



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Old Saybrook Historical Society Recognizes Stephen Tagliatela for Outstanding Historic Preservation Efforts

Old Saybrook, 04/15/24 – On April 11th the Old Saybrook Historical Society honored Stephen Tagliatela with their President’s Award for Historic Preservation. This special award recognized Stephen Tagliatela for his many years of preserving, restoring, and honoring the history of Old Saybrook and the heritage of Saybrook Point, a national treasure and foremost town destination.

Over the years Stephen’s efforts have included the restored Three Stories Guest House and the renovated Tall Tales Guest House paying homage to numerous town notables. His generous sponsorship of books pertaining to the town’s heritage, the display of historical paintings and rare vintage photographs, all reflect his long-standing commitment to preserving and promoting Old Saybrook’s history and local artists.

Nearly 50 attendees convened at Saybrook Point Resort to honor Tagliatela. Carl Fortuna, Old Saybrook’s First Selectman, commended Stephen’s enduring commitment to preserving local history. Norm Needleman, State Senator, alongside Holly Cheesman and Devin Carney, State Representatives, lauded Stephen’s dedication to local heritage and restoration, presenting a formal citation. Erin McBride, representing Senator Chris Murphy, also extended a citation of appreciation. Jane Montanero, Executive Director of Preservation CT, commended Stephen’s numerous preservation endeavors. The gathering culminated with Marie McFarlin and Wayne Harms, OSHS President and Vice President, presenting Stephen with the Historical Society’s award, accompanied by a framed 1871 Connecticut Valley Railroad spike discovered in the old track bed adjacent to the resort, a fitting addition to the elegant Choo Choo Lounge venue. Stephen also highlighted the resort’s art collection, featuring works by Steve Cryan, Louise Wiley, Peter Endoff, Kris Connors, and Tony Falcone (Falconeartstudios.com).

"I'm truly honored to receive the President’s Award for Historic Preservation from the Old Saybrook Historical Society. I want to express my deep gratitude to the Society for recognizing our shared commitment to preserving our town's history. Their initial visit to the Choo Choo Lounge, with its historic paintings and train theme, underscores the importance of our work and I believe that led to this special award."

I also want to thank my partners and siblings, Louis and Tricia Tagliatela, for their unwavering support, and give special thanks to my wife, Viola, whose insight as an Old Saybrook native has been invaluable. This award is a reflection of our community's collaborative effort, and I'm grateful for the chance to contribute to preserving Old Saybrook's and Saybrook Point's heritage."



ABOUT SAYBROOK POINT RESORT & MARINA: Uniquely situated where the Connecticut River meets the Long Island Sound, Saybrook Point Resort & Marina is a year-round boutique resort in Old Saybrook, Conn., providing personalized service in a spectacular setting. The independent, family-owned property features 81 elegantly appointed guestrooms in the original Inn, two luxury guesthouses, a waterfront Lighthouse Suite and villas offering vacation and long-term rentals. The guest experience is complemented by a full-service Spa & Wellness Center, upscale casual restaurant, Fresh Salt, a new lobby level lounge, and Health Club. The resort, which is a national leader in environmentally sustainable business practices, is also home to the pristine Saybrook Point Marina, accommodating vessels from 12 to 200 feet. More information is available at: www.Saybrook.com

ABOUT THE CHOO CHOO LOUNGE:

The Choo Choo Lounge is the newest addition to the resort and was named to pay tribute to Old Saybrook and its rich history of train travel dating back to 1871 through the 1920s. Guests from New York would travel the Valley Railroad line to enjoy the menu and accommodations at the famous Pease House, located across from the main Saybrook Point Resort, where the Villas are located today.

The imagery of this era has been re-created by the two commissioned murals painted by local artist Tony Falcone (Falconeartstudio.com) of the No. 2 train coming across the tracks from Fenwick and the Roundhouse turning station, which was just north of Saybrook Point. Interior designer Lisa Silver has created a bygone-era ambiance, which is complemented by classic cocktails originally documented by Connecticut-born Jerry Thomas in the first-ever publication of cocktail recipes in 1862. The 30 ft. bar is accentuated by an authentic Les Zinc pewter bar top, made only in one place worldwide at Ateliers Nectoux in France.

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