

OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: September 3, 2024, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Beth Chotkowski, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Tara Gustafson, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Dave Pettinicchi, Ed Rajotte, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Donna Henry, Scott Loveland, Lewis Perry, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito

Non-Voting Affiliate: Doug McCracken

Guest: None

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. August 6, 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: \$500 Constellation Grant

In-Kind Donations: None

Expenses: \$50 Connecticut Charity Renewal fee

The current OSCRC balance as of September 3, 2024 is \$3,641.19.

Vice Chair's Report:

No report.

Chair's Report:

Chair reported that OSCRC paid the \$50 Connecticut Charity Renewal fee and received a confirmation certificate.

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 as of this time. Doug McCracken reported that the entire project has been 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 still inside the 60-day window for 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 gave a one-hour presentation on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise to the Indian Town Association on August 20, 2024. He will be giving a similar presentation to the beach and river front communities during October in the Old Saybrook Town Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room.
 - 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:

None.

Additional Items:

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 will be presented in a public meeting on September 4, 7:00 pm, at the Old Saybrook Town Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Doug McCracken noted that the OSCRC, as a non-profit organization, can reserve the Vicki G. Duffy Pavilion at Saybrook Point in Old Saybrook, CT for presentations. The cost is \$50 per event plus a \$25 application fee.

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

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.