

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 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Commission held 11 meetings at which it planned and reported on ongoing outreach and education initiatives. The Commission maintains an up-to-date webpage on the Town’s website and a separate Facebook profile for its own audiences and is working on other media outreach methods for the year to come. The Commission publishes a “Conservation Circular” newsletter and submits content to the “Old Saybrook Events” magazine. The Commission has continued contributing to the Acton Public Library to update its reference collection and lending library of books and films about the natural environment.

The Commission partnered with the Denali Outdoor Store to host its first annual Winter Film Series with a theme of “Water” targeting education on climate change and sea level rise. The series, which consisted of four films, began the fourth week in January and continued through April.

The Commission worked with Youth and Family Services to provide materials, instructions and education to teenage children about the benefits of creating bat houses and the environmental return they have on the natural ecosystem within Old Saybrook.

The Commission works closely with other land use groups. Presently, the Chairman represents the Commission on the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission and the Aquifer Protection Agency, each of which regulate development of land that may have a negative effect on the quality of water for humans or for habitat, respectively, in identified locations. Donna Leake serves on the Architectural Review Board. The Commission thanks all for their dedication to these additional organizations and ongoing coordination of land use policies.

The Commission conducts periodic inspection of other Town-owned conservation land and easements over private land to monitor its functions and improvements (such as fish passages). The Commission is represented on an ad hoc advisory committee to the Town and State DEEP under its Cooperative Management Agreement for The Preserve open space in the northwest corner of Old Saybrook. The Commission continues to look for further opportunities to conserve natural resources of the land between already-protected open spaces in Old Saybrook.

The Conservation Commission meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, second floor conference room. Gillian Carroll, Environmental Planner, is available mornings Tuesday through Thursday in Land Use Department to answer questions concerning conservation of land and natural resources in Old Saybrook.

Richard Esty, *Chairman*