

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

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

Date: April 1, 2025 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Donna Henry, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, Gary Jacobsen, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Sally Pritchard, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Jeff Brodersen, Beth Chotkowski, Marisa Giarnella, Tara Gustafson, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Dave Pettinicchi, Robert Pulito, Ed Rajotte, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken

Friends: Dan Jennings

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The motion made to accept the previous month's OSCRC Board of Directors minutes with one minor correction. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report:

Joe reported that Dave Pettinicchi resigned from the Secretary position effective immediately. Jay Costello agreed to be secretary. Motion made, seconded and carried to make Jay the new Secretary for the remainder of Dave's term.

Treasurer's Report:

Joe read the Treasurer's report in the absence of Ed Rajotte.

Bank deposits, donations, and expenses for the previous month are as follows:

Deposits: \$1,250.00 Mar. 24, Donations: Great Hammock Beach, Chalker Beach, Bel Aire Manor Beach, Saybrook Manor Cove, Cornfield Point

Donations: \$129.00 Mar. 14 J Russo

Expenses: \$129.00 Mar. 14 Software4Nonprofits, accounting software

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of April 1, 2025 is \$5,013.20.

Joe noted that three member associations are outstanding in their annual donation of \$250.

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. Doug reported that the final report is on the Town of Old Saybrook website. This topic is now closed.

2. Update on the Old Saybrook 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) proposal. A committee of representatives from the Borough of Fenwick, Towns of Old Saybrook and Westbrook, Old Saybrook planning committee, and the OSCRC have selected Fuss & O'Neill as the consultant for the project. A contract for \$500,000 (\$350,000 grant money plus \$150,000 match by the Town of Old Saybrook) is currently being drawn up detailing the project tasks, timeline, and payments. It was noted that the committee is negotiating a reduced effort in public outreach for more time committed to the engineering and modeling aspects of the project. The goal is to have as much data as possible by the end of the project to move forward with the permitting phase. The deadline for completing the project is August 2026.
3. Update on Chalker Beach Related Issues.
 - Whole Foods. Gary reported that there have been a series of submissions by The Carpionato Group and Attorney Ed Cassella to address the Town of Old Saybrook Zoning Commission's requirements for building at the desired location. At this point in time, the Whole Foods commitment to development remains questionable because of the remaining outstanding issues. There is no schedule to begin work.
 - The Chalker Beach, Bellaire, Indian Town beach Nourishment Study. Gary reported that there was a meeting in March between RACE Engineering and Association representatives to review study options and receive feedback. There will be a preliminary meeting with CT DEEP and the Army Corp of Engineers on April 4th to review the proposed concept designs. The Nourishment Study is to be completed in 2025 pending feedback on regulatory, permitting, and feasibility issues.
4. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
 - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
 - Joe has copies of two information sheets (OSCRC 2-page abstract and Constellation-funded living shoreline) and a small quantity of rack cards available for distribution to the public.
 - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - Update on Fenwood seawall. CT Department of Transportation has temporarily addressed the damage to Fenwood seawall over the winter and will return in the Spring to make more permanent repairs.
 - Update on the Constellation Energy \$500 grant entitled "OSCRC Living Shoreline Education." Constellation "Living Shoreline" information sheet is available for distribution. Board agreed that some of the funding from Constellation should be used to create a video about the OSCRC mission. Joe agreed to write an initial script for the video. In addition to a script, a person must be found with the skill set to create a video.
 - Donations (Joe Russo). Joe has been researching possible donors. No new activity. A board member asked Joe to provide a list of foundations that have been contacted about their charitable funds.
5. Update on government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.
 - CT Sea Grant funding opportunities. Jay reminded Board members that CT Sea Grant programs continue to be funded and opportunities for specific projects are strong. He attended the CT Sea Grant workshop on March 31, 2025 and provided the following update.
 - Many projects of varying focus were funded in 2024 and into 2025.
 - A schedule of program applications, funding, and release dates was presented.
 - Funding Programs are targeted to two basic groupings – LIS and DEEP.
 - Applicants should understand the target focus of each grant program and address these in applications. Applications to the wrong program or that do not address the focus of a program in an application will be denied.

- Grant program managers want to distribute their funding and are ready to be helpful. Calls are encouraged. DEEP has separate Federal grants ombudsman as well.
 - Resources: LIS Resource Hub Page (www.lisresilience.org) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#).
 - Update on Julia McGrath (Grants and Special Projects Coordinator for Congressman Joe Courtney) federal funding opportunities and resources for grant seekers. Joanne reported that there was nothing new from Julia. Joanne Breen may see Joe Courtney in Washington, D.C. during a June meeting and may give an update in July.
6. Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.
 - Joe is coordinating with Chris Costa, Town Planner and Connecticut Zoning Enforcement Officer, to give a Climate Change presentation plus questions sometime later this year, possibly June, to Old Saybrook residents at the Old Saybrook Town Hall. Carolyn will help get the word out about this presentation.
 - OSCRC is planning to put an article in the upcoming Saybrook Events publication. It missed the deadline for this quarter but would try to get an article in the summer. Joe agreed to take the lead on the article.
 - OSCRC has agreed to have a presence at the Old Saybrook Conservation Commission Environmental Fair at the Middle School on April 26, 2025. Joe has made arrangements for a table at the fair. OSCRC handouts will be prepared prior to the fair.
 - Joe will give a Climate Change and Sea Level Rise presentation at the annual Old Saybrook Land Trust meeting on April 27th at 2:00 pm at the Saybrook Point Duffy Pavilion.
 7. Update on opportunities for reimbursement for damages following FEMA-declared disasters. Terence noted that Michael Spera, who recently resigned as Old Saybrook Chief of Police but is still the head of the Town's Emergency Management Office until the Fall, was willing to come to a future OSCRC meeting to discuss the FEMA reimbursement program. Members are reminded that associations must have an up-to-date survey of their beaches to be eligible for FEMA funding.
 8. Update on relationship with Old Saybrook Land Trust. Carolyn Lyle, as the liaison between OSCRC and the Land Trust, will be attending the Land Trust meetings. She has set up an OSCRC presentation by Joe at their April 27th meeting.
 9. Update on The Town of Old Saybrook and the Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP). Public input has been received and the NHMP is completed. The current draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is awaiting FEMA approval and is available online at the Town of Old Saybrook website.
 10. Update on the Town of Old Saybrook news, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes for boards & commissions. Doug reminded everyone to sign up for the Town of Old Saybrook website (www.oldsaybrookct.gov) for news, notifications, and meeting minutes and upcoming agendas. He will provide future updates on related topics of interest.
 11. Update on CT legislature's "Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities." Since Old Saybrook is a transit-oriented community, this Act may negatively impact local zoning regulations. Joanne noted that the Act is still moving through the legislative process. Doug mentioned that the CT legislature is considering a bill (SB 1313) that would allow "as of right" development within one-half mile of the railroad station in Old Saybrook.
 12. Chamber of Commerce. Jamie reported on his recent attendance to the monthly Chamber of Commerce First Thursday Connection event at the Duffy Pavilion, Saybrook Point. He stressed that the event is a good venue to get the word out about OSCRC activities to other local businesses.

13. OSCRC Newsletter. Jamie distributed to the attending members his ideas for the OSCRC newsletter format. A few members offered to help with further developing the proposed format. The goal is to have the first newsletter out by July of this year.

New Business:

None.

Additional Items:

1. Amtrack Bridge & Enterprise Zone. The Town of Old Saybrook and CT Department of Transportation (DOT) is progressing with work on Amtrak River Bridge project. An enterprise zone has been created along Boston Post Road heading toward Ferry Road. The hope is that the enterprise zone (which includes John Deere, car washes, automotive repair shops, etc.) can be remade to attract developers to transform the abandoned properties into hotels, shops, and other attractive businesses.

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

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.