



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Office of the Board of Selectmen

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

Telephone (860) 395-3123 • FAX (860) 395-3125

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First-floor Conference Room

To access a recording of this meeting: <https://youtu.be/S4KyZ-YuxX4>

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the chair, Mr. Carlson.

Members Present: Bruce Carlson (Chair), Susan Esty (Vice-chair), Brad Thorpe, Kacie Hand, Kristin Roberts, Elizabeth McEvily, Judy Sullivan and Maureen Zavatone (Secretary).

Others Present: Carl Fortuna, Chris Costa and Jennifer Donahue.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Ms. McEvily made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Esty seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

IV. PRESENTATION ON RESILIENCY PLANNING IN OLD SAYBROOK – Chris Costa

Ms. Costa detailed the highlights of the Town's participation in resiliency planning beginning in the 1970s. She noted that the town has instituted stricter flood rules than those required by FEMA and, while sometimes unpopular, those regulations were ahead of their time and have saved homeowners from flood insurance costs and protected properties during storm events. The Town is also one of the first to have formed a group to examine sea-level rise and climate change effects.

Recently, coordination with other coastal towns such as Clinton and Westbrook as well as all of the towns' relevant beach associations, including Fenwick, has begun to try to address resiliency issues on a regional basis in order to solve problems on the coastline in a way that will be beneficial to all rather than solving a specific problem in one area without regard to how that solution might affect another area. This has resulted in the group receiving a \$230,000 2022 National Fish & Wildlife Grant. The group has also applied for a 2023 Sea Grant for more than \$352,000 to fund more studies needed in the affected areas. A \$25,000 match for the 2022 grant is needed from Old Saybrook and, if the 2023 grant is received, another

match would also be required. Mr. Fortuna noted that the regional partnership gives more funding leverage and more opportunity to solve expensive problems with a group effort.

V. DISCUSSION ON USE OF ARPA FUNDS TO SUPPORT OR PROMOTE RESILIENCY IN OLD SAYBROOK

Mr. Thorpe made a **MOTION** to provide the \$25,000 match funding for the 2022 National Fish & Wildlife Grant. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

VI. COMMENTS FROM ARPA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Carlson commented on the Celebrate Saybrook Street Party scheduled on Main Street on June 25th. He noted how it relates to ARPA's mission to help the community continue to recover from the pandemic.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Esty made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. Ms. Zavatone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on June 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the Town Hall first-floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue