

## **INLAND WETLANDS and WATERCOURSES COMMISSION**

The Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission is responsible for regulating any activity located within one hundred feet of an inland wetland or watercourse in Old Saybrook. This authority is provided in Section 22a-36 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Commission meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Pasbeshauke Pavilion at Saybrook Point Park. During the past fiscal year, the Commission conducted two special meetings and two workshops in addition to the twelve regularly scheduled meetings.

The Commission is comprised of seven regular members and two alternate members. We would like to thank Edward Cole who gave 12 years of dedicated civic service to the Commission and the Town, including acting as its Chairman. The Commission appointed Paul Smith as a regular member to fill the vacancy and welcomed William Pollock as its new Alternate Member, appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

During the course of the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the Commission received a total of thirty-two applications and processed six violations for unauthorized activities in the regulated area of inland wetlands.

- Fourteen applications related to new or existing residential subdivisions; nine, existing or proposed single family residences; and another nine, existing or proposed commercial/retail developments. As part of the Commission's permitting and enforcement functions, the Commission conducted five public hearings and twelve site walks (as a group or on an individual basis) during the application review process. The average length of review time required for processing applications is two months; the longest duration was eight months, and the shortest resulted in action at the same meeting at which the Commission accepted the application.
- A newly-passed Town ordinance authorized the Commission to fine businesses or individuals for violations of the Old Saybrook Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Regulations for refusal to cooperate with required remediation efforts. Only one of the six violations issued by the Enforcement Officer, Christina M. Costa, resulted in issuance of a Notice of Fines; the violators of the other five incidences resolved matters through the Commission's permitting process.

Commission members take their responsibilities very seriously – the members attend workshops, seminars, and presentations focusing on the technical, regulatory, and administrative aspects of the its work – the result of which are reasonable and defensible decisions in which proposed developments conserve the inland wetlands' and watercourses' many functions within the Town of Old Saybrook. The Commission will begin to use the services of the Wetlands Commission Service Bureau, as created by the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC), which provides programs, referrals, and assistance in dealing with local inland wetlands issues and to expand our knowledge and understanding of issues that occur throughout the State. Ms. Costa serves as a committee member to this Bureau.

**Frank Jones**, *Chairman*

**Paul Smith**, *Vice Chairman*