

AQUIFER PROTECTION AGENCY

The Aquifer Protection Agency (APA) meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Old Saybrook Town Hall. The Connecticut General Statutes expressly empower the agency to regulate land uses within designated aquifer protection areas to protect public drinking water.

During fiscal year 2010-2011, the members of the Zoning Commission concluded their double-duty in establishing the Town's Aquifer Protection Agency as mandated by the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. The members put together the entire administrative structure of the new agency – map, regulations, forms, fees, instructions, etc. – based on a rough model from the State. Although the Commission has regulated the Aquifer Protection Areas through the zoning regulations for decades, it found that the actual administration more closely followed the expertise and statutory requirements of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, the members of which were good-natured about taking on the responsibility of a second regulatory process.

At this time, the APA is in the process of registering existing facilities within the aquifer protection area. This will grandfather current activities at each. The majority of properties within this area is residential and is exempt from registration or permitting so long as each remains residential in use. In the future, non-residential activities, not previously registered, will require permits to ensure their compliance with APA regulations.

Robert C. Friedmann, *Outgoing Chairman*

Paul H. Smith, *Incoming Chairman*