

SALISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

JUNE 2, 2022 – 6:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

- 1 1. Call to Order. Present: Maria Grace, Chair; Lee Potter; Tom Blagden; Susan Rand; Zachary
2 Sadow; Abby Conroy, Land Use Administrator and Georgia Petry, Secretary.
3 In Attendance: Curtis Rand, First Selectman and Matthew Kreta, Lakeville Journal. (Mr. Rand
4 noted that, for now, all term limits would be for one year.)
5
- 6 2. Roll Call, Introductions & Seating of Alternates. All Regular members were present; at this time,
7 there are no Alternates. All members briefly introduced themselves. Maria Grace has lived in
8 Salisbury since 2018. Her career has been in environmental science and education programs.
9 She is the Executive Director of the Sharon Land Trust and is a member of the Salisbury Inland
10 Wetlands & Watercourses Commission. Lee Potter has lived in Salisbury since 2016 and is
11 thrilled to be on this Commission. Susan Rand is interested in conservation and wants new
12 people to learn about the area. Tom Blagden, born and raised in Salisbury, has been back here
13 full-time for 3 years. Retired now, he has used photography as an environmental tool for big
14 book projects and has been driven by the aesthetics of nature. He volunteers at Great
15 Mountain Forest. Zachary Sadow has lived here for 2 years and is passionate about the
16 environment, nature, conservation and biodiversity. Professionally, he has spent his career in
17 energy and the environment. Abby Conroy, Land Use Administrator, understands the long-term
18 importance of a Conservation Commission to facilitate the energy in Salisbury in a positive
19 direction. She is available in the Land Use office to answer any questions and noted that tonight
20 is a “Special Meeting” because it is the first meeting. Once a meeting schedule is determined,
21 those will be regular meetings. Three members will be required for a quorum to conduct
22 business. Any information about possible Alternate members should be sent to A. Conroy and
23 C. Rand.
24
- 25 3. Election of Officers. A. Conroy offered to draft a model set of Bylaws for this Commission. Right
26 now, term limits are for the next year, until Bylaws are adopted, and election date is set. M.
27 Grace was appointed Chair by C. Rand. A Vice-Chair should be elected who would fill in, if the
28 Chair was absent. The members will consider that at a future meeting.
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- 30 4. Public Comment – None
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- 32 **5. Schedule of Meetings for the Remainder of 2022.**
33 Meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:00pm virtually via Zoom (until in-
34 person meetings are held in the downstairs conference room of Town Hall), as follows:

35 Thursday, July 7, 2022
36 Thursday, August 4, 2022
37 Thursday, September 1, 2022
38 Thursday, October 6, 2022
39 Thursday, November 3, 2022
40 Thursday, December 1, 2022

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42 It was mentioned that site visits are a good idea and can be scheduled with a few days' notice,
43 as special meetings with posted agendas. Per FOIA, meetings may be recorded.

44 **A Motion to Approve the Schedule of 2022 Meeting Dates, as listed, was made by Z. Sadow,**
45 **seconded by L. Potter and unanimously Approved.**

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47 6. Introduction to Conservation Commission – Powers & Duties

48 The UCONN Land Use Academy Fact Sheets were given as a good resource for guidance:

49 www.clear.uconn.edu/lu. Item number 2, “keep an index of all open areas” was highlighted.

50 John Landon, Salisbury Land Trust, was mentioned as a great resource for this information. A.

51 Conroy noted that the Town has a new GIS (geographic information system) which could benefit

52 from a new layer of open spaces. There was review and brief discussion on all 15 Items listed

53 under: “Commissions May”. C. Rand pointed out that there is no expectation of endless hours

54 from this Commission; they could recommend hiring experts to evaluate certain issues.

55 Specifically regarding issues 13 & 14, Grant Applications, M. Grace noted that she has

56 experience with these and C. Rand added that a lot of other help is available, also. Grant

57 applications or letters in support of grant applications should go to the Board of Selectmen; they

58 could then be referred to the Board of Finance or Planning & Zoning.

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60 7. Develop Topics & Tasks

61 a. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) – M. Grace started working on this in 2019, developing a
62 first draft, interrupted by Covid-19. The NRI document can be found on the Town website

63 at: [https://secureservercdn.net/72.167.230.230/j8s.008.myftpupload.com/wp-](https://secureservercdn.net/72.167.230.230/j8s.008.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/NaturalResourceInventory2009.pdf)

64 [content/uploads/2021/02/NaturalResourceInventory2009.pdf](https://secureservercdn.net/72.167.230.230/j8s.008.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/NaturalResourceInventory2009.pdf). The document was

65 reviewed and approved by the IWWC, but has missing pieces. C. Rand pointed out that this

66 document is required by the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), but would like it

67 to be a “living” document that adds new information, whenever it is available, with live

68 links. M. Grace would like to review the NRI, updating the progress and maps, as needed.

69 There are 9 Sections; some don't change much, but all can be updated. New Resources,

70 updated as of 2019, can be added to now and on an on-going basis. Current data collection

71 is important to find and include. Updating the Section: Critical Habitats & Wildlife is also

72 important to do. Individual Commission members may contact resources that may be

73 helpful and report back to the Commission; group emails and responses are to be avoided.

74 Abby Conroy indicated that Michael Klemens, Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC),

75 could do a presentation on vernal pools. The PZC is in the process of updating the Plan of

76 Conservation & Development (POCD); the NRI and information from the Conservation
77 Commission is needed soon. The POCD document can be viewed on the Town website at:
78 [https://seureservercdn.net/72.167.230.230/j8s.008.myftpupload.com/wp-](https://seureservercdn.net/72.167.230.230/j8s.008.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/AdoptedPOCD.WithMAPS6.26.12.pdf)
79 [content/uploads/2021/02/AdoptedPOCD.WithMAPS6.26.12.pdf](https://seureservercdn.net/72.167.230.230/j8s.008.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/AdoptedPOCD.WithMAPS6.26.12.pdf). M. Grace suggested
80 having experts/speakers on specific topics at each meeting, for a while, focusing on the NRI
81 update to add to the POCD. L. Potter will create a list of people who might be appropriate
82 speakers. Z. Sadow asked about the role of this Commission. Mr. Rand pointed out that
83 there are no expectations of research; just see where there are gaps and focus on specific
84 recommendations. A. Conroy noted that Mr. Klemens will be writing the section on Critical
85 Habitats and Allen Cockerline (PZC) will be writing the Farmland Preservation section. This
86 Conservation Commission (CC) is ultimately the author of the NRI. The CC is appointed and
87 acts in a non-regulatory advisory capacity. A. Conroy will provide a brief overview of the
88 roles of the different Town Regulatory Commissions and how they fit together. M. Grace
89 mentioned that the recommendations in the NRI from this Commission are the most
90 important aspects of the update. Mr. Rand suggested looking over the current NRI and
91 POCD recommendations. The timeline for the POCD update is by year end, with as much
92 new information as possible from this Commission. M. Grace will actually do the overall
93 writing; she suggested discussing the priority of the updates at the next regular meeting.
94 b. Open Space Map for Town of Salisbury Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
95 John Landon, Salisbury Land Trust, will be invited to speak about open space designations in
96 Salisbury, at the next regular meeting. There was discussion about the GIS; Mr. Rand
97 mentioned that the Land Trust has good maps available, which are updated with newly
98 preserved properties. Z. Sadow would like to have the GIS resource explained. M. Grace
99 and Mr. Rand suggested scheduling a Special Meeting for a Housatonic River Valley (HRV)
100 presentation. The meeting time/date and agenda will be posted and open to the public.

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8. **Adjournment. So Moved** by M. Grace, seconded by Z. Sadow and unanimously **Approved**.