



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

May 19, 2022 – 5:15pm

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

Present: Susan Hibbard, Rick Newton, Lyndsey Pryke-Fairchild, Dennis Unites, Sharon Lynch and MaryEllen Mateleska

Absent: Julia Parry, Michael Serra, Francis Pandolfi,

Call to order 5:15pm

- Meeting minutes approved with amendments
- Correspondences
 - Email sent to First Selectmen regarding hybrid meetings. Encouraged to meet in person but accommodations can be made for those unable to meet in person. The quorum would have to be met by in-person attendees. Clarification is needed but hybrid will return with June meeting.
 - Email was received from Scott Connuck regarding the battery storage facility.
- Tasking
 - Zoning regulations are still on hold until further notice
 - Outreach is needed for additional months
 - No update on PACE Heat Smart Light program
 - No update on EDC joint interest committee
 - East Point battery storage facility in Old Mystic that would provide backup energy. Requesting for tax abatement but town vote would be needed. Location has been a topic of discussion among neighbors and environmental organizations.
- Status Updates:
 - Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board had 6 applicants for 5 open positions. Board will be appointed at next Selectmen meeting.
 - New position of Grants and Floodplain Manager was approved
 - Handbook has been forwarded to the Human Resources Director for review
 - No update Wood-Pawcatuck
 - Solar field at the transfer station is on hold
 - Waiting on draft of Climate Action Plan

- There were no clear priorities identified by Task Force members; a review of the 31 priorities is needed.
 - Suggestion made to focus on presenting information to school leadership on potential upgrades and resiliency/sustainability initiatives.
 - Sharon will investigate engaging teachers in climate change curriculum writing for middle school students.
 - Group workshop may be needed to discuss where the Task Force's impact would be greatest.
 - Task Force members will present in June the process that priorities should be made based on what is most important to accomplished by the Town.
- Grant Funding opportunities
 - CT DEEP Climate Resiliency program will provide funding for CT communities to help develop projects that can compete for funding.
- Public Awareness
 - Town of Stamford has passed a climate emergency
 - Climate bills have passed concerning climate change reduction programs and regulations.
 - Stonington has been awarded CIRCA funding for Holmes St. seawall design.
- Comments from the task force members
 - Suggestion to pursue joint meetings with Groton. MaryEllen will reach out to Groton staff to identify individuals who may be best to meet with in the coming months.
 - Meeting guests from Stoneridge have echoed the community's commitment to climate action
 - Reef Ball Foundation information has been passed along to the Town to explore green infrastructure.
 - Affordable housing board will be formed for Stonington and a discussion is upcoming to discuss qualifications/skills.
 - Children and Climate Change article can be accessed from [here](#).

Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm

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.

