



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Karen Hatcher, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strode, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Richard Waselik, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
34 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Espada, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson

Members Absent: Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Heede, Rep. Luck, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Newsome and Rep. Waselik

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Mayor Rita Schmidt, Town Councilor Heather Somers, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Powers.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2013

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Meyer. The vote carried 32 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Sebastian and Watrous.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Van Brown, 925 River Road, Mystic, attended the RTM Community & Development Services Committee meeting at which Rep. Scott made his presentation proposing an RTM Economic Development Corporation. He was very impressed with the presentation. He believes that current Town leaders have not successfully communicated the urgency of the situation in regard to economic development. Change is needed, and the cost of Rep. Scott's proposal may seem cheap if it succeeds in attracting new businesses to Groton.

Beth Tillman, 925 River Road, Mystic, urged the RTM to look carefully at Rep. Scott's proposal and consider making the changes that are necessary to bring new businesses to Groton.

Lian Obrey, 141 Shennecossett Road, speaking as a private citizen and a realtor, urged the members to use this opportunity to make needed changes. She thanked Rep. Scott for formulating the plan and noted that it could work well for Groton. Ms. Obrey cited recent economic development opportunities that have been missed, and suggested that this is an opportunity for the

RTM to truly represent and promote Groton.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Reps. DeMatto, Harrell, Heede, McDermott and Waselik are unable to attend this meeting.

Members are invited to attend a presentation on Freedom of Information at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 14 at 6:00 at the Town Hall Annex.

Item 2013-0257 - RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SALE OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY, which was referred to the Community & Development Services Committee at the last meeting, was referred in error. This item does not require RTM action.

Liaison appointments have been made as follows:

Town Council - Jim Loughlin, Bill Smith

Town & City Council/BOE/RTM - Jackie Massett, Lori Watrous

Economic Development Commission - Susan Deane-Shinbrot

School Planning Task Force - Jean-Claude Ambroise

2012 Plan of Conservation and Development & Municipal Coastal Program Steering Ctee - Bill Smith

Golf Advisory Board - Christine Conley

Trails Coordinating Task Force- Bruce McDermott

The Moderator called for volunteers to serve as liaisons to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee and the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Committee.

2013-0298 Professional Services for Recent Bond Authorization Referenda

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee, due back on February 12, 2014.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2013 is approximately \$11.3 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$2.3 million.

2. Monthly briefing

Mr. Oefinger highlighted items from the Town Manager's News, including the United Way campaign, holiday distributions, Phase II of the Mystic Streetscape, receipt of funding for the Crystal Lake Road project, and cleanup of the Fusconi property.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Town Council/Board of Education/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee

Rep. Watrous reported on the meeting held on October 9, 2013. Items discussed included playing fields; middle school options; contract updates; Fitch Middle School; security updates; the superintendent search; and shared services. The committee is meeting tonight; a report will be given at the regular meeting in February.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky

No meeting; no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro

Chairman Semeraro read the minutes of the meeting held on January 6, 2014. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

*A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Baril.
The vote on acceptance of the minutes carried 33 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Hatcher.)*

2013-0293 Creation of a Groton RTM Economic Development Corporation

CREATION OF A GROTON REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

No action taken

Rep. Scott requested that this item be referred to the RTM Finance Committee.

Moderator Conley responded that she is calling for the creation of an RTM Economic Development Corporation Task Force to be made up of members from the RTM, Town Council and City Council. She asked for volunteers to serve on the task force.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting; no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer

No meeting; no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting; no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede

No meeting; no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise

Chairman Jean-Claude Ambroise read the minutes of the meeting of the Temporary Rules & Procedures Committee held on January 6, 2014. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Granatosky.

Rep. Granatosky asked for clarification of the Town Clerk's remarks on the role of the subcommittees in budget deliberations.

Chairman Ambroise replied that the remarks were general in nature and that no action was taken on this issue.

Rep. Granatosky requested that the vote be postponed to allow members to review the proposed changes.

Chairman Ambroise replied that the changes relate only to grammar and punctuation, with the exception of Rule 6.2.6 where the word "eight" is replaced with "seven."

The vote on acceptance of the minutes carried unanimously.

2013-0296 Rules for Twenty-Ninth RTM

RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES FOR THE TWENTY-NINTH REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

WHEREAS, the Temporary Rules & Procedures Committee has proposed that the following changes be made to the 28th RTM Rules:

Sec 3.3 - divide into two sentences

Sec. 3.7.1 - strike the period after "minutes" and add a comma

Sec. 6.2.6 - replace "eight" with "seven,"

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rules of the Twenty-Ninth Representative Town Meeting as recommended by the Temporary Rules & Procedures Committee are hereby adopted.

A motion was made by Rep. Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Monaghan, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 33 - Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Espada, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson
Opposed: 1 - Rep. Granatosky

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

None.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. was made by Rep. Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Swindell and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Janet L. Downs, Deputy Town Clerk