

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

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

Date: January 2, 2024, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Jay Costello, Tara Gustafson, Dave Hopkins, Terence McGrath, Sally Pritchard, Ed Rajotte, and Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Don Carver, Michael Cohen, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Donna Henry, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Lew Perry, Dave Pettinicchi, and Robert Polito

Guest: Nick DeNovellis, Nadia DeNovellis

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. December 5th meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended; 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:

No bank transactions during the past month.

The 2023 bank expenses to date are as follows:

\$50.00 Incorporation fee to the Secretary of the State of Connecticut

\$50.00 Organization and First Report fee to the Secretary of the State of Connecticut

\$1460.00 Legal fee to Cloutier & Cassella, LLC

\$4.00 Bank fees

\$16.50 for Checks

The current OSCRC balance as of December 31, 2023 is \$669.50.

Treasurer reminded Board members that a 2024 donation of \$250. from their association is due this year. Mail check to Ed Rajotte or bring it to a future meeting.

Vice Chair's Report: No report given.

Chair's Report:

1. 2023 federal and state reports and account information, are due in the 1st quarter, 2024.
2. Joe Russo sent an updated list of all Board members with the approval of the Board.

3. OSCRC Board of Directors voted to let beach property owners join the OSCRC as guests. The consensus of the Board is that the more people involved, the more likely the success of the OSCRC mission.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook grant. There are no upcoming events. Board members are reminded that they can still go online to the 4 Shore Resiliency website (<https://www.4shoreresiliency.com>) to identify areas of concern for climate change by posting pin on an interactive map along with a comment about the risk.
2. Joe Russo will be giving a PowerPoint presentation to Otter Cove District on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 10:30 am in the upstairs media room at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook. Please contact Joe if you wish to schedule a presentation.
3. Chalker Beach representatives gave an update on the Whole Foods application to build at an Old Saybrook site.
4. Four teams of volunteers from the OSCRC Board of Directors were created as a follow-up to Joe's proposal. There was discussion on the activities of each team and reporting practices. Members interested in helping out, should contact the leaders (in parentheses).
 - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi)
 - Planning and permitting project proposals (Joe Russo)
 - Funding for shovel-ready projects (Ed Rajotte)
 - Donations (need leader)
5. The remaining OSCRC Board members provided one major beach-related issue for his/her association. The updated list of submitted issues are at the end of these minutes.
6. The OSCRC Board members were reminded that the rescheduled "grand tour" field trip to association beaches and riverfronts is set for Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm EST. The rendezvous location for the trip is the Knollwood Beach clubhouse parking lot. In case of bad weather on January 14, the trip will be rescheduled again for Sunday, January 21 at the same time and place.
7. There was a discussion on the Race Coastal Engineering proposal to Chalker Beach for a beach nourishment study. The study involves Chalker Beach, Bel Aire Manor, Indian Town, Summerwood Condos and represents 12.5% of the Old Saybrook coastline.
8. There was a discussion on potential proposal topics for the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund (LISSF) 2024 sponsored by the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative Proposals are due February 1, 2024. Joe reported on the Dec. webinar, which reviewed the criteria for funding. He emphasized some important points from the webinar.
 1. Any local project has to be less than \$50,000.
 2. Funded projects must start within three months of notice date and finish in 15 months from that date.
 3. Applicants need to be a 501c3 organization.
 4. Need to submit a proposal under one of three possible topics.
 - (a) Capacity building
 - (b) New collaboration

(c) Piloting tools and strategy

5. An organization receiving money for an initiative (e.g. phone app) or a hiring (e.g. program manager) in the first year must show evidence of funding for the same initiative or hiring in the following years.

The Board, after much discussion and recognizing the limited preparation time, decided to submit the Chalker Beach study on beach nourishment as the OSCRC proposal to the LISSF. The beach nourishment study would be submitted under “Piloting tools and Strategy.”

New Business:

1. Ed Rajotte shared a proposed support letter to be sent to State Representative Devin Carney. The letter addressed the need for funding to complete the Fenwood District seawall. The Board passed a motion to have Ed move forward on sending the letter after some members reviewed it.
2. Since the mission of the OSCRC included education, it was proposed that the organization give on average one presentation a month during 2024. This proposal will be taken up at the next meeting.

Additional Items:

Thanks again to Rick Bovino for hosting the meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Major Beach-Related Issue by Association

Bel Aire Manor – Beach erosion

Chalker Beach – Tide gate

Cornfield Point – Seawall repair

Fenwood District – Complete seawall

Great Hammock Beach – Back River shoreline

Indian Town – Raise parking area and replace seawall at clubhouse

Knollwood Beach – Storm drains

Otter Cove – Flooding of roads and riverfront properties

Saybrook Manor – Dock remediation and Hartford Avenue beach stairs

Saybrook Manor Cove – Flooding of beach access and storm surge

Summerwood Condos – Beach erosion