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
June 16, 2022 – 5:15pm
Location: Milne Center for Ocean Science and Conservation – Mystic Aquarium

Present In-person: Rick Newton, Lyndsey Pryke-Fairchild, Dennis Unites, Sharon Lynch, Francis Pandolfi, Michael Serra, and MaryEllen Mateleska
Present Virtual: Julia Parry, Susan Hibbard,

Call to order 5:15pm

- Meeting minutes approved
- Correspondences
  - Email sent to First Selectman and school Superintendent to provide notice of EPA Electric Bus program that provides assistance to transition to electric buses.
  - Message sent regarding the property listing of alternate access to Village at Long Wharf condo association.
- Tasking
  - Zoning regs contractor has been identified but on hold until further notice
  - Newsletter outreach is needed for additional months
  - PACE Heat Smart Light program has the support of the First Selectman. This would provide energy saving information that can be disseminated to the tax paying community through the mail.
  - PACE SolSmart program representatives are in touch with Town officials to provide information on solar regulations that can potentially apply to Stonington.
  - Town of Groton has passed the wording of a resolution that all major upgrades being planned by the town must consider potential climate impacts.
  - Request for member of the Task Force to host a table upcoming Farmer Markets to share information on the Heat Smart Light program. Further discussion will occur once the information from the program has been shared and there is information on timing.
  - Suggestion was made for the Task Force to recommend that schools integrate solar options into buildings. Task Force responded that both the Town and School Board should look to integrate solar options into builds. Sharon suggested a meeting with the Superintendent to discuss integrating energy saving topics into school curriculum.

- o Sharon, Francis and MaryEllen will meet to discuss EDC joint interest opportunities.
- o Board of Selectmen do not appear to be in favor of a providing a tax abatement for the proposed East Point battery storage facility. Although members of the community are in favor of the technology, they are not in favor of the proposed location.
- Status Updates:
  - o Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board has been appointed. The Board will be meet once Town employee has been identified as the liaison; most likely the first meeting will be in August or September.
  - o New position of Grants and Floodplain Manager was approved but not yet posted
  - o Update Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Program is getting more participation from town officials.
  - o Solar field at the transfer station is on hold
  - o Waiting on draft of Climate Action Plan
  - o Review of Hazardous Mitigation and CCTF priority plans.
    - Suggestion made to review various town plans and look for common actions to facilitate collaboration.
    - Proposed to have a sustainability fair in conjunction with green energy organizations
    - Discussion needed to identify the barriers that commercial building owners have to integrate solar and other energy savings. How could this group be incentivized?
- Grant Funding opportunities
  - o EPA Electric Bus program is available.
- Public Awareness Review
- Comments from the task force members
  - o Colorado has an initiative that zoning regulations include that a certain number of charging stations are required for multiunit buildings over a pre-determined size.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm

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 Mateluska