

LAND USE DEPARTMENT

The Land Use Department conducts planning of the Town's land by being proactive to municipal needs (long-range planning) via implementation of physical improvements, programs and standards recommended in the Town's plans including the Plan of Conservation & Development as well as being "reactive" to market forces (current planning) via regulation of property owner's site-specific initiatives. To do so, the Department administers the business of permitting, enforcement, inspection and public record keeping for the Town's land use agencies, including Aquifer Protection Agency, Architectural Review Board, Conservation Commission, Planning Commission, Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission, Historic District Commission, Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Department expanded its assistance to the Board of Selectmen's Route 1 East Committee.

In addition to the regular workload of administering meetings and processing permits for these boards and commissions, we were busy this year with special Town-initiated projects, including launching a new on-line mapping program that provides the public with access to "GIS-like" mapping capabilities, as well as the Assessor's field card information. The Department provided extensive services in developing a plan for physical improvements, programs or standards to protect or enhance natural, historical and other physical aspects of the town's scenic roads – Ingham Hill Road, Schoolhouse Road, and portions of Route 154 along its coastal loop. An ad hoc committee of the Board of Selectmen benefitted from the Department's technical expertise relating to a plan for Route 1 East in preparation for a tri-town corridor for Route 1. And, we continued to work with the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Commission to update to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Land Use Department is open to assist the public from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Friday. Chris Costa, Enforcement Officer maintains regular office hours daily from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; Sandy Prisloe, Environmental Planner maintains office hours from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; both the Enforcement Officer and Environmental Planner reserve afternoon and evening hours for consultations, inspections or public meetings, Christine Nelson, Director and Town Planner, is available Monday thru Thursday by appointment. Sarah Lyons, Administrative Assistant, supports the day-to-day business function of the Department, especially the workflow of permits granted as a part of current planning for Old Saybrook. Joanne Rynecki, Land Use Clerk, conducts surveys, maintains inventories, and weighs-in on targeted analyses for long-range planning for Old Saybrook. Thanks to Susan Graham for being a part of the team of recording clerks; Melanie Roberts, Kathleen Noyes, Meryl Tsagronis, Kim Barrows and Stella Beaudoin can be found at the regularly scheduled public meetings of the land use agencies each month.

Christine Nelson, AICP, Director