

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Connecticut General Statutes empower the Planning Commission with keeping current the Town's Plan of Conservation & Development, which is a statement of the town's goals and policies for land use. The Commission approves private subdivisions and municipal improvements of land consistent with the Town's Plans for physical improvements, outreach programs, and standards for development.

The electorate of Old Saybrook elects 5 members to serve for a term of 4 years each and 3 alternate members for a term of 2 years each. This year we say thank you to Alan Hyla, who we wish well in his new role on the Board of Education.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Commission actively participated in the process of obtaining major planning grants to implement recommendations of town plans—the Mariner's Way section of the Town Plan (2014) and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014). The Town received a \$200,000 grant with an additional \$20,000 match from the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development under its Brownfield Areawide Revitalization (BAR) program to design a place branding and infrastructure improvement plan for the Mariner's Way portion of the Boston Post Road (East); the Planning Commission is represented on the Advisory Committee made up of the Board of Selectmen, the Architectural Review Board and the Economic Development Commission. The Town received a \$125,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Housing under its Community Development Block Grant for Storm Sandy Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program to conduct an infrastructure evaluation and coastal resilience study.

The Commission approved 2 applications for resubdivision of land and 1 lot line change within an existing subdivision. And, the Commission responded to requests for a report about 12 proposals' consistency with Town Plans—5 Special Exception uses, 9 changes in the Zoning Regulations or Map, and 3 Municipal Improvements.

The Commission works closely with other land use groups. Presently, the Chairman represents the Commission on the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission. Kenneth Soudan is the Commission's representative to the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Committee and to the Mariner's Way Advisory Committee. In addition, Mike Urban is the President of the Old Saybrook Land Trust. The Commission thanks both for their dedication to these additional organizations.

The Commission meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month with the exception of July and August, when there is only one meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, first floor conference room. Meryl Moskowitz of the Land Use Department supports us as our administrative clerk. 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.

Janis L. Esty, *Chairman*