

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 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Commission held 6 meetings at which it approved 6 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 continues 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 the Cypress Cemetery in Old Saybrook to the National Register of Historic Places. 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 inventory and study of how Old Saybrook can plan for a resilient future.

The Commission meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, second floor conference room. Chris Costa, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and Thomas Makowicki, Building Official, assist with applications and enforce our regulations. Christine Nelson, Town Planner, is available Monday through Thursday by appointment, in the Land Use Department to answer questions concerning historic preservation in Old Saybrook.

William A. Childress, *Chairman*