

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

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

Date: October 3, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Donna Henry, Dave Hopkins, Carolyn Lyle and Joe Russo

Excused: Lew Perry, Dave Pettinicchi, Ed Rajotte

Guests: Terence McGrath, Chalker Beach Association, Beth Chotkowski, Bel Air Manor, and Julia McGrath, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator for Congressman Joe Courtney's Connecticut office.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented; motion seconded and motion carried.

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

Vice Chair 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 September 30, 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 welcomed Carolyn Lyle and David Hopkins who are the new alternates for Cornfield Point and Fenwood District, respectively, on the OSCRC Board of Directors. We will be getting an updated list of all board members.
3. Images provided by Ed Rajotte were added to the OSCRC website (oscrct.org). Board members were reminded that they can submit images for their associations. The images should be of their association beaches or riverfronts.

### Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook grant. The four towns participating in the grant have created a website called [www.4shoreresiliency.com](http://www.4shoreresiliency.com) to distribute information to the public about climate change and coastal resiliency as well as listing upcoming events. One such event is a community workshop to be held on October 10, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Old Saybrook Middle School Auditorium, 60 Sheffield St., Old Saybrook.
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 also does climate change updates for his association which he is willing to share with us
4. Volunteers are still needed to help create literature on OSCRC activities for distribution to congressional members and the public. Dave Pettinicchi offered to help create literature.
5. Gary Albanese gave an update on the Sept. 21 meeting with the state developer for Whole Foods who has resubmitted an application to build at an Old Saybrook site. Terence McGrath provided in-depth comments (which were included at the end of the September meeting minutes) on Chalker Beach issues that need to be addressed by the state before approving the Whole Foods application. The public hearings for the Whole Foods approval are now closed. Chalker Beach Association remains concerned that the marsh is still in jeopardy of being overwhelmed with fresh water runoff because the tide gate is too small to handle additional overflow. Though the developer has been asked to include a drainage proposal for the project, this has not been addressed by them. The Whole Foods proposal still has to go through zoning. On October 19<sup>th</sup> a vote will be taken by the wetlands commission.

It was further noted by Gary and Terence that we should attend wetlands meetings and document issues of concern on our web site.

### New Business:

1. Julia McGrath, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator for Congressman Joe Courtney's office, discussed how to apply for funds to government agencies. She answered questions following the discussion.

Julia works on a full-time basis in Joe Courtney's district. She assists towns, regional organizations and non-profits in applying for grants. She did note that prior to getting access to any federal grants, we have to register with SAM.gov. This is about a 4-month process and Julia said her office can assist with the approval. She also provided a packet of information for us with detailed information and instructions.

In addition, Julia provided the following suggestions and information:

- a. Determine what projects we are looking to fund.
- b. Congressman Courtney's office can provide resources so we can get the assistance of a grant writer if needed.
- c. Partner with the town for certain grants with the town being the lead applicant and OSCRC being a sub-recipient. One benefit is that the town would submit the application and be responsible for reporting on the disbursement of funds.
- d. Work together with other Coastal Resilience committees for a regional grant that would have a larger geographic impact. Julia noted that private beaches have more difficulty obtaining funding because of the optics.
- e. Define common issues rather than individual issues when seeking funding.
- f. Federal grants can also go through our State Government. Julia will provide contacts on the State level.
- g. We should look into the Old Lyme shared sewer project; also check out the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy web site and the Connecticut Council of Nonprofits which is a legislative advocacy group.

Joe asked Joanne Breen to act as liaison between Joe Courtney's office and OSCRC.

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

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.