



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

November 18, 2021 – 5:15pm

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

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

Guests: June Strunk (BOS liaison)

Call to order at 5:15pm

- October 21 meeting minutes approved with amendments
- Review of correspondence from First Selectmen
 - Town has applied to the Urban Action Tree grant.
 - Climate Action Mobilization Plan is close to completion and is a solid start towards actionable goals and commitment to action for 2022.
 - Establishing the Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board is still being planned but is pending the resources needed to support the board. The Board of Selectmen feel that there is a role for both the Board and Climate Change Task Force to continue; especially if the Task Force continues to focus on grant prospecting and educational outreach.
- Discussion on Tasks
 - Request for financial justification on the benefits of hiring a Climate Sustainability and Floodplain Manager. Three positions are needed to support the town; 1. new Engineering position, 2. Climate Sustainability position, 3. Mental Health provider to support Human Services.
 - Review of cities/towns with updated zoning regulations. See Prep-RI Liability resource.
 - To increase town awareness on climate topics, Susan Hibbard will draft a paragraph on what people can do to become more resilient to be shared with the town for dissemination.
 - At the December meeting, Task Force members will create a mission statement. All members are requested to come with a one sentence draft.
- No updated on the Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program. Dennis will continue to reach out.
- Approval of 2022 meeting schedule. The Task Force will meet at the Milne Ocean Science and Conservation Center (at Mystic Aquarium) on the third Thursday of each month at 5:15pm.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has announced the release of the Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund 2021 Request for Proposals (RFP). Stonington does qualify for fund and there is no non-federal match requirement. Additional info

can be found online at <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/emergency-coastal-resilience-fund>

- Review of public awareness/ outreach/ conferences
 - A summary of the recent climate conference - <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56901261>
- The Stonington Police Department and Public Works Department are exploring electric vehicles.
- Representative from PACE (People's Action for Clean Energy) discussed the resources on the new website (www.pacecleanenergy.org) and is looking for ways to collaborate with the Task Force on sharing information.
- Next Climate Change Task Force is Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 5:15pm at the Milne Ocean Science and Conservation Center. Members of the public are invited.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.

Mary Ellen Matiliska