

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2024 – 6:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

Present: Lee Potter, Zach Sadow, Susan Rand, Steve Fitch (Alternate). Absent: Maria Grace, Tom Blagden and Sarah Webb (Alternate). Attending: Curtis Rand, Abby Conroy (Land Use Director), Miles Todaro (Land Use Tech Specialist) and Georgia Petry (Recording Secretary).

As not all Members were present, Items 3 – 7 and 9 were not considered. No one from the Public was present for comment (Item 8).

Abby Conroy explained that this is a Special Meeting and that items cannot be added to the agenda; she added that the Special Meeting rules come from the overall Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and apply to all public Boards and Commissions. Regular meetings need to be scheduled at a predictable time and the schedule needs to be adopted; a poll will be sent out to the members to find the best time to meet. A. Conroy will also send the members information about their responsibilities (Land Use fact sheets) and the FOIA rules. C. Rand mentioned deciding about priorities, topics and goals for 2024; A. Conroy will add that to the agenda for the next meeting.

C. Rand asked the members present to introduce themselves. L. Potter announced that she will be the Interim Chair for a few months. S. Fitch mentioned that he is a resident of Salisbury and is a landscaper with a local business. Z. Sadow welcomed S. Fitch.

C. Rand pointed out that this is not a Regulatory Commission. A. Conroy noted that the final Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) will come to this Commission for a letter of approval, regarding the adoption of the POCD. Requests for Letters of Support for Land Trust acquisitions may also come to this Commission.

C. Rand mentioned that M. Grace may stay on this Commission, but not as Chair, and would like to keep the vernal pool project going. A. Conroy indicated there will be updates on that.

There was general conversation about possible ways to inform the public about conservation topics.

The Commission had many different ideas, to be considered at the next meeting; the date TBD. A. Conroy summarized some of the comments, including: interest on the part of the Commission in acting as educators, reporting on environmental and conservation related topics; each Member should come to the next meeting with a few topics to be reported on in the coming months. Z. Sadow asked for clarification: would they be sharing the views of this Commission or are they supposed to be authorities on environmental issues; he suggested that they be sure of what they are trying to do first. C. Rand suggested the Commission could choose how it wants to go forward; A. Conroy mentioned there are many topics that could be considered. L. Potter would like to identify a couple of goals at the next meeting; Z. Sadow agreed that goals should be identified before going forward. L. Potter and A. Conroy suggested looking at links to other town's Conservation Commissions; A. Conroy will provide them.

L. Potter **Moved to Adjourn** the meeting at 6:51pm, seconded by S. Rand and **Approved**.