

Chairman Bob McIntyre 2/14/2011

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My name is Barbara Maynard - I am here to urge you to deny this application for modification, based on the following testimony and other you will hear tonight

Book Identified

This is the Plan of Conservation & Open Space it was developed in 1969 by many interested and qualified people. In April of 2004 it was sent to every OS home owner.

Attached

" The opening paragraph on page 2 states - attached

" The sites - No. 1 Northwest uplands and Oyster River - Page 5 attached

Over the past many public hearings you have heard factual statements from many knowledgeable people - Scientists - environmentalists - engineers, all citing excellent reasons for not approving this most recent proposal from Lehman Brothers - Riversound Developers.

PLANNING 118  
COMMISSION  
EXHIBIT

One of the most important statements was made by Selectman Bill Peace.

Because of his experience, Bill was able to project for us the Future costs to O.S. taxpayers if this application was approved and development occurred.

These huge costs would be on the backs of our Future generations - forever - as all the roads, bridges, drainage systems, fencing, plowing, paving, Tree Trimming, even the Traffic signs would be in Old Saybrooks annual budgets forever. And not offset by taxes.

The existing roads that allow access to Thousand acre preserve are all narrow, secondary roads, with no shoulders, or sidewalks. They are 25 m.p.h. roads - they are inadequate for today's traffic, and certainly would not withstand many years of heavy construction equipment, plus the additional hundreds of cars, delivery vehicles, school buses - hundreds of homes would generate.

You have been made aware of the problems on Ingham Hill Rd. It is the longest dead-end road in the area.

Good town planning would never let that situation to happen again.

The First record, I could find <sup>1639</sup> tells us Ingham Hill Rd was a "woods road" that gradually was extended to provide early settlers with access to their wood lots, granted to <sup>the</sup> early settlers by the King of England. In our early days Schoolhouse Road and Ingham Hill Rd also had mills on their water ways, increasing their use.

Many traffic stopping incidents have occurred over the past 52 years that George and I have lived just north of the Chalker Mill Pond. Wilderness then!

Ice storms - hurricanes & Trees down - and I think the most severe problems occurred when 13 inches of rain fell in the lower valley <sup>in 1952</sup> brooks flooded. bridges and culverts washed out. The dam holding back the Mill Pond washed out.

Flooding Ingham Hill Rd. + Millrock Rd. -

<sup>flooded</sup> the area just south of Dwayne Road. Temporary bridges had to be put in place until new construction could begin. The Mill Pond was a meadow with a brook through it <sup>for 3-4 years</sup> until the town could replace the entire dam.

Vehicles Trying To get To areas north of the Millpond, had very difficult Times.

Fortunately, many of the areas off Ingham Hill were <sup>not</sup> developed at that Time.

Access to Connolly Drive was by way of Rt. 154, over a gravel road, and unprotected R.R. crossing.

The northwestern portion of O.S. was without power for many (miserable) days after one of our hurricanes. Electrical power lines crisscross the area. Repairs were difficult.

The modification plan before you will require that the proposed homes will require drilled wells, and septic tanks. Wells in the area close to the Preserve are through solid rock, some 200' plus feet deep. It is very possible that blasting will have to be done for road construction.

Barley Hill (Willard Hill on early maps, elevation almost 300') had to be blasted for the roadway and some of the driveways.

Our home was approximately 500 Feet from the closest blasting. We experienced cracked cement floors, and a crack through our brick fireplace hearth. Our drilled well showed muddy sediment for several days. (155ft deep)

The application before you would allow a hop-scotching approach that could become groups of houses on the higher land. Connected by roads and bridges.

Please review your town's PLAN of Conservation and OPEN SPACE it is as important to Old Saybrook as our Charter. IT is our guide for land use, has been since 1969 - it is the responsibility of your Commission to implement it for Old Saybrook.

This application presents so many immediate and long lasting problems for your town I strongly urge you to vote to deny this "application for modification".

Thank you for this opportunity  
Barbara Hayward

# PLAN OF CONSERVATION & OPEN SPACE

Town of Old Saybrook



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

*Margaret Mead*



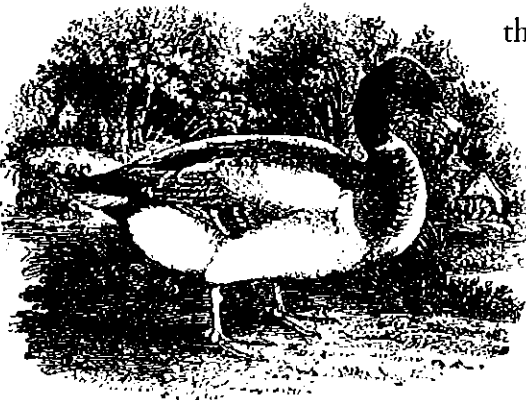
April 2004



*Both the certainties and the uncertainties [of our environmental knowledge], then, bespeak care, caution, restraint. The overwhelming conviction of the Conservation Commission is that all the areas to be proposed as permanent open space, assuring marsh and watershed protection, are vital to Old Saybrook. These open areas have a great deal to do with the life of the Town, both the literal survival of the animal and plant life we so often take for granted and the quality of the lives of the people who reside, work, and play here."*

Conservation Commission  
Open Space Plan for Old Saybrook  
November 3, 1969

**W**ith the conviction of a committed group of local citizens that have been poring over maps, listening to speakers, wrestling with process and follow-through, GIS and budgets, we present an open space plan for the community of Old Saybrook. The nature of such documents is that they are living and therefore represent a moment in time in the life of our town. This is intended to be a guide into the future, part of the continuum of conservation efforts rooted in the actions of commissions before us and with sincere hope that those in the future will take the stewardship torch and pass it on.



We are proud to be a part of this town, endowed as it is with abundant and exemplary natural assets. We also recognize that the threats to these resources are considerable: sprawl, over-use, introduced invasive plant and animal species, and the far less visible forms of water pollution, including non-point sources of nitrogen, toxins and the chemicals from pharmaceuticals in our wastewater that mimic hormones and disrupt wildlife life cycles. Even the climate threatens to impinge on our most beloved coastal assets, as scientists predict sea level rise as a result of global warming.

It is not just an aesthetic exercise to protect our town's – and region's natural resources. Although we could argue that the "ecosystem services" provided by clean air and water are an important element to our well-being (and in fact, survival), there is solid evidence that, in addition to the quality of life enhanced by the pro-



## OLD SAYBROOK'S CONSERVATION SITES

### *Important Areas for Protection*

*The Conservation Commission has worked over the past year and a half to pull together the information and do the analysis necessary to define the following Conservation Sites.*

#### **1. NORTHWEST UPLANDS AND OYSTER RIVER**

*Located in the northwest area of the town, defined by open spaces bordering the town of Essex to the north, bordering the residential developments off Schoolhouse road to the west, bordering the residential developments off Bokum road to the east and to the south following the main stem of the Oyster River to its confluence.*

The most rugged area of our town, the Northwest Uplands, contains our highest elevations – rocky summits, many with vernal pools interspersed between. Pequot Swamp is a vegetated marsh surrounded by ledge and upland. This area of town contains red maple and cedar swamps. The Northwest Uplands also includes the headwaters of the Oyster River – connecting cold springs, intermittent streams and narrow, winding brooks to Long Island Sound. This watershed is home to migratory fish species, including alewife and blueback herring that travel thousands of miles from their life at sea to spawn in the upper reaches of the Oyster River. The Oyster River contains a complete suite of healthy tidal marshes, from salt to freshwater, that support a great diversity of wildlife, including birds, fish and shellfish.



#### **2. COASTAL SALT MARSHES**

**(Chalker, Hagar, Mud and Back River marshes)**

*Located south of Route One and bordering Long Island Sound; to the west beginning with the marsh north of Chalker Beach; east along the coast including Hagar and Mud Creeks, the mouth of the Oyster River, and the extensive marshes surrounding the Back River behind Great Hammock and Plum Bank.*

These are the small-scale salt and brackish tidal wetlands along our town's southwestern coastline. They feed directly into Long Island Sound and are surrounded by multiple homes. Most are under stress from water quality degradation and invasive species, particularly where natural water exchange with the ocean has been blocked or reduced; there are opportunities here for restoration. Despite these pressures and the small size of these wetlands, they continue to harbor a surprising diversity of species, particularly birds, including egrets, herons, and osprey.