Marshall III - $100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Susan Decorte - $249.86 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Joellen Anderson - $1,000.00 - Library Discretionary
John Sutherland - $150.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Joseph D. Kane - $10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2008-0234	Contract Agreement Between the Groton Board of Education and the Groton Public Schools Paraprofessional Association	Referral
2008-0236	Potential Change to the Non-Union Retirement Program	Referral
2008-0237	Appointments to Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community	Referral
2008-0201	Groton Community Boating Club Board of Advisors - Town Council Liaison	Referral
2008-0223	U.S. Department of Justice Grant	Referral
2008-0224	Relocation of Roller Hockey Rink	Referral
2008-0227	Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative Grant Revised	Referral
2008-0229	Hunting on Town Owned Property	Referral
2008-0233	Resolution Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in FYE 2009	Referral
2008-0238	Resolution Approving Amount of General Obligation Sewer Bonds	Referral

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

c. Clerk of the Council

d. Town Manager

e. Town Attorney

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0201 **Groton Community Boating Club Board of Advisors - Town Council Liaison** **Referral**

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON TO GROTON COMMUNITY BOATING CLUB BOARD OF ADVISORS

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to support the activities and goals of the Groton Community Boating Club, an activity of the Department of Parks and Recreation, through a Council liaison to the Board of Advisors for the boating program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council appoints Councilor Rita M. Schmidt as its liaison to the Board of Advisors.

Legislative History

8/5/2008	**Mayor**	**Referred**	**Town Council Committee of tl**
8/12/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Tabled**	
8/26/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Discussed**	

The Council asked the Town Manager to seek additional information from Mr. Eckelmeyer on when the Board meets and how often, for future discussion.

9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Discussed**

The Council was previously approached by Ed Eckelmeyer and asked to consider appointing a liaison to the Groton Community Boating Club Board of Advisors. No Town funds are donated to this program. Mr. Eckelmeyer asked for seed money to be included in this year's budget, but that was not considered by the Council. Phil Butta noted that he has been involved with the club and has facilitated a meeting of those interested in using the facility and taking advantage of the waterfront access at the Spicer House. Mr. Butta has encouraged the club to go out and find some funding on their own in keeping with Parks and Recreation's philosophy that programs geared toward adults should pay for their own operational costs. The club has been asked to put together a business plan and to identify equipment needs. Mr. Eckelmeyer's request for a liaison is as a private individual; the idea was not discussed by the Board. Mr. Butta suggested that a liaison would help the Council to understand the group.

Mayor Watson suggested that the group needs to get more organized and perhaps adopt some bylaws. Mr. Lokken noted that the group is knowledgeable about boating, but getting them to broaden their vision and look at larger issues has been difficult.

Councilor Schmidt stated she would be interested in acting as the liaison to the group.

9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Recommended for a Resolution**

2008-0223 **U.S. Department of Justice Grant** **Referral**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT FOR INVESTIGATION EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice will provide funding to municipal police departments to purchase specialized, covert audio and video recording equipment for the investigation of crimes involving illegal trading in firearms and narcotics, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton will collaborate with State and Federal law enforcement to prevent the proliferation of firearms among drug dealers and gang members, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may apply for a grant of $9,600 from the U.S. Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhood/Gang funding initiative.

Legislative History

9/8/2008	**Mayor**	**Referred**	**Town Council Committee of tl**

9/30/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution

2008-0224 Relocation of Roller Hockey Rink **Referral**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELOCATION OF THE ROLLER HOCKEY RINK

WHEREAS, the Groton Senior Center expansion project is scheduled to begin shortly, which will necessitate the relocation of the Town's roller hockey rink to make room for an expanded Senior Center parking lot, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered several alternative locations for the roller hockey rink facility, and

WHEREAS, roller hockey is a highly popular recreation program that should be allowed to go on with as little interruption as possible, and

WHEREAS, relocating the roller hockey rink south of its current location, toward the Groton Public Library, will allow for prompt restoration of play, and will only impact a low-use/sub-par soccer field, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes that not all of the funding for relocating the rink has been determined at this time, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the relocation of the roller hockey rink south of its current location as soon as feasible.

Legislative History

9/9/2008	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of tl
9/30/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

Gary Schneider, John Silsby, Jerry Lokken and Phil Butta were present to address the Council. The Town Manager noted that the plans for the Senior Center will require the relocation of the roller hockey rink and staff is looking for input from the Council on potential sites. The Town Manager would prefer a permanent location and feels that this use would be good at a larger recreational facility as opposed to being a stand-alone use.

Mr. Schneider explained that staff looked at all Town-owned land. The rink requires a 100' x 85' asphalt pad. Three sites are recommended for further consideration: 1) the existing site, but closer to the Library; 2) the Copp property; and 3) the Esker Point Beach parking lot. There are plusses and minuses to all sites. All are stand alone sites that do not offer any night lighting.

Councilor O'Beirne asked about estimated costs by site. He also suggested that the Council hold a public hearing to solicit comments from users of the rink.

As a user of the program, Mr. Butta offered the following observations. He noted that the hockey program started in 1985 at Esker Point Beach. The rink was subsequently obtained from Connecticut College. Mr. Butta noted that the rink is used by all age groups and it is a family program. It is a unique facility in this area and an asset to the Town. The bottom line from the users is they want to be able to play and they do not want the rink to go away. They are also willing to make sacrifices such as the special surface coating to keep the rink operational. Users are comfortable with the library site. Mr. Butta suggested that the soccer field that will be lost at the Library is not a good field and is a safety hazard. The Copp property would be a great site, but it may not be financially realistic at this time.

Mr. Silsby noted that the roller hockey programs start in mid-spring and run into late fall and the desire was to take the rink out of service over the winter and have it back up for the start of the program. The closer the relocation site the easier it is to move.

Councilor Sheets noted her concerns with the Copp property and Esker Point Beach because of the loss of parking. She expressed her preference for the Library site. Councilor O'Beirne asked if Mr. Butta has any

concerns with the need for transportation to the Copp property or Esker Point Beach. Mr. Butta stated that most users drive or have transportation so the location is not an issue.

Councilor Brown-Tracy left the meeting.

9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Discussed**

Councilor Bond supports keeping the rink at the Library site for now, but would like to see it eventually moved to the Copp property. If the soccer field at the Library will be lost, she would like to confirm that there will be another soccer field provided at the Merritt property. The Town Manager noted that removing the temporary parking lot on the Merritt property and leveling that area is part of the plan, but what the ultimate condition will be compared to what is at the Library is unknown. Councilor Bond requested a referral to the Committee of the Whole on the Merritt property field and the Mayor made the referral.

Councilor Monteiro asked how much the baseball field at Farquhar Park is used. Mr. Lokken noted that there are many contracts for the field. It is not a premium field, but it is being used.

The consensus of the Committee of the Whole was to support relocating the roller hockey rink closer to the Library.

9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Recommended for a Resolution**

2008-0227 **Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative Grant Revised** **Referral**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2008 CONNECTICUT SPECIAL FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, funding to the Town of Groton via the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services as part of the 2008 Connecticut Special Funding for Municipalities Initiative has been approved, and

WHEREAS, such funding is specifically designated for the support and/or development of case management and related support services to the Town's senior population age 60 and older, and

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services and the Groton Senior Center provide comprehensive case management, programs and support services to Groton senior citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has heretofore, via Town Council resolutions #2008-0110 and 2008-0111 authorized the Town Manager to apply for such funding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark Oefinger, Town Manager, Town of Groton, is hereby authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all contacts and amendments and to execute and approve on behalf of this company, other instruments, a part of or incident to such contracts and amendments effective until otherwise ordered by the governing body.

Legislative History

9/11/2008	**Mayor**	**Referred**	**Town Council Committee of tl**
9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Recommended for a Resolution**	

2008-0229 **Hunting on Town Owned Property** **Referral**

RESOLUTION CONCERNING HUNTING ON TOWN PROPERTY

WHEREAS, from time to time, the Town Council has received requests from persons who wish to hunt on town property, including bow hunting as well as with firearms, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes that hunting is popular and traditional and that most hunters carefully observe the best safety practices, and

WHEREAS, with an over-riding concern for the safety of all persons who may be on or near town properties, the Town Council has considered the other recreational uses of both open and forested town property, along with such factors as the proximity of homes and the widespread, year-round use of many town properties for non-hunting forms of recreation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that it is the policy of the Groton Town Council that hunting by any means is not to be permitted on town properties.

Legislative History

9/15/2008	**Mayor**	**Referred**	**Town Council Committee of tl**
9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Discussed**	

Town Manager Oefinger noted that these requests have been received periodically and have been denied in the past. A brief discussion ensued and the consensus of the Committee of the Whole was to deny the request.

9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Recommended for a Resolution**

2008-0233 **Resolution Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in FYE 2009** **Referral**

RESOLUTIONS APPROVING AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE SOLD

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized $26,100,000 school bonds for a new elementary school (Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School) pursuant to Ordinance No. 258, and

WHEREAS, $350,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $5,005,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $25,750,000, and

WHEREAS, $6,000,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of $859,791, the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $18,890,209, and

WHEREAS, $1,500,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $15,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2007 (Lot A), of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of $12,424,258, the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $5,825,742, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 258 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that $1,500,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized $20,800,000 school bonds for a new elementary school on the site of the former Freeman-Hathaway Elementary School (Northeast Academy) pursuant to Ordinance No. 259, and

WHEREAS, $310,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $5,005,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $20,490,000, and

WHEREAS, $4,000,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of $749,460 the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but

unissued was reduced to $15,740,540, and

WHEREAS, $3,200,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $15,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2007 (Lot A), of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of $9,193,506 the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $4,096,494, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 259 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that $600,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized $45,000,000 school bonds for Phase I of renovations and additions to Fitch High School pursuant to Ordinance No. 260, and

WHEREAS, $640,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $5,005,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $44,360,000, and

WHEREAS, $5,000,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of $1,464,674, the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $37,895,326, and

WHEREAS, $10,750,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $15,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2007 (Lot A), of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of $9,355,004, the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $19,254,996, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 260 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that $1,000,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized $1,385,000 general purpose bonds for design and construction of a replacement Animal Shelter pursuant to Ordinance No. 271, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 271 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that $1,200,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

Legislative History

9/25/2008	**Mayor**	**Referred**	**Town Council Committee of tl**
9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Discussed**	

Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo described the request for approval of general obligation bonds and general obligation sewer bonds to be issued in November 2008. Bonds and notes are for schools, the Senior Center, the Animal Shelter, and the Fort Hill Sewer project.

Councilor Bond arrived at 6:10 p.m.

9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Discussed**

noted the next projected bond issue in October 2009.

Mr. Pandolfo noted modifications to the draft resolutions that were distributed to the Council.

Councilor Sheets questioned the ability to sell the bond in the current market. Mr. Pandolfo noted the sale is proposed for October 21st and it will depend on what is happening in the market at that time.

9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Recommended for a Resolution**

2008-0238 **Resolution Approving Amount of General Obligation Sewer Bonds** **Referral**

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION SEWER BONDS TO BE SOLD

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized $6,381,200 sewer bonds for Fort Hill sewer rehabilitation pursuant to Ordinance No. 265, and

WHEREAS, $3,000,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of $3,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2007 (Lot B), of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to $3,381,200, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 265 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that $3,250,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

Legislative History

9/30/2008	**Town Council Committee of the Whole**	**Recommended for a Resolution**

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT