

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 12, 2024 – 6:00PM (HYBRID)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Lee Potter, Susan Rand, Tom Blagden, Maria Grace and Steve Fitch (Alternate). Sarah Webb (Alternate) arrived later. Absent: Zach Sadow. S. Fitch was appointed Voting Alternate for Z. Sadow. Attending: Curtis Rand
3. **Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2024. So Moved** by S. Rand, seconded by T. Blagden and unanimously **Approved**.
4. Regular meetings will be scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 6pm. All agreed.
5. NRI – Conservation Commission to update the NRI annually. M. Grace explained that she had started working on the NRI update in 2019; there were several revisions; in July, it was given to Abby Conroy and Michael Klemens for review to include in the POCD, so that the documents are complimentary. M. Grace has the draft document from July available for comments on each section; everyone could take a section that interests them or get expertise from the community for some data to get it into a final form. There had been discussion about what a final format would be; it could have its own webpage so it could be updated more easily and frequently. M. Grace estimates the document is about 75-80% there and noted there is always information to add; the POCD may help with goals and strategies. L. Potter commented that this Commission is not experts, but could help with data collection; M. Grace will help with suggestions, but cannot take the lead. C. Rand commented that the goal is to keep the NRI fluid, but that makes more work and they aren't expecting M. Grace to do that; he suggested getting other people in the community to contribute their knowledge of current issues. C. Rand mentioned that Miles Todaro will be back to help with the vernal pools towards spring. There was further discussion about possible final formats; C. Rand suggested putting in links, such as M. Grace has done. C. Rand and L. Potter suggested looking at other town's newer NRIs in 2025. C. Rand pointed out that this is not a regulatory Commission; they can email and share information, but not make decisions or editorialize outside of meetings. L. Potter suggested working on one section at a time; C. Rand commented that the Town would pay for mapping and that Abby Conroy and Miles Todaro will help with those resources. L. Potter asked the members to look at other town's NRIs for January. S. Rand commented there could be field work; C. Rand noted that those are special meetings, they are public and the agenda must be posted. C. Rand mentioned adding some interested students to help with some of the work.

6. Other 2025 goals –
 - a. Looking ahead to vernal pools – probably in March
 - b. Field trips, informational symposia – can be special meetings, TBD.
7. Barbara Bettigole – review what is happening at the transfer station. L. Potter has not been in touch with her. C. Rand noted that the transfer station has a good committee going and it is not part of the NRI now, don't get distracted.
8. Abby Conroy / Miles Todaro – Review CACIWC meeting Nov. 16th -- some information will be available on the website.
9. Future meetings for IWWC and P&Z, Transfer Station – review on Salisbury website – not discussed
10. Review of Issues around town – Not discussed. T. Blagden mentioned the NRI and Japanese Knotweed and asked if there was any update. C. Rand indicated there have been chemical treatments. L. Potter commented that it's good to keep track of it; C. Rand suggested being aware and educating people.
11. Public Comment – None

Adjournment. So Moved by L. Potter, seconded by S. Rand and unanimously **Approved**.

M. Grace will circulate the latest version of the NRI to the members, with a link to Google Docs.