

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.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Commission held 14 meetings at which it the Commission approved 1 applications for modification of an existing subdivision to move a lot line. And, the Commission responded to requests for a report about 10 proposals' consistency with Town Plans—6 Special Exception uses and 4 Municipal Improvements—alteration of scenic Ingham Hill Road, an easement over Anchorage Lane, and renovation of Town Dock and Ferry Road Dock.

The Commission is the principal sponsor of the Community Coastal Resilience Study working with a Coastal Resilience Work Team of municipal department directors and program administrators. The project is an infrastructure evaluation and coastal resilience study and implements recommendations of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014).

The Commission also sponsored discussions around historic preservation tools in general and the specific legal review of a draft revision to the Town Code to require a "demolition delay" for renovation of historic structures throughout Old Saybrook. The project is a common method of historic preservation and implements recommendations of the Cultural and Historic Resources section of the Town Plan (2003).

The Commission is involved in the re-registration of the Town's *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems*, which is a mandate by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as part of its Stormwater Phase II rules in 1999. The project is an inventory of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and implements recommendations of the Stormwater Management Plan (2008).

Two members of the Planning Commission participate on the Advisory Committee of the Mariner's Way Discovery + Action Plan project with members of the Board of Selectmen, the Architectural Review Board and the Economic Development Commission. The project is a place branding and infrastructure improvement concept for the Mariner's Way portion of the Boston Post Road (East) and implements recommendations of the Mariner's Way section of the Town Plan (2014).

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 with Kathy Sugland. 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