

# CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

## Town Of Stonington

### Meeting Minutes

#### Regular Meeting

November 16, 2017 - 7:00 pm

Location: Community Service Room Department of Human Services  
166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, Ct 06379

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

Town Employee: Scot Deledda, PE – Town Engineer

Guests: Rob Simmons First Selectmen, Amanda Barnes, Beth Sullivan, Stonington High School Students

Call to order at 7:02pm

- September meeting minutes approved
- In response to the letter submitted to the Town with recommendations on how to incorporate climate change impacts, Rob Simmons addressed Task Force members and made the following points:
  - Thanked the committee for their time and service
  - Concurs that funds should once again be incorporated into the budget to address climate impact related capital improvements. Although the town is now in a position to utilize these funds, the current state budget provides challenges to funding such projects.
  - Formal adoption of Task 3.3.11 will be reviewed at the next Planning & Zoning meeting in February 2018.
  - Recommended that the Task Force discuss the potential of transitioning to a Commission and its role within the Town.
  - A grant writer position was deemed not necessary at this time as there is already internal staff in place to manage the grant process. All potential grants should be forwarded directly to the First Selectman.
  - At this time, a newly created or joint position to incorporate climate impacts in planning and town projects is not possible due to hiring freeze.
  - Task Force members were reassured that climate change impacts and sea level rise mitigation strategies are discussed in town meetings. As new projects are budgeted and funded, these strategies will be incorporated into future projects.
- Review on CT Department of Housing Planning Grant final meeting and report
  - Final report illustrates a significant sea level rise impact on the town of Stonington by 2050.
  - Members requested the graphics and maps to be made available to the public and easily viewable.
  - Suggested that a press release be drafted to communicate that the project is complete and the report is available.

- Discussion on the need to raise climate impact concerns during Economic Development and Planning & Zoning discussions. Climate impacts should be integrated into the zoning regulations to create a resilient community.
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- Nature Conservancy has requested support for graduate students from Conway School to conduct a landscape design resiliency project based on CT Department of Housing Planning Grant report. Recommendations of Mystic Seaport, Stonington Borough and Murphy Point will be communicated to Director of Planning.
- Review of upcoming regional climate and resiliency workshops. Susan Hibbard and Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild will attend upcoming workshops and provide an update to Task Force members at next meeting.
- Discussion on latest trends in energy and climate related news items as well as local climate talks and presentations
- Task force members will research Connecticut statutes and other town committees as it pertains to the formation of a Climate Change Commission. Findings and recommendations will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Next meeting January 18, 2018 at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

*Mary Ellen Matelaska*