

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. The Commission reviews designs for the erection or alteration of buildings and structures within the North Cove Historic District for regulatory compliance.

The Board of Selectmen appoints 5 members and 3 alternates to the Commission for a term of 5 years each. This year we recognize the 15 years of service for which Randi Bradbury participated as a member of the Commission, as well as long-time Chairman. The cross-pollination of Ms. Bradbury's energies between the Commission and the Old Saybrook Historical Society, for which Ms. Bradbury served during much of the same time as a Board member and sometime President, culminates in recognition by the Department of Interior's National Park Service and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office of the Historic District Commission as a Certified Local Government. This designation further enables the Commission to garner federal resources to promote townwide historic preservation. For this, we are grateful and have already begun to collaborate with the Historical Society in new and broader ways.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Commission undertook a handful of housekeeping efforts, including: filed a Notice on the Land Records of the properties located within the boundary of the North Cove Historic District; updated its Criteria with a cover, introduction and table of contents; approved a minor revision to its By-laws about how to revise its By-laws; and added a reference on its application forms to the availability of its Regulations and Criteria on its webpage. The Commission issued 4 Certificate of Appropriateness for the erection, alteration, demolition or removal of the exterior architectural features of principal or accessory buildings, structures, or other work on properties visible from a public place or the waters.

Since its 2013 designation as a Certified Local Government by the Department of Interior's National Park Service and the State of Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office, the Commission has continued to conduct non-regulatory historic preservation activities throughout town. The Commission installed markers at each of the two entry points to the North Cove Historic District in its continuing effort to build awareness of the district. The Commission finalized a planting plan for the roadside along the Clothesline Marine facility. And, the Commission hired and received from Taylor & Taylor Associates a historic resources inventory of 230 properties located along the commercial roads in Old Saybrook funded with a Survey and Planning grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.

The Commission meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, second floor conference room. Stella Beaudoin 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.

Diane Aldi DePaola, *Chairman*