

# OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: September 5, 2023, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Don Carver, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Donna Henry, John Kennedy, Dave Pettinicchi, and Joe Russo

Excused: Lewis Perry, Ed Rajotte, Tom Tokarz

Guest: Terence McGrath, Chalker Beach Association, Elizabeth Chotkowski, Bel Air Manor

### AGENDA ITEMS

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

#### Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the previous Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. June 6th meeting were reviewed. Dave P. read additions, changes to the previous minutes. 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 the accurate completion of the meeting minutes.

Vice Chair Report: No report given.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Indian Town and Cornfield Point have submitted their \$250 donations.

The 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 Connecticut.

\$1,460.00 Legal fee to Cloutier & Cassella, LLC.

\$4.00 bank fees.

\$16.50 for checks.

The current OSCRC bank balance as of August 31, 2023 is \$669.50.

#### Chair's Report:

1. The Organization and First Report for OSCRC has been approved by the Secretary of the State of Connecticut.
2. Information on the alternates was reviewed and updated by Joe Russo.
3. The OSCRC website (oscrct.org) is fully functional but needs new images.

### 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 the Arts & Crafts Festival to be held on the Town Green, Old Saybrook from 12-4 pm on Sept. 30.
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 has agreed to give a PowerPoint presentation to individual associations within the OSCRC. The first such presentation was given at the Great Hammock Beach Association meeting on Sept. 3. He is scheduled to give a presentation to Saybrook Manor Association on Sept. 10 at 10:00 am. Joe will be rescheduling a visit to Chalker Beach Association at a future date.
4. Volunteers are still needed to help create literature on OSCRC activities for distribution to congressional members and the public. Ed Rajotte submitted general comments on how OSCRC could reach out to the public. These comments are attached to the minutes.
5. Joanne Breen reported on names and contact information of staff people in offices of congressional members. It was decided to contact individuals after the creation of OSCRC literature.
6. The requested incorporation documents, including bylaws, were distributed to all Board members by Joe Russo.
7. A copy of the Back River application for funding was provided by Scott Loveland of Great Hammock Beach Association and forwarded to Jay Costello at his request.
8. Gary Albanese reported on the meeting with the state developer for Whole Foods who has resubmitted an application to build at an Old Saybrook site. Gary

### New Business:

1. Joe Russo has requested images for the website from each of the Board of Directors representing their Association. Joe presented some pictures taken by Ed Rajotte of Association beaches.

### Additional items

1. Ed Rajotte submitted a report on Fenwood drain pipe repair and sea wall improvement strategy.
2. Once again thanks to Rick Bovino for hosting the meeting and providing snacks.

### Discussion Joanne Breen:

1. Joanne contacted Julia McGrath from Congressman Joe Courtney's office via email. She emailed back saying she would be happy to attend a meeting. Joanne will invite her to our October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

2. Joanne contacted someone who knows people in Senator Chris Murphy's Washington D.C. office. They need more specifics on what we are doing in order to direct her to the proper staff person. Information is forthcoming.

Discussion Terence McGrath (abridged, full comments available upon request):

1. Old Saybrook Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission held a Public Hearing on 8/17/23 regarding the Whole Food's permit application for a retail development at the old Benny's center, focusing on a drainage plan.
2. Vast majority of stormwater drainage from the Boston Post Road empties into the marsh behind adjacent to Chalker Beach, which frequently overflows and floods properties and streets in Chalker Beach.
3. A Tide Gate controls the outflow of stormwater in to the LI Sound, is only means of inflow of LI Sound water. Tide Gate was enhanced in 2015 in response to Big Y development.
4. State of CT initially maintained marsh canals after the Tide Gate enhancement but has not since 2017 or so. Canals have filled in from phragmites build up.
5. Marsh floods quickly after any heavy storm due to flash flooding of marsh and inability of Tide Gate to handle the increased water.
6. Chalker Beach presented opposing comments from a 3rd party engineer as well as historical data and agreements for marsh management by the town and State that have not been performed.
7. 96,000+ gallons of additional water will drain into the marsh; increasing the flooding.
8. Whole Foods developer has planned for 2 retention basins. A third basin will be installed.
9. Public Hearing was continued to Thursday 9/21/2023 at 7pm at Old Saybrook Town Hall. Chalker Beach representatives will be present.

Thanks again to Rick Bovino for a wonderful spread of "snacks" for our meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2023. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.