

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

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

Date: March 4, 2025 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Jamie Greacen, Donna Henry, Gary Jacobsen, John Kennedy, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Ed Rajotte, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Jeff Brodersen, Jay Costello, Tara Gustafson, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, Scott Loveland, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken

Friends: Dan Jennings, David Brown

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Joe introduced Chip Adams, who reported on the activities of the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce. Joe also introduced a visitor to the OSCRC meeting: David Brown of State College.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

Secretary's Report:

No Report.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Deposits: \$ 500.00 Feb. 3, Donations: Fenwood and Knollwood Beach

Donations: \$ 0

Expenses: \$ 0

The current OSCRC balance as of March 4, 2025 is \$3,763.20.

Treasurer reminded the Board about the \$250 annual donation from each member association.

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. A public presentation on project results was given during the past month at the Middle School auditorium. The

goal is to have a final project report by March of this year. 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. A committee of representatives from the Borough of Fenwick, Towns of Old Saybrook and Westbrook, Old Saybrook planning committee, and the OSCRC are currently reviewing proposals from four consultants. After the consultant is picked in the upcoming week, a contract will be drawn up detailing the project tasks, timeline, and payments. 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).
 - 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 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 agreed to write an initial script for a video about OSCRC mission.
 - Donations (Joe Russo). Joe has been researching possible donors. No new activity.
5. Update on government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.
 - Reminder about 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 consensus of the group was not to apply for a grant since the likelihood of the funds being available is suspect plus OSCRC would be competing against large organizations.
 - 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 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. 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 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 April meeting.
 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 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 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.
 11. 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.

New Business:

1. OSCRC Newsletter. Jamie provided an idea for the format of an OSCRC newsletter.
2. OSCRC representation at the 91 Sheffield application to fill wetland. Carolyn discussed a possible response from OSCRC.

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, April 1, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.