



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

January 19, 2023 – 5:15pm

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

Present In-person: Rick Newton, Dennis Unites, Michael Serra, Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild, Sharon Lynch, MaryEllen Mateleska

Present Virtual: Julia Parry, Susan Hibbard

Present: Deborah Downie, Members of the public

Call to order 5:15pm

- December meeting minutes approved with changes
- Special joint EDC meeting minutes approved
- Deborah Downie provides town updates on behalf of Danielle Chesebrough:
 - A proposal to fund an external consultant to review sewer system resiliency will be made at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
 - Input was requested and provided on recommendation made to address/assess the Mason Island Causeway. As this item has been listed as a climate resilience priority by the team, task members were in favor of this request.
 - Final draft of the climate adaptation and resilience plan will be ready for review shortly.
 - Consideration into changing the job title and description of the Sustainability and Grant position is being considered in hopes to recruit qualified candidates.
- Other comments by the Task Force to be shared with Board of Selectmen:
 - Long Island Sound Futures Fund RFP will be released in March. This could assist in funding septic system upgrades in the Anguilla Brook watershed.
 - Question into the feasibility of reallocating unused funds from a budgeted, but not filled position, to be used towards related projects.
 - Rebates for ebikes has been suggested by Bike Stonington. Denver has been successful and could serve as a model for Stonington.
 - Question was asked on whether or not the two climate focused resolutions have been circulated to town staff.
- Review of Correspondences:

- Representative from the Mystic River Park Commission submitted a correspondence and attended the meeting to inquire as to how the park can become more resilient to climate impacts.
- Tasking
 - Monthly meetings are continuing to review zoning regulations. Recordings are available and public input will be requested soon.
 - Community outreach “Did you Know” articles are available for inclusion into future newsletters.
 - Planning for joint EDC/CCTF Energy Fair (March 25, 2023) is well underway.
- Status Updates:
 - Flood and Erosion Control Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Police Station. Town Engineer will attend the next meeting.
- Grant Funding opportunities
- Public Awareness Review
- Comments from the task force members
 - Request that the Task Force share SolSmart, Heat Smart, and Energy Fair information at the farmers market on February 18, 2023
 - Next meeting, Thursday, February 16 at 5:15PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm

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