

## SALISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 2, 2023 – 6:00 (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Maria Grace, Susan Rand, Lee Potter, Tom Blagden, Zach Sadow, Abby Conroy (Land Use Director) and Georgia Petry (Recording Secretary).  
Attending: Larry Burcroff, Michael Klemens, Peter Neely and Mike Pruss.
3. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by L. Potter, seconded by S. Rand and unanimously **Approved**.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of February 2, 2023. So Moved** by S. Rand, seconded by L. Potter and unanimously **Approved**.
5. Public Comment – None
6. Discussion with Christian Allyn – Invasive Plant Solutions and Housatonic River Commission Tabled -- Mr. Allyn was not in attendance.
7. Vernal Pool Study  
There was a lengthy discussion about training to assess vernal pools and further identification of others not captured in a previous study. Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission members are invited to do the assessment training with Michael Klemens and M. Grace on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, depending on the weather. It was pointed out that a significant number of vernal pools, perhaps 50%, have not been captured; the exact number is unknown. L. Potter asked if there would be any way to affect change to the proposed East Railroad Street development project; M. Grace responded yes, possibly, depending on the ranking of the vernal pool on that site and if there is a greater Upland Review Area. The quality of the vernal pool will determine management practices to ensure its protection. Data will be reviewed by M. Klemens and M. Grace. T. Blagden asked if vernal pools on unprotected land would be prioritized; M. Grace answered yes, and added that the Railroad Street project is a top priority. M. Klemens described the need for the biological aspects of vernal pool assessments, as the charge for the Conservation Commission: to provide biological data, photographic evidence and notes. He reviewed the data sheet in detail. He listed 11 properties that are priorities; he and M. Grace indicated that it will be essential to get permission from the owners, in order to conduct on-site assessments. Peter Neely asked if vernal pools can be man-made; M. Klemens answered yes, some are not wetlands. M. Klemens noted that some created pools may or may not be valuable, as some species adapt or not; a matrix is used. He added that few

vernal pools are this complicated; the landscape details will come from GIS data. The training will be done in mid-day with the best light and is weather dependent. M. Klemens also suggested that the first assessment be done at the Housatonic River Road site because of the diversity of species. More information will be made available to the Commission.

8. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Discussion

There were brief comments about the Agricultural section from T. Blagden. M. Grace mentioned that work is being done on the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), but the NRI section is on hold, at the moment. She also noted the Planning Study done in Lakeville will be presented at the Town Grove on Saturday, March 18, 2023, from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

9. **Adjournment. So Moved** by S. Rand, seconded by T. Blagden and unanimously **Approved**.