

Keith Hedrick

GROTON CONSERVATION ADVOCATES QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE CITY OF GROTON MAYORAL AND COUNCIL ELECTION

Please fill in your answers directly on this questionnaire. When complete, email it to groconadv2017@gmail.com anytime but no later than midnight February 15th.

1. Plastics reduction:

The United States is by far the world's largest generator of plastic waste—it produced about 46 million U.S. tons in 2016. The U.S. ranks as high as third among coastal nations for contributing litter, illegally dumped trash and other mismanaged waste to its shorelines. Plastic in our waters is killing fish, birds, and sea mammals; and microplastics are getting into the food chain, up to and including humans, with unknown consequences. The City of Groton includes substantial coastal acreage that is contributing to this problem. In August 2021, Connecticut will begin enforcing a ban on single-use plastic bags. Maine has passed a state-wide ban on Styrofoam carry-out items. But that is just the beginning of what we need to do. Plastic straws, stirrers, bottles and Styrofoam remain a serious problem. Until we achieve comprehensive statewide plastic waste reduction, cities and towns will need to pass their own ordinances to reduce their plastic waste stream.

Do you support Groton City joining the Town of Groton in banning the following?

- A. Single-use plastic bags?
- B. Plastic straws and stirrers?
- C. Styrofoam cups, plates and clamshells?

I will support a City of Groton Ordinance regarding the regulation and possible restriction of these items. The City of Groton is taking a larger view, starting with the watersheds and working our way back to the environmental hazards that end up in the watersheds (i.e., Long Island Sound, Baker Cove, Thames River, Birch Plain Creek, etc.) We will talk to citizens about their concerns and we will discuss impacts with our local businesses. Environmental protection can be accomplished hand in hand with economic development. We are looking at roadside cleanups, more MS-4 enforcements and other sources of pollution which make their way into the watersheds.

The City of Groton is looking at a Green Campaign locally. This is referred to the City Council subcommittee for review and recommendation. The main goals are to reduce waste in MS4 / waterways and reduce volume of trash in City. This is accomplished through several measures:

1. **Improve Recycling – new, closed top recycling cans available by the City through Public Works, investigate individual and City wide composting**
2. **Reduce waste stream – straws, cups, nips, plastic bags, Styrofoam**
3. **Talk with businesses owners about ways to reduce plastics without harm**
4. **Reduce animal waste near waterways**
5. **City clean- up day(s)**
6. **Business property clean up**
7. **Municipal trash cans in strategic locations**

8. Recycling containers at beach / parks

During the review and discussion we will determine problem areas, discuss education

the community surrounding the program and the actions required of them. We will also have community engagement as to what are the issues / concerns they see.

Our key stakeholders are:

1.EDC – business feedback / survey for businesses

Parks and Recreation

Conservation Commission

Business Owners

Interested Parties

6. Environmental Groups

Small liquor bottles called nips, usually plastic, are littering Groton's roads, roadsides, open space areas and parks and going through storm drains into Long Island Sound.

Would you support state legislation to ban nips?

Would you support state legislation to put a 25-cent deposit requirement on nips?

I have picked up trash on the sides of the road in the City of Groton and noticed a lot of nip bottles. As a member of the Southeastern Council of Governments I have signed onto SCCOG's legislative agenda for 2021. One of the items is a ban on nip bottles.

“Solid Waste Management/Recycling

- Legislation that would ban nip liquor bottles, which contribute greatly to roadside litter and which unintentionally enables and makes easy drinking while driving. A deposit on these bottles might address the problem if they could be returned to redemption centers for manual processing since the current recycling infrastructure of reverse vending machines are not capable of processing nip-sized bottles.”**

The 25 cent deposit might work but currently there is no process for handling these small bottles. The bottles are not coded and would not be picked up by the machines. That requires hand sorting with a cost. The bottling lobby is powerful. That is why I support a ban.

Another issue which I support with the SCCOG is Solid Waste Management/Recycling.

Our recommendation to the legislators regarding recycling is:

“Legislation which includes increasing the value of the required deposit from 5 cents to 10 cents; expands items covered under the bottle bill to include juice, tea, sports, and energy drink bottles; and increases the handling fee paid to redemption centers. Also support amending this bill to include requiring deposits on wine and liquor bottles.

Legislation that would direct CT DEEP to revise its guidance and recommendations that currently promote single-stream recycling, an approach to recycling which is no longer economically viable due to changes in the global markets for recycled materials.

Legislation that would allow the use of crushed glass in the construction of roads, sidewalks, and septic systems. Currently, the only CT DEEP approved use of this recycled product is for landfill cover, and since there are few landfills left, the demand for the product is low. Allowing it to be used for other regulated purposes would reduce its volume in the waste disposal stream thereby reducing costs, and would help create a market for recycled glass. The legislation should direct CT DEEP to develop within a specific (i.e. 12 months) timeline specifications acceptable to the appropriate state agencies (CT DOT, CT DPH) allowing crushed glass to be used in roadbed, sidewalk, and septic system

construction.”

Many items which are not properly disposed can end up in our waterways. We need to make it easier to recycle items as well.

2. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise:

Sea level is rising faster than once thought. It is now predicted that the Connecticut coast will see a 20-inch rise by 2050. Groton City, as a coastal town, will feel the brunt of this change in several areas. Predicting the impacts and designing resiliency or mitigation measures will take considerable resources. Federal funds and state funds are likely to become available for towns to achieve mitigation measures for the coming high water.

A. Would you support the City of Groton hiring a staff person, perhaps sharing such a staff person with the Town of Groton, to work full-time on developing both short- and long-range strategies, as well as raising funds, primarily grants, to address local climate change impacts, including sea level rise? If yes, what priority tasks would you give this person?

I started negotiations with John Burt for funding of a resiliency position last year. The challenge in a shared asset is who do they work for, where do they reside and how do you pay for them? John and I are working through these issues. The City of Groton has already started working on resiliency issues. Planning for resiliency began in January 2019, when The Nature Conservancy led a Community Resiliency Building Workshop, a roundtable with City staff, regional leaders and City businesses. City Council went on to establish an ad-hoc committee. This working group is tasked to assess issues related to resiliency and develop strategies to address vulnerabilities. The Coastal Vulnerability Working Group (CVWG) will provide recommendations to the City Council and help guide the formation of the *Community Resiliency Plan*. Development of the Community Resiliency Plan commenced November 2020 with the selection of Malone & McBroom as a preferred consultant. The resiliency position would work with the City Planner to coordinate all of the local studies and develop a holistic plan of recommended actions along with timeframe and cost of implementation.

Shortly after becoming the Mayor of the City of Groton in May in 2017, I read a study regarding sea level rise along the Connecticut coastline and in Long Island Sound.

https://cityofgroton.com/download/Planning/resiliency_and_hazard_mitigation/SeaLevelRiseConnecticutFinalDraft-Posted-3_27_18.pdf. I started asking staff about resiliency. In the fall of 2018, I convened a Community Building Resiliency Workshop which included stakeholders from businesses and government to start addressing the issue of resiliency. Information on the Community Resilience Building Workshop is found at

https://cityofgroton.com/download/Planning/resiliency_and_hazard_mitigation/FINAL-City-of-Groton-CRB-Summary-of-Findings-Final-Report-March-2019.pdf. In November 2020 we had our first meeting of the City of Groton Community Resiliency Plan. Additional information on resiliency can be found at: <https://cityofgroton.com/government-services/departments/building-and-zoning/ped/resiliency/>

B. I. Current FEMA 100-year flood maps do not account for the expected 20-inch sea level rise by 2050. Raising the level of buildings in the flood zone will save countless millions of dollars in damage from future floods. Do you support more stringent regulations for new buildings in the 100-year (now more like the 10-year) flood zone, such as Rhode Island has, requiring an additional 2-3 feet in height (freeboard) from the ground?

I am working with the Planner to determine the actions needed by the City of Groton regarding mitigation strategies and zoning requirements in potential affected flood zone areas of the City. We are evaluating whether or not to require additional freeboard requirements or even whether or not you allow for rebuilding in areas currently prone to flooding which may be covered in water by 2050. These are hard decisions to make. Additionally, take into account the Eastern Point Historic District aspect

and that further complicates matters. The City of Groton is evaluating the hardening of certain areas to protect them from sea level rise. This will take money and grants are certainly a way to get the funds for any projects associated with resiliency. We will continue to evaluate this with the assistance of experts and with the input of the residents.

ii. How can the City of Groton do a better job of educating the public about the economic risks of sea-level rise?

As part of the City of Groton Community Resiliency Plan community outreach is important. Education and input is important to ensure future planning is adequate and addresses community needs. Asking someone to take action now for something that will gradually occur over 30 years is met with resistance. We will continue to educate and inform the community about resiliency issues. In the future, public hearings, information sessions and other means of communication with the public will be used to educate the public.

3. Climate Change and Energy Efficiency:

The cheapest way to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce greenhouse gases is through energy efficiency. It also saves considerable money for the City over time.

A. Do you support putting solar panels on Groton City-owned buildings? How would you make that happen?

Groton Utilities has already installed solar panels in Navy Housing on Route 12 near the Naval Submarine Base. They are evaluating expansion of solar in the City of Groton. I can support solar panels once the weight loading of the roofs are conducted (many municipal roofs are flat) and the sun exposure is evaluated for optimum collection of solar energy. Not all City building will be eligible for solar panels. The Tyler House and the Stephen Zbierski House at the beach are in the historic district and this could be problematic. We will need to evaluate the cost benefit of installing solar on City of Groton buildings. IT does not have to be an all or nothing situation. Panels could be phased and limited installation could be evaluated and then expanded based on performance.

B. Excepting specialty vehicles and trucks, do you support moving the City vehicle fleet to all hybrid, while also including some electric vehicles and placing charging stations in the City? How would you make that happen?

We currently have hybrid vehicles at Groton Utilities. We have electric charging stations at GU operations building. The City of Groton has a charging station which was championed by me and installed in Washington Park in the Fall of 2020. It currently sees use almost daily. We will have additional charging stations in the future, once location and need is determined. The transition to hybrid vehicles can be costly and the tax impact must be considered, not only with initial cost but with maintenance costs. I am not opposed to hybrid or electric vehicles. Hybrid and electric vehicles for Department Heads or general use could be phased in as vehicles are replaced. Mary Hill, the Parks and Recreation Director drives a hybrid vehicle. I am currently evaluating the pros and cons of hybrid police cars.

C. What would be your priorities for energy conservation in the next two years?

I will continue to identify areas where we can make changes which will result in energy reduction such as to continue LED light replacement. Last year we conducted a lighting study in the municipal buildings and in the GU operations buildings. Wholesale conversion to LED lights were conducted in these areas. We also installed motion sensors in all rooms to turn off lights when unoccupied.

In the last two years the City of Groton through Groton Utilities conducted a large-scale change out of high sodium street lights to LED light in both the city and the Town of Groton.

Groton Utilities offers residential and commercial customers a variety of energy conservation programs to help reduce energy costs. These programs are designed to help residential and commercial users reduce their energy costs by installing more energy efficient lighting, air conditioning, and appliances. Additional information can be found at:

<https://grotonutilities.com/energy-conservation/residential-energy-conservation/>

Groton Utilities provides expert advice on the following aspects of distributed energy systems:

1. Expert advice on regulatory processes including permitting and available State and Federal incentives
2. Expert design and engineering of a distributed energy plant including cogeneration systems, boiler plants, waste heat to energy systems, etc.

Additional information can be found at: <https://grotonutilities.com/energy-conservation/commercial-and-industrial-conservation-programs/>

The City of Groton will continue to evaluate opportunities for energy conservation.

4. Trees and Open Space:

It is well known that tree cover is a great benefit to communities. Especially in heavily developed areas like Groton City, trees provide cooling shade and can reduce the heat radiating from streets, sidewalks and roofs. In short, trees make our quality of life significantly better. While Groton City dedicates approximately 15% of its land to open space, virtually all of it is in sports fields, golf courses or otherwise treeless.

A. i. Would expanding tree cover in the City be a priority for you?

Tree cover is important. When development is considered in the City of Groton, disturbance of tree canopy is evaluated. Many times open space or plantings of trees are a requirement. We can also consider planting of trees in existing open space in the City. The following link takes you to the open space section of our Plan of Development and Conservation: <https://cityofgroton.com/government-services/departments/building-and-zoning/ped/pocd-2019-section-5/#1573235912980-5a43fe7e-81b1>

Parks and Recreation currently maintain 77 acres of open space. We have maintained Birch Plain Creek property and trail and will extend that trail.

ii. Would you support an assessment of tree cover in Groton City with a report on recommendations as to tree replacement and expansion?

I would support a study to evaluate not just tree cover but open space. There should be a grant that we could get to perform this assessment. Recommendations could then be evaluated for implementation.

B. Would you support an ordinance requiring expanded tree planting in Groton City based on such an assessment and recommendation? an ordinance requiring that trees lost to development be replaced by a ratio significantly larger than 1:1 (to be determined by the City)?

I would support research on what an ordinance would contain and how it would be implemented. Overall impact to the City of Groton environmental and economic areas need to be evaluated. As stated before, I support environmental issues but there needs to be a balance with economic development and the overall benefit to the residents of the City of Groton. I would depend on the Planner and the planning process to help determine what the ration should be. We currently have green requirements included during the planning of development whether it is new development or renovation.

C. The Colonel Ledyard School in Groton City is presently being sold for development. Approximately a third to a half of that property is forested, an unusually large forest tract for the City. Would you support protecting the forested portion of the Colonel Ledyard School property as a public benefit? How would you make that happen?

My actions in the past four years demonstrate my commitment to forested areas and open space as well as protection of the watersheds.

A recent The Day article <https://www.theday.com/local-news/20210205/groton-town-council-backs-plans-for-two-apartment-complexes> discusses the developer's intention: "Bill Sweeney, attorney for Bellock, said the plan is to renovate the existing school building and add new units in the old play area behind the school. He said the intent is not to destroy any wildlife habitat and Bellock wants to preserve as much of the woodland as possible and create trail connections to other municipal buildings behind it." Based on this statement I support this development in this location.

The Mayor can set tone and direction of staff but cannot intentionally tip the scales one way or another to circumvent legal processes. There is a process by which permitting and zoning are reviewed along with public hearings in order to approve building. This review includes wetlands reviews and can require replanting of an area if woodlands are disturbed. I would be opposed to clearcutting the entire parcel for this development but that is not what is being proposed. The woodlands adjacent to the wetlands are opposite to the building site and therefore should be automatically protected. The Planning and Zoning process will be followed and the outcome of the development will be a result of that. There will be a public hearing and interested parties can make statements which will be part of the record and evaluated by Planning and Zoning Commission.

D. A forested 35-acre portion of the King property located along the eastern border of the City in the Blueberry Hill area became protected public open space in 2018. The Town of Groton, which owns the property, is currently working with volunteers to design and build a forest trail through this beautiful property. Would you be willing to invest City staff time and dollars to support efforts to link the King property to nearby open space including Crystal Lake and Washington Park?

The City of Groton has expressed interest in extending trails. We are currently working with the Town of Groton and other organizations to extend the King Property to Washing Park through City Property. Additionally, we are working with property owners to get easements which would extend The Birch Plain Creek Trail to Poquonnock Road and then connect to the King Property. When this happens you would be able to walk from Thomas Road to Washington Park mostly through trails.

E. What other ideas do you have to expand passive (walking, bike riding) recreational opportunities in Groton City?

The City of Groton is currently working on walkability and bikeability projects. The preferred developer for the Colonel Ledyard Property and I have talked about enhancing the walk path next to that property which connects to the Municipal Building. From there it is a short walk to Washington Park.

5. Clean, Safe Drinking Water

Undeveloped land and especially wetlands all increase filtration of storm water drainage, reduce runoff and recharge ground water. By protecting watershed lands around our reservoirs and their feeder streams, we help our local utility provide clean drinking water and keep treatment costs down. In recent years Groton Utilities has reported that our reservoir water quality is deteriorating, a cause for significant concern.

A. What ideas do you have to require Groton Utilities to strengthen protections for our drinking water supply serving both the City and the Town, and other Southeast CT communities?

I checked with our Water Quality Manager, and together we find no data to substantiate a degradation in source water quality. Steve Dietrich email and data are included in a package of referential material. I also reached out to our water quality consultant, Dr. Robert Kortman, and he concurred with Steve. In fact, Doctor Kortman noted that source water quality, due to management techniques such as selective withdrawal, employment of booms, solar powered robotic mixers, hypolimnetic aeration, spill response training and public communication has led to improved source water quality over the last decade.

What may be in the GCA's observations is that water regulations have become much stricter over the years and more items have recently developed as emergent contaminates. These emergent contaminant items were addressed in the design phase of our new Water treatment Plant.

Groton Utilities already performs inspections of properties adjacent to our watersheds. We have personnel assigned to reservoir patrol to search for problems in and near the reservoirs. We purchase properties to provide protective buffers. GU gave Avalonia \$159,945.00 towards the purchase of Atkinson Property in Ledyard. This purchase was documented in The Day article; [Avalonia to purchase two Ledyard land parcels](#) which can be found at <https://www.theday.com/article/20191013/NWS01/191019756>. This purchase helped Avalonia and was critical to meet the State climate change mitigation objective. <https://grotonutilities.com/groton-utilities-assists-avalonia-land-conservancy-with-land-purchase/>

This is the resolution from the City of Groton Council to authorize the funding to Avalonia.

“R-19-10-131 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, INC., PO BOX 49, OLD MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT, AND CONTRIBUTE UP TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$159,945.00) TO SUPPORT THE PURCHASE OF THE ATKINSON PROPERTY AS PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION, TOGETHER WITH SUCH REVISIONS, CLARIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE AGREEMENT AS THE DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES SHALL DEEM APPROPRIATE, AND TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER THE SAME ON BEHALF OF GROTON UTILITIES, TO BE PAID FROM THE WATER DIVISION RETAINED EARNINGS

WHEREAS, this contribution will enable Avalonia Land Conservancy Inc. to complete the purchase of Atkinson property and fulfill Grant Agreement requirements; and

WHEREAS, the subject property, which abuts the Groton Utilities watershed was being considered for a seventy-three lot subdivision and has been described in long-term planning documents by Groton Utilities for more than thirty years as sensitive watershed land, prioritized for acquisition and / or protective measures; and

WHEREAS, Avalonia Land Conservancy Inc. and Groton Utilities have developed a Memorandum of Understanding which documents land management plans, and mutually agreeable best management practices allowing for passive recreation for the community while preserving wetlands, and watershed sensitive property; and

WHEREAS, this partnership will allow Groton Utilities to strategically place signage and better control unauthorized access to Groton Utilities watershed property; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on September 18, 2019, the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to enter into an agreement with Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc., PO Box 49, Old Mystic, Connecticut, and contribute up to One Hundred Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Five Dollars and No Cents (\$159,945.00) to support the purchase of the Atkinson Property as presented to the Commission, together with such revisions, clarification and amendments to the agreement as the Director of Utilities shall deem appropriate, and to execute and deliver the same on behalf of Groton Utilities, to be paid from the Water Division

Retained Earnings and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize Groton Utilities Management enter into an agreement with Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc., PO Box 49, Old Mystic, Connecticut, and contribute up to One Hundred Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Five Dollars and No Cents (\$159,945.00) to support the purchase of the Atkinson Property as presented to the Commission, together with such revisions, clarification and amendments to the agreement as the Director of Utilities shall deem appropriate, and to execute and deliver the same on behalf of Groton Utilities, to be paid from the Water Division Retained Earnings.

Councilor McCabe moved Councilor Depot seconded a motion to approve R-19-10-131. Motion carried.”

Currently we are working with the DPH and DEEP to ensure watershed protective measures are in place. A recent article in The Day discusses the actions Groton Utilities took along with Ledyard government to address an identified hazard close to the watershed. The article can be found at: <https://www.theday.com/local-news/20210209/ledyard-orders-drvn-enterprises-to-remove-salt-from-site-within-watershed>

Additional information on Groton Utilities watershed protection can be found at:

<https://grotonutilities.com/your-home/services-and-programs/watershed-inspection/>

<https://grotonutilities.com/our-company/water-operations/source-water-protection-measures/>

B. How can the City and Town work together better to protect our drinking water?

Groton Utilities worked for two years with the Town of Groton Planning and Zoning Commission to help revised Planning and Zoning Regulations. The Town Manager and I meet Monthly for lunch to discuss issues involving both municipalities. We talk several times a week based on need regarding issues and solutions.

This is a link to Groton Utilities watersheds: <http://dwqmp.com/watershed.php>

It is not just the Town and City of Groton, we need all entities which border the watersheds to enforce MS-4 requirements. Information on City of Groton MS-4 program is found at:

<https://cityofgroton.com/government-services/departments/public-works/engineering/phase-ii-stormwater-permitting-plan/>

Municipalities need to educate the public on Point Source and Nonpoint Source pollution and enforce violations. We need to educate people on excessive use of fertilizers. We need to educate on how their actions impact the environment. We need to ensure building and zoning regulations take into account protective measures during construction and ensure green space and plantings are required as part of the construction.

We need to ensure septic tanks are properly disposed and residents connect to an authorized waste water facility. We have a list in the City of Groton and require hookup when the property changes hands.

There is a dog park on Route 184 which abuts the reservoir. There are no restrictions on dogs going into the water. On Eastern Point Beach there is a requirement that dogs are not allowed in the water and on the sandy part of the beach. This is a DPH requirement.

Education is the key. Enforcement is required if education does not work but this does present a challenge.

6. What other environmental action is needed in the City that we have not mentioned in this questionnaire?

The City of Groton balances environmental issues (watershed protection, walkability, bikeability, open space, hybrid vehicles, etc.) with other issues such as Economic Development, the impact of Electric Boat growth on the City, development of Thames Street, readiness for storms, daily maintenance of the roadways and the continuation of services. As stated earlier, environmental protection can be accomplished hand in hand with economic development. We will continue to evaluate, investigate and take deliberate action to make the City of Groton a better place for all to live, work and play.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CITY OF GROTON

Although the following areas do not cleanly fit in this questionnaire, I feel it is necessary to list/discuss them:

I am actively working with Maura Robie and the Baker Cove Watershed Committee to address issues surrounding this watershed. We are addressing issues such as contamination issues in the water due to geese feces. We hire a patrol dog to move the geese from our water access areas. We are evaluating plantings which would discourage them from landing and congregating near the watershed at Groton Utilities. We are getting information to the public regarding point source and nonpoint source pollution regarding washing their cars and over fertilization of yards and gardens which could have adverse impacts to the watershed. The water runs down the driveways and into the storm drains which discharge to the surrounding estuaries.

The City of Groton supports the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District's application, "Lake George Wetland Enhancement Design & Implementation", for a CT DEEP Grant under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act for Fiscal Year 2020. This project proposal to install a stormwater retrofit at Lake George for water quality treatment is an important recommended management strategy listed in the *2011 Baker Cove Track Down Survey and Abbreviated Watershed-based Plan*, as well as in listed activities in The Baker Cove Watershed Committee's *Plan of Work* under Goals to Implement structural measures to reduce bacteria and Establish Riparian Buffers.

We have also worked with the State of Connecticut to install tree filters on the Municipal Building site. We are looking to expand this effort to help clean water runoff from impervious areas.

Last year I authorized a contract for a Forestry Management Program at Groton Utilities. This will help identify and eliminate diseased and dead trees. This will help prevent spread of disease to other trees in our watershed. Additionally, the proper disposal of dead trees will prevent their decay in the watersheds which can adversely impact local wildlife and water quality in the reservoirs. It also controls the spread of fire due to thinning of dead wood. We are also working with the State of Connecticut to cultivate and plant hundreds of trees to continue the regeneration of the tree canopy.

I have recently conducted a publicity campaign to promote our Connecticut Coastal Access areas in the City of Groton. These areas are open spaces where visitors far and wide can have access to our shoreline

We have Griswold Point Park which is located near Eastern Point Beach which is used by residents and others for passive recreation.

Public Works is taking actions to ensure they play their part in conservation efforts. When Stonington had the issue of the use of Round Up in controlling vegetative overgrowth, I ensured we were not using that product. We were not. Typically, we manually cut back overgrowth. We feel this is the responsible thing to do. Public Works also uses pretreated salt when applying to the roads during

snowstorms. It sticks better to the roads and is not blown off by vehicular traffic. This results in less salt used which minimizes salt that goes into the environment. Additionally, it saves money because less salt is used.

I have conducted Public Service Announcements regarding what and how to recycle and on what is proper to flush and what you shouldn't flush down the toilet.

<https://www.facebook.com/129853233829217/videos/686061472210288>
<https://www.facebook.com/129853233829217/videos/668793177233055>

We have a pest control service where we put out bait boxes on municipal properties to avoid the spread of disease.

In 2019 we approved our Plan of Conservation and Development. The strategies outlined in the POCD are intended to guide the future conservation and development of the City of Groton. The recommendations reflect careful deliberations by the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission based on input from City residents. The overall goal has been to maintain and enhance the quality of life in the City and make our community an even better place in the future.

We submitted a Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) grant to the Connecticut Port Authority for \$800,000 to rebuild the docks at the Thames View Park on Thames Street. We were notified that we will receive the grant once the state releases the bond to allow it. This will allow us to build an eight slip dock for 26 foot boats and a handicapped accessible kayak boat launch. This will be a great addition to the waterfront and will bring people to this open space.

These are additional actions which I will forward to the Council Committee for inclusion into our green campaign. Many of these items are currently being conducted but we should formally adopt and inform residents on our actions.

Environmental Platform Elements for a Sustainable Future for the City of Groton

- 1. Continue excellent record of regulatory compliance with all local, state, and federal agencies**
- 2. Evaluate and Join Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM)**
- 3. Evaluate participation in the CT DEEP Transportation and Climate Initiative Program (TCIP)**
- 4. Support / Build with mixed uses goal – resulting in livable communities**
- 5. Evaluate Leadership in Energy and Environmental design systems (LEEDS) Green Building rating system, and examine how that could dovetail into existing regulations and fee structures**
- 6. Develop, and encourage environmental training with new and key staff and develop system(s) to reward and acknowledge educational advancement, which would better prepare the City of Groton and GU for the future. Share knowledge with surrounding communities.**
- 7. Continue to advocate for redevelopment of previously used and degraded properties such as Colonel Ledyard Property, Mother Bailey House, and Groton Heights School.**
- 8. Perform a Risk and Resiliency Analysis and communicate to the community and regulators**
- 9. Reduce Pollution inclusive of trash, roadside litter, plastics, and lawn and garden materials. Examine reuse potential of water treatment residuals.**

10. Continue to fight sprawl through initiatives in planning and zoning
11. Continue to meet w/ surrounding communities to strengthen aquifer protection.(recent example Town of Groton, future example Town of Ledyard)
12. Support a Storm water utility, and until founded and funded enter into MOU's with new business and developments. Work w/ surrounding communities to achieve this goal
13. Within our wastewater collection system, support additional video monitoring, and inflow and infiltration surveillance work to formalize a capital work plan for upgrades with the goal of lower operational costs and environmental (LIS) protection
14. Expand MS4 compliance responsibilities and actions to include, mapping, field labeling, sampling and enforcement. Communicate the concepts of this program to the public
15. Support urban forests to reduce heat islands, and support forestry BMP's in watershed lands. Work w/ local schools on pilot program. (Note: currently GU is establishing a forestry program with a tree nursery to grow 750 trees per year.
16. Support community Open Space where environmentally and economically feasible
17. Purchase watershed or sensitive land for conservation measures. Partner w/ environmental organizations for financial support and stewardship (example Avalonia and Groton Open Space organization). Also, work w/ developers on open space allocations. Apply for municipal grants as appropriate
18. Continue to support Greenways for endangered or threatened species (ex. Successful Cottontail rabbit greenway)
19. Continue work with CT Wildflower Association and Audubon Society in protecting endangered plant and fauna. Allow access to watershed land for these purposes.
20. Continue work w/ CTDEEP on habitat restoration and nesting platforms for osprey and eagles
21. Continue the mission to allow access to watershed lands w/ various organizations, and universities w/ studies (examples of past projects - plant studies (such as Dutch Elm disease with Agriculture Experimental Station), animal studies (example. Turtles), and algae, geology.
22. Continue relationships w/ Avalonia, and Pequotsepos allowing for access to specific watershed lands for education and moderated hiking.
23. Continue work w/ local technical high schools on watershed property. Education examples studying mineral cycling in surface water, forestry mapping, and technologies such as CAD and GIS, and laboratory analysis, job shadowing, internship
24. Continue to support CIRCA's initiatives by attending workshops and meetings in person or virtually. Review and adopt CIRCA's recommendations that are environmentally and economically feasible. Develop and communicate a climate message. Evaluate joining Climate Mayors organization
25. Support resilience authority to deal with sea rise level. Continue updating mapping and signage that so designates levels and evacuation routes
26. Support Governor's Council on Climate Change mid-term target recommendations for greenhouse gasses (GHG)

- 27. Evaluate CMEEC's position on Green Power initiatives. Develop a long term planning with fixed goals**
- 28. Continue Residential and commercial rebate programs for energy conservation measures. Examples include Bill Memorial Library, Fairview and others.**
- 29. Continue promoting water conservation following all regulations and communicating same.**
- 30. Prepare a program for vehicle replacement including hybrid and all electric vehicles. Evaluate distribution grid enhancements to support EV local charging stations or at residences safely**
- 31. Continue support work with Town of Groton in various important areas of environmental protection, resiliency, and emergency response. (Example: GU electric and water recently met with newly appointed Committee on climate resilience after hours and presented GU's initiatives).**
- 32. Continue working with Planning and Zoning in site plan review and regulations (GU previously worked w/ TOG staff over a two year period on zoning regulations update and aquifer protection measures)**
- 33. Continue energy conservation measures through Groton Utilities including water, sewer and electric. Communicate same to the public**
- 34. Continue work w/ commercial and industrial customers on conservation, green power initiatives, and resiliency (example solar fields, generation and micro grids). .**
- 35. Continue with storm hardiness and preparatory measures. (Note: GU's rebuild of Water Treatment Plant in the Town of Groton added measures for conservation, storm water remediation, energy and water conservation (geo-thermal). As well as storm hardiness (building wrap and hurricane-proof measures).A flood management certification required by DEEP was obtained**
- 36. Support new work at Thames Street, Groton City Wastewater Treatment Plant, which includes a risk and resiliency assessment looking at climate change as well as safety and conservation measures, community concerns, and alternative analyses.**
- 37. Continue a 75 year relationship w/ NOAA as a certified climatological weather observation center.**
- 38. Evaluate updating building codes to integrate with Green Buildings initiatives**
- 39. Evaluate scripting Triple Bottom Line (TBL) to create a broader perspective to create and evaluate business value**
- 40. Evaluate / propose a switch from petroleum based fuels for reciprocating equipment to plant based lubricants on City property and watershed lands**
- 41. Prepare and communicate a plan for paper reduction messaging, and require paper purchased have a certain % recycled value**