

OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: December 3, 2024, 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Ed Rajotte, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Beth Chotkowski, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Lewis Perry, Robert Pulito, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliate: Doug McCracken (absent)

Guest: John Henry

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. October 29, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes; motion seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report:

Brief announcement that elections for OSCRC officers will take place at the January, 2025 meeting. Officers serve two-year terms, which can be concurrent, with no term limits. Individual associations can only have one officer.

Conflict of Interest forms will have to be signed in January for members who have not yet completed one when joining OSCRC.

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 December 3, 2024 is \$3,641.19.

Vice Chair's Report:

No report.

Chair's Report:

No report.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook (4 Shore Resilience) grant. The draft report originally scheduled to be posted in September, 2024 was cancelled with no reschedule date. The

entire project continues to be delayed with no new dates, drafts, or scheduled meetings. There is unhappiness with the hired consulting team on the project due to all the delays.

2. Update on the Old Saybrook 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) proposal. Proposal is submitted and waiting on a decision, which will be announced on December 9, 2024.
3. Update on Chalker Beach Related Issues.
 - Whole Foods. Preliminary plans submitted by The Carpionato Group and Attorney Ed Cassella were reviewed by the zoning commission. The developer was looking for feedback from the commission before final plans were submitted. Commission concerns were frontage setbacks and zoning for 3 lots that were purchased for possible septic area. Developer stated they were cleaning up many zoning violations and were looking for a little grace from the setback to address parking concerns and a right away for the neighboring gas station.
 - The Chalker Beach Bellaire Indian Town beach Nourishment Study. The nourishment study is going as planned. The engineer has created concepts to be presented to the involved beach communities and to regulators for approval.
 - Tide Gate Overflow Level Spreader. The approved plan of the Town of Old Saybrook and CT Deep was not supported by Summerwood Condos. Meeting to be set up between Gary and Summerwood Condos board to further discuss.
4. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
 - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
 - Joe has a small quantity of OSCRC rack cards for use by other OSCRC Board members.
 - Dave Pettinicchi did a one-page version of the rack card, for inclusion on various social media sites. Board approved and they will be added to Facebook and LinkedIn for now.
 - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - Update on Fenwood seawall. Ed Rajotte provided pictures of the deterioration of the Fenwood seawall. He plans to alert the CT Department of Transportation about the condition of the seawall.
 - Update on the Constellation Energy \$500 grant entitled “OSCRC Living Shoreline Education.” OSCRC Board members have provided Marie feedback for the Constellation literature. The current version of the “Living Shoreline” information sheet was shown at this meeting and approved by the Board. Dave Pettinicchi indicated that his daughter did not want grant money for her work on the Constellation brochure.
 - Saybrook Manor Association completed their intermediate wall repairs. Larger grant will be pursued for long-range remediation of beach walls and docks.
 - 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 proposal is being reviewed by the RTX Corporate Social Responsibility Team. Jay has sent an email asking when a decision will be made about the OSCRC proposal. If the decision is not to fund the proposal, OSCRC will look at other options.
 - Donations (Joe Russo). Joe has been researching possible donors. No new activity.
5. Update on government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.
 - Connie Hughes provided an update on CT Sea Grant funding opportunities, including LI Sound Resilience Planning Support program (Expression of Interest due Feb 7), grant writing assistance, and two learning assistance workshops held in December. No update on Julia McGrath (Grants

and Special Projects Coordinator for Congressman Joe Courtney) federal funding opportunities and resources for grant seekers.

- Update on DEEP Climate Resilience Fund Program. DEEP held two public meetings during October and will solicit written comments in early November about improving the program. Recordings of the public meetings and additional information are available online at <https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>.
6. Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.
 - Joe is coordinating with Chris Costa, Town Planner and Connecticut Zoning Enforcement Officer, to give a one hour Climate Change presentation plus questions sometime early next year to Old Saybrook residents at the Old Saybrook Town Hall. Carolyn will help get the word out about this presentation.
 - OSCRC is planning to put an article in the upcoming Saybrook Events publication. The deadline for an article is February 26, 2024. Joe will take the lead on the article.
 - OSCRC has agreed to have a presence at the Old Saybrook Conservation Commission Environmental Fair at the Middle School on April 26, 2025. Joe has materials to set up a booth at the fair. Banners will need to be purchased for the booth.
 - Carolyn pointed out that OSCRC members need to get in front of Old Saybrook boards and commissions to be sure they are aware of climate change and sea level rise issues. She also recommended that Joe be highlighted as the Person of the Week in the Harbor News.
 7. Update on opportunities for reimbursement for damages following FEMA-declared disasters. Terence noted that the Old Saybrook Chief of Police was willing to come to a future OSCRC meeting to discuss the FEMA reimbursement program. No additional activity on this.
 8. Explore a possible relationship with the Old Saybrook Land Trust. There is a meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Carolyn Lyle, as the liaison between OSCRC and the Land Trust, will be attending the Land Trust meetings. Carolyn Lyle offered up Joe Russo as a speaker.
 9. Update on The Town of Old Saybrook and the Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP). Following on a recent public meeting, work continues on the hazards risk assessment, mitigation strategies, and actions to reduce the loss of life and property resulting from natural and climate-related hazards. Jay Costello indicated that the conservation meeting is more focused on urban issues versus beach and shoreline concerns.
 10. Update on the Association of Conservation and Inlands Wetlands Commissions annual meeting and workshops, including "A Roadmap for Connecticut Climate Resilience" and "Climate Change Impact on Rural and Urban Areas," on November 16 in Bristol CT. Open item, requires further discussion.
 11. Update on the Town of Old Saybrook news, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes for boards & commissions. Joe Russo was asked to be on the Old Saybrook Conservation Committee. It was approved by the Board that OSCRC join the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.
 12. Update on pictures of the impact of sea level rise are requested for beaches east of Saybrook Manor. Doug requested pictures, including Saybrook Manor.

New Business:

1. Gary Albanese discussed sand erosion issues, specific to Chalker Beach but applicable at all beaches. Need plantings to cut wave action, but there will be resistance from owners due to blockage of beach views from their homes. Overall, \$7MM - \$8MM for the total job, but there is grant money. Just need to do the legwork.

Additional Items:

Thanks again to Rick Bovino for hosting and for providing the nice dinner prior to the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.