

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

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

Date: August 6, 2024, 7:02 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Dave Pettinicchi, Ed Rajotte, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Joanne Breen, Michael Cohen, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Lewis Perry, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito, Patricia Walden

Non-Voting Affiliate: Doug McCracken

Guest: John Henry

**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. July 2nd meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes; motion seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report:

No report.

Treasurer's Report:

The 2024 bank deposits and expenses during past month are as follows:

Deposits: None

In-Kind Donations: None

Expenses: None

The current OSCRC balance as of August 6, 2024 is \$3,191.19.

Vice Chair's Report:

No report.

Chair's Report:

Chair reported that OSCRC received notice of a \$50 Connecticut Charity Renewal fee due Nov. 30, 2024.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook (4 Shore Resilience) grant. The draft report is scheduled to be posted August 15 to support an Old Saybrook and Fenwick information session that has been rescheduled from August 27<sup>th</sup> to September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Old Saybrook Middle School. The flood model used by the consultants are consistent with the state and NFWS assumptions of a 0.5-meter sea-level rise by 2050, and a 0.75-meter rise by 2070.
2. From Doug McCracken: Link below is to the NJ program discussed at Tuesday's meeting. The 4Shore consultants may recommend towns evaluate such a program for the future. The program

allows for property owners to willingly sell their property for current fair-market value if they meet conditions such as being in a floodplain, have documented losses, etc., as per the website. This would likely be only if unable to sell in the normal real-estate market, and other options such as rebuilding and continued ownership were not feasible. It is not a land grab tool for a town. Such a program may not be needed locally for years, even decades. At this point it is only a discussion as part of planning for the future. Blue Acres Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (nj.gov).

3. Update on the Old Saybrook 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) proposal. Proposal is submitted and waiting on a decision.
4. Chalker Beach representatives reported that there has been no new action regarding the Whole Foods issue. No update on possible drainage solutions near the tide gate and the Chalker Beach Marsh via the Public Works director. No update on ARPA funding for water service to shoreline areas with no service. Gary Albanese indicated that the beach nourishment study is going as planned. They are working on three different designs and will submit to the state.
5. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
  - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
    - Dave Pettinicchi is holding the brochures, which are available if anyone needs them.
  - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
    - Follow-up to the Zoom meeting between OSCRC members and state representatives about completing the Fenwood seawall. Ed Rajotte is working with Devin Carney on this issue. Ed also mentioned he attended an Old Saybrook Town Hall budgetary meeting and brought up the need for sidewalks along Route 154 between Saybrook Point and Fenwick. The First Selectman, Carl Fortuna, who was at the meeting agreed to look into this need for sidewalks.
    - Update on the Constellation Energy \$500 grant entitled “OSCRC Living Shoreline Education.” Marie is working with graphic designer Ana Pettinicchi on this literature creation.
    - Update on the Saybrook Manor Association wall remediation and reconstruction. Doug’s report should indicate exactly what the remediation entails.
    - Update on Jay Costello’s application for submitting grant proposals to the RTX Connect Up Charity. Jay has submitted a proposal entitled “Support for the Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience Coalition Education” for \$5,000. The RTX Corporate Social Responsibility Team will review the proposal within 60 days of the July 26, 2024 submission date.
  - Donations (need leader).
6. Update on government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.
  - No update on Sarah Schecter of CT Sea Grant funding opportunities.
  - Julia McGrath, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator for Congressman Joe Courtney, shared an update on federal funding opportunities and resources for grant seekers. None of the opportunities were applicable to OSCRC’s mission.
7. Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.
  - Joe will be giving a one-hour presentation on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise to the Indian Town Association on August 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm.
  - Joe is coordinating with Chris Costa, Town Planner and Connecticut Zoning Enforcement Officer, to give a 15-minute Climate Change presentation plus questions sometime this year to Old Saybrook residents at the Town Hall. Joe Russo indicated that he may do a presentation at Town

Hall in late September or early October for all associations, rather than visiting each association at their individual meetings.

8. Update on opportunities for reimbursement for damages following FEMA-declared disasters. Terence distributed an operational draft of the Executive Summary of the Public Assistance Program Delivery Guide, which is implemented by FEMA. The Guide establishes the framework for applicant-drive, state-led, and federally supported delivery of public assistance after a disaster. The Executive Summary accompanies these minutes as a separate document.
9. Explore a possible relationship with the Old Saybrook Land Trust. There is a meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Carolyn Lyle agreed to be a liaison between OSCRC and the Land Trust.

New Business:

1. Dave Pettinicchi proposed moving OSCRC meetings to a bi-monthly or quarterly schedule, but it was determined by the majority of the Board to keep the current monthly schedule.

Additional Items:

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

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.