

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 10, 2025 – 6:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Lee Potter, Tom Blagden, Susan Rand and Steve Fitch (Alternate). Absent: Maria Grace, Zach Sadow and Sarah Webb (Alternate). Attending: Curtis Rand
3. **Approval of May 8, 2025 Minutes. So Moved** by L. Potter, **With All in Favor**.
4. Review Agricultural Resources Section of 2023 Draft for NRI.

L. Potter reviewed line-by-line changes that she suggested, referring to the POCD, the 2019 and 2023 NRI updates. T. Blagden suggested adding additional specific types of farms to the list. C. Rand commented on not using personal names or names of farms, but just a given number. L. Potter reviewed the definition of the PA-490 program, as used in the POCD and noted that about 20,000 acres of land in Salisbury is in the PA-490 program; C. Rand suggested figuring out what percentage of land that is in the Town. T. Blagden asked if PA-490 is separate from conservation easements; C. Rand answered yes, it is. T. Blagden asked if both are assessed the same way; C. Rand answered yes, they are. T. Blagden commented that easements in perpetuity ought to be assessed at a lower rate; the Tax Assessor will be consulted. Open spaces were considered. C. Rand commented that if forests are a part of agriculture, then there is a lot of timberland in Town, whether maintained as timber or if it just stays trees; there is a distinction between that and farms where people are trying to make a livelihood with land available for other types of agricultural products. C. Rand pointed out that includes smaller parcels of land leased out to farmers, including hay fields which other farmers depend on; don't discourage commercial farmers who are taking care of their families also. L. Potter talked about different recommendations, including a farmland preservation sub-committee; C. Rand suggested reaching out to young farmers in the off-season and engaging them in the discussion. There was further discussion about including language about ecology and where to put that in the document; Chapter 4 – Critical Habitats and Wildlife was suggested.

L. Potter mentioned a Knotweed Workshop in Winsted on July 29, 2025 from 8am to noon; this Commission is invited, if interested; L. Potter and S. Rand may attend. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2025.

Adjournment. So Moved by L. Potter, seconded by S. Rand, **With All in Favor**.