

## **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

The Commission consists of five regular members and three alternates appointed by the Board of Selectmen to review for “appropriateness” the erection, alteration, demolition or removal of the exterior architectural features of any principal or accessory building, structure, or other work within a historic district. The Old Saybrook Historic District Commission conducts its review of such proposals for properties within the North Cove Historic District.

The Historic District Regulations acknowledge that there are certain activities that are exempt from the requirement for a Certificate of Appropriateness, including the color of paint, improvements that are not visible from a public place or the waters, and repairs necessary for health or safety. The Commission is notified of approval of any Request for Exemption (from the certificate process) after an inspection by the Building Inspector or the Zoning Enforcement Officer, who perform an administrative confirmation of the exemption. Anything not immediately clear is merely referred to the Commission for the usual certificate process. A form to provide basic information in making such a request can be found on the Town’s website.

During the fiscal year 2010-2011, the Commission considered and approved 2 applications for Certificate of Appropriateness. Joanne Rynecki supports us as our administrative clerk.

As usual, we welcome residents of the District to attend meetings. The Commission purposefully holds a public hearing on each application for Certificate of Appropriateness in anticipation of receiving information about the historical nature of these beautiful houses and the neighborhood. The commission meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall. You can keep abreast of what is on an agenda for any meeting through a variety of means including legal notice in the Hartford Courant of new applications, posting at the Town Clerk’s office and the Town website, or request for delivery via regular mail by submitting a year’s-worth of self addressed, stamped envelopes to the Town Clerk. We recently added automatic delivery of agendas via electronic mail through the Town website “subscription” service.

It is our desire to rekindle an interest in the historic nature of the North Cove neighborhood, especially among its residents. The Board encourages any elector of Old Saybrook who is interested in filling a vacancy on the Commission to contact the Office of the First Selectman.

**Randi J. Bradbury**, *Chairman*