

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Town Of Stonington

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

July 18, 2019 - 7:00 pm

Location: Community Service Room Department of Human Services
166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, Ct 06379

Present: Dana Hewson, Susan Hibbard, MaryEllen Mateleska, Rick Newton, and Dennis Unites,

Town Employee: Scot Deledda, PE – Town Engineer

Absent: Jeff Callahan, Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild, Max Wojtas

Guests: Mystic Seaport, Fran Hoffman

Call to order at 7:00pm

- May meeting minutes unanimously approved
- Review of CT DEEP / UCONN ECO – road flooding maps (<https://cteco.uconn.edu/viewer/index.html?viewer=slamm>) which illustrates road flooding and frequency of flooding events. A CLEAR webinar will be scheduled to present on this information.
- Long Island Sound Study's Science and Technical Advisory Committee group reports that CT and NY will have periods of increased rain events as well as longer periods of drought as a result of climate change. The Community Engagement Committee has identified climate resilience and supporting municipalities in outreach messaging as a priority.
- No update on the status of a Flood and Erosion Control Board.
- The Storm Water Task Force will be invited to hold a joint meeting in September to discuss joint initiatives.
- Review of articles in the news:
 - New York Times – July 8, 2019 – 'We Cannot Save Everything': A Historic Neighborhood Confronts Rising Seas- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/08/science/historic-preservation-climate-newport.html>
 - Business Insider – July 9, 2019 - One of Antarctica's biggest glaciers will soon reach a point of irreversible melting. That would cause sea levels to rise at least 1.6 feet. https://www.businessinsider.com/antarctic-glacier-on-way-to-irreversible-melt-2019-7?utm_content=buffer45d03&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com

- <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/june-hottest-month-ever-earth-2019-weather-heatwave-hot-a8984691.html?fbclid=IwAR0wq3-4mh7GAQszFgROF0aeNtUcuVF273j4ZIEMM5MzLY7i6UFa7uLhNk>
- Independent – July 2, 2019 - June was hottest ever recorded on Earth, European satellite agency announces <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/june-hottest-month-ever-earth-2019-weather-heatwave-hot-a8984691.html?fbclid=IwAR0wq3-4mh7GAQszFgROF0aeNtUcuVF273j4ZIEMM5MzLY7i6UFa7uLhNk>
 - Insure Our Future – July 1, 2019 - First Major U.S. Insurance Company to Stop Insuring and Investing in Coal https://www.insureourfuture.us/updates/2019/7/1/first-major-us-insurance-company-to-stop-insuring-and-investing-in-coal?fbclid=IwAR3zwaJhZGJG50UMwgUEVBcVlKzGOWygoHQYO-Wv_iJenXcKhCwV8PKch1U
 - NPR – June 19, 2019 - More Bad Buzz For Bees: Record Number Of Honeybee Colonies Died Last Winter https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2019/06/19/733761393/more-bad-buzz-for-bees-record-numbers-of-honey-bee-colonies-died-last-winter?utm_medium=social&utm_term=nprnews&utm_campaign=npr&utm_source=facebook.com&fbclid=IwAR1dQTP7BY8KyUq6pOfVR4ul-j8Q--C2em6VpvBd1mhZYnGrFXnrLAnOabY
 - Temperatures are trending to be among the warmest ever recorded last month per NE Regional Climate Center – <http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/>
 - NOAA High Tide Bulletin – Summer 2019 <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/high-tide-bulletin/summer-2019/>
 - Alexander von Humboldt was quoted as saying in the 1800 – “Man can only act upon nature and appropriate her forces to his use, by comprehending her laws.”
 - Stonington is registered for the Sustainable CT program (<https://sustainablect.org/>) where the POCD Implementation Committee is responsible for implementing and reporting sustainability upgrades. To date, no points have been credited to the town.
 - Fran Hoffman will work as the Climate Change Task Force liaison with the Plan of Conservation & Development Implementation Committee.
 - Next meeting is Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

Mary Ellen Mateluska