

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Connecticut General Statutes empower the Historic District Commission to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the Town through the preservation and protection of buildings, places and districts of historic interest by the maintenance of such landmarks in the history of architecture and of the Town. The Commission conducts its review of such proposals for properties within the North Cove Historic District.

The Board of Selectmen appoints 5 members and 3 alternates for a term of 5 years each. This year we recognize the several terms of office for which Louise Tietjen participated as a member of the Commission and give thanks for her lifetime of caring volunteerism.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Commission issued only one certificate of appropriateness for the erection, alteration, demolition or removal of the exterior architectural features of any principal or accessory building, structure, or other work on properties visible from a public place or the waters.

The Commission continued its efforts to build awareness of the North Cove Historic District with the design and installation of markers at each of the two entry points. The Commission studied and prepared a planting plan for the roadside and hillside of the Clothesline Marine facility.

In December 2013, the Department of Interior's National Park Service and the State of Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office designated the Historic District Commission as a Certified Local Government capable of conducting non-regulatory historic preservation activities throughout town. Soon after designation, the Commission applied for and was awarded a grant to hire an architectural historian to conduct an updated inventory of historic structures in Old Saybrook. Similar historic studies have recently been done in nearby towns and are important for preserving a town's historic resources, especially since historic inventories in Old Saybrook were last done in 1966 and 1980.

The Commission meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, first floor conference room. Joanne Kegel of the Land Use Department supports us as our administrative clerk. Christine Nelson, Town Planner, who directs our programs and physical improvements, is available Monday through Thursday by appointment. Chris Costa, Zoning Enforcement Officer, who conducts our enforcement activities, is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Land Use Department of the Town Hall to assist with applications and to answer questions concerning land use in Old Saybrook.

Randi J. Bradbury, *Chairman*