

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission's purpose is established by the CT General Statutes as "...the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources..." According to this legislation, the Conservation Commission must keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of making the proper use of such areas; conduct research into the possible utilization of land areas of the municipality; and approve state grant-in-aid applications for programs to preserve or restrict the use of open space land to conservation or recreation purposes. In addition, the Conservation Commission may make recommendations on proposed land use changes to other municipal agencies (often by request of those agencies); recommend plans and programs for the development and use of all open areas; advertise, prepare and distribute booklets, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets for its purposes; inventory natural resources and formulate watershed management plans; acquire land and easements in the name of the municipality (with the approval of the townspeople); and manage municipally-owned open space property when the agency normally responsible for such duties (Parks & Recreation, by our Charter) delegates that power.

The Conservation Commission has completed an update of the Plan of Conservation & Open Space for the Town of Old Saybrook. The plan's purposes and uses are many, including protecting the Town's natural resources, providing information to Land Use regulatory commissions as they process land use applications, and aiding the Town's Land Acquisition Committee in identifying properties of value to preserve for future generations. The Conservation Commission has published a booklet and maps in order to disseminate this information to all parties who would benefit from it.

The Conservation Commission also feels that this information would be useful to all citizens of the Town, both as an educational tool and as a means of enlisting the help of everyone in preserving and protecting the abundant natural resources that are a large part of the quality of life we enjoy in Old Saybrook. And so the Conservation Commission has published and distributed to every household in Old Saybrook a booklet that contains the same information as supplied to town agencies. The Conservation Commission welcomes all help from citizens in developing conservation projects, some of which are suggested in the distributed booklet, and we will provide help and advice to anyone who requests it.

Robert W. Fish, *Chairman*