

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service and the Connecticut General Assembly 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 Old Saybrook Town Code authorizes the Commission to review designs for the erection or alteration of buildings and structures within the local 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.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Commission held 9 meetings at which it continued to conduct non-regulatory historic preservation activities by collaborating with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to benefit from its \$8 million grant from the National Historic Preservation Fund in support of historic preservation efforts in shoreline towns affected by Super Storm Sandy. The SHPO sponsored nomination of two historic properties in Old Saybrook to the National Register of Historic Places—the Cypress Cemetery and the Shore Line Electric Railway Power House. The Town used both the State's new database of historic properties and its assessment of how climate change and sea level rise will affect historic and cultural resources along the shore in its local study of how Old Saybrook can plan for a resilient future. The SHPO was hosted by the Town in its outreach for updating the Connecticut Statewide Historic Preservation Plan.

The Commission continued consideration of a town-wide demolition delay that would offer a moment of protection while townspeople seek resources to preserve historic structures outside the historic district from demolition. The Commission approved a list of suitable alternate building materials for repairs to structures in the North Cove Historic District when there is no change in design or appearance as viewed from any public way.

The Commission approved 7 applications for 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 in the North Cove Historic District or the waters.

The Commission meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Chris Costa, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and Don Lucas, Building Inspector, enforce our regulations. Christine Nelson, Town Planner, is available Monday through Thursday by appointment, in the Land Use Department of the Town Hall to assist with applications and to answer questions concerning land use in Old Saybrook.

**William A. Childress**, *Chairman*