

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2023 – 6:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Maria Grace, Susan Rand, Lee Potter, Tom Blagden, Zach Sadow, Abby Conroy (Land Use Director) and Miles Todaro (Land Use Tech Specialist). Attending: Michael Klemens (Consultant to Land Use Office)
3. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by S. Rand, seconded by Z. Sadow and unanimously **Approved**.
4. **Approval of Minutes 10/5/2023 – Tabled**
5. Public Comment – None
6. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Discussion

M. Grace opened the discussion by noting that the Preface had been worked on and signed off by Michael Klemens and Curtis Rand. Changes to the Introduction were suggested by T. Blagden, Z. Sadow and L. Potter. A. Conroy suggested having a glossary of terms, including an acronym list of 3-letter terms.

Chapter 1 – Sections A, B, C were reviewed. M. Grace wants to add a map of steep slopes to Section C. A. Conroy suggested referring to high-gradient cold water streams; she will check the P&Z Regulations for the definition. M. Klemens suggested having examples of links to Ordinances in other towns mentioned in the POCD.

Chapter 2 – Section A – Z. Sadow suggested having a map of the Twin Lake. M. Grace suggested having a phot; M. Klemens suggested contacting John Harney for photos. Section B – Reviewed with comments and suggestions for additional maps and photos. Links for further reading and additional information will be added to Section C of each Chapter.

Chapter 3 – Forests and Woodlands was reviewed.

Chapter 4 – Critical Habitats and Wildlife – Section A – T. Blagden suggested adding details about the change in the number of species of animals; some are newly abundant, others such as songbirds, are scarce. Curtis Rand suggested that forest succession is a reason; the structure of forests has changed. Sections B and C were reviewed.

(Z. Sadow needed to leave the meeting and asked what the next steps are. M. Grace indicated she would like to approve the NRI at the December meeting, if possible. There may be a November meeting to answer questions.)

Chapter 5 – Open Space – A map will be added, provided by HVA. C. Rand mentioned additional lands being added by the Salisbury Land Trust.

Chapter 6 – Agricultural Resources – M. Grace mentioned that updating the farmland acreage numbers was not necessary and was deleted. Photos will be added to this chapter. M. Klemens suggested that the changes in Salisbury’s agriculture are covered in the POCD, such as the mechanics of the losses. M. Grace agreed and the focus will be on the resources of farming. T. Blagden mentioned that he thought the copy from the 2009 NRI was good and should be left in. M. Grace will put back in the missing section material and the Bobolinks study, as well. T. Blagden mentioned the aesthetics of the area and the agricultural landscape as an important part of our community heritage.

Chapter 7 – Recreational Resources – T. Blagden suggested adding bicycling and new recreational activities, trails and the rail trail. M. Klemens mentioned recreation overuse, such as the lack of parking and widened overused trails.

Appendix – M. Grace noted that there will be a list of maps. T. Blagden will contribute photos. M. Grace thanked M. Klemens for all of his work on the NRI.

Adjournment. So Moved by T. Blagden, seconded by L. Potter and unanimously **Approved**.