



# 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

December 16, 2021 – 5:15pm

Location: Milne Center for Ocean Science and Conservation – Mystic Aquarium

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

Guests: June Strunk (BOS liaison)

Call to order at 5:15pm

- November draft meeting minutes approved
- Review of email from Pam McDonald from PACE. Recommendation is to extend an invitation for a PACE representative to provide a presentation (30-minute time limit) on the resources available in assisting the town to become more climate resilient. If applicable, a public presentation may be endorsed by the task force for future climate change outreach initiatives.
- Task Force unanimously votes to submit the justification for creating new Climate Sustainability and Floodplain Manager position to Board of Selectmen.
- No update on zoning regulations but recommendation is made for the POCD updates and zoning regulations to be done concurrently and to complement each other.
- Report from Julia Parry on climate change initiatives in other CT towns. She has amassed sustainability plans, webinars, and other resources but there is not much available on implementation of plans. CIRCA reported that they will be drafting model ordinances for towns within the next six months. Stonington may wait to see the draft ordinances before making any changes.
- Report from Susan Hibbard on town educational outreach initiatives. Task Force approved the submission of "Climate Resiliency – Did you know?" series to be reviewed by First Selectman. This information would provide climate resiliency tips for residents and would be shared via Town communication channels.
- Review of mission statement drafts. A shared document will be disseminated so that all task force members can make suggestions/edits prior to the next meeting.
- Task force makes the recommendation for the town to adopt a policy guide, like the *Money, Energy, and Sustainability policy guide* from Homer, Alaska. The guide would provide Town of Stonington employees with recommendations for departmental energy and sustainability practices.
- Wood Pawcatuck Rivers Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program update from Dennis Unites.

- Task Force will research Flood & Erosion Control Boards in other CT towns to look for active boards, committee members, town employees involved, accomplishments, meeting schedules, etc. June Strunk will meet with other town departments to discuss how this board could work. CIRCA is hosting a Flood & Erosion Control Board focused webinar on January 7, 2022
- Funding is available to assist in establishing Stormwater Authority. New London is an example of a town that has benefited from an active Stormwater Authority.
- Review of grant opportunities – a list of shovel ready projects is needed to be competitive with these grants as well as future funding. A request has been made to review a successfully awarded grant proposal.
- Next meeting is Thursday, January 20, 2020 at 5:15pm at Milne Center for Ocean Science and Conservation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

*Mary Ellen Mateluska*