

## LAND USE DEPARTMENT

The Land Use Department administers the business of the following agencies: Aquifer Protection Agency, Architectural Review Board, Conservation Commission, Planning Commission, Historic District Commission, Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Zoning Commission. The Department also administers the Town's Floodplain Management program. Each year, the Department assists in the work of an ad hoc committee to focus on a special initiative.

Proactive to municipal needs, the Department conducts long-range planning of the Town's land. Municipal initiatives—studies, programs, physical improvements—are recommended in the Town's plans including the Plan of Conservation & Development. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Department:

- Published the report of the Sea Level Rise Climate Adaptation Committee on the impacts of sea level rise on Old Saybrook.
- Helped finalize a historic resources inventory of 230 properties along Old Saybrook's commercial roads under a \$30,000 Survey and Planning grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.
- Attended regular and special meetings of the Economic Development Commission throughout the past year to draft and propose regulations per the Mariner's Way section of the Town Plan.
- Developed concept plans for Board of Selectmen's standing Preserve Committee and secured construction funding from DEEP for the principal entrance and parking for the trailhead from Essex Road (Route 153) in Westbrook and for the Ingham Hill Road trailhead in Old Saybrook.
- Worked closely with the Town Engineer and Department of Public Works under new permit requirements of Connecticut's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program. Many thanks to John Porter of the Department of Public Works and to our intern, Aaron Hyla, who spent many hours locating, verifying and mapping the Town's stormwater infrastructure.
- The Town Planner, Christine Nelson, was appointed by the Governor to the Connecticut DEEP Advisory Committee for the Resource and Use Inventory and Long Island Sound "Blue Plan".

Grants awarded during the 2015-2016 fiscal year include:

- \$200,000 from the Connecticut DECD under its Brownfield Areawide Revitalization program (with an additional \$20,000 match) to design branding and infrastructure improvement for the Mariner's Way portion of the Boston Post Road (East).
- \$125,000 from the Connecticut DOH under its Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program to conduct an infrastructure evaluation and coastal resilience study.
- \$125,000 from the Governor's OPM under its Responsible Growth Transit Oriented Development program to design further streetscape enhancements around the train station and town center.

Reactive to market wants, the Department conducts current planning of the Town's land. Regulation of property owner's site-specific initiatives—permitting, enforcement, and inspection—require public review and extensive public record keeping for these regulatory agencies. One-on-one consultation with land developers, property owners, and business tenants occurs throughout each day, including the town's needs for design and permitting of physical improvements. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Department:

- Processed 314 total of 25 different types of development permits the land use agencies may grant.
- Provided staffing for 135 public meetings this fiscal year. Our clerks, Kathy Noyes, Meryl Tsagronis, Kim Barrows and Stella Beaudoin can be found at the meetings of these agencies each month. We thank Kathy King for for being the bright spot of any workday for almost 10 years.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Department revamped its webpage and those of its agencies to support education and outreach efforts and to promote the Land Use program.

The Land Use Department is open to assist the public from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Chris Costa, is the Zoning Enforcement Officer and Certified Floodplain Manager. Sandy Prisloe is the Environmental Planner and Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer. Meryl Tsagronis is our Project Assistant. Sarah Lyons, Administrative Assistant, supports the day-to-day business functions of the Department.

**Christine Nelson, AICP, *Director***