

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE
Town Of Stonington Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting

September 30, 2021 - 7:00 pm

Location: Milne Ocean Science and Conservation Center (at Mystic Aquarium)

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

Guest: June Strunk (BOS liaison)

Call to order at 7:01pm

- September 16 meeting minutes approved
- Review of correspondences:
 - CIP (Capital Improvement Program) budget hearing meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7th at 5:00pm; all members of the Task Force will try to attend and support the recommendations. Obtaining a rating of a B (urgent) or A (committed expense) is critical in the funding process.
 - Two applications to join the Climate Change Task Force have been received. These applications will be reviewed at the next meeting.
 - A request has been made for a joint Climate Change Task Force and Board of Selectmen special meeting on October 21, 2021, at the District Office at 7:00pm.
- Discussion on recommendations for including into the 2022-2023 Town of Stonington Annual Budget.
 - It is recommended that the new position of a Climate Sustainability & Floodplain Manager be included as a General Fund Expenditure item. This position would serve to coordinate climate change sustainability and resiliency for the town. Other towns with this position have seen increases in energy saving costs and grant awards that have exceeded this position's salary.
 - A line item of \$500,000 per year toward a Climate Resiliency Fund is requested to be included in the Capital Improvement Budget. These funds are critical to ensure that the town prepared for impending climate impacts as well as serve as matching contributions to federal and state grants. Additionally, this fund is important to maintain a AAA rating.
 - A line item to install electric vehicle charging stations is requested to be included in the Capital Improvement Budget.
- Task Force recommends including all requests in a bulleted form on the first page and signing the names of all Task Force Members.
- Recommendation letter with amendments is unanimously approved.
- Comments
 - Update on PACE discussions (People's Action for Clean Energy) with Julia Parry and First Selectman. PACE has the resources to provide technical support and

assistance on generating an Energy Plan. They can assist with generation of graphics, models, and define actions (both small and large scale) that can be taken to mitigate climate impacts.

- Connecticut is in the top seven states with the highest electric rates, including taxes. Alternative sources, including nuclear, are now being considered as options. High electric costs are impacting the ability of switching to electric vehicles. www.globalenergyinstitute.org/average-electricity-retail-prices-map. Solar arrays would assist with the cost but identification of viable locations is necessary. PACE can assist with the identification of these areas.
- Special joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7:00pm at the District Office.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM

Mary Ellen Mateleska