



76 Riverview Ave.

Noank, CT 06340

Email: groconadv2017@gmail.com

Website: www.GrotonConservationAdvocates.org

December 3, 2021

Dear Mayor Granatosky and Council members Portia Bordelon, André Bumgardner, Rachael Franco, Conrad Heede, Juan Melendez, Lian Obrey, Juliette Parker and Joe Zeppieri,

We are writing on behalf of Groton Conservation Advocates to express our sincere appreciation for all you have done to protect Groton's environment. GCA officially launched only a few weeks before the 2017 Town Council election. As time went by, we enjoyed getting to know each of you and were delighted to observe that you regarded environmental protection as a town priority. The following are actions taken during your two to four years in office:

- Negotiated successfully with various environmental groups, including GCA, the highly complicated Merritt open space/Groton Middle School property conversion. A 36-acre portion of the King property and the 20-acre Boulder Heights property, both located on the west side of town, were protected as parks as a result.
- Established the Beautification Committee.
- Endorsed GOSA's open space grant application request to acquire land in Groton for passive recreation and wildlife habitat protection.
- Pursued an EPA brownfield grant assessment.
- Approved the creation of the Groton Resilience and Sustainability Task Force.
- Voted to support the concept of developing three greenways in Groton.
- Supported the State's Single-Use Plastics Reduction Ordinance.
- Passed an ordinance in Groton to reduce single-use plastics and polystyrene.
- Authorized solar panel installation on the new middle and elementary school buildings. (Unfortunately, this never came to fruition.)
- Supported the Long Island Sound Futures Fund to complete a resilience and sustainability assessment for downtown Mystic.
- Voted first to submit an application to DEEP for an OSWA grant for the acquisition of the Wolfebrook property; later approved the purchase and sale agreement.
- Established a Trails Coordinating Task Force.


- Approved a compromise plan for the Noank Garden to preserve it as a park rather than a housing development or athletic field facility.
- Supported the passage of legislation in the Connecticut General Assembly providing for public rail transportation as an alternative to commuting by car in southeastern Connecticut. The legislation requires a feasibility and operational study by CT DOT on extending Shore Line East service to Rhode Island; building a station in Groton; and establishing rail service to connect EB/ Pfizer, a new Groton rail station (and SLE), and the US Navy Base on existing Providence and Worcester Railroad tracks.
- Committed to addressing climate change resilience and sustainability as a central management principle for all actions of the Town government.
- Approved a resilience and sustainability manager position.
- Approved the name Sassacus Nature Preserve for the King property conservation area along Birch Plain Creek.

This last item, the naming of the Sassacus Nature Preserve, brings us around full circle to the Merritt property swap for Boulder Heights and the Birch Plain Creek area of the King property. The establishment of this park and assignment of a Pequot grand sachem name is but one example of the Town's commitment to diversity, greater east-west open space equity, and inclusion.

This is a commendable record. We are grateful for your dedication to the people of Groton and your actions to protect the natural environment that sustains us. We are in awe of the long hours you spent and many miles you walked to get elected, and once elected, the countless hours you spent preparing for and participating in town council meetings and meetings with constituents. You have patiently and attentively listened to hundreds, if not thousands, of citizens' petitions at public hearings and regular meetings.

For those of you who are stepping down from government, we wish you all the best with your future endeavors; for those of you serving another term, congratulations and we look forward to two more years of good environmental governance.

Warm regards,


Eugenia Villagra and Liz Raisbeck
Co-Chairs, Groton Conservation Advocates