

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 9, 2026 – 5:30PM (REMOTE)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Lee Potter, Cherie Butler, Susan Rand, Tom Blagden and Maria Grace. Sarah Webb and Steve Fitch arrived later in the meeting. Absent: Zach Sadow.
3. **Minutes of February 12, 2026. A Motion to Approve** was made by C. Butler, seconded by T. Blagden, **With All in Favor**.
4. Vernal Pools – Teams and what pools.
S. Rand would like to have another pool to visit. C. Butler has not had site visit training yet, but will join L. Potter and S. Rand to learn more; T. Blagden will join when possible. M. Grace suggested trying to identify new pools and recently attended a training session on Railroad St. where a spotted salamander was found; not finding anything at a vernal pool is also important. S. Rand asked if it is important to re-visit pools; M. Grace answered yes, calling the identification of known pools as “ground-truthing”. M. Grace pointed out that the Upland Review Area (URA) is now 300’ for vernal pools, which are identified by the animals that use them.
Update on VP training and education in alliance with Sharon and Cornwall. L. Potter noted that there will be a field trip on Saturday, April 18th, 7-8:30pm in Cornwall; RSVP info was shared. Miles Todaro manages the data which will be shared with Cornwall and Sharon. L. Potter and S. Rand will co-ordinate site visits, starting with one Monday, April 13th at 9:00am at L. Potter’s home.
5. Spring Commission Enrichment – Open to Cornwall and Sharon
The first guest will be Allen Cockerline, talking about the history of farming in the NW corner. S. Rand would like the event open to the public; possible dates in May to be determined, perhaps at the Salisbury School, ways to publicize the event are being explored. The second event could be a field trip for the Commission members to Great Mountain Forest with Star Childs, to be arranged by T. Blagden, with possible dates in late May or early June to be determined.
6. Community Service – Not discussed
7. Cons Comm Speaker Series – S. Rand will arrange a date with Mat Kiefer, possibly in October, to talk about the Yale Land Grants or another topic.

- T. Blagden commented that he could offer a slide program, regarding the legacy of landscape in the NW corner, perhaps in the winter at the White Hart.
8. Light Pollution Initiative – C. Butler discussed a brochure from a recent event about Lights Out CT / Dark Sky that she attended; they were shared on-screen by L. Potter. L. Potter suggested having a lecture on that topic next spring; copies of the brochure will be emailed to the CC members. L. Potter will try to arrange a meeting with Curtis Rand to discuss also.
 9. Bee article for spring – L. Potter is working on it. T. Blagden suggested addressing the impact of invasive bees versus native pollinators; invasive bees are introduced honeybee pollinators, competing with declining native bee species. L. Potter will contact Kitty Kiefer for information, also. S. Webb will check on the availability of data from a sustainability project about bees at the Salisbury School last year.
 10. **Adjournment – So Moved** by L. Potter, **With All in Favor**. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.