

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 6, 2023 – 6:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Maria Grace, Tom Blagden, Abby Conroy (Land Use Director) and Georgia Petry (Recording Secretary). Absent: Susan Rand and Zach Sadow. Lee Potter arrived later in the meeting. Attending: Michael Klemens, Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission.
3. Approval of Agenda. Quorum not present.
4. Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2023. Tabled – No quorum present.
5. Public Comment – None
6. Discussion with Tom Zetterstrom – Invasive Plant Discussion (Informational)  
Tom Zetterstrom and Christian Allyn, Invasive Plant Specialists, gave a presentation on “Defeating Japanese Knotweed.” The link to the video recording of the meeting can be found at: <https://www.salisburyct.us/conservation-commission/>. Topics included:
  - The use of an approved aquatic formulation of glyphosate for control
  - The need for mapping knotweed locations in Salisbury, managing & monitoring
  - Housatonic Valley Association workshop for Sharon and Salisbury in August
  - Knotweed is the most serious riparian invasive plant
  - Garlic mustard needs to be treated; hand removal is not the best use of time
  - Propagation may start upstream, then accelerate by disturbance and development; identify and treat upland areas as priorities
  - There are no ordinances about invasive plants; management is key to solve problem
  - Careful language allowing the use of non-organic herbicides on subdivided properties
  - Treatment options: possible combination of volunteer efforts and pay-for-services
  - Other invasive plant species need to be considered, as well
7. Vernal Pools – The recent site visits were discussed. It was noted that T. Blagden had observed Jefferson Salamanders and documented them with photographs. M. Grace will fill out the NDDB Special Animal Survey Form and will also revisit that site. The importance of this sighting is that the Jefferson Salamander species hasn’t been documented here before and is regionally rare. The sighting was on Salisbury property bordering National Park Service property. A spreadsheet identifying about 20 different specific properties with vernal pools was reviewed in great detail.
8. **Adjournment. So Moved** by L. Potter, seconded by T. Blagden and unanimously **Approved**.