

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Connecticut General Statutes establish the purpose of any Conservation Commission as “...the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources...”

The Board of Selectmen appoints 7 members for a term of 2 years each. The Commission is thankful for the many years of participation by Kim Gallagher and for her expert representation to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Conservation Commission conducted a vernal pool inspection with the help of volunteers from the Old Saybrook High School Ecology Club. The Commission presented an orientation to the importance of water quality for the Planning Commission. The Commission organized and established the Sea Level Rise Climate Adaptation Committee to study and report on the impacts of sea level rise on Old Saybrook. Members conducted a site assessment of the scenic overlook at the corner of Pratt Road and Hartlands Drive overlooking Long Island Sound. The Commission presented a concept for a butterfly garden at Fort Saybrook Monument Park for approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Commission participated as member of Sustainable Saybrook in the Old Saybrook Family Day event, as well as in reviewing essays competing to win the Sustainable Saybrook annual scholarship. The Board of Selectmen included representatives of the Conservation Commission in the work of its Beaver Committee. This past year, the Conservation Commission worked with the Land Use Department to conduct an informational assessment of the Town's current management practices for Town-owned conservation areas to identify concerns or issues that may arise with regard to annexation of additional vacant lands for the purposes of open space. The Commission continues to take an interest in the potential to connect to any existing trails from Old Saybrook northwesterly. The Commission added a Secretary to its officers and elected Nina Garrett to head outreach and education efforts for the Commission.

The Commission meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, second floor conference room. Kathleen Noyes of the Land Use Department supports us as our administrative clerk. Sandy Prisloe, Environmental Planner, is available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Land Use Department of the Town Hall to answer questions concerning conservation of land and natural resources in Old Saybrook.

**Walter K. Smith**, *Chairman*