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

Location: Mindy K's Restaurant, Old Saybrook, CT
Date: May 7, 2024, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Beth Chotkowski, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Terence McGrath, Dave Pettinicchi, Ed Rajotte, and Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Dave Hopkins, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Patricia Walden, Lew Perry, Sally Pritchard, Robert Polito, and Patricia Walden

Guest: Doug McCracken

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Joe introduced Jamie Graecen as the new alternate board member for Knollwood Beach.

Previous Meeting Minutes:
The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. April 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:
Bank transactions during the past month included the deposit of donations for two associations (Cornfield Point and Bel Aire Manor).

The 2024 bank deposits and expenses during past month are as follows:
Deposits: $500
In-Kind Donations: $129.
Expenses: $179. For Accounting Software and Filing of Connecticut annual report

The current OSCRC balance as of May 7, 2024 is $3,369.50.
Treasurer deposited two checks of $500. for donations from Cornfield Point and Bel Aire Manor.
Treasurer distributed contribution forms to Cornfield Point and Bel Aire Manor.

Vice Chair's Report:
No report.

Chair's Report:
1. Federal 990-N tax form and Connecticut annual report have been filed for 2023.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook (4 Shore Resilience) grant. Old Saybrook is submitting a proposal to the 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) on behalf of Old Saybrook & Westbrook for the area from Chapman Beach to Indiantown. The Town of Old Saybrook has come up with the 50% match to their budget request. The Board agreed to support the Town of Old Saybrook in their submission of their proposal. Doug mentioned that a final report draft for the current grant is almost done.

2. Chalker Beach representatives reported that Whole Foods has completed soil testing and septic design. Whole Foods is now waiting on state and local permits to begin work.

3. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
   - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
     - Dave shared a prototype two-sided pamphlet with board members present at the meeting. He will distribute an electronic copy of the pamphlet to board members in order to seek their feedback on the design.
   - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
     - The Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund 2024 proposal entitled "A Beach Nourishment Strategy for Old Saybrook Beach Communities: A Proposal to LISFF" was not funded. Reviewer's comments sent as an email to Ed Rajotte are in these minutes as an Appendix.
     - The Zoom meeting with state representative Martha Marx about Fenwood seawall has been rescheduled for some time during the first two weeks of June.
   - Donations (need leader).
     - No activity.

4. Government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.
   - Marie Cerino submitted on behalf of OSCRC a proposal entitled "OSCRC Living Shoreline Education" for the Constellation Energy $500 grant.

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.

6. Doug McCracken had no comment on the bridge replacement work other than it will restart in the fall of this year. This business will be considered closed until a future date.

New Business:

1. Saybrook Manor Association wall remediation and reconstruction. Dave Pettinicchi spoke briefly about structural and remediation issues on the three Saybrook Manor Association beaches, walls, docks and infrastructure areas. Tentative estimates for this project are between $200,000 and $300,000, so the association will be exploring grant opportunities. Dave asked that we have further discussion in future meetings on this issue, to see how OSCRC can leverage and elevate this project.

2. Oyster River dredging. Dave Pettinicchi suggested that we begin to explore the possibility of getting the Oyster River dredged. This is a multi-association initiative, not specific to

Saybrook Manor Association, although its beaches are located at the western mouth of the river. This initiative will require local, state and federal involvement.

<u>Additional Items:</u>
Sarah Schecter of CT Sea Grant gave a presentation on funding opportunities for their climate change and community resilience programs. She did an overview of her agency and online resources and websites. She highlighted that there needs to be a linkage between associations and other beach communities on grant plans.

Sarah identified several websites below to help organizations such as OSCRC develop grants.
- https://www.lisresilience.org: CT Sea Grant's new website where you can find the funding database and other great resources.
- https://sustainablect.org: A CT-wide group that could help provide some connection opportunities.
- https://seagrant.uconn.edu/2022/11/14/long-island-sound-resilience-grant-writing-assistance-program/: Track 1. Funding available for a planning project where you will be matched with a consultant. Track 2. Funding available up to $9950 to support a grant writer.

Thanks again to Rick Bovino for hosting the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

<u>Appendix:</u>
Reviewer's comments on why the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund 2024 proposal was not funded was sent as an email message to Ed Rajotte.

You [Ed Rajotte] left a message for the Long Island Community Foundation requesting feedback on your application to the LIS Stewardship Fund. I'll provide what I can in the hopes that you find it useful in your future efforts.

The primary issue is that we get more proposals that we can possibly fund. That means that even good proposals don't move forward. Yours was well written, and fairly concise and on point. The areas for improvement are as follows.

Our "Piloting Tools and Strategies" category is hoping to fund projects that, even if they are local, will result in learning or knowledge that will be more generally applicable around the Sound. So, while your living shoreline and beach nourishment study will likely have a beneficial impact to the health and living resources of the Sound in Old Saybrook (good), it seemed to some of our reviews to be less likely to have any regional significance (not as good). This likely cost you a few points, here and there, with reviewers.

Additionally, your non-profit is very small, and very new. While the project is a fairly straightforward one of hiring an engineering firm for a study, there are risks associated with having new, untested groups receive grants in significant excess of their operating budgets. It's

not a deal-breaker for us, but likely cost a few points here and there. It would have been less of a problem if we were not the only funder on the project.

And that's about it. In our competitive process, a few points here in there will move you to the middle of the pack, and thus means you aren't funded.

In future, I would highlight (if you reapply in this category):
- How this project would benefit the larger community around the Sound (and how you will ensure it does), and
- That you have other funders helping on the project (or are using your some of your own funds).

In short, get a little closer to the bullseye on the RFP category, and reduce the perceived risk of funding.

But thank you for applying. We funded less than a third of the thirty-two applications we received. We wished we could have done more.

Hugh E. "Tripp" Killin III

Executive Director
Jeniam Foundation
P.O. Box 3128
Newtown, CT 06470