

TOWN OF STONINGTON

152 Elm Street • Stonington, Connecticut 06378

BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Board of Education District Office Conference Room

40 Field Street Pawcatuck

7:00 PM

Call to order

Budget Presentations:

- Solid Waste with CIP
- Public Works with CIP

Budget Calendar:

- Possible discussion of hearing/meeting dates

Review Previous Minutes:

-

Correspondence:

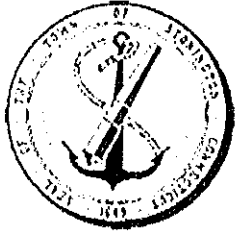
- Article mailed to BOF concerning YMCA CIP request
- Letter from Climate Change Task force regarding Town's "carbon footprint".
- Other

Adjourn

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STONINGTON, CT.

23 FEB 24 AM 10:54

SALLY DUPLICE
TOWN CLERK



Climate Change Task Force

Town of Stonington

152 Elm Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

Officers

Rick Newton
Chairman

MaryEllen Mateleska
Secretary

Members

Demis Unites

Susan Hibbard

Lyndsey Pyrke-
Fairchild

Julia Parry

Sharon Lynch

Francis Pandolfi

Michael Serra

February 17, 2023

To:

Board of Selectmen, Town of Stonington
ATTN: Danielle Chesebrough -- First Selectman
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378

Board of Finance, Town of Stonington
ATTN: Timothy O'Brien -- Chairman
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378

Board of Education, Town of Stonington
ATTN: Farouk Rajab -- Chairman
40 Field Street
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Dear Ms. Chesebrough, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Rajab:

The twenty-two towns in the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments declared a Climate Emergency via Resolution No. 21-3 approved on May 24, 2021 (copy enclosed).

On September 28, 2022 the Town of Stonington Board of Selectmen approved a Resolution of Commitment to Address Climate Change... (copy enclosed).

Both of these documents pledge the Town of Stonington, among other things, to lowering the town's carbon footprint. While the town has made some progress in applying for mitigation grants, the members of the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) have not seen much progress on lowering emissions and certainly not at the pace needed to address the climate emergency.

Eventually, either through market forces or government regulation¹, the town will eliminate or greatly reduce carbon emissions. There has never been a better time to address these issues as billions of dollars of federal funding has been made available through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (and other programs) and assistance to municipalities through Connecticut's Green Bank Municipal Assistance Program².

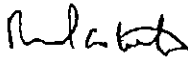
We recommend the following:

- 1) Establish a standing regular meeting agenda item for "Climate Solutions" where your board members will actively address ways to work towards a lower carbon footprint.
- 2) Require every major financial expenditure have a cost benefit analysis comparing the typical business as usual costs of an item or project over its expected lifetime versus purchasing the "greener" alternative. Examples: conventional fossil fuel powered vehicle vs. battery powered vehicle²; replacement of gas-powered generator vs. battery storage; conventional electricity vs solar power etc.

Many Connecticut towns that have chosen greener options have realized significant cost savings while reducing their carbon footprint.

Individual town homeowners appear to be taking significant actions to reduce their carbon emissions as evidenced by installed solar panels, installed air or geo-thermal heat pumps and purchased electric powered vehicles. It would be good to see the town government and school system follow their lead.

For the Climate Change Task Force:



Richard Newton
Chairman

¹ Proposed CT State Legislation: S.B. No. 961 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CARBON-FREE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND ESTABLISHING OTHER SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB00961&which_year=2023

² Connecticut Green Bank Municipal Assistance Program: <https://www.ctgreenbank.com/community-solutions/>

³ Connecticut Department of Transportation Electric Vehicle (EV) Planning Resources website:
<http://bit.ly/3KhfgGG>

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: office@seccog.org

RESOLUTION NO. 21-3 RELATING TO A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in Connecticut the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) has been formed to assess the risk posed by climate change to the state and to identify ways to mitigate this risk, and Public Act 18-182 established targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) recently was addressed by Dr. Roger Kuhns, the Connecticut State Coordinator for the Citizen's Climate Lobby, who presented to the SCCOG ample evidence and documentation of the growing impacts of climate change on our state and why scientists, economists, policy makers and members of the general public view this to be such a critical issue at this time; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments hereby declares there to be a climate change emergency, which threatens the resilience of SCCOG member municipalities and in fact that of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution provides the foundation for continuing and meaningful climate change actions upon which the SCCOG will promote and advocate for in an effort to assist its 22 municipal members in addressing this climate emergency, including its support for federal, state, and local policies that will protect the natural environment while resulting in a safer and healthier climate.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified Secretary of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the voting members of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments on May 19, 2021.

Date: May 24, 2021

Danielle Chesebrough
By: Danielle Chesebrough (May 24, 2021 12:06 EDT)

Danielle Chesebrough, Secretary

Member Municipalities:

Bozrah * Colchester * East Lyme * Franklin * Griswold * Borough of Jewett City * City of Groton * Town of Groton * Lebanon * Ledyard * Lisbon * Montville * New London * North Stonington * Norwich * Preston * Salem * Sprague * Stonington * Stonington Borough * Waterford * Windham

*If language assistance is needed, please contact SCCOG at 860-889-2324, office@seccog.org
Si necesita asistencia lingüística, por favor comuníquese a 860-889-2324, office@seccog.org.*

如果您需要语言帮助, 请致电 860-889-2324 或发送电子邮件至 office@seccog.org.

**RESOLUTION OF COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE,
RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY AS A CENTRAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLE
FOR ALL ACTIONS OF THE TOWN GOVERNMENT OF STONINGTON**

WHEREAS, the occurrence of powerful hurricanes, major forest fires, extreme heat waves, and extreme cold in non-traditional locations both nationally and internationally has heightened our awareness of climate change and the necessity of taking bold steps to combat it; and

WHEREAS, in Stonington, we have experienced a steady rise in sea level, increasingly powerful precipitation events, and higher temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that the changing climate has the potential to negatively affect our population, environment and economy; and

WHEREAS, climate change poses a growing threat to the health and safety of Stonington residents; and

WHEREAS, human activity contributes to these threats, and humans must take action now to mitigate the impacts of, as well as adapting to these threats; and

WHEREAS, by acting now we will lessen the cost and severity of anticipated climate change impacts on future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen is committed to leadership in combating climate change and supporting a more sustainable community, balancing economic development with protecting our natural resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that together, as elected community leaders, we commit to actively promoting and employing resiliency and sustainability principles as we seek solutions that effectively address climate risks, including protecting land, air and water quality, lowering our carbon footprint; combating the devastating impacts of climate change, reducing injury and illness, and maintaining and improving our quality of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen directs all agencies and other parts of town government to explore ways in which their work can positively contribute to a resilient and sustainable future, seek reductions in energy consumption as a step toward a low carbon future; making climate impact assessment a part of all significant decisions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen will consider these guiding principles to be central to all aspects of town governance and operations.

Approved by the Board of Selectman on September 28, 2022

tax payers are already talking Have fund raisers
"absolutely not on this."

8 The Day www.theday.com

Town had no money for Borough bathroom Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ocean Community YMCA asks Stonington for building help

\$125K request made for Camp Cove rainy day shelter

By CARRIE CZERWINSKI
Special to The Day

Mystic — The Ocean Community YMCA has requested that the Town of Stonington include \$125,000 in its 2023-24 capital improvement budget to help construct an 800-square-foot building to support its Camp Cove youth summer program.

The request would help offset the cost of the estimated \$600,000 project at the Nalk family branch on Harry Austin Drive and decrease the need for grant funding and donations.

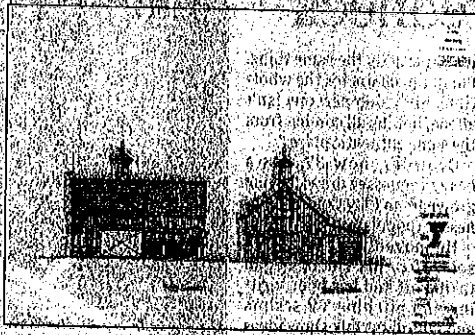
The building is intended to provide a rainy day shelter for the up to 300 children, ages 4-14, who attend the camp. The request now goes to the Board of Finance, which will decide whether to include it in

the 2023-24 budget. Approximately 40%, or 120, of the children who attend the camp, which runs in two-week sessions for 10 weeks each summer, are from Stonington, and limited space keeps those numbers from growing, said Sheila Litty, the YMCA's vice president of operations.

"We typically have 300 kids each week, and we could take more if we had another shelter," she said.

Most camp programming, including canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, swimming lessons, archery and a nature program, takes place outdoors.

"We keep all the campers outside; we set up tents. We do programs that are inside the branch, but most of it is on the waterfront," she said, adding, "there is no shade, and those kids are out in the sun for seven, eight hours a day."



An artist's rendering of the proposed Camp Cove building planned for the Nalk branch of the Ocean Community YMCA in Mystic.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the camp served approximately 150 children each summer, but a scholastic support center developed during hybrid learning, which hosted

approximately 100 students from five school districts on distance learning days; exposed families to the YMCA and led to higher summer enrollment, doubling the previ-

ous camp population.

"We literally have a wait list every session now, so our limiting factor is, honestly, rainy days," Litty said.

On rainy days or in the event of thunder and lightning, staff and campers must be moved indoors. The main building does not have space for additional campers, but a new shelter would be able to host an additional 100 children, for a total of 400 campers.

Approximately 20% of campers in the program receive financial aid amounting to almost the full tuition cost. Stonington campers account for 22% of campers receiving some level of tuition assistance, Litty said.

"No child ever gets turned away, so we work with families to figure out how we can make it work for them," Litty said, explaining that though tuition

is initially based on household income, unique situations are also considered.

Old garage bays near the baseball field will be torn down and be replaced by the new structure which will have sliding barn doors on two sides which can be opened for a more outdoor feel and closed during rainstorms or thunder and lightning storms. The rear of the proposed building will have a covered patio which will serve as sun shelter.

If built, the new building will house outdoor bathrooms, some program storage and serve as the welcome center and drop off area.

Litty said that if the YMCA can raise half, or \$300,000, of the estimated cost of the project, it will begin construction in September and the building will be available for campers when Camp Cove begins in 2024.