



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
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## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

**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, August 16, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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#### I. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Councilor Morton and Councilor Peruzzotti

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

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Bruce Flax.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

##### 2016-0200 Proclamation Celebrating Elsie Marie Wilson

Read

*The proclamation celebrating Elsie Marie Wilson was read by Councilor Watson.*

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

*There were no citizens' petitions.*

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

*None.*

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Approval of Minutes

##### 2016-0218 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 2, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

##### b. Administrative Items

##### 2016-0199 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Power of Together - \$5,700 - Library Miscellaneous

Robert and William Loweth - \$1,500 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

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

##### c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

##### 2016-0209 Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee - Update

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

- 2016-0210 Appointment of Hal Zod as a Regular Member from an Alternate member to the Planning Commission**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0211 Reappointment of Todd Brady to Historic District Commission**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0212 Reappointment of Eleanor Schoolcraft to Community Development Advisory Committee**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0213 Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0214 Reappointment of Robert Frink to Housing Authority**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0215 Appointment of Paul Filippetti to Housing Authority**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0217 Appointment of Karen Sherman to Community Development Advisory Committee**  
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 de la Cruz, 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)**

*Councilor Perruzzotti arrived to the meeting at 7:37 p.m.*

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

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Antipas stated that he had received several emails regarding some observations and concerns with the Planning Department.*

*Councilor Nault reported that she had volunteered during the Mystic Outdoor Art Festival on August 13th and 14th, 2016. She worked at the Submarine Century booth that City Mayor Galbraith had set up for selling memorabilia to support the U.S.S. Groton Sail Foundation. She reported that the weather was very hot.*

*Councilor de la Cruz attended the Fitch High School Fall Sports event on Monday, August 15, 2016 and gave a presentation on behalf of the Community Speaks Out organization. He stated that there were about 250 students in attendance at this event. He mentioned that the Fitch High School Boosters are looking for volunteers to help raise funds needed to support athletic programs. He announced that Community Speaks Out will have their next meeting on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at the Groton Public Library from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. He also announced that the 3rd Annual Softball Game between the Groton Town Police Department and the Groton City Police Department will be held at Washington Park in the City of Groton on August 20, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. He stated that this event supports the Groton Town Police Benevolent Association.*

*Mayor Flax announced that the baseball game between the Town and City Police Departments is raising funds for a scholarship toward law enforcement education. He stated that there will be raffle prizes for sale to help fund the scholarship. He stated that he had received a few emails from citizens concerning Police reports and the construction on Route 184 where the new U-Haul business will be located.*

Councilor de la Cruz announced that the Community Speaks Out organization is sponsoring a softball tournament on October 1 and 2, 2016. He stated that they hope to have twelve teams participate. He stated that anyone who has lost a loved one or friend to addiction may have their loved one's name and age displayed on a ball player's jersey for the games.

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

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the Representative Town Meeting last met on August 10th, 2016 where they accepted the Ordinance Appropriating \$184,500,000 for the Design and Construction of the Groton 2020 Plan. The Ordinance will now go before the electors for approval at the November 8th, 2016 election. She stated that the Notice of Passage will be posted in The Day newspaper on August 18th, 2016. She stated that the next regular RTM meeting is scheduled for September 14th, 2016.

**c. Clerk of the Council**

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the Groton Animal Control Officers have begun a door-to-door search for unlicensed dogs in the Town of Groton. They are distributing a notice to dogs owners who are either late in registering their dogs or have never registered their dogs. The notice explains the dog licensing law for the State of Connecticut and it stipulates the fine for an unlicensed dog.

**d. Town Manager**

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that it appears that many Councilors will not be available to attend the next Committee of the Whole meeting that is scheduled for August 23, 2016. He stated that it is the Mayor's discretion if he would like to reschedule this meeting. He stated that he will be out of the office during the week of August 22, 2016. He stated that Finance Director Cindy Landry will be the acting Town Manager in his absence. He announced the Connecticut Submarine Century SUB Box Derby, similar to a Soap Box Derby, will be held on September 4th, 2016 at Washington Park from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson**

Councilor Watson read his report of the August 2, 2016 meeting. He reviewed the unanimous votes for all of the appointments and reappointments to the various Boards and Commissions that are on the agenda this evening. He stated that the Appointment Policy is under review.

**b. Rules - Councilor Antipas**

No meeting, no report.

**c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax**

Mayor Flax did not give a report.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**2016-0209 Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee - Update**

**RESOLUTION DISBANDING THE ENERGY, EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the Town Council established the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee (EECC), which succeeded the Task Force For Climate Change and Sustainable Community, on November 1, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the EECC provided significant input into the Town's current plans for ongoing energy efficiency and conservation projects and developed the first Town of Groton Municipal Energy Policy that was accepted and approved by the Town Council to guide sustainability in the area of energy, and

WHEREAS, the EECC raised the community's awareness of and prompted the Town's action in energy conservation and management by recommending the creation of a sustainability manager position in the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Town greatly appreciates the EECC's commitment over the last four and one-half years to highlighting areas in which the Town can effectively reduce energy consumption, costs, and greenhouse gas emissions related to this energy use, and

WHEREAS, the energy reduction and conservation efforts are now self-sustaining with multiple projects being pursued by the Town, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council is formally disbanding the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee, effective immediately, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council extends its heartfelt thanks to the members of the Committee fully recognizing their contributions to the Town in the areas of energy, efficiency and conservation.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0210 Appointment of Hal Zod as a Regular Member from an Alternate member to the Planning Commission**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING HAL ZOD AS A REGULAR MEMBER FROM AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Hal Zod, 140 High Meadow Lane, Mystic, is hereby appointed as a regular member from an alternate member to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/18.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0211 Reappointment of Todd Brady to Historic District Commission**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TODD BRADY TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Todd F. Brady, 17 Water Street, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/20.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0212 Reappointment of Eleanor Schoolcraft to Community Development Advisory Committee**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ELEANOR SCHOOLCRAFT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Eleanor Schoolcraft, 350 Ring Drive, is hereby reappointed to the Community Development Advisory Committee for a term expiring 2/7/19.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0213 Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EUNICE SUTPHEN TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Eunice Sutphen, 120 Cedar Road, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/17.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0214 Reappointment of Robert Frink to Housing Authority**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ROBERT FRINK TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Robert Frink, 144 Seneca Drive, is hereby reappointed to the Groton Housing Authority for a term ending 7/31/21.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0215 Appointment of Paul Filippetti to Housing Authority**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PAUL FILIPPETTI TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Paul Filippetti, 8 Latham Street, Mystic, is hereby appointed to the Groton Housing Authority for a term ending 7/31/18.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0217 Appointment of Karen Sherman to Community Development Advisory Committee**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING KAREN SHERMAN TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Karen E. Sherman, 306 Fishtown Road, Mystic, is hereby appointed to the Community Development Advisory Committee for a term ending 2/7/19.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

*Councilor Nault submitted two referrals for consideration. She stated that the first referral is to consider soliciting bids for a new Town Attorney.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti stated that appointing the Town Attorney is stipulated in the Town Charter. She stated that she is of the opinion that this referral is non-negotiable until the Town Charter is changed.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger concurred that the Town Charter stipulates when the Town Attorney is appointed. He stated that if the Town Council found fault with the Town Attorney he believes that the Town Council could be justified in making a different appointment. He stated that he did not believe that this was the spirit of this referral.*

*Councilor Antipas stated that he would support the referral on the basis of developing a procedure for the request for a proposal. He stated that this would allow the Town Council to have a policy in place when they decide to appoint a new Town Attorney.*

*Councilor de la Cruz stated that this matter should be left for the Charter Revision Commission. He stated that the date of appointment for the Town Attorney should be moved to a later date.*

*Mayor Flax stated that he would support a referral that requested the development of a Town Council Policy for a process of bidding for a Town Attorney.*

*Councilor Nault stated that her second referral request is to obtain a list of all the Town-owned properties, including all open space.*

*Mayor Flax suggested that Councilor Nault email the Town Manager to request this information.*

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz. Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher  
Groton Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Town Council*