

Ad Hoc Climate Action Task Force  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 27, 2018

Present: Chad Rittenhouse, Robert Thorson, Virginia Walton (staff)

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by acting chair Rittenhouse.

The minutes for February 27, 2018 were deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

The notes taken from the March 5, 2018 meeting with Director of Human Services, Pat Schneider, were matched up with the climate actions from the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan. Rittenhouse will create a spreadsheet for Human Services that Walton will distribute to task force members. At the next meeting, the task force should work on an outline of a final report that will be given to the Sustainability Committee and decide on who will be working on which parts of the report. Rittenhouse offered to create a draft outline for the task force to review. There should be a "looking ahead" section in the report, which Thorson offered to write. The report should address building climate knowledge and identify resources that are available. How does the Town get its climate information? What channel might be created for key Town staff to be well informed? For instance, the US National Climate Assessment, a well vetted source of information, regularly publishes northeast regional reports of updated information. Assuming that the task force is disbanded, one recommendation might be to create a part time position for an adaptive response coordinator that monitors climate reports and acts as a liaison with departments.

Walton reported that Mansfield has an opportunity to participate in a community resilience building workshop through Sustainable CT. The free five hour workshop would be given by The Nature Conservancy in the Town and focused on Mansfield issues. In order for the Town to be selected, a letter of interest identifying who is interested in participating in the workshop, needs to be sent by April 6, 2018. If selected, the workshop must be done before August 1, 2018. The ideal time for a workshop would be after Mother's Day but before public schools ends.

Attendees talked about their memories of climate advocate George Rawitscher. Walton will let members know when the memorial service has been planned.

Meeting was adjourned 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton