

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Town Of Stonington

Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting

July 15, 2015 - 7:00 pm

Location: Stonington Borough Hall,
26 Church Street, Stonington, CT 06378

Present: Task Force members Jeffrey Callahan, Ed Hart, Susan Hibbard, Rick Newton, Thomas Norris, Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild, MaryEllen Mateleska

Town Employee: Scot Deledda, P.E. - Town Engineer

Ad Hoc member: Robert Yust

Guests: Bruce Hyde (CLEARN), Alisa Morrison (GIS specialist) Tracey O'Neill, (The Westerly Sun), 2 members of the public

Call to order 7:00 PM

- Motion to approve April and June meeting minutes approved 7-0. May minutes approved 6-1.
- Discussion on the five priority impact factors to Study Area #1 identified by each Climate Change Task Force members. It was noted that there is a need to garner the support of neighbors as well as town officials. It was decided that this will be accomplished by focusing on the following impacts: Infrastructure (roads and bridges), Residential (number of individuals impacted, assessment values), Business/Commercial, Open Space/Natural Resources, Town (zoning, taxes loss, and property values). Impacts were divided among the task force members for research purposes and determine best format on reporting findings to town.
- Alyssa Morrison demonstrated GIS capabilities to the task force as a tool to ascertain data needed to complete assessment of Study Area #1. This included the ability to use Town maps, town assessment data and NOAA sea level rise estimates to visual impact at 1ft and 4ft sea level rise scenarios. There was further discussion to also include adding storm impact to sea level rise scenarios of area.
- Susan Hibbard reported that the June 24 CT DEEP / UCONN's Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) "Living Shoreline Workshop – Part 2" was beneficial and focused on specific community efforts and examples.
- Jeff Callahan led discussion on the FEMA Community Rating System and task force members will identify ways to support the town in adding points and increase future credits.
- Task force will stay up to date with the developing Pawcatuck Watershed Flood Resiliency and Management Plan Project as this plan includes the eastern areas of Stonington/Pawcatuck.
- Bruce Hyde from UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) informed the task force of an potential opportunity which will use the resources,

expertise and talents of CLEAR and UCONN students to create climate change assessment tools (including templates for impact assessments, public engagement plans and QAPP to ensure quality of data collection) for CT towns. Climate Change Task Force members unanimously decided to support this initiative and town representative will relay task force support to Board of Selectmen.

- Task force members reported on rebuilding options as seen in Mississippi, Old Saybrook town meeting on climate change impacts, article on sea level rise impacts on railway systems in CT and new 20 ft sea level predictions.
- Next meeting – 7:00pm - August 20 - Community Service Room Department of Human Services, 166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, Ct 06379

Adjourn: 8:26 PM

Mary Ellen Matelaska