



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Land Use Department

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-1741
Telephone (860) 395-3131 • FAX (860) 395-1216
www.oldsaybrookct.org

**GATHERING OF THE LAND USE AGENCIES
HYBRID PRESENTATION MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
Town Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

I. Welcome

Chris Costa called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

II. SOS (Save Our Shade) A citizen group promoting research and education to protect trees and promote a community with shade trees that have a strong and healthy canopy.

Presenter: Carolyn N. Lyle, Chair

The vision of the group is to create a strong and healthy tree canopy and to educate people to the importance of trees, Lyle stated. She discussed the benefits of a tree canopy which include air cleansing from dangerous pollutants that lead to unhealthy air, tree biodiversity, nutrient cycling, infrastructure stability and climate change resiliency. She explained that clusters of trees of different sizes with shrubs is optimal because they nourish and protect each other. She cited Old Saybrook's land as having only a 47.89% tree canopy, which she said is the 2nd lowest tree canopy in Middlesex County. She mentioned the importance of becoming an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City.

She talked about ways to increase the canopy and preserve trees which included educating developers and private owners to keep mature healthy trees and to landscape with trees. The ways the town can help, she suggested, is by adhering to the regulations pertaining to landscaping and planting of trees, enforcing violations of unauthorized tree cutting, encouraging and possibly incentivizing preservation and replacement of trees and adopting an ordinance that would flag significant or historical trees for preservation. SOS has a meeting on January 27th at Acton Library.

III. Questions and Answers

After the presentation, questions and comments surrounded the responsibility of Eversource and Ct. DOT in preserving trees, importance of a healthy canopy and funding of this initiative.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.