CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 13, 2026 – 5:30PM (REMOTE)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

2. Roll Call. Present: Lee Potter, Susan Rand, and Steve Fitch. Absent: Tom Blagden, Cherie Butler, Maria Grace, Sarah Webb (Alternate) and Zach Sadow (Alternate).

3. Minutes of May 14, 2026. Tabled – no quorum present.

4. Review Cool Talk Series Discussion
   a. S. Rand reached out to Mat Kiefer regarding options for his talk, but hasn't heard back yet; she will follow up. S. Fitch suggested giving him options about topics; L. Potter suggested the length of time to be 45 minutes plus 15 minutes for questions afterward.
   b. S. Rand and L. Potter will be checking out possible locations, including the upstairs conference room at Town Hall in October.
   c. T. Blagden – Legacy of the Land talk in the spring

5. Conservation Commission Enrichment
   a. Review of trip to Great Mountain Forest on June 1st; thanks to T. Blagden.
   b. Planning an outing for the fall. S. Rand mentioned that Curtis Rand may be able to do something with them. L. Potter suggested possibly doing something with the DEEP.

6. Dark Skies Initiative

   S. Rand mentioned doing something about sustainability, perhaps with a teacher at the Salisbury School, and possibly getting the students involved. L. Potter suggested getting in touch with S. Webb about the idea. Curtis Rand suggested having something educational for the whole town about Dark Skies, not regulatory, but to come up with some ideas and a plan this fall.

   a. Review notes from meeting with Leo Smith – L. Potter suggested having a different speaker possibly do a presentation.

   b. Educate citizens – S. Fitch commented that a Lakeville Journal article could have a list of recommendations for homeowners, such as buying lightbulbs; C. Rand mentioned talking about how timers can be used.

   c. Work with stores that sell bulbs – S. Rand suggested talking to Herrington's and Lindell's about selling the recommended bulbs. S. Fitch mentioned the concept of "light trespass" which affects other people's property. L. Potter will write the article and think about having a talk in the winter.

Other ideas included talking to the Housatonic River Commission about the lights at the power station; C. Rand suggested outlining everything, then he can help after Labor Day. L. Potter will work on a simple list for an advisory document to be ready for the spring.

d. Work with the town departments -- C. Rand pointed out that the town has already switched the street lights to low-level bulbs on the roads.

C. Rand will check about a field trip to Mt. Riga, possibly in the fall.

L. Potter will work on the Dark Skies ideas for an outline for the members to review.

Adjournment. The meeting ended at 6:14pm.