



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

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Town Of Stonington Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting

October 21, 2021 - 7:00 pm

Location: District Office (former Pawcatuck Middle School)

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

Guests: Danielle Chesebrough, June Strunk (BOS liaison), and Deborah Downie

Call to order at 7:00pm

- September 30 meeting minutes approved
- Discussion with First Selectmen
- Request for task force members to increase community outreach and awareness of climate change impacts
- Discussion on budget recommendations. Need for an Assistant Town Engineer with a focus on storm water management and grant writing in addition to Sustainability Manager. Both positions are needed to support the town's climate resilience. Task force members will submit information on the financial benefits of filling both positions.
- Additional information on benefits is needed to garner support for the \$500,000 request for Climate Adaptation Mitigation Program. Priority projects of Mason Island causeway, Lord's Point sea wall and Holmes Street sea wall can have the costs offset using these funds as matching funds on grant proposals.
- \$30,000 request for electric charging stations is dependent on the update of the zoning regulations. Appeals can be made through Zoning and Planning to expedite the process. Town partnerships with local organizations can offset costs as well as integration of "green" components into new construction will prepare for future improvements.
- Discussion on the population of the Control Board and Task Force priorities and functions. The list of responsibilities outlined in the State documents is robust for the Control Board, the Task Force could continue to work on outreach and BOS directives without overlapping efforts.
- Suggested priorities for the Task Force include; generating a mission statement, assisting with the update of zoning regulations, provide grant researching and writing assistance, and climate change community outreach/education efforts.
- Information shared on other climate impacts effecting Stonington, including extreme heat impacts, in addition to sea level rise. Planting trees (e.g. Old William Moss Farm project) can help to mitigate some of these impacts.

- No additional information on the Wood-Pawcatuck River initiative. A resolution has been passed and DennisUnites is representing on the committee.
- Applications of potential new Climate Change Task Force members is with First Selectman for review following Task Force review.
- Review of public awareness documents.
 - Recommendation to listen to the "How We Survive" podcast from Market Place
- Task Force calendar review. Task Force will meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday at District Offices at 5:30pm, pending room availability.
- Next meeting, Thursday, November 18, 2021

Adjourned: 8:41pm

Mary Ellen Matiluba