

# CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

## Town Of Stonington Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting  
January 21, 2021 - 7:00 pm  
Zoom

Present: Susan Hibbard, Rick Newton, Julia Parry, Dennis Unites, Dana Hewson, MaryEllen Mateleska, Sharon Lynch

Absent: Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild

Board of Selectmen liaison: June Strunk

Call to order at 7:04pm

- December meeting minutes approved
- Review of correspondence in response to Climate Change Emergency Declaration
  - Responses provided additional suggestions for both focus for the Task Force in the future, in regards to public outreach, actions items to mitigate climate impacts, as well as need to further study climate impacts on the region.
  - Need has been expressed to better inform the community on climate science. By state law, we must utilize CIRCA findings to guide the town.
  - Suggestion to revise Declaration to include information from GC3 but alteration of the document at this time will lead to a resubmission and review from the First Selectman office.
- Update on Climate Emergency Declaration
  - First Selectman is anticipating receiving responses by end of January and have a public comment and community
  - Need to determine what messaging to communicate to garner public support of the declaration, how to communicate to reach diverse audiences, and which models of impact we are supporting. February meeting will focus on messaging for the public meeting in the coming months.
  - Task Force needs to request funding to support community outreach.
- GC3 Report was sent to governor on January 15, 2021 which outlined recommendations to mitigate climate impacts.
- UCONN Climate Corps students will be working on projects to make recommendations on changes in regulations related to climate neutrality and increase the use of solar panels on town properties. Any task force member who may be interested in serving as a mentor on either of these projects so participate in upcoming call.
- Review of articles in the news
- Comments
  - Prioritization of the Coastal Resiliency Plan has been requested from the First Selectman office. One prioritization has been forwarded along, the planning department will then look at funding needs.
- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:07PM

*Mary Ellen Mateliska*