

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2026 – 5:30PM (REMOTE)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Lee Potter, Susan Rand, Tom Blagden and Steve Fitch (Alternate). Zach Sadow joined the meeting at 6:00pm. Absent: Maria Grace and Sarah Webb (Alternate). Attending: Cherie Butler.
3. **Minutes of September 11, 2025 and January 8, 2026. A Motion to Approve** made by T. Blagden, seconded by S. Rand, **With All in Favor**.
4. Vernal Pools – Permission letters are going out to 2 property owners. L. Potter mentioned that there is a template; S. Rand will contact Miles Todaro for the details. L. Potter asked how many members will participate in the vernal pool visits; S. Rand, S. Fitch and Ms. Butler volunteered. Site visits may take place in late March and in April, depending on the weather. L. Potter and S. Rand have been meeting with the Sharon Audubon group about possibly having teaching programs about the breeding habits of salamanders and frogs. L. Potter will send links to information about materials and websites.
5. Speaker Series – S. Rand has lined up 3 speakers for the series. Mat Kiefer may talk about the Yale Land Grants. Allen Cockerline will talk about the history of farming. Curtis Rand will talk about forests. The series may take place in April, October and November; S. Rand will coordinate the dates. The Series of talks will be in-person and on Zoom; specific locations to be determined.
6. Jody Bronson, Great Mountain Forest -- T. Blagden will confirm having a field trip there in the spring or fall.
7. Sharon Land Trust, Brooke Loening – T. Blagden will contact him in the spring; he suggested that the Salisbury Land Trust should take on coordinating the volunteer efforts and work schedules. Further discussion was tabled.
8. SALT -- L. Potter spoke to John Landon about collaborating with this Commission on invasive removals; there is no schedule for volunteering yet. Discussion tabled to spring.

(At this time, Z. Sadow joined the meeting; he will join the vernal pool work, depending on the schedule.)

9. Conservation Commission Event at the Sharon Audubon Center, February 26 at 6:00pm – Lights Out CT! and DarkSky program. A flyer for the event may be posted on the Town website; L. Potter will find out if there is a Zoom link for the event.
10. Dark skies update – L. Potter spoke with Craig Respasz about talking to this Commission about a to-do list for town lights and light pollution issues.
11. Bees article for spring – L. Potter is working on it; send her any interesting articles. S. Rand suggested contacting Kitty Kiefer about bees.

Commission Comments: There is no meeting in March, but L. Potter will be in touch about the vernal pools visits. The next meeting is April 9, 2026 at 5:30pm.

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