

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Special Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2019, 7:15 PM
Montville Town Hall, Room 102

Call to Order

- The Montville Conservation Commission Special Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM on April 2, 2019.

Roll Call

- Commissioners: Crossley, DiNoto, Emilyta, and LeClair were present.
- Montville Councilman McNally was present.

Approval of Agenda

- Commissioner Emilyta made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 2, 2019 Special Meeting. Commissioner DiNoto seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items

- William Herrmann, President of Montville Rotary, 32 Anderson Lane, Oakdale, CT spoke regarding the Conservation Center (item under Old Business). He advised the Commission that the Montville Rotary is interested in helping the Commission return the Conservation Center to its natural state.
- Discussion included mowing/cutting down/trimming overgrown grass, widow-makers, tree limbs, etc.
- In addition, discussion included installation/repair of bat houses, a boardwalk; marking trails as well as trees, removing dangerous vegetation, etc.
- Devin Steiseo of Oakdale, a Montville High School student and member of Eagle Scouts Troop 231 in Wolcott, expressed his desire to perform his “Eagle Scout Project” by assisting the Commission in its efforts to clean up the Conservation Center. He said he could get MHS students and other Eagle Scout members to help him with this project and that he would be willing to help in any area that will assist in conserving the Center. Chair, Jessica LeClair, provided Devin with a list of “action items” prepared by the Commission and asked him to peruse it and advise what items he was interested in working on.

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2019

- Commissioner Emilyta made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2019 Special Meeting. Commissioner DiNoto seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

- The Commission received a letter from the DEEP relative the removal of a dam in the Oxoboxo area. The DEEP is requesting a waiver of the public hearing for same. Councilor McNally indicated that the dam had to be closed in order for the condos that are planned to be built. Commission members agreed to request a copy of the

application and that once the Commission was satisfied that the dam removal/closure plan met certain conditions it would not challenge the DEEP request.

Old Business

- Discuss Opportunities for the Conservation Center (see remarks from the public above).
- Discuss the amendment of the Montville Conservation Commission Rules and Procedures
 - The Commission identified and discussed more items needed, re: clean up and maintenance of the Montville Conservation Center.
 - Commissioner DiNoto stated that the Free Masons are doing a CHIP event on 5/4/19 and thought maybe a clean-up at the Conservation Center could be done in conjunction with the CHIP event.
 - Commissioner LeClair said Commission members need to walk the site with Nancy in Planning & Zoning to see what can be done as far as wetlands are concerned.
 - Mr. Herrmann discussed wanting to cut the overgrown grass down and indicated that was one of the first things he'd like to see done.
 - LeClair discussed cleaning up around the pond and maybe putting a picnic area in that area.
 - Devin suggested the Scouts and MHS students could help with the clean-up and was confident he could get enough volunteers but had concerns relative to the cost of materials (i.e building picnic tables in, building a boardwalk, etc.) He also suggested getting the MHS environmental science class to take on a class project to help out.
 - Commission members agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Good Friday (4/19/19) and Commissioners DiNoto and Emilyta agreed they could also meet on a Sunday to help move Devin's Eagle Scout project along (probably 4/28/19). If three or more members meet, a "Special Meeting" would be scheduled.
 - Councilor McNally asked the recording clerk to prepare a Special Meeting Agenda for 4/19/19 – simple Agenda stating Commissioners to meet at Conservation Center to discuss clean up, etc.
- Review Open Space Inventory for the Town of Montville
 - Commissioner LeClair has inquired about the status of the open space inventory with the Planning Department and is still waiting for a it to conclude its process. Marsha, Town Planner is working on this.
 - Commissioner LeClair said the Commission is interested in looking into prioritizing open space; wildlife corridors, etc.
 - Councilor McNally talked about "open space" properties owned by the Town due to an old Ordinance that required builders to give land to the Town based on the amount of land the builder was using. He discussed a particular piece of land on Route 163 past Camp Oakdale (owned 27+ years for back taxes). Town is looking into selling the land with the old abandoned house rather than putting any money into the property. He suggested the Commissioners could look into these properties and determine whether any

can be used as open space. Another property is located on Benway Court (across from St. Bernard's) that the Town has obtained approval to sell. Commissioner LeClair will make inquiry to Marsha about the Benway Court property.

- Commissioner LeClair talked about property on Fire Street as well.
- Councilor McNally said that 40+ house are going up on East Lake Road (off Fire Street)
- Commissioner LeClair wanted to know if the Commission was entitled to receive notices of any intended building

New Business

- Farmer's Market Committee:
 - Councilor McNally talked about the newly established Farmer's Market Committee. He believes the Famer's Market once up and running will be held on Sundays from 10am-2pm. Vendors will pay a fee to be involved with the market (\$200/yr fee 15x15 tent area). Two food trucks committed to coming to the Farmer's Market. He said there has been a lot of interest in Town of Montville. It's been discussed for approx. 8 years and is finally coming to fruition.
 - Commissioner LeClair thought it might be a good idea for the Conservation Commission to have a table to discuss conservation issues with Town residents.
- Meeting Place: Commissioner Chase wanted to discuss meeting place. Members present were satisfied with Room 102 and agreed this issue would go over to the next Agenda.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the Public.

Comments from Municipal Liaison

- Councilor McNally said that the Town Council had received the Conservation Commission's budget and he did not foresee any issues with it.
- Councilor McNally talked about the Solar Farm that the Board of Education has requested. To date, all proposals have had erosion issues and each time the Board has requested approval it has been denied.
- Commissioner LeClair talked about maybe putting a Solar Farm in the parking area rather than between Tyl and MHS. Many issues were discussed and the Commission agreed to request that Marsha, Town Planner, notify the Commission of any future requests.

Comments from Commissioners

- None

Adjourn

- Commissioner Emilyta made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner DiNoto seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23PM.