### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** June 17th, 2024 6:30PM

Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and Telephone			
1	Members Present:	Members Absent:	
2	Dr. Michael Klemens (Chair)	Martin Whalen (Secretary)	
3	Cathy Shyer (Vice Chair)		
4	Bob Riva (Regular Member)		
5	Allen Cockerline (Regular Member)	Staff Present:	
6	Dr. Danella Schiffer (Alternate Member)	Abby Conroy, Land Use Director (LUD)	
7	Beth Wells (Alternate Member) arrived 6:32PM	Miles Todaro, Land Use Technical Specialist (LUTS)	
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9			
10	Brief Items and Announcements		
11	1. Call to Order / Establish Quorum		
12	Chair Klemens called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. A quorum was established with four regular		
13	members present (Dr. Michael Klemens, Cathy Shyer, Allen Cockerline, Bob Riva). Alternate Member Dr.		
14	Danella Schiffer was also present.		
15			
16	2. Approval of Agenda		
17	Chair Klemens proposed the following amendment:		
18	To swap Items #3 "Minutes of May 6, 2024" and #4 "Minutes of May 20, 2024" with Items #12		
19	"Appointment/Authorization of Agents" and #13	"Staff Update on Potential Violations"	
20			
21	<i>Motion:</i> To approve the Agenda as amended.		
22	Made by Cockerline, seconded by Riva.		
23	Vote: 4-0-0 in favor.		
24			
25	Alternate Member Beth Wells joined the meeting	g at 6:32PM.	
26			
27	12. Appointment/Authorization of Agents		
28			
29	LUD Conroy explained LUTS Todaro has worked w	vithin the Land Use Office (LUO) for over a year. LUD	
30	Conroy is the Zoning Enforcement Official for this Commission, and will remain the primary Agent		
31	contact. LUD Conroy asked to authorize LUTS Todaro as an Agent in order to delegate additional		
32	responsibilities such as inspections and prelimina	ry intakes.	
33			
34	<b>Motion:</b> To affirm Abby Conroy as the ZEO, and to	o affirm that the ZEO may assign routine items to Miles	
35	Todaro.		
36	Made by Cockerline, seconded by Riva.		
37	Vote: 4-0-0 in favor.		
38			
39	13. Staff Update on Potential Violations		
40	a. 253 Indian Mountain Road		
41			
42	·	roperty installed a patio around the pre-existing pool	
43	area, and constructed a covered addition off of a pre-existing pool house with a built-in barbeque and		
44	·	a bathroom addition was closed out without Zoning	
45		e identified during a real estate transaction as the	
46	property is now for sale, and a notice of violation	was sent. LUD Conroy added that approval from	

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Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) is needed before a Zoning Permit can be issued.

b. 144 Salmon Kill Road

LUD Conroy explained a new driveway was installed on this property without permits. The driveway is potentially in close proximity to wetlands and floodplains present on the property. LUD Conroy added that there is a potential Inland Wetlands and Watercourses violation as well.

55 4. Minutes of May 20, 2024

Vice Chair Shyer and Commissioner Riva were not present at the May 20 meeting and abstained from voting.

Chair Klemens Proposed the following amendment:

Line 80: Replace "Zone" with "District"

Chair Klemens appointed Alternate Member Schiffer as voting member for only Item #4 (Minutes of May 20, 2024).

Motion: To approve Minutes of May 20, 2024 as amended.

Made by Cockerline, seconded by Schiffer.

Vote: 3-0-2

#### **Public Hearing - 6:45PM**

5. #2024-0244 / Town of Salisbury (Salisbury Housing Trust) / 26 & 28 Undermountain Road / Special Permit Application for New Multi-Family Housing Construction in the Multi-Family Housing Overlay District (Section 405) / Map 56 / Lot 05 and Lot 06 / DOR: 04/15/2024 / OH: 05/20/2024 Close by 06/24/2024 / Continue Public Hearing

The Public Hearing continued at 6:42PM.

Chair Klemens provided an opening statement with a review of expectations. Additional correspondence was received, including a letter of support from the Affordable Housing Commission (AHC). Letters of concern were received from Theodore Rudd O'Neill, Judith Gott, Susan McQuillan, and Elizabeth Mastopietro.

LUD Conroy mentioned additional correspondence from the applicant was received after 4PM, which included a letter from the Salisbury Housing Trust (SHT).

President of the SHT John Harney, Vice President of the SHT Jennifer Kronholm Clark, and Vice President of the Salisbury Housing Committee (SHC) Jocelyn Ayer joined the meeting to present the application. Engineer Pat Hackett was also present to assist with questions regarding the site plan.

Ms. Kronholm Clark presented a Follow-Up Memo in response to questions from the public. Ms.

- Kronholm Clark explained a revised Site Plan was drafted in effort to address all concerns, with the two
- 91 dwellings proposed to be built on a section in the middle of the property. This placement will be
- 92 separated from two mature white oak trees in hopes to preserve them, and will retain space in the rear

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for the neighbor's privacy. Ms. Kronholm Clark explained the parcel will not require subdivision, as the other two pieces of the parcel would remain under Town management for conservation or municipal use. Ms. Kronholm Clark stated that they have withdrawn Site Plan Options 1 and 2 presented in the previous meeting.

Ms. Kronholm Clark explained the SHT has come forward to the Commission to rule on whether their proposal to build fits within the Zoning Regulations. After an improved Site Plan is accepted by the Commission, the SHT will go to Town Meeting. She explained that during the Town Meeting the public may vote whether to sell or donate this portion of the property to the SHT for the purpose of building the two homes.

Ms. Kronholm Clark addressed a previous concern about whether the property is one or two parcels. She explained an A2 survey was submitted that represents this property as one parcel. The SHT received a letter from the Assessor's Office confirming they will update their records to rectify the mistake.

Engineer Hackett presented the revised Site Plan. "Piece 1" and "Piece 3" would be Town-owned, and "Piece 2" owned by the SHT. Piece 1, in the rear, would be sixty-three feet by ninety-nine feet of Town Open Space. Piece 2, in the middle, is 0.395 acres. Both dwellings would be twenty-five feet from each other, twelve feet from the right of way on the north side, and eighteen feet on the west side. Engineer Hackett explained all parameters meet Multi-Family Housing Overlay Zone Regulations and a dry swale drain will be sized for improved storm-water quality. Engineer Hackett explained no activity is proposed on Piece 3 with the exception of surface gravel.

Commissioner Cockerline considered Piece 1 too small to be utilized as Open Space, and believed that attempting to serve three separate functions on a lot this size is not feasible. Commissioner Cockerline suggested reducing the building plan to one house. Chair Klemens referenced a letter written by Town Arborist Mat Kiefer, and explained that continued use of Piece 3 for public parking could significantly damage the mature trees. Chair Klemens explained the 8-24 Review specified two dwellings and conservation of Open Space would be sufficient use of this property. Chair Klemens believed the SHT should take over Piece 3 so it could remain conserved and prevent further degradation from parking.

Chair Klemens asked if splitting the property into pieces is legally supported. Ms. Ayer replied the SHT's understanding is that Subdivision Regulations would allow for this change as the front and rear parcel would continue to serve municipal purposes. Ms. Ayer added the concept has not been discussed with an attorney. Ms. Ayer asked the Commission whether the revised Site Plan meets requirements of the Multi-Family Housing Overlay District. She added that the Town could decide whether the front portion of the property could have continued use for parking or turned into a park to protect the trees.

Alternate Member Schiffer asked for an aerial image of the revised plan to show this proposal compared to nearby properties in the neighborhood. Engineer Hackett explained the two proposed dwellings fit well with neighboring property sizes and styles, including Grove Street.

Vice Chair Shyer asked how the property's Open Space is currently accessed by the public. Engineer Hackett and Ms. Kronholm Clark confirmed the only legal access to the site is the entrance on Undermountain Road.

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Commissioner Riva explained he visited the property twice since the last meeting and is in favor of the revised Site Plan. Commissioner Riva explained that he previously wanted the public parking area to be retained, but after admiring the two mature white oak trees on site, he believed the majority of the property should be protected. Commissioner Riva explained affordable housing and preservation of the trees should be prioritized over the option of parking.

Alternate Member Wells believed the option of public parking should be eliminated. She asked if the two dwellings could be spaced further apart if public parking was removed from Piece 3. Alternate Member Wells suggested the playground and Open Space could be swapped to the front of the property. This could provide abutting properties with increased privacy and make the Open Space more easily accessible to the public. Engineer Hackett responded that playground equipment could easily be installed on Piece 3 and Piece 1 could be adjusted for additional building space.

LUD Conroy provided a summary of all Commission Member's opinions and presented the 8-24 resolution for the Commission to review. Chair Klemens advised the Commission should follow guidelines set by the 8-24 review and reach measured decisions supported by facts in a resolution that can withstand a legal challenge.

Chair Klemens opened the floor to the public for comments and questions.

Member of the public Robin Roraback joined the meeting and explained she is an abutting property owner on Grove Street. She said she often walks her dogs on the property and allows neighborhood children to walk through her backyard to access the playground. Ms. Roraback said she contacted an Arborist for a report on the mature white oak trees, but it could not be completed as the property is Town owned. Ms. Roraback mentioned correspondence from Horticulturist Susan McQuillan who said any disruption of soil or driveway construction could further damage the mature trees. Ms. Roraback explained she researched the property deed and discovered the property was taken over by the Town due to unpaid sewer taxes. Ms. Roraback asked if the previous owner's descendants had been contacted to pay the taxes. Chair Klemens asked Ms. Roraback if there was any plan for the property where one or two houses would be acceptable. Ms. Roraback said she disagreed with all proposed plans and wished the property could remain as is.

Member of the public Judith Gott joined the meeting and asked what the difference in cost is to lay sewer and water for dwellings constructed in the rear of the property versus the middle. Engineer Hackett explained the additional distance would result in a higher expense, but the extra cost is worthwhile given the potential of diminished impact on the tree's root systems. Ms. Gott explained she is in favor of including affordable housing on this property but wished to see conservation prioritized to prevent damage of the mature trees' roots.

Ms. Kronholm Clark explained the project will be funded by the SHT with a mixture of state funds and private donations. Ms. Kronholm Clark clarified the Town would not be subject to costs from construction of the dwellings. She explained it would be more cost efficient to install water and sewer lines at the same time for both dwellings rather than for one single home. Chair Klemens asked if construction of one single dwelling would be financially feasible for the SHT. Ms. Ayer replied construction of one dwelling is feasible, but not ideal. Ms. Ayer explained being limited to one home would not prevent pursuit of construction, but the SHT and other members of the public who

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understand the critical need for affordable home ownership would prefer construction of two dwellings.

Member of the public Louis Tomaino joined the meeting and commented that there is a large amount of Open Space in the Town, but this area of Undermountain Road and Grove Street is crowded. Mr. Tomanio believed this property is not a suitable site for three separate uses.

Member of the public Margaret Monaco joined the meeting and expressed concern that parameters for the SHT to get approval for affordable housing units continues to change. She explained the most recent plan presented has attempted to address all concerns, but believed it is not possible to solve all problems related to this project. Ms. Monaco asked the Commission to reach a consensus with the most reasonable solution so the meeting may progress.

Alternate Member Wells left the meeting at 8:00PM.

Member of the public Dmitri Fedorjaczenko joined the meeting and commented that the proposed plan is not a good fit for the neighborhood and the existing use of the property. Mr. Fedorjaczenko reiterated any construction that involves excavation could damage the mature trees. He suggested the Town hire independent arborists to assess the trees and provide a report. Mr. Fedorajaczenko stated he is in favor of affordable housing in Town, but not on this property. Chair Klemens asked if he had an opinion about the current parking use causing compaction and potential damage to the mature tree's roots. Mr. Fedorajaczenko replied minimal public parking causing a hard packed area is a minor effect compared to excavating for water and sewer lines.

Member of the public Mike Abram joined the meeting and reiterated the property is Town owned by virtue of non-payment of taxes by previous owners. He explained public parking was established because the Town did not prevent its development. Mr. Abram acknowledged the Town is in need of parking, but suggested the Town plan for additional public parking independently. Mr. Abram expressed concern for the trees and believed public parking should be discontinued from the property. Mr. Abram added that the Town is in desperate need for affordable housing and construction of two dwellings should be prioritized. He is in favor of including an area of open space that can be utilized by the public and owners of the newly constructed units.

Member of the public James Dresser joined the meeting, explained he is a member of the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission (SAHC), and expressed support for all statements made by Mr. Abram. He added that the Town owns thousands of acres of Open Space, but does not have alternative affordable housing sites. The SAHC has investigated and identified three properties that are Town owned with water and sewer access that may be available for affordable housing. Mr. Dresser explained based on smart growth principles density is the purpose of a village, so citizens and businesses can benefit from each other's presence. Mr. Dresser explained the surrounding neighborhood Grove Street is a dense neighborhood as it is intended to be so. He added that the vast majority of Town residents have shown their support for affordable housing.

Member of the public Vivian Garfein joined the meeting and explained the Town has a large amount of open space but a limited amount of affordable housing for families who need to thrive in this community. Ms. Garfein explained the SHT tried to accommodate and recognize all concerns from the public. She explained this latest plan provides parking, affordable housing, and an open space area that

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allows the neighbors to continue to utilize the space they have grown accustomed to using. Ms. Garfein urged the Commission to consider approving the revised Site Plan.

Member of the public Erin Rosen joined the meeting and asked for the Commission and members of the public to keep the matter in perspective. Mr. Rosen explained the Town's desperate need for affordable housing is the priority, and expressed support for the revised Site Plan. He believed this revision is a great effort to strike a balance between interests. Mr. Rosen expressed interest in reaching a solution so the meeting may progress.

There were no further comments or questions from the public.

Chair Klemens asked about the legal status of splitting the property into three pieces. LUD Conroy explained the scenario is legally possible but complicated to navigate. Chair Klemens asked if the Site Plan can be modified after the Public Hearing has closed. LUD Conroy advised the Commission to leave the hearing open and discuss and weigh the factors at hand in order to identify which concerns should be left to the Town Meeting vote. Chair Klemens asked if the mature trees would be protected if the SHT was awarded the entirety of the property. President of the SHT John Harney confirmed the SHT would accept responsibility for maintenance and protection of the property.

Chair Klemens asked the Commission how they would like to proceed. Commissioner Riva suggested keeping the Public Hearing open, and requested that the SHT have a discussion with the Town regarding full stewardship of the property. Vice Chair Shyer expressed support for this suggestion and believed the property could be better protected under SHT ownership. Commissioner Cockerline expressed support in favor of the SHT owning the property as one parcel. Alternate Member Schiffer expressed support for the revised Site Plan proposed tonight, but was not in favor of the SHT acquiring ownership of the entire parcel.

Chair Klemens explained the Public Hearing will remain open to further discuss the SHT taking stewardship responsibility of the entire parcel.

*Motion:* To continue the Public Hearing to July 1st, 2024 at 6:45PM via Zoom for the purpose of solving the degree of land ownership to be assumed by the SHT.

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Made by Cockerline, seconded by Shyer. Vote: 4-0-0 in favor.

Vice Chair Shyer left the meeting at 8:57PM and Chair Klemens appointed Alternate Dr. Danella Schiffer as voting member.

Chair Klemens called a brief recess at 8:57PM, the meeting resumed at 9:01PM.

6. #2024-0250 / Nathaniel and Laura Kirk / 85 Preston Lane / Site Plan Application to Construct a Screen Porch in the Lake Protection Overlay District (Section 404) / Map 69 / Lot 29 / DOR: 06/17/2024 / Reception and Possible Consideration

LUD Conroy explained the applicant's property is in the Lake Protection Overlay District. The applicant removed impervious surfaces during recent construction, and a survey was not completed for the

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property when those impermeable surfaces existed. LUD Conroy explained the applicant attempted to estimate the impervious surface that was removed, and expressed they did not intend to abandon the right to this impervious surface. LUD Conroy mentioned they would like to utilize impervious surfaces on another portion of the site to install a screened porch.

LUD Conroy presented the submitted Site Plan and asked the Commission if they were comfortable with the argument that the Property Owner should retain a right to the previous impervious surface. LUD Conroy also asked what other information would be needed to render a decision. Commissioner Cockerline asked if a Zoning or Building Permit was submitted to the LUO for the recent work performed on the property. LUD Conroy explained no permit was needed. Chair Klemens expressed that he was comfortable accepting a fair estimation of previous impervious surface percentages as long as the applicant composed a new plan that reflected this. Commissioner Cockerline suggested LUD Conroy should handle the matter administratively, as he considered it a minor site plan modification. All Commission members agreed.

7. #2024-0251/ AHMR Inc / 11-15 Farnum Road / Special Permit Application to Install Propane Tanks in the Flood Plain Overlay District (Section 401) / Map 49 / Lot 12 / DOR: 06/17/2024 / Reception and Setting a Public Hearing Date

Chair Klemens explained he and LUD Conroy reviewed this application and considered it incomplete. He said the applicant has proposed to convert their oil-fired furnace to propane with tanks installed behind a pre-existing building. LUD Conroy presented the Site Plan and explained the tanks are proposed to be located in a flood zone. Fuel tanks are considered structures in the Floodplain Overlay District and are subject to floodplain requirements. LUD Conroy explained the applicant must return with a plan showing base flood elevation and information on how the tanks will be installed in accordance to Flood Zone Regulations/building code. LUD Conroy asked if the Commission is comfortable scheduling a Public Hearing. Chair Klemens replied no.

8. #2024-0252 / Fraxinus Holdings Trust (Architect Christine Gray) / 272 Undermountain Road / Special Permit for a Detached Accessory Apartment (Section 208) / Map 18 / Lot 09 / DOR: 06/17/2024 / Reception and Setting a Public Hearing Date

LUD Conroy explained the applicant's property had a Zoning Permit issued in 1991 for a newly constructed caretaker's house to replace an existing caretaker's house. LUD Conroy explained in 1991 a Regulation was in place that provided amnesty for accessory apartments created during a certain time period. LUD Conroy explained a previous property owner documented the age of the original caretaker's house, showed the septic system was sufficient, and received a Zoning Permit for the accessory apartment. LUD Conroy explained Zoning Regulations have since changed and the owners wish to increase the volume of the house by raising and matching the rooflines and adding a number of bedrooms. LUD Conroy said she has authorized some structural work and repairs to the foundation.

*Motion:* To accept application #2024-0252 / Fraxinus Holdings Trust (Architect Christine Gray) / 272 Undermountain Road / Special Permit for a Detached Accessory Apartment (Section 208) / Map 18 / Lot 09 / DOR: 06/17/2024 / and schedule Public Hearing on July 15, 2024 6:45PM via Zoom.

321 Ma

Made by Cockerline, seconded by Riva.

322 V

2 Vote: 4-0-0 in favor.

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system must be installed and additional property needed to be acquired to resolve an encroachment on

9. #2024-0253 / Hedman (Hackett/Ebersol) / 116 South Shore / Site Development Activities in the Lake
 Protection Overlay (Section 404) / Map 60 / Lot 10 / Determination of Completeness
 LUD Conroy explained that unpermitted changes and other concerns were discovered after this property
 was put on the market to be sold. She explained that in order to remedy the concerns, a new septic

the adjoining property.

Chair Klemens asked if the newly acquired property has been merged with the main parcel. LUD Conroy was unsure. She added that the application must go through the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (IWWC) as well. There is an intermittent watercourse on the property within 150 feet of the proposed septic system. Chair Klemens explained the applicant must address questions and concerns from the LUO and Commission, merge the two parcels, and submit a survey before being considered for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

#### **Public Comment**

10. Public Comment - <u>Public Comment is restricted to items that are neither on the agenda nor the subject of any pending Planning & Zoning application or action and are limited to three minutes per person.</u>

There was no Public Comment.

#### **Other Business**

11. Daniel Milner – Section 700 (specifically 700.2.b.) Regulation interpretation regarding expansion of a residential driveway and parking area for a cumulative length greater than 75'

LUD Conroy explained Public Works made notice of a new curb cut on 30 Porter Street in Lakeville. She explained the curb cut has likely existed since 2019 from a prior property owner. She believed Public Works saw that work had begun on a new driveway. LUD Conroy explained the property is steep and while it was on the market, the LUO received a number of calls with concerns about stormwater management. The driveway proposed by the owner is longer than seventy-five feet, which LUD Conroy explained requires a Zoning Permit per Section 700 of the Zoning Regulations.

Chair Klemens explained that this business was brought to the Commission at the request of the owner to determine if LUD Conroy made a fair determination regarding what was required for this project. LUD Conroy explained the property owner expressed concern that too much information was being requested for a small gravel driveway project. Although a portion of the driveway was pre-existing, the Regulations specify that driveway measurement should be taken from the street intersection. LUD Conroy added she did not feel comfortable issuing a Zoning Permit without an Engineer to evaluate stormwater runoff due to the steepness of the property. A gravel driveway would also have the potential to wash dirt directly into a Town catch basin. All Commission Members believed LUD Conroy made a fair determination.

**Resolution:** The driveway construction on 30 Porter Street will require, for the Zoning Permit, a properly engineered stormwater conveyance system.

367 Vote: 4-0-0

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369	3. Minutes of May 6, 2024
370	
371	Chair Klemens postponed review of the Minutes to the next meeting.
372	
373	Adjournment
374	
375	<i>Motion:</i> To adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM.
376	Made by Cockerline, seconded by Riva.
377	Vote: 4-0-0 in favor.
378	
379	Respectfully Submitted,
380	Erika Spino

381

**Secretary of Minutes**