

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Connecticut General Statutes empower the Zoning Board of Appeals as the local judicial board that acts upon requests for variances from the Zoning Regulations or the Flood Plain Management chapter of the Town Code, as well as appeals of decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer in upholding these standards.

The electorate of Old Saybrook chooses 5 members to serve for a term of 4 years each and 3 alternate members for a term of 2 years each.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Board considered 41 petitions for variance of the Zoning Regulations; 35 were approved, 7 were denied, and 2 previously-issued variances were modified. The Board denied 1 appeal of a decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. There were no appeals of any action taken under the Floodplain Management section of the Town Code during this fiscal year. The Commission approved 1 Certificates of Location for Automotive Use.

In making its decisions regarding variances, the Board considers whether the circumstances of the property are unique such that they result in an exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship in meeting the standards that are otherwise uniform for all other properties in the same zoning district. The Board welcomes the comments of neighbors during the public hearing portion of any application and considers all information in judging the appropriateness of any variance.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, first floor conference room. Kim Barrows of the Land Use Department supports us as our administrative clerk. Chris Costa, Zoning Enforcement Officer, is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Land Use Department of the Town Hall to assist with applications and to answer questions concerning land use in Old Saybrook.

Rexford H. McCall, *Chairman*