

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Town Of Stonington

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 16, 2020 - 7:00 pm

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

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

Town Employee: Keith Brynes,

Board of Selectmen liaison: June Strunk

Call to order at 7:02pm

- Introduction of new members, Julia Parry, and Sharon Lynch
- November meeting minutes approved
- Rick met with First Selectman to discuss the priority of the Climate Change Task Force. First task is to review the SustainableCT 2020 Master Action List and identify which committees, organization, and departments are in best alignment. Additional information on SustainableCT structure, training opportunities and past efforts will be forwarded along to the committee and will review prior to a special meeting on February 20, 2020 at 7:00pm.
- Review of upcoming budget cycle; recommendation to increase current priority rating. Discussion on Public Act 19-77, which outlines funds for climate change and coastal resiliency. Task Force members will make efforts to attend the January 30, 2020, 8:30am meeting to support the effort.
- Beautification Committee looking to better align and work with the task force on town owned land. Rick will attend the Beautification meeting to explore opportunities for alignment.
- A steering committee is being developed by the town to organize a public event to educate the public on excess nitrogen and steps to mitigate non-point source pollution. MaryEllen Mateleska has volunteered to represent the task force on the event.
- Review of climate related articles:
 - Governor's Council on Climate Change – identifies the Governor's methods of reducing carbon emissions.
 - Managed Retreat in the Age of Climate Change – full day retreat on climate adaptation
 - Discussion on items in the news
 - Citizen Climate Lobby has a bill introduced in Congress which will enact a carbon dividend/fee which would be passed along to make greener energy more affordable.
- Discussion on how to prioritize the current funds that are earmarked for coastal resiliency. First Selectmen will make the suggestion to mark those funds into a rolling item line that would continue to accrue

- UCONN Engineering students are working on the Mason Island causeway and Keith will report on the findings once they are complete. An external firm is looking into updating regulation on wastewater/storm water to better align with state regulations.
- Mystic Seaport has developed committees to look at climate change impacts on the campus.
- Special meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:11PM

Mary Ellen Matelaska