



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

Francis Pandolfi

Michael Serra

Jane Dawson

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Town of Stonington Draft Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

February 15, 2024 – 5:15pm

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

Present In-person: Rick Newton, Jane Dawson, Dennis Unites, MaryEllen Mateleska, Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild, Sharon Lynch, Susan Hibbard

Guests: Aundre Bumgardner, Kristin Foster, members of the public

Call to order 5:15pm

- January meeting minutes approved.
- Review of correspondences
 - Review of FOIA correspondence.
 - Kristin Foster presented on Mason’s Island Shoreline Project. Reviewed the feasibility study and potential of a living shoreline. Discussed funding associated with the construction of the project.
- Discussion on CIP budget. Funding requests included \$500,000 for resilience fund to serve as grant match. The \$245,000 request for EV charging stations was cut to \$20,000. Request to attend the next meeting to support these asks.
- Tasking
 - Zoning regulation update is continuing and a public meeting on the proposed resiliency and sustainability measures is scheduled for March.
 - Request for members to submit their ranking for the next round of priorities, prior to the next meeting.
 - Discussion on composting program renewal, plastic bag recycling, and alternatives to the pink bag recycling program.
 - Task force members will be hosting a table in early March at the Farmer’s Market.
 - Assistance is requested to review the Sustainable CT Climate Leader qualifications.
 - Plan of Conservation and Development update is going well. Special meetings have been requested to further the process.
 - Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience, and Erosion Control Board update and are continuing the stormwater authority discussion.

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TOWN CLERK

- Town of Groton has completed a Mystic Resiliency Plan and recommendations are made to review to identify shared priorities
- State Representative Aundre Bumgardner presented on environmental priorities for the current legislative session. Including Senate Bill 11, which will allow for agreements between municipalities, HB5052, supporting schools in exploration of energy efficiency efforts, and HB5004, the CT climate protection act. Recommendation to be vocal and submit written testimony or in-person testimony.
- Review of grant opportunities
- Review of public awareness articles
- Next Meeting March 21, 2024, at 5:15PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Climate Change Task Force mission is to identify climate resiliency risk and community vulnerability within the town of Stonington, and assist the town in determining priorities, actions and solutions to mitigate these risks.