

## SALISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### SPECIAL MEETING

DECEMBER 14, 2022 – 6:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Maria Grace, Tom Blagden, Lee Potter, Susan Rand and Abby Conroy (Land Use Administrator). Absent: Zach Sadow
3. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by L. Potter, seconded by T. Blagden and unanimously **Approved.**
4. **Approval of Minutes of 11/10/2022. So Moved** by L. Potter, seconded by T. Blagden and unanimously **Approved.**
5. Public Comment – None
6. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Workshop/Discussion  
T. Blagden asked about the role and purpose of this Commission versus Land Trusts and other groups; A. Conroy explained the enabling Statute. M. Grace noted that this is an Advisory Commission, with some duties and lots of planning opportunities. A. Conroy mentioned the differences between the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission and this Commission. M. Grace asked for ideas of how to move forward with the NRI, perhaps Section by Section, with 1 review tonight. A. Conroy noted that a lot of the NRI information won't change from the 2009 report; this update is like an addendum. She suggested having an Introduction, explaining how this update is related to the 2009 document, then identifying goals and objectives; T. Blagden agreed and suggested adding critical issues, as well. L. Potter suggested that the introduction should pinpoint what has changed. A. Conroy suggested having a summary paragraph from each 2009 Section that sets up this update. L. Potter asked who the audience is; M. Grace listed townspeople, other Commission, consultants and Land Trusts. M. Grace also pointed out that recommendations will be carried over; an example would be ordinances not proposed yet to protect certain resources. S. Rand asked if steep slope protection can be regulated; M. Grace answered yes. A. Conroy noted that the P&Z protection is limited to subdivisions. M. Grace added that the town of Kent has successfully advocated for their natural resources. S. Rand commented that there has been little change in agricultural use in Salisbury since the 2009 NRI; she and L. Potter are working on the update to the Agricultural Section. There was discussion about the benefits of identifying agricultural land and the actual definition to use. A. Conroy suggested putting data collected on a GIS map, instead of Tables. M. Grace pointed out that the Housatonic Valley Association has done some mapping, but it was not a part of the 2019 NRI

updated work. She questioned how much farmland acreage has been lost, which has not been reflected in the data yet, as well as the acres of land farmed and the crops. The 2009 Recommendations were reviewed and updated with new questions. A. Conroy is not certain about the data available from the State, as the GIS information is very recent.

7. Vernal Pool Study

M. Grace explained that the Study was done in 2017 and identified 150 potential vernal pools; the need is to identify the highest quality, exemplary pools. She reviewed the list and identified about 75 possible vernal pools on private property, but can't correlate addresses with a map. A. Conroy will talk to the GIS company about access to more internal (2.0) data for the Town to have and the cost. There was brief discussion about how vernal pools could be certified; S. Rand suggested trying to figure out which ones are the prime development sites.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:00pm.

**Adjournment. So Moved** by S. Rand, seconded by L. Potter and unanimously **Approved.**