

OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: OLD SAYBROOK TOWN HALL

DATE/TIME: APRIL 4, 2023, 4:01 P.M

ATTENDEES: Gary Albanese, Richard Bovino, Marie Cerino, Jay Costello, John Kennedy, Dave Pettinicchi, Joe Russo, Tom Tokarz

EXCUSED: Joanne Breen

AGENDA ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 4:01 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review of previous meeting minutes – Minutes were reviewed. Some associations expressed concern regarding the 50-year beach markers that were proposed at the last meeting, so that action will take place on maps, vs. on actual street locations. Motion to accept minutes made by John Kennedy and seconded by Marie Cerino. Previous meeting minutes approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report - No report.

Treasurer's Report

1. OSCRC received our EIN number. We have opened a bank account at Liberty Bank and association checks for \$250 each have been deposited. Accounting books are being set up. Only financial liability to date is incurred legal fees and the fees to set up the website.

Chair's Report

1. OSCRC still needs to submit state and federal applications for non-profit corporation status.
2. Knollwood Beach still needs to designate an "alternate" board member. Jay Costello indicated that Rose Zeigler is the alternate for Indian Town.
3. Introduction of Richard Bovino as a member of the board of directors representing Bel Aire Manor. Rich will be a non-voting member until the appropriate corporation documents can be updated.
4. Announcements of losers and winners for DEEP Climate Resilience Fund Proposal is expected in April.
5. OSCRC website (osrcct.org) is active but internal links need to be completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Westbrook Planning Grant - Gary Albanese reported that conversations are continuing with the towns who are administering the Westbrook planning grant.

Chalker Beach Study – Gary Albanese reported that Chalker Beach, in collaboration with a company called RACE and UCONN CIRCA, is proposing for a cost of \$18,000 to conduct a planning study for implementing a living shoreline and beach nourishment. The money for this study must be approved by the Chalker Beach association. Unrelated to this study, Gary mentioned that there was a public zoning meeting on May 18th to address Whole Foods plans for moving into a lot near Chalker Beach. He noted the Chalker Beach attorneys are seeking financial assistance from Whole Foods to remedy the tide gates in the marshes. However, an environmental study must be done prior to any remediation.

Chris Costa letter of support - Chris Costa is requesting a letter of support for a new multi-town proposal (a description of the proposal was provided to Board prior to meeting). Joe will work with Gary on the letter of support. Since Chalker Beach is listed prominently in the proposal, the OSCRC letter of support will suggest some specific mitigation items that need to be addressed in the proposed project. Gary and Joe will plan a conference call with Chris Costa to better understand the proposal goals and the role of Chalker Beach. Gary and Joe will do a draft of specific recommendations to be in the letter and in a cover email and share it with the OSCRC Board prior to its submission to Chris. John asked when the deadline was for the letter of support. Joe believed that the letter was needed in a couple of weeks.

Because OSCRC and the shoreline towns' coastal resilience committee of are asking each other for support, it was suggested that representatives should be sent to each other's meetings. Ed suggested that one of our board members get onto their committee. It was reiterated again the need to talk to other shoreline communities that have successfully mitigated coastal resilience threats similar to those be addressed by the OSCRC. These successful mitigation efforts should be included in future proposals.

Back River Living Shoreline Grant Plan - Marie Cerino reported on the Back River Marsh study conducted by GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (Norwood, MA). This looked at the erosion and scour holes due to eddies created by a large amount of water flowing under the bridge out towards the Long Island Sound. Multiple feet of marsh have been lost by the rapid outflow. DOT is currently planning to replace the bridge with a similar opening and DEEP has denied Great Hammock Beach Association's request for a larger opening. The bridge is under review by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Marie shared with the board a recent Back River Living Shoreline study conducted by GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (Norwood, MA). GZA has shared upcoming funding sources (Long Island Sound Futures Fund and the National Coastal Resilience Fund) with Great Hammock Beach Association and has agreed to help with the grant writing. Proposals for these funds must come from a municipality or non-profit corporation. Carl Fortuna suggested GHBA ask OSCRC to

handle the proposals as a non-profit corporation. One of the sources (Long Island Sound Futures Fund) requires matching funds. The match does not have to be cash...we can put "hours" in a proposal. OSCRC could seek a match by requesting either ARPA Town of Old Saybrook surplus funds. However, the use of ARPA funds must be approved by the Town of Old Saybrook Board of Aldermen. Joe proposed that the OSCRC first tackle the National Coastal Resilience Fund, as it is due soonest (April 12).

Marie is going to verify if GZA is willing to write the grant for the National Coastal Resilience Fund by being paid through the LI grant writing assistance program. It was stressed that we only have a week to get a pre-proposal in. OSCRC will manage funds if we get a grant with GZA help. Accordingly, we need to know what GZA wants from us for the pre-proposal. A motion was made by John and seconded by Gary to have the OSCRC be the grantee on National Coastal Resilience Fund, with the pre-proposal to be written by GZA at no expense to OSCRC, and with the understanding that it will be reviewed by the board and outside counsel. Motion accepted unanimously by the Board.

A question came up about liabilities associated with managing a grant. Joe agreed to talk with our attorney about potential liabilities.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.