



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

March 17, 2022 – 5:15pm

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

Present: Susan Hibbard (virtual), Rick Newton, Julia Parry (virtual), Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild (virtual), Michael Serra, Dennis Unites and MaryEllen Mateleska

Call to order 5:15pm

- Meeting minutes approved
- Update on elimination of mask requirements for meetings and April 21 meeting is the final hybrid meeting.
- Town attorney stated that the new Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board must abide by the old ordinance with regards to the number of board members.
- Climate Change Task Force updates
 - A consultant has been identified to assist with updating the zoning regulations. Monthly public meetings will be held throughout the process and comments will be welcomed.
 - Information has been shared on WestCOG's work on [Riparian Corridor management zoning strategies](#).
 - Community outreach information to be included in the First Selectmen's blog has been crafted for the next 4 months. Task force members will continue to provide information on climate resilience efforts, sustainability projects and other tips for residents.
 - Update provided from Julia on PACE programs. Solar information and a commitment letter from the town has been forwarded to PACE for inclusion in the solar assessment program. Follow up from the town to PACE regarding the Heat Smart program has also been communicated and Stonington will be included in this educational outreach program.
- Status updates
 - Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board has been approved to be populated and applications are open until April 29, 2022.
 - The Climate Sustainability and Floodplain Manager position is still in the budget. Task force members and residents who support this position are strongly encouraged to attend the Board of Finance meeting on March 29 at 7:00PM at

the High School Auditorium and submit letters to Jim Sullivan (jsullivan@stonington-ct.gov) to be shared with the Board of Finance.

- Solar field project is paused until a new contractor has been identified.
- Nearly all items on the Task Force's priority list have been addressed with outcomes pending or complete. A new list of tasks will be identified to continue the momentum.
- Review of grant opportunities. Over the next few years, there will be significant increases in available funding for climate resiliency projects. Projects should be identified for the next round of grants.
- Comments
 - Written comments are being accepted on Affordable Housing Plan; this is a state required document. Notes in the plan mention to not considering future climate impacts in decision making.
- Next meeting April 21, 2022 at 5:15pm at Milne Center for Ocean Science and Conservation and virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm

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 Mateliska". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.