

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.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Commission heard a presentation about “Alternative Landscaping Options for Municipalities – Plant Materials” from Judy Preston. The Commission gathered information to improve the Hartlands Drive overlook. The Commission participated as member of Sustainable Saybrook in the Old Saybrook Solar Challenge and hit the 100 kw mark. The Commission approved the recommendation of its committee to trap beavers to mitigate the problematic damage to Merritt Lane. The Commission began its outreach and education efforts with the inaugural issue of its “Conservation Circular”; the Commission will publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis. The Commission participated in “Green Up Day” on April 25. As a member of Sustainable Saybrook, the Commission held an essay contest and awarded \$500 to one high school senior. The Conservation Commission continued to conduct a vernal pool inspection with the help of volunteers from the Old Saybrook High School Ecology Club in 4 outings. The Commission installed 50 milkweed plants that support the life cycle of milkweed butterflies, most notably the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The Commission continued its sponsorship of the Sea Level Rise Climate Adaptation Committee to study and report on the impacts of sea level rise on Old Saybrook. The Commission supported the acquisition of 1,000 acres of woodlands in the northwest corner of Old Saybrook, commonly referred to as “The Preserve”, which, among other things, will greatly enhance the Town’s interest in connecting existing trails from Old Saybrook northwesterly through Middlesex county. Planning is underway for “The Nature of Old Saybrook” Symposium to be held in the Parks & Recreation Building on Sunday, September 13, 2015.

The Commission meets on the 2nd 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*