



Climate Change Task Force

Town of Stonington

152 Elm Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

Officers

Rick Newton
Chairman

MaryEllen Mateleska
Secretary

Members

Dennis Unites

Susan Hibbard

Lyndsey Pyrke-
Fairchild

Julia Parry

Sharon Lynch

Francis Pandolfi

Michael Serra

Jane Dawson

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Town of Stonington Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

September 21, 2023 – 5:15pm

Location: Milne Center for Ocean Science and Conservation – Mystic Aquarium

Present In-person: Rick Newton, Jane Dawson, Dennis Unites, Susan Hibbard, MaryEllen Mateleska, Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild, Michael Serra

Present Virtual: Julia Parry, Sharon Lynch

Present: June Strunk, Members of the public

Call to order 5:15pm

- August meeting minutes approved.
- Review of correspondences
 - Emails received from Stonington Garden Club Conservation Committee looking to explore collaborations.
 - Email received from First Selectman requesting a Climate Change Task Force representative to attend the POCD Implementation Committee meetings. Two members of the Task Force already sit on the committee. Jane Dawson expressed interest and will be representing the Task Force.
 - Vote on 2024 meeting schedule for the Climate Change Task Force. Members approved to meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
 - Discussion on recommendation for the capital improvement budget. Last year's climate resilience line was cut from \$20,000 to \$1. Task force members recommend the Town is more aggressive this year at \$500,000 for climate resiliency project and \$250,000 for electric vehicles.
- Tasking
 - Update provided from on the Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board – the board is discussing holding public meetings to understand priorities.
 - Update on the development of a social media campaign. An item was sent for inclusion, but it was not posted.
 - Planning and Zoning regulations update – comments have been submitted.
 - Community solar update – they will most likely sunset community solar and replace it with a program that can accommodate the demand.
 - Update on the potential for an Energy Fair in 2024. Discussion on replacing a large fair with something that engages a smaller audience (i.e., homeowners),

presentations on reports and plans, and/or more social media posts of opportunities.

- Review of grant opportunities
- Review of public awareness articles
- Comments from task force members, public, and open discussion
 - Recommendation to have the website redesigned to make meeting agendas easier to find and access.
- Next Meeting November 16th at 5:15PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm

Climate Change Task Force mission is to identify climate resiliency risk and community vulnerability within the town of Stonington, and assist the town in determining priorities, actions and solutions to mitigate these risks.

Mary Ellen Mateliska