

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 and Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission. Proactive to municipal needs, the Department conducts municipal initiatives—studies, programs, physical improvements—as recommended in the Town’s long-range plans including the Plan of Conservation & Development.

During the 2020 fiscal year, the Department supported the following initiatives:

Economic Development—Produced a strategy for the Economic Development section of the Town Plan that addresses sustainability and resilience of systems that support the economy overall and specific business areas of town.

Historic Preservation—Enhanced the Town’s online mapping with information about the 200+ most historic resources on properties throughout Old Saybrook. Assisted the Old Saybrook Historical Society in annually recognizing Achievements in Preservation by awarding Saybrook Home, as well as chipping-in on installation of signs and publication of a brochure about the Siege & Battle of Saybrook Fort. Undertook an assessment to preserve a historic commercial wall sign in Town Center.

Marine Planning for Long Island Sound—Issued the Long Island Sound “Blue Plan” as a product of the Connecticut DEEP Resource and Use Inventory. Old Saybrook is one of 2 Connecticut coastal communities represented on the Blue Plan Advisory Committee.

Open Space Conservation—Obtained a grant of \$106K to construct a second entrance and parking for a trailhead for The Preserve open space from Ingham Hill Road.

Natural Hazard Mitigation—Adopted the 2019 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as supported by the 2015 Report of Findings of the Sea Level Rise Climate Adaptation Committee and by the 2018 Community Coastal Resilience Study and Infrastructure Evaluation.

Residential Development—Applied to CT-DOH for a \$20K grant to conduct a housing assessment.

Stormwater Management—Contributed to creating the Post-Construction Stormwater Management Facility Operation & Maintenance Plan Manual.

Sustainable CT—Extended the Town’s 3-year Sustainable CT Bronze Certification.

Town Center Improvement—Obtained \$1.4M in construction funding of streetscape enhancements around the train station (Stage Road) and town center (Route 1) via the CT-DOT Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) for 2022.

Youth Mentoring—Participated in opportunities to inspire young people about land use planning. The Department guided hands-on activities that put new skills into action through volunteerism—a student member of the Conservation Commission through Youth & Family Services’ Youth Action Council (YAC); staff counseling at Youth & Family Services’ Environmental Stewardship Camp (grades 8-12); and a high school student following up with a local stormwater infiltration design project inspired by participating in the UCONN Conservation Ambassador Program.

The Land Use Department is open to assist the public from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Patrick Hegge is the Environmental Planner. Lynette Wacker is our Project Assistant and a Clerk along with Amanda Merritt and Meryl Moskowitz for our public meetings. Sarah Lyons, Administrative Assistant, manages the business functions of the Department.

Christine Nelson, AICP, Town Planner