

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

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

Date: February 4, 2025 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Jamie Greacen, Connie Hughes, Gary Jacobsen, Scott Loveland, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Ed Rajotte, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Jeff Brodersen, Jay Costello, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, David Hopkins, John Kennedy, Carolyn Lyle, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliate:

Guest: Dan Jennings

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m.

Joe introduced two new alternate directors to the OSCRC board: Garry Jacobsen for Cornfield Point and Andrew Morosky for Summerwood Condos. Joe also introduced a visitor to the OSCRC meeting: Daniel Jennings of State College.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. January 7, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. A clarification was made to the minutes under the Chair's Report which reads "In the event that, after three excused absences, neither the primary nor secondary are able to make a Board of Directors meeting, the primary will be recorded as an unexcused absence." The motion was made to accept the minutes with the clarification. Motion seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report:

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement forms were signed and returned for Bel Aire Manor and Summerwood Condos.

Treasurer's Report:

The 2025 bank deposits and expenses during past month are as follows:

Donations: \$ 78.46 Jan. 28, J Russo

Expenses: \$ 93.16 Jan. 17, Staples, copies of OSCRC abstract

\$ 78.46 Jan. 28, HostGator 3-YR OSCRC Domain Renewal

\$104.83 Jan. 30, Bellefonte Print Shop, 200 copies OSCRC information sheets.

The current OSCRC balance as of February 4, 2025 is \$3,263.20.

The OSCRC Board of Directors agreed to continue receiving a \$250 annual donation from each member association.

Vice Chair's Report:

No report.

Chair's Report:

Joe reported that there were 100 copies of the 2-page OSCRC abstract and 100 copies of the Constellation-sponsored "Living Shoreline" document for distribution to the public.

Joe mentioned that the OSCRC should consider a monthly newsletter for distribution to interested parties.

Jamie volunteered to represent the OSCRC at the upcoming Feb. 6 Chamber of Commerce member meeting.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook (4 Shore Resilience) grant. A public presentation on project results will be given on Monday, February 24, 6:00 at the Middle School auditorium. A draft of the presentation will be online prior to the public meeting. The goal is to have a final project report by March 1 of this year. New databases resulting from the project will be available to the public.
2. Update on the Old Saybrook 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) proposal. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation officially awarded on Dec. 9, 2024 \$323,400.00 to the Towns of Old Saybrook and Westbrook for the Planning to Restore Chalker and Chapman Beach Marshes and Mitigate Marsh-associated Flooding from Chapman Beach to Indiantown project. The schedule begins with the selection of a consultant by February 26th. Joe and Doug are on the consultant selection committee. Next objective is to complete a project plan. The deadline for completing the project is August 2026.
3. Update on Chalker Beach Related Issues.
 - Whole Foods. Preliminary plans submitted by The Carpionato Group and Attorney Ed Cassella were still being reviewed by the zoning commission. As noted in the previous month's meeting, there is still some disagreement on whether the building project is "renovation" or "new construction." There is also disagreement as to how many extra parking spaces will be allowed on the property.
 - The Chalker Beach, Bellaire, Indian Town beach Nourishment Study. The nourishment study is going as planned. Terence noted that the coastal engineer will have a preliminary meeting with CT DEEP and the Army Corp of Engineers to review the proposed concept designs.
4. OSCRC volunteer team reports:
 - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
 - As mentioned in the Chair's report, Joe has copies of two information sheets: OSCRC 2-page abstract and Constellation-funded living shoreline, available for distribution to the public.
 - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - Update on Fenwood seawall. CT Department of Transportation shored up the Fenwood seawall damage for the winter and strengthened the drainage pipe repair they did a couple of years ago. CT Department of Transportation 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. Joe suggested that some of the money be used to create a video about OSCRC mission with images of the beaches.
 - Donations (Joe Russo). Joe has been researching possible donors. No new activity.
5. Update on government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.
 - Connie Hughes reminded the Board of CT Sea Grant funding opportunities.
 - Scott mentioned NOAA's announcement of the Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Round 3. The deadline date for applications is April 16, 2025. OSCRC is not eligible for the grant, but Joe will bring it to the attention of the Town of Old Saybrook.

- 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.
6. Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.
 - Joe will give a presentation entitled “Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience Coalition” on February 19th at 6:00 pm prior to the start of a joint meeting of the Town of Old Saybrook Planning and Zoning Commissions.
 - 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 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. The deadline for an article is February 26, 2024. Joe will take the lead on the article and will draft something.
 - 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 the Old Saybrook Chief of Police was willing to come to a future OSCRC meeting to discuss the FEMA reimbursement program. Current issues with OSPD may delay his attendance. Terence also mentioned that associations must have an up-to-date survey of their beaches to be eligible for 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 2:00 pm meeting on April 27, 2025 at the Saybrook Point Duffy Pavilion.
 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. The current draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan 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 indicated he sent the link out to all last year for how to sign up on the town website for upcoming meeting notifications. He will provide future updates on related topics of interest.

New Business:

1. Joanne shared copies of the CT legislature’s “Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities with Board members. She noted that Old Saybrook is a transit-oriented community and that its zoning laws may be negatively impacted by this act. Joanne will provide future updates on the status of this act.

Additional Items:

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

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.