



# 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

## SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

### Climate Change Task Force

Milne Center for Ocean Science and Conservation – Mystic Aquarium

December 16, 2021 – 5:15 pm

**PER ORDER OF FIRST SELECTMAN AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MILNE CENTER ALL ATTENDEES MUST WEAR A MASK**

1. Call to order 5:15 PM
2. Approval of draft special meeting minutes: November 18, 2021
3. Correspondence:
  - a. Email to from Pam McDonald dated December 7, 2021 regarding possible People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) presentation at January 2022 meeting.
4. Tasking:
  - a. Justification for creating new position: Climate Sustainability and Floodplain Manager
  - b. Zoning regulations
  - c. Community Outreach
  - d. Mission Statement
  - e. Employee handbook
5. Status Update:
  - a. Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program – USDA/NRCS (D. Unites representative) – waiting on meeting
  - b. Status of populating the Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board – Board of Selectmen discussed at December 8, 2021 meeting – from the draft meeting minutes:
    - (7) Old Business
      - Discussion - Flood Erosion and Control Board

Ms. Chesebrough gave an update noting that she met with the Town Planner to discuss in more detail as well as reviewed the minutes from other Towns that have this Board in place to get a better understanding of the topics they are overseeing. Based on the review, she will meet with the Director of Public Works and Town Engineer to discuss potential next steps. A new engineering position will be included in next years budget which could include overseeing this Board. Further discussion will occur in the future after the budget process is completed.
      - c. Status of establishing and populating a Stormwater Authority – Board of Selectmen decision

- d. Update on discussion of solar field at the transfer station – no additional information provided
  - e. Status of input from department heads for Climate Action Plan (referenced in First Selectman’s email to the CCTF on July 1, 2021) – waiting on draft from First Selectman
6. Grant opportunities:
- a. See separate pdf file entitled “New England Green Infrastructure Resources”
  - b. CIRCA – Municipal Resilience Grant Program 2022
  - c. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund 2021 RFP Released
  - d. DECD: CT Communities Challenge Grant – (more of an EDC grant)
7. Public awareness / outreach / conferences:
- a. NFWF grant awards (see separate pdf) – ECCD won two with work in Stonington; Groton won one for downtown Mystic resiliency; UCONN won one for oyster shell recycling in Groton & Mystic
  - b. Vice, November 30, 2021 – Climate Scientists on the Most Shocking Thing They’ve Seen - <https://bit.ly/3dKCKvG>
  - c. The White House, December 8, 2021 - FACT SHEET: President Biden Signs Executive Order Catalyzing America’s Clean Energy Economy Through Federal Sustainability - <https://bit.ly/3pNFLY9>
  - d. Connecticut Sea Grant, December 7, 2021 - New staff will help communities with growing climate challenges - <https://bit.ly/3dFq7IP>
8. Comments from task force members / public / open discussion
9. Adjournment
10. Next meeting: January 20, 2022 5:15 PM at Mystic Aquarium’s Milne Center

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

*“The climate crisis will be orders of magnitude worse than the pandemic if we do not take the action that we can still take to avert the tragedy that we see coming towards us” -Tom Rivett-Carnac (Ted Radio Hour / Climate Mindset / May 22, 2020)*

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