

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 11, 2024 – 6:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Lee Potter, Zach Sadow, Steve Fitch (Alternate), Miles Todaro (Land Use Tech Specialist) and Georgia Petry (Recording Secretary). Absent: Maria Grace, Susan Rand, Tom Blagden, Sarah Webb (Alternate) and Abby Conroy (Land Use Director). Attending: Michael Klemens (Senior Land Use Consultant).
3. Approval of Minutes of 3/14/2024. Tabled to the May meeting.
4. Public Comment – None
5. Vernal Pools Study Discussion  
There were updates on recent vernal pool visits, some of which are still in progress, and others that will be visited again. It was pointed out that some photo imagery from a previous study may have included some false signatures, which is one of the reasons there is no vernal pool map yet. M. Klemens mentioned the discovery of an old springhouse and the possibility of finding spring salamanders at the site. M. Todaro talked about the visits that he and S. Rand made to the vernal pool at the AT/Pope Preserve on Rt. 44, where they identified spotted salamanders and wood frogs. M. Klemens noted there could be a landscape integrity issue there; the area must be measured to determine if it could be a Tier 1 pool. The Land Use office will be doing further analysis on that. M. Klemens pointed out those man-made ponds are not useful and are not the same as vernal pools in wetlands. M. Todaro is keeping track of the data, using a spreadsheet for analysis, in the Land Use office. L. Potter commented that it would be helpful to remember things needed for next year. M. Klemens added that salamander tissues from the Scoville pool have been sent out for analysis; he mentioned that there were some very strange salamanders there. He pointed out that the Jefferson salamanders had already bred and the spotted ones were just moving in.
6. Quarterly Articles Discussion  
L. Potter had spoken to John Koston, the Editor of the Lakeville Journal, about publishing quarterly articles on subjects related to the unique habitats here and other conservation topics. L. Potter went over the first article she has written on moths and light, which was viewed favorably by Z. Sadow, S. Fitch and M. Klemens; it will be sent to John Koston. She will keep working on informative articles and send them to M. Todaro to circulate to the Commission.

7. Discussion of Conservation Commission 2024 Goals

L. Potter would like all members to participate and come up with ideas; she will email the suggestions around, but reminded members not to discuss matters in email format, just during regular meetings. Z. Sadow commented that the Lakeville Journal articles are an excellent way to start things and build interest.

8. Hybrid Meeting Planning

The Commission would like to start having some hybrid meetings, which take place at Town Hall and are available on Zoom, at the same time for remote access. L. Potter will find out how those meetings are set up.

9. Salisbury Hydrilla Discussion

The Commission would like to have someone come and talk to them about the problem; M. Klemens suggested inviting Russ Conklin to a meeting.

10. Communication from Aquarion Water Company

The letter can be viewed at: <https://www.salisburyct.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Aquarion-Water-Company-Communication.pdf>

The Commission discussed the possibility of nominating themselves, so that would be able to give the grant to a local environmental non-profit, if they won. S. Fitch will look into the details, to see how to participate.

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