



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

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE Town of Stonington Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting

August 18, 2022 – 5:15pm

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

Present In-person: Rick Newton, Dennis Unites, Sharon Lynch, Susan Hibbard,
Francis Pandolfi, MaryEllen Mateleska

Present Virtual: Julia Parry, Michael Serra

Call to order 5:16pm

- Meeting minutes approved with changes
- Review of Correspondences
 - Information sent to selectmen on CT DEEP Volkswagen grant program which could provide funding for more energy efficient vehicles.
- Tasking
 - Zoning regulation review has started with monthly meetings. The second phase of the project will include public comment.
 - The public outreach “Did you know?” initiative was not published in July; three more articles are ready to be published and more will be uploaded shortly.
 - PACE updates – First Selectmen would like to host a Sustainable Stonington themed table during the farmers market on 9/10.
 - PACE Heat Smart Lite – Program will be launched shortly with information available to Stonington residents on home energy saving measures.
 - Response received from Stonington school regarding the integration of solar panels on schools. School roofs may not be able to accommodate solar infrastructure because of the equipment that is currently on the roofs. Reach out to other Connecticut school districts who have successfully implemented solar options is recommended. Suggestion was made to include information on non-roof top solar options to both the town and school department.
 - Update provided on EDC joint interest opportunity to host Stonington Energy Future one-day educational event/fair. Discussion continued on location, similar past programs, event layout, audiences, and needed resources. Task Force sub-committee will meet to further discuss.
 - Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board has been populated and first meeting is pending Town staff.
- Status Updates:

- New position of Grants and Floodplain Manager was approved and will be posted once the four current labor contracts have been negotiated.
 - No new update on solar field at the transfer station.
 - Follow up meeting with Stonington School Superintendent will be rescheduled for the future.
 - Climate Action Plan will be addressed once staffing resources improve.
- Grant Funding opportunities
 - Information on grant opportunities to support EV charging stations.
- Public Awareness Review
- Comments from the task force members
 - Discussion on drafting a resolution for Stonington that all new Town buildings or construction must incorporate climate change mitigating measures. A letter will be drafted to send to Planning & Zoning to include language and recommendations as they begin the zoning regulation review and update process.
- Next meeting September 15th at 5:15PM at Milne Center.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ellen Matelska". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.