

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

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

Date: November 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Marie Cerino, Tara Gustafson, Dave Hopkins, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Terence McGrath, Dave Pettinicchi, Robert Pulito, Ed Rajotte, and Joe Russo

Excused: Joanne Breen, Jean Boggs, Don Carver, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Donna Henry, Robert Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Lew Perry, and Sally Pritchard

Guest: Doug McCracken

AGENDA ITEMS:

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

Introductions

Introduction of Tara Gustafson and Connie Hughes from Summerwood Condo Association, and Doug McCracken from Old Saybrook Planning Commission

Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. October 3rd meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented; motion seconded and motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Secretary reminded members should follow up meeting discussion points with an email which will facilitate their accurate inclusion in the meeting minutes.

Vice Chair's Report: No report given.

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 October 31, 2023 is \$669.50.

Chair's Report:

1. We still are waiting for a response to the submitted Federal Form 1023 which was part of the incorporation. This could take 9-12 months.
2. Joe Russo reviewed the status of alternates for member organizations. He also welcomed representatives from Summerwood Condos. Joe will send an updated list of all Board members with the approval of the Board.
3. Images have been submitted by some Board members. Members are reminded that they can submit images (beaches or riverfronts) for their associations.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook grant. Several OSCRC board members attended the community workshop held on October 10, 2023 at the Old Saybrook Middle School Auditorium in Old Saybrook. They identified areas of concern for climate change by posting notes on a map with a comment about the risk.
2. Update on the NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF). A decision is still pending on the Great Hammock Beach (GHB) proposal that was submitted to the NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF).
3. Joe Russo is still available to give a Power Point presentation to individual associations within the OSCRC. Please contact Joe if you wish to schedule a presentation. Joe recently shared a climate change update article, which was recently published in his association newsletter.
4. Volunteers are still needed to help create literature on OSCRC activities for distribution to congressional members and the public. Dave Pettinicchi asked for suggestions from board members.
5. Gary Albanese gave an additional update on the Whole Foods application to build at an Old Saybrook site, including the vote taken by the wetlands commission.
6. Follow-up to Julia McGrath's visit to the OSCRC October Board of Directors meeting.

New Business:

1. Doug McCracken spoke to the 4Shore Resiliency project involving Old Saybrook, Fenwick, Westbrook & Clinton. The consultants hired with a NFWS grant, Colliers Engineering, will be selecting 4 or so projects from each community to lay out conceptual ideas and move them closer to shovel ready. It is important projects be scoped and close to shovel ready when funding becomes available, such as after Superstorm Sandy. The consultants are familiar with many current funding sources and can help match projects with funding, even beyond the 4 per town. Updating the ShoreResiliency.com website map with OSCRC problem areas will get issues in their queue to evaluate with others. The identified problem areas can also be tied into the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) update the Old Saybrook Planning Commission is working on now over the next year with GZA consultants. That report is also used to support government funding requests.

2. Joe proposed to create four teams of volunteers from the Board of Directors. One team would focus on creating literature for distribution to Association members and the public at large (Dave P. will handle this). The second team would focus on writing proposals for funding to plan and permit OSCRC priority projects. The third team would focus projects that have been planned and permitted but only need funds from state and federal agencies to be undertaken. The fourth team will seek out organizations and individuals who may want to donate to the OSCRC. Further discussion needed on team members for the three remaining teams.
3. Each OSCRC Board Member was asked to provide one major beach-related issue for his/her association. These should be submitted to Joe Russo. Members are encouraged to go to the [4ShoreResiliency](#) website and use their interactive map to identify areas of concern.
4. "Field Trip" set up for December 3, 2023. Board members will visit each beach area to get familiar with individual issues at these beaches.

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

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.