

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

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

Date: October 1, 2024, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Tara Gustafson, Terence McGrath, Sally Pritchard, Ed Rajotte, Michael Russo, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Donna Henry, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Lewis Perry, Dave Pettinicchi, Robert Pulito

Non-Voting Affiliate: None

Guest: None

**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. September 3, 2024 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 October 1, 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.
2. Update on the Old Saybrook 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) proposal. Proposal is submitted and waiting on a decision, which is expected in November.

3. 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. Chalker did not receive ARPA funding for water service to shoreline areas with no service. ARPA funding cannot be used for individual residences, even though some homes have wells that are virtually inoperable, forcing residents to use bottled water for cooking, cleaning, etc. Gary Albanese indicated that the beach nourishment study is going as planned. The engineering firm is working on three different designs, one of which will be submitted to the state. There is a September 5 meeting with the town.
4. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
  - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
    - Dave Pettinicchi has brochures available as needed. Copies of brochure will be posted on Facebook and LinkedIn, plus other social media as appropriate.
  - 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.
    - Update on the Constellation Energy \$500 grant entitled “OSCRC Living Shoreline Education.” Grant money has been deposited in the OSCRC bank account. Marie is working with graphic designer Ana Pettinicchi on 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 proposal is being reviewed by the RTX Corporate Social Responsibility Team.
  - Donations (need leader).
5. Update on government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.
  - No update on Sarah Schecter of CT Sea Grant funding opportunities. But we should keep communications going with Sarah as there is plenty of grant writing assistance available.
  - 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.
6. Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.
  - Joe will be giving a presentation to OSCRC Association members on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Old Saybrook Town Hall, on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 7:00 pm. He will explore whether the presentation can be given over Zoom.
  - Joe is coordinating with Chris Costa, Town Planner and Connecticut Zoning Enforcement Officer, to give a one hour Climate Change presentation plus questions sometime later this year to Old Saybrook residents at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.
7. Update on opportunities for reimbursement for damages following FEMA-declared disasters. Terence did not have any additional information, other than the FEMA-implemented, Executive Summary of the Public Assistance Program Delivery Guide, which was distributed to the Board last month.

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.

New Business:

1. The Town of Old Saybrook and the Borough of Fenwick are in the process of reviewing their Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP). The purpose of the NHMP review is to update the hazards risk assessment, the mitigation strategies, and the actions to reduce the loss of life and property resulting from natural and climate-related hazards. The NHMP review was conducted in a public meeting on September 4, 7:00 pm, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Old Saybrook Town Hall. Ed Rajotte represented the OSCRC at the meeting. He followed with a letter to Chris Costa regarding input into the Old Saybrook CT Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) (see Appendix).
2. DEEP proposal to expand Climate Resilience Fund Program. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) announced the strategic expansion of the successful DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF) program to better enable communities to access federal funding for climate resilience. This upcoming investment of state funds will help towns, Councils of Government, and other stakeholders pursue project planning, and in some cases construction, allowing them to tap into the billions of federal dollars available to improve local resilience. DEEP is seeking feedback on a new framework for the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund, including from municipalities, Councils of Government, tribes, electric distribution companies, academic partners, private entities, and non-profit organizations. For more information (<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2024/deep-seeks-input-on-expanded-deep-climate-resilience-funding-and-loan-initiatives>).
3. Senator Chris Murphy's Long Island Sound Investment 2.0. During mid-September, Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) released a new plan to build on the success of the Long Island Sound Investment plan he published in 2016 and address the evolving set of challenges the Sound is facing. Murphy's plan lays out investments and policy goals to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, improve coastal resilience, support the blue economy, and increase access to and education about the beauty of Long Island Sound. The plan was informed by feedback from environmental advocates, fishermen, oyster farmers, marine researchers, submarine manufacturers, and other stakeholders and Connecticut residents who rely on the Sound for both work and recreation. The new plan is available online (<https://www.murphy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/murphy-releases-long-island-sound-investment-plan-20>).

Additional Items:

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

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Appendix: Ed Rajotte letter to Chris Costa regarding input into the Old Saybrook CT Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP).

**Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience Coalition, Inc.**

77 Atlantic Drive, Old Saybrook, CT 06475 P: 814 280-8254 E: rajottes@comcast.net

September 13, 2024  
Christina M. Costa, CZEO, CFM  
Zoning Enforcement Officer/Town Planner  
Town of Old Saybrook  
Land Use Department  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Dear Chris:

The Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience Coalition (OSCRC) supports the Town of Old Saybrook's 2024 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in general, but we have a few suggestions that would improve plan implementation and future efforts.

- Recognize other community groups in Old Saybrook (OS) having a stake in environmental issues, especially the consequences of sea level rise. Among these are the OSCRC, Old Saybrook Land Trust, SOS Trees Old Saybrook, and others.
- Broaden community engagement of OS planning and implementation by forming ad hoc committees or other advisory bodies that would engage these community groups and have a more systematic interaction with OS government.
- Recognize planning efforts and prioritization exercises of the community groups. See accompanying OSCRC 2-page abstract as an example.
- Improve the inclusiveness of policy-making by having a more structured and timely interaction with community groups.
- Provide ongoing information and education to OS citizens by developing a communication strategy that includes newspaper articles, press releases, social media efforts and web resources.
- Facilitate implementation of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan by informing the general public of its rationale and procedures through the communication strategy.

The OSCRC stands ready to cooperate in a collaborative spirit where the responsibilities of town government are blended with the work of community groups to provide the best way forward for Old Saybrook.

Sincerely,



Ed Rajotte  
OSCRC

CC: Old Saybrook Planning Commission  
Old Saybrook Land Trust  
SOS Trees Old Saybrook