



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 Harry A. Watson, Councilors Dean Antipas, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Bruce S. Flax, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, and Paulann H. Sheets

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Watson.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Sheets

Members Absent: Councilor Schmidt

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, Board of Education Member Rita Volkmann, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was lead by Boy Scout John Glasfeld.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Expressions of Gratitude

Expressions of gratitude were made to Town Councilors and the Mayor for their service on the Council this term.

2009-0283 Proclamation Recognizing Veterans Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Mayor Watson.

On-Going Work With Veterans

Councilor Kolnaski thanked Mr. John Casey for officially registering Groton Veterans in Washington D.C.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2009-0289 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 4, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The minutes were approved with two minor corrections.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

- 2009-0217 **Contract Agreement between the Groton Board of Education and the Groton Education Association**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0263 **Bluff Point to Preston Trail - Update**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0271 **Budget Guidelines for FYE 2011**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0274 **Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0285 **Appointment of Penelope Fox to Library Board**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0286 **Reappointment of Kristin Vaughn to Historic District Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0287 **Reappointment of Stephen Garmon to Cable TV Advisory Council**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0288 **Pending Litigation Settlement**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0290 **Public Hearing on SEA-CMEEC Lease**
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 Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, 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

Mayor Watson attended a Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority meeting, a Veterans Day Assembly at Charles Barnham School, a 30th Anniversary celebration at the Bill Memorial Library for Director Hali Keeler, a performance of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, and a meeting with the Groton Business Association.

Councilor Kolnaski attended Veteran Ceremonies at Catherine Kolnaski School, Pleasant Valley School, and West Side Middle School. She was present at a Ledge Light Health District meeting and a Phase II School Design Committee meeting. Councilor Kolnaski also received a call regarding potential use of Groton Heights School.

Councilor O'Beirne received a complaint about the conduct of the Planning Commission at its November 10, 2009 meeting; the subject was the trail through the Merritt Family Forest. He will listen to the tape of the meeting and relay the information to the Town Manager.

Councilor Sheets attended a performance of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk stated that the next meeting of the RTM will be on November 18, 2009, at which it will consider a Legislative Ordinance concerning the Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ).

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager distributed a summary of the proposed teachers' contract. Mr. Oefinger stated that the Town has signed the lease agreement with Project LEARN which will be submitted to the State Department of Education for approval to begin demolition.

Mr. Vincent attended the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Legislative Committee meeting. He noted that the State deficit is growing and there may be further cuts in the State budget for municipal aid. A meeting with the Town Council and local State Legislators will be scheduled.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy**

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

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

Councilor O'Beirne read the minutes of the meeting held on November 10, 2009, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Ethics Committee - Chairman Antipas

The Ethics Subcommittee met on November 17, 2009, to discuss a proposed work schedule. Copies of the schedule were provided to the Council.

Councilor Sheets proposed that Dean Antipas remain Chairman of the Ethics Subcommittee. Councilors were in agreement and Mr. Antipas will remain Chairman.

j. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

The Mayor stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2009-0217****Contract Agreement between the Groton Board of Education and the Groton Education Association****RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GROTON BOARD OF**

EDUCATION AND THE GROTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the agreement between the Groton Board of Education and the Groton Education Association for the period September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2013.

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

Councilor Antipas briefly summarized the contract agreement.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0263

Bluff Point to Preston Trail - Update

RESOLUTION CONCERNING TOWN OF GROTON PARTICIPATION ON THE BLUFF POINT TO PRESTON ("TRI-TOWN") TRAIL COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. 2008-0044, approved April 1, 2008, the Town Council agreed to support, and appoint representatives to, a committee that would be organized to plan a hiking and biking trail between Bluff Point in Groton and the Town of Preston, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has received a presentation on the draft of the Tri-Town Trail Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, a Tri-Town Trail from Bluff Point to Preston would be a widely desired improvement in regional opportunities for outdoor recreation and would be highly advantageous to residents of Groton, and

WHEREAS, it has been recommended by the Committee that the Town of Groton appoint additional members from time to time to serve on the Committee, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council endorses the interim report and plan and appoints Wayne Chiapperini, June Evered and Joan Smith, as residents of the Town of Groton, to the Tri-Town Trail Master Plan Committee.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Brown-Tracy, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0271

Budget Guidelines for FYE 2011

RESOLUTION SETTING BUDGET GUIDELINES FOR FYE 2011

WHEREAS, the Town Council has discussed how and whether to provide guidance prior to the submission of the Proposed Budget for FYE 2011, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council's guidance to the Town Manager and the Board of Education for their respective FYE 2011 proposed budgets is for a zero dollar increase over FYE 2010.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Kolnaski will not support this resolution as she feels that it violates the Town Charter. She thinks that Department Heads should be consulted to look at ways to reduce programs and services.

Discussion ensued, and the Council would still like to meet with Department Heads, with this Resolution's intent being to set a goal of a zero percent increase in the overall budget.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Flax, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Sheets
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Kolnaski

2009-0274 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION 2009-2010 COMPREHENSIVE DUI ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AGAINST DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS AND INTOXICANTS (DUI)

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton annually uses State of Connecticut DOT grants to provide extra patrol shifts for driver safety and DUI enforcement during 49 enforcement dates including major holidays, and

WHEREAS, a 75% funding grant for the 2009-2010 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program, with the Town paying 25% of the costs, is within the budget and work program of the Groton Town Police, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a 2009-2010 state DUI grant of up to \$577,000, with the Town to provide matching funds of up to \$19,250.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0285 Appointment of Penelope Fox to Library Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PENELOPE FOX TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Penelope Fox, 221 Elm Street, is appointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/11.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0286 Reappointment of Kristin Vaughn to Historic District Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KRISTIN VAUGHN TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED that Kristin Vaughn, 42 Clift Street, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/14.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0287 Reappointment of Stephen Garmon to Cable TV Advisory Council

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING STEPHEN GARMON TO THE CABLE TV ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLVED, that Stephen C. Garmon, 96 Corey Road, is reappointed to the Cable TV Advisory Council for a term ending 7/1/11.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0288 Pending Litigation Settlement

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT IN RESOLUTION OF PENDING LITIGATION

settlement of pending litigation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council consents to resolve a pending EEOC claim titled Jayne LaLonde v. Town of Groton, et. al., as discussed in executive session, and hereby authorizes the Town Manager and/or the Town's insurer to cause to be prepared and to execute the requisite legal documents to effectuate the settlement, subject to the final approval of the Town Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

A motion was made by Councilor Brown-Tracy, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

MOTION TO AMEND the second paragraph to change the words "as agreed" to "as discussed" was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski.

VOTE on Motion to Amend carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0290

Public Hearing on SEA-CMEEC Lease

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED LEASE OF TOWN PROPERTY TO SEA-CMEEC

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed lease of Town-owned property on Gary Court to SEA-CMEEC on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall Annex, Community Room #1.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Sheets thanked the teachers of Groton, the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and the negotiating team for producing a zero percent increase for two years in a row.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant