

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Town Of Stonington Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting
March 18, 2021 - 7:00 pm

Zoom

Present: Susan Hibbard, Rick Newton, Julia Parry, Dennis Unites, Dana Hewson, Sharon Lynch, Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild and MaryEllen Mateleska

Absent: June Strunk

Call to order at 7:02pm

- February minutes approved
- Review of correspondence submitted to Board of Selectmen.
 - Climate Change Task Force is not declaring the climate emergency but requesting that the Board of Selectmen declare on behalf of the town.
 - This letter provides the Task Force an opportunity to ensure that these concerns that may be shared by others are addressed in the presentation.
 - Motion made and passed to send a letter of acknowledgment to the Board of Selectmen and invitation of author to join the upcoming presentation.
- Review of the Climate Emergency Declaration public presentation
 - Looking for advice from Board of Selectmen as to the presenter and format of the presentation (public forum, virtual meeting, webinar, town meeting). Members of Task Force, Sarah, and Helen should be involved as well as content experts available to answer questions.
 - Review of the content of the presentation. Suggestion to incorporating information on actions that Stonington has already accomplished or have planned.
- Discussion on the draft letter to Board of Finance supporting creation of Climate Resiliency Fund and an Environmental / Climate / Flood Plain Manager position.
 - Request to include an introductory paragraph to highlight the recent electric issues in Texas and how Stonington cannot continue to delay necessary investments.
 - Motion made and passed (1 abstention) to approve and send to the Board of Finance as is current written.
- Review of Climate Task Force Action items to be prioritized and submitted to the First Selectmen, per her request.
 - Each member was asked to review spreadsheet and prioritize action items.
 - Spreadsheet has been narrowed down to top 14 for members to review and resubmit.
- Review of articles in the news
 - Public hearing on March 8 legislation of SB884, HB6441 and SB882.
 - Upcoming climate TED talk at URI on March 20 and April 3
 - Upcoming CIRCA Webinar: CIRCA Change Vulnerability Index Webinar on March 23
- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 20 at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM

Mary Ellen Matelska