

OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Location: Mindy K's Restaurant, Old Saybrook, CT

Date: April 2, 2024, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Jay Costello, Tara Gustafson, Connie Hughes, Sally Pritchard, Ed Rajotte, and Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Don Carver, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Donna Henry, Dave Hopkins, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Lew Perry, Dave Pettinicchi, and Robert Polito

Guest: Doug McCracken

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. March 5th meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes; motion seconded and motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary reminded members to follow up meeting discussion points with an email to ensure their accurate inclusion in the meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Bank transactions during the past month included the deposit of \$750 donations for three associations (Otter Cove, Saybrook Manor, and Summerwood Condos).

The 2024 bank deposits, donations, and expenses during past month:

Deposits: \$750

In-Kind Donation: \$129

Expenses: \$129 for accounting software

The current OSCRC balance as of April 2, 2024 is \$2,919.50.

Treasurer distributed contribution forms to Otter Cove, Saybrook Manor, and Summerwood Condos for received donations.

Treasurer reminded Board members of the remaining associations that their donations are due for 2024. Mail check to OSCRC or bring it to a future meeting.

Vice Chair's Report:

No report.

Chair's Report:

1. 2023 federal and state reports and account information are due by May 5, 2024.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook (4 Shore Resilience) grant.
The four towns are resubmitting a proposal to the 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) assuming they can come up with the 50% match to their budget request. The Board agreed to support the Town of Old Saybrook in their resubmission of their proposal.
2. Chalker Beach representatives reported that public meetings on the Whole Foods application to build in Old Saybrook have ended and the next steps are in the hands of the Town of Old Saybrook authorities.
3. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
 - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
 - Feedback from OSCRC Board members was limited but very good. The team has started on a few things to develop a plan, which will include some preliminary drafts.
 - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - The team is waiting on a response to the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund 2024 proposal entitled "A Beach Nourishment Strategy for Old Saybrook Beach Communities: A Proposal to LISFF."
 - The Zoom meeting with state representative Martha Marx about Fenwood seawall has been rescheduled for some day in May, 2024.
 - Donations (need leader).
 - An in-kind donation of \$129 was received for accounting software.
4. The Board reviewed government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.
 - The Board discussed potential submissions for the Constellation Energy \$500 grant.
 - Scott Loveland and Jay Costello attended the Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Regional Funding workshop on March 7 in Groton, CT. Jay plans to attend the workshop on March 21 in Bridgeport, CT. They have both reported back on the meeting. Scott's report is in the appendix and Jay's report is in the form of a presentation that was sent to Board members prior to this meeting. Both reports highlighted the best funding opportunities for the OSCRC.
5. Joe is coordinating with Chris Costa, Town Planner and Connecticut Zoning Enforcement Officer, to give a 15-minute Climate Change presentation plus questions sometime in mid-spring of this year to Old Saybrook residents at the Town Hall.

New Business:

Additional Items:

Thanks again to Rick Bovino for hosting and providing snacks for the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Appendix:

Scott Loveland's Report on Eastern CT Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Regional Funding Workshop in Groton CT.

I attended the Eastern CT SRC Regional funding Workshop at Avery Point in Groton. There were about 50 people in attendance, a quarter of them being either DEEP or UConn employees. I was actually a little surprised at how few people were there.

My main goal in attending the workshop was to better understand the funding opportunities as well as to meet the presenters.

The "Lightning Talk Presentations" were the most interesting portion of the workshop (refer to the agenda). They recorded the presentations and I'll share the link when I receive it. My summarization of the presentations as they apply to the Living Shoreline on the Back River is as follows:

- US Stewardship Fund - this may be a possibility
- Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund - Not adequate funding for our project.
- NFWF Futures Fund - this is the fund we previously applied for and were turned down. They also now require a 50% match that cannot come from a US agency. The presenter is retiring at the end this week, so there really was no reason to meet with her. She referred us to Victoria Moreno who is the contact that I have already reached out to. I wish she had been there.
- CT DEEP Climate Resilience Fund - Rania had mentioned that this may be a possibility, unfortunately, it is currently very undefined with a lot of TBDs. Again, when I get the link to the presentations, you'll be able to see where this opportunity is at this time. This grant however, if approved, could be used toward the 50% match for the NFWF fund.
- CT DEEP Urban and Community Forestry Grants - obviously not applicable to our project.
- CT DEEP State Open Space Programs - obviously not applicable to our project.
- CT DEEP Recreational Trails Program - obviously not applicable to our project.
- CT DEEP Section 319 Nonprofit Source Grants - not applicable to our project.
- CT DECD Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development - not applicable to our project.

Bottom line, the NFWF Fund is our best bet if we adequately address the concerns raised by Victoria Moreno. We would also need to apply to the CT DEEP Climate Resilience Fund in order to cover the NFWF 50% match requirement.

Scott Loveland