

Alessandra Pinto

ENVS 3999

Reflection

In my project, I worked with the Town of Groton to investigate how the town is impacted by extreme heat, a consequence of anthropogenic climate change. I was eager to collaborate on a project that had tangible implications for a community.

A challenge that I faced at the beginning of the semester was that I was unclear about the goal of the project. However, this was cleared up through meetings with Alexis Torres, a climate change intern at CIRCA. She was my main contact point throughout this project, along with Megan Granato, the program manager. I learned that my project would entail three main characteristics. First, research Groton's history with extreme heat and its specific vulnerabilities. Second, conduct research on similar municipalities and their approach to extreme heat. Third, utilize Groton's zoning policies to create a plan catered to the Town whilst incorporating ideas from the other municipalities. Through extensive meetings with Alexis, I slowly began building my project. I experienced a slight impediment when it was brought to my attention that I had mistakenly used the incorrect zoning policies, since I was under the impression that the Town of Groton was synonymous with the City of Groton. Despite this mistake, I had already grown comfortable with reading zoning policies. This allowed me to efficiently revise my project and work on my presentation.

The best part of the project was gaining experience with zoning policy. My minor is Environmental Economics and Policy; understanding what this field entails was very illuminating. I learned that a lot needs to be considered when planning the development of a region. There are many laws that must be followed, and this can be adapted in such a way that

promotes environmental resilience. Although I am not planning on joining a zoning committee, I am grateful I had the experience. Another positive aspect of the project was the opportunity to contribute to a real-world issue. I felt inspired by learning about what other municipalities are doing in response to extreme heat. Developing the final recommendations was rewarding, since I was able to draw from other communities while also

Overall, I am grateful to Climate Corps for enabling me to further explore the topics of climate resilience and adaptation. Although my project was challenging at times, it was an exposure to a real-life scenario and an introduction to zoning policies.

