



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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Climate Change Task Force

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

Hybrid Format (zoom connection information below)

THE MILNE CENTER RECOMMENDS INDOOR ATTENDEES WEAR A MASK BUT IT IS NO LONGER REQUIRED

1. Call to order 5:15 PM
2. Minutes for approval: November 8, 2022 Special meeting; November 16, 2022 & December 2, 2022 joint subcommittee meeting.
3. Correspondence:
 - a. Email from First Selectman dated December 9, 2022 requesting she be added to January 19, 2023 to discuss future CCTF activities in advance of budget hearings.
 - b. Email to Stonington Schools forwarding information on Rewiring Schools Campaign (see below Section 5).
4. Tasking:
 - a. Zoning regulations – will hold monthly meetings with PZC; two phases; public input in phase II beginning in 2023 – recordings available on youtube channel.
 - b. Community Outreach – Continuing (S. Hibbard)
 - c. EDC joint meeting (S. Lynch) – see minutes from meetings. Press release.
5. Status Update:
 - a. Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board – meeting held November 15, 2022 – draft minutes on website page.
 - b. New position approved in budget: Grants and Floodplain Manager (job has been posted).
 - c. Stonington Curriculum review (no new activity - S. Lynch)
 - d. School solar research project – (M. Serra)

[Relating to 5c and 5d: Rewiring Schools: How to campaign for a comfier, healthier, carbon-free campus <https://bit.ly/3Piywvn>

6. Grant opportunities:
 - a. FEMA Grants – deadline January 27, 2023 - <https://bit.ly/3iAP3XG>
 - b. CT DEEP Recreational Trails grants – deadline March 1, 2023 - <https://bit.ly/3UykDCN>
 - c. CT Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Grant Program – deadline January 18, 2023 - <https://bit.ly/3he3S21>

7. Public awareness / outreach / conferences:
 - a. UCONN Today - CIRCA Researchers Helping CT Towns Get Wired in for a Clean Energy Transition – December 5, 2022 <https://bit.ly/3HbkAJR>
 - b. PHYS.ORG - Small spaces can make a big difference to wildlife, new study suggests – November 28, 2022 - <https://bit.ly/3FtjmIO>
 - c. Yale Environment 360 - How Floating Wetlands Are Helping to Clean Up Urban Waters – November 22, 2022 - <https://bit.ly/3h82nSS>
 - d. WYPR - Montgomery County approves near ban of fossil fuels in new buildings – November 30, 2022 - <https://bit.ly/3HkgHIU>
 - e. NPR Shortwave podcast - Three Takeaways from The COP27 Climate Conference – November 23, 2022 - <https://bit.ly/3gYQBdH>
 - f. Greater Groton - Downtown Mystic Resiliency & Sustainability Plan - <https://bit.ly/3XWMijC>
 - g. Motor Trend - You're Being Lied to About Electric Cars – December 6, 2023 - <https://bit.ly/3hdSIQs>
 - h. BOF minutes of November 2, 2022 showing CIP budget request from Mason’s Island for feasibility study to protect Mason’s Island Road and causeway from frequent flooding and sea level rise.
 - Bentz – suggested an incremental approach over the next few years
 - Young – noted problems with using CIP especially when other low-lying areas aren’t addressed
 - O’Brien – study of low-lying area isn’t feasible due to DPW director leaving. Also noted DPW, Town Engineer and First Selectman stated study isn’t feasible due to current staffing levels. Chairman said to address it during the next budget cycle.
 - i. Reuter’s – The Collapse of Insects – December 6, 2022 - <https://bit.ly/3FmbBTB>

8. Comments from task force members / public / open discussion

9. Adjournment

10. Next meeting: January 19, 2023 5:15 PM at Mystic Aquarium’s Milne Center

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82400130006?pwd=N1p2SHFjWWWhIV3JZSHlvMWt3YWZSRQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 0013 0006

Passcode: Climate

Mission Statement: The mission of the Climate Change Task Force 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.

Stonington residents and others with an interest are invited to attend the monthly meetings and participate in the discussions



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