



OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: June 2, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Joseph Budnick, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Donna Henry, Connie Hughes, Garry Jacobsen, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Joseph Russo, Michael Russo

Excused: Jeff Brodersen, J Brooke, Beth Chotkowski, Marisa Giarnella, Tara Gustafson, David Hopkins, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Steve Norcia, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito, Edwin Rajotte

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken

AGENDA ITEMS

Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion made to accept the previous month's OSCRC Board of Directors minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report read by Joe Russo.

2026 member donations are now due.

Bank deposits, donations, and expenses for May are as follows:

Deposits: \$250.00 May 29, Donations Received: Bel Aire Manor

In Kind Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$0

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of June 2, 2026 is \$17,969.27.

Vice Chair's Report: No report.

Chair's Report: No report.

Old Business:

1. Old Saybrook 2025 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Project Update
 - Public Information Meeting – Scheduled for June 25th, 6PM at the Old Saybrook fire station on Main Street.
 - The project goal is to collect enough data to move forward with the design & permitting phase.
 - Data Collection - Tide gauges, data logger, and barometric sensors have been deployed and monitoring/measurements have begun.
 - Mapping – Available mapping for wetland, water limits, etc. are not matching up with field data being collected, so additional work will be required to update mapping.
 - Schedule – Preliminary timing for the next public outreach is Fall 2026 with project completion scheduled for late 2026.
 - In a March meeting with OSCRC, the Town requested that OSCRC hold off on any grant applications until after this project is completed.

2. Chalker Beach Related Issues Update
 - Whole Foods – Whole foods has agreed to downsized project scope to meet previous P&Z concerns and conditions. However, the developer is still assessing whether this makes sense for them to move forward with the project. *Nothing new*
 - Beach Nourishment Study – OSCRC has identified limited funding (\$10,000) to proceed with efforts to identify and submit for broader grant funding based on implementation of Alternative 2 (Dune at elevation 12.0 ft). *Nothing new*
3. Literature creation (Joe Russo).
 - Literature Available - *Nothing new*
 - Information Sheets - OSCRC 2-page abstract and Constellation living shoreline
 - Rack cards for distribution to the public.
4. Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - Fenwood Seawall Repair – State has obtained 80% Federal/20% State funding for construction in 2028. *Nothing new*
 - Back River Bank Stabilization - Town of Old Saybrook’s application for CT DEEP LIS Ecosystems Grant for \$454,330 to fund the next phase was not approved for funding by the CT DEEP. *Nothing new*
5. OSCRC Project Priority Tracking (Jay Costello)
 - Project tracker spreadsheet – *Unchanged since March 2026.*
 - Drainage projects – OSCRC should consolidate drainage issues from all beach communities into a single specific priority project & bring to DPW directly.
6. Private and Government Funding Opportunities
 - Private Funding (Joe Russo)
 - Rockfall Foundation - Grants available for \$1k to \$5k; must be within their “focus areas”. See their website for more information. *Nothing new.*
 - Charitable Foundations (Joe Russo) - *Nothing new.*
 - Government Agency Funding.
 - CT Sea Grant Funding Links- LIS Resource Hub Page (www.lisresilience.org) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#).
 - Recently Funded Programs. Water Resources Development Act – Water Resources Development Act authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to perform studies related to navigation, resilience, etc. based on input received from local RPA’s and communities. Joanne to investigate and provide more information. *Nothing new*
 - Recent OSCRC Funding Activity
 - Town of Old Saybrook Collaboration - The Town discouraged OSCRC from filing project specific grant applications as the Town viewed this as potential competition for the Town’s priorities. The Town did offer to cooperate on drainage improvements in conjunction with their MS4 program and agreed to have the DPW director look into this. So far, no known further action by the Town. Joe Russo to follow with Chris Costa at the Town. Also see Task 5, above.
 - Applications – None pending/None filed this month.
 - Upcoming Funding Programs
Nothing new – Needs LIS Resource Hub update check – FEMA program?

- Town Funding Activity
 - Drainage (Doug McCracken) – Town is considering evaluation of association drainage issues by the DPW under their MS4 program. Benefit is unclear and needs follow-up. See *Task 5, above*.
7. Education Mission - Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.
 - OSCRC Climate Change Presentation - Joe is coordinating with Town officials for future events.
 - Saybrook Events Publication – Joe Russo to explore articles for publication in 2026. Contact for the magazine Jeniffer Donahue. *Nothing new*
 - OSCRC Video - Presentation on climate impact is in production. It will be three 5-minute videos instead of one 15-minute video. Some shore front video footage has been shot & interviews to be initiated. Use of drone footage was suggested; researching possible Town drone footage is an option. *Nothing new*
 8. FEMA Disaster Declaration Damages (Terence McGrath) – Chief William Onofrio is looking to fund a disaster preparation/relief study that will meet FEMA needs for the two public beaches only (Harvey's Beach & Town Beach); no beach associations would be included at this time. FEMA regulations require that beach must be an “engineered beach” with defined elevations and limits of grading and/or replenishment. Member associations should look to coordinate any up-to-date beach surveys with the various data sources in order to be eligible for FEMA funding.
 9. Old Saybrook Land Trust (Gary Jacobsen) – *Nothing New*
 10. Town of Old Saybrook News – News, notifications, meeting minutes and upcoming agendas available on Town website (www.oldsaybrookct.gov).
 - Solar Farm – Has preliminary approval and moving forward, which will include clearing 6.8 acres of mature growth.
 - CT legislature's PA 25-1 “AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING GROWTH” (Doug McCracken) – Among other housing related issues, this act establishes the following;
 - Replaces prior law's requirements on municipal affordable housing plans (CGS § 8-30j) with a new framework in which municipalities generally decide whether to opt into a regional COG made plan or develop their own plan for increasing the number of affordable deed-restricted units; requires new plans to be submitted to OPM every five years; municipalities in compliance with the act's planning and implementation requirements are eligible for grants under the Housing Growth Program the act establishes (§ 15); sets penalties for delinquent plans.
 - Creates an alternative standard for a municipality to qualify for a moratorium under CGS § 8-30g if it creates an overlay zone meeting specific requirements; these zones qualify as “housing growth zones” under Connecticut Municipal Development Authority law
 - Creates a framework in which adoption of zoning regulations that promote transit-oriented development may make the municipality eligible for grants under the act's Housing Growth Program (§ 15), loans under the act's sewer loan provisions (§ 47), and increased school construction reimbursements (§ 46)
 - Requires municipalities zoning under CGS § 8-2 to allow certain middle housing and mixed-use developments on parcels zoned for commercial or mixed uses, subject only to summary review process; amends the existing definition of “summary review;” changes when a municipality is eligible for Housing Unit Equivalent (HUE) points for middle housing developed pursuant to a local option.

- Mixed Use Multi-Family Housing – State grant for \$76,923 was received by the Town to complete a two-part analysis of mixed-use, multi-family housing related regulations in the B-1 business district (Main Street) and how to create incentives for developers. One proposal under discussion is apartments above businesses.
- Town Resiliency Fund – There is \$150,000 appropriated to the Town of Old Saybrook’s resiliency fund. The Town sees this as their source of matching funds, but OSCRC should still consider specific projects/needs for formal request for funding and make a pitch at the end of each fiscal year.
- Saybrook Point Land Swap – On March 31, 2026, Town voters approved the preliminary concept that would allow transfer of title to the Vicki Duffy Pavilion, and the lease for the land beneath and around it, to Dock6, LLC (owned by local restaurateur Jon Kodama) in exchange for the transfer of title to the 2.2-acre waterfront parcel that was the former Dock & Dine Restaurant site.
- Celebrate Old Saybrook - Street fair will be held June 28th but will be held later in the day (4-8 pm) this year.

11. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen) – JG will continue to attend and update as appropriate.

12. OSCRC Quarterly Newsletter (Jamie Greacen) – The July 2026 draft was presented by Jamie with request for comments prior to publication. Suggestions and information from OSCRC members for future newsletters should be emailed directly to Jamie.

13. Communication Strategy (Ed Rajotte)

- Press releases – No update.

14. My Coast Connecticut Snap & Share Program. Nothing New

15. Westbrook Resilience Activity – It was reported by a member that Grove beach recently spent \$100k on gravel for adding to their beach. There could be possible “regional” connection here for funding applications, especially the Chalker beach nourishment project. There could also be some synergy between Westbrook beach association and OSCRC on other projects, funding or overall goals. *Also*, OSCRC should look into connecting with the Westbrook Coastal Resiliency Implementation Committee for possible cooperation and creating of a more “regional” presence and strength in future funding applications.

16. Upcoming Events – None scheduled.

New Business:

17. Business Cards – Jamie Greacen suggested making of business cards for certain members to assist in the carrying out of OSCRC business. This was discussed and agreed in general terms to proceed.

18. Protect The Preserve – Public information meeting was held on June 8th to discuss the DEEP’s forest management plan for the 1000 acre Preserve and if this plan is in the best interest of the forest and its inhabitants.

19. Environmental Protection Network – Jay Costello discussed that this non-profit organization provides pro-bono capacity-building technical assistance services to other non-profits, which could be helpful to OSCRC in developing private funding sources and expanding our reach & influence.

Additional Items:

A thank you to Rick Bovino (Mindy K’s) for hosting and for providing dinner prior to the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7th at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.