

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### SPECIAL MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2026 – 5:30PM (HYBRID)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Lee Potter, Tom Blagden, Zach Sadow and Steve Fitch (Alternate). Susan Rand arrived later in the meeting. Absent: Maria Grace and Sarah Webb (Alternate). Attending: Cherie Butler.
3. **Minutes of December 11, 2025. Moved to Approve** by Lee Potter, **With All in Favor**.
4. Review of Meeting Schedule. The Commission will meet on the second Thursday on the month (except no meetings in March or July), at 5:30pm. Meetings will be held at Salisbury Town Hall, with live internet access on Zoom (Hybrid), as stated on the agenda. All present agreed.

5. Discussion on Goals for 2026.

The Commission talked about several goals, including:

- Vernal Pools – L. Potter will work with Miles Todaro (Land Use Tech Specialist) to get letters out to landowners (properties) they would like to visit. Training and education with Cornwall and Sharon is being considered.
- Commission Education – Having field meetings twice a year was suggested. S. Fitch will reach out to Allen Cockerline, regarding an agriculture walk in the spring. T. Blagden will contact Jody Bronson at Great Mountain Forest.
- Dark Sky Conservation / Lights Out CT – L. Potter suggested starting with the Town; T. Blagden commented on clarifying priorities and venues. Topics included: Partnering with the existing Dark Sky chapters; source of lighting products, designs and installations; understand bird migration and light; understand light pollution on human health and animals; understand moth navigation and light; advise Town on best practices (check out Greenwich light law); advise neighbors on best practices.
- Community Outreach – L. Potter suggested pursuing public education; Z. Sadow had suggestions; T. Blagden mentioned that the Sharon Land Trust has good ideas. Organizing volunteers to work on invasive infestations in the spring and fall was discussed; L. Potter will talk to the Salisbury Association Land Trust about their programming. T. Blagden will talk to Brook Loening, Sharon Land Trust, about how they do this.

Organize Salisbury Conservation Commission Speaker Series – S. Rand suggested the topic of endangered species and habitats; Z. Sadow had additional comments. S. Rand also suggested having Mat Kiefer talk about the land and its history; the history of the

cemeteries was another idea. L. Potter will ask S. Webb about using the Salisbury School auditorium space; Z. Sadow will ask the library about using its space.

- Articles – Topics include: Bats; Bees; Light pollution.

L. Potter thanked the members for their participation and will summarize the discussion for them.

6. Adjournment. The meeting ended at 6:37pm.