

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

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

Date: October 29, 2024, 7:00 pm

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

Excused: Jean Boggs, Beth Chotkowski, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Lewis Perry, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliate: Doug McCracken

Guest: John Henry

**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. October 1, 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 29, 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. There is unhappiness with the hired consulting team on the project due to all the delays.
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. Old Saybrook Public Works has taken the lead to find solutions for the relieving the backed-up water associated with the tide gate at Chalker Beach. ARPA funding was used to pave town roads. 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.
4. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
  - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
    - Dave Pettinicchi dropped off the remaining OSCRC rack cards for use by other OSCRC Board members. Rack card content will be posted on Facebook and LinkedIn, plus other social media as appropriate.
  - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
    - Update on Fenwood seawall. Ed Rajotte continues to work with Devin Carney and other state officials of getting funding and a start date for the seawall.
    - Update on the Constellation Energy \$500 grant entitled “OSCRC Living Shoreline Education.” Marie has solicited OSCRC Board members for feedback on initial graphic designs by Ana Pettinicchi for the Constellation literature.
    - 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 and there should be a decision by November.
  - Donations (Joe Russo).
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 gave 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.
  - Joe is coordinating with Chris Costa, Town Planner and Connecticut Zoning Enforcement Officer, to give a one hour Climate Change presentation plus questions sometime early next year to Old Saybrook residents at the Old Saybrook Town Hall. Carolyn will help get the word out about this presentation.
7. Update on opportunities for reimbursement for damages following FEMA-declared disasters. Terence noted that the Old Saybrook Chief of Police was willing to come to a future OSCRC meeting to discuss the FEMA reimbursement program.
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.

9. Update on The Town of Old Saybrook and the Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP). Following on a recent public meeting, work continues on the hazards risk assessment, mitigation strategies, and actions to reduce the loss of life and property resulting from natural and climate-related hazards.
10. Update on DEEP Climate Resilience Fund Program. DEEP held two public meetings during October and will solicit written comments in early November about improving the program. Recordings of the public meetings and additional information are available online at <https://portal.ct.gov/connecticutclimateaction/executive-order/deep-climate-resilience-fund>).
11. Update on Senator Chris Murphy's Long Island Sound Investment 2.0. No new information. Plan is available online at <https://www.murphy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/murphy-releases-long-island-sound-investment-plan-20>.

New Business:

1. OSCRC has agreed to have a presence at the Old Saybrook Conservation Commission Environmental Fair at the Middle School on April 26, 2025.
2. Association of Conservation and Inlands Wetlands Commissions is holding their annual meeting and workshops, including "A Roadmap for Connecticut Climate Resilience" and "Climate Change Impact on Rural and Urban Areas," on November 16 in Bristol CT. Jay is planning to attend the workshops.
3. Doug spoke to the historical low attendance at public input meetings for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Plan of Conservation & Development, THRIVE and other Planning Commission initiatives. Planned activities in town across the different boards & commissions are posted in advance on the Town of Old Saybrook website (<https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/boards>). The best way to be aware of coming events is to subscribe to automatic e-mail distribution for town news, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, etc. for selected boards & commissions (<https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/subscribe>). Other communication methods include the town electronic sign boards, Harbor News articles, and local flyers. However, those methods are not always seen, versus a website e-mail subscription. The Town of Old Saybrook boards and commissions are made up of volunteers and there are currently openings for the Conservation Commission and the Architectural Review Board. Letters of interest with one's background can be forwarded to the First Selectman for consideration.
4. Pictures of the impact of sea level rise are requested for beaches east of Saybrook Manor.
5. The OSCRC may want to include an article in the upcoming Saybrook Events publication.

Additional Items:

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

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.