

OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: June 3, 2025 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Marisa Giarnella, Jamie Greacen, Donna Henry, Connie Hughes, Garry Jacobsen, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Robert Pulito, Joe Russo, Michael Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Joanne Breen, Jeff Brodersen, Tara Gustafson, David Hopkins, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Andrew Morosky, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Ed Rajotte

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken

Friends:

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

Secretary's Report: None.

Treasurer's Report:

Ed's Treasurer's report was read by Chair Joe Russo.

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

Deposits: \$250.00 May 15, Donation: Saybrook Manor
\$250.00 June 3, Donation: Summerwood Condo

Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$50.00 May 15, Connecticut Annual Report fee

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of June 3, 2025 is \$5,713.20.

Vice Chair's Report: No report.

Chair's Report:

Joe reported on the completed 2024 tax filing on May 14 with the federal Internal Revenue Service and the 2024 business filing on May 15 with the Secretary of the State of Connecticut.

Old Business:

1. Old Saybrook 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) grant Update.
 - Contract with consultant Fuss & O'Neil signed on May 6th.
 - 1st Step - FEMA required Quality Assurance (Q/A) plan
 - Schedule - The deadline for completing the project is August 2026.
 - Project Goal – Complete study objectives with enough data to move forward with the permitting phase.

2. Chalker Beach Related Issues Update.
 - Whole Foods – Corporate/development team meeting for decision to move forward or not set for June 4th. At this point in time, the Whole Foods commitment to development remains questionable because of the remaining outstanding issues.
 - Beach Nourishment Study – Public & Association presentation meeting set for 9:30 AM on Saturday July 19th at the Fire Department Banquet Hall, Clark Field on Elm Street. RACE Engineering to make presentation on 3 main alternatives & progress so far. Meeting with DEEP Fisheries staff and request permitting & environmental feedback/concerns to be scheduled.
3. OSCRC Volunteer Team Reports:
 - Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
 - Literature Available - Joe Russo 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.
 - Constellation Energy \$500 grant (“OSCRC Living Shoreline Education”) - Constellation “Living Shoreline” information sheet is available for distribution. An educational video is being considered but needs an initial script and a person with the necessary skill set and equipment. Carolyn Lyle to check into Videographer.
 - Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - Fenwood Seawall Update - CT Department of Transportation has initiated work & will complete temporary repairs to the Fenwood seawall in the next month or so. More permanent repair planning has been initiated but will take several years due to the required design, planning and permitting.
4. Government & Private Corporation Funding
 - Private Funding (Joe Russo) - No new activity. Joe will provide a list of foundations that have been contacted about their charitable funds in the near future.
 - Government Agency Funding.
 - CT Sea Grant Funding - Resources: Funding programs and their application deadlines can be found on the LIS Resource Hub Page (www.lisresilience.org) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#).
 - LIS Stewardship Plan – Required reference for most LIS and Sea Grant funding sources. On-line presentation & input meeting scheduled for June 4th for public input.
 - Town Activity - Doug McCracken reported that the Town is actively preparing to submit applications for two projects (Back River Bank Erosion and South Cove Dredging) that already have had some previous work done and could be ready for a spring 2026 submittal.
 - Federal/State Congressional Funding - Update on Julia McGrath (Grants and Special Projects Coordinator for Congressman Joe Courtney) federal funding opportunities and resources for grant seekers. Joanne Breen may see Joe Courtney in Washington, D.C. during a June meeting and may give an update in July.
5. Education Mission - 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 this summer, 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 fall. Joe agreed to take the lead on the article.

- Joe will give a presentation for a Master Gardeners course on Sept. 23rd in Haddam, CT.
 - Input for places/people for OSCRC to do educational presentations is encouraged.
6. FEMA Disaster Declaration Damages - On hold until a new Old Saybrook Chief of Police has been selected. Members are reminded that associations must have an up-to-date survey of their beaches to be eligible for FEMA funding.
 7. Old Saybrook Land Trust - Carolyn Lyle, as the liaison between OSCRC and the Land Trust. No meeting in May but Carolyn Lyle will attend June meeting.
 8. Old Saybrook/Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) - Doug McCracken reported that the five-year report is complete and available on the Old Saybrook website. He indicated that the Plan needed FEMA approval as the final step.
 - Doug reiterated that the previously introduced “matrix of construction projects” could help identify project priorities, track ongoing projects, and relate projects to funding opportunities. This was especially true for projects related to sea level rise, flooding and climate resilience issues.
 9. Old Saybrook News – Town website (www.oldsaybrookct.gov) for news, notifications, and meeting minutes and upcoming agendas.
 - Saybrook Point Land Swap - Consists of the Town of Old Saybrook receiving ownership of 2+ acres of land (previous site of the Dock & Dine) in exchange for a 25-year lease of the Duffy Pavilion (Saybrook Point) to be converted to a restaurant. More information on this Land Swap will be in a future public meeting
 - CT legislature’s “Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities” - Since Old Saybrook is a transit-oriented community, this Act may negatively impact local zoning regulations. The Act is still moving through the legislative process and could potentially allow “as of right” development within one-half mile of the railroad station in Old Saybrook. Doug explained that many communities (including Old Saybrook) are looking at options that ADU’s (Additional Dwelling Units) could be utilized to meet low-income housing requirements of this potential legislation.
 10. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen) – Rockfall Foundation has grants available for \$1k to \$5k, but must be within their “focus areas”. See their website for more information.
 11. OSCRC Quarterly Newsletter – Jamie Greacen provided a recent version of OSCRC newsletter draft prior to the meeting. Suggestions by Board members have been incorporated in the recent version. Jamie indicated the quarterly newsletter is on target for the inaugural version to go out in July. Suggestions made at the meeting;
 - Add “plug” for Mindy K’s
 - Spread out content over multiple issues
 - All OSCRC Association members should provide content for each newsletter.
 - Suggestions and information for future newsletters should be emailed directly to Jaime.
 - Newsletter or OSCRC website link should be posted on Association websites once newsletter is final.

New Business:

1. OSCRC Project Priority Matrix – A suggestion was made to develop an OSCRC priority list of grant programs and schedules. The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) matrix includes OSCRC-related projects and could be a good starting point for developing a list. Content for the priority list could also be drawn from Doug’s “matrix of construction projects” and/or from “identified problems” published in an earlier (2022) OSCRC report.

Additional Items:

- Carolyn Lyle reported that the Town of Old Saybrook Tree Committee will be conducting a tree inventory of public road and park trees. There will a meeting for public input on June 10th.
- Carolyn mentioned that Connecticut DEEP is holding a public meeting at 10:00 am on June 13th to launch the development of its Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).
- Carolyn announced that Beth Kimmse, from Fuss & O'Neill contractor, would be attending the next OSCRC Board of Directors meeting in July. Beth will speak on the CIRCA Resilient Mystic project.

A thank you to Rick Bovino for hosting and for providing dinner prior to the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.