

Town of Montville Conservation Commission

Special Meeting Minutes September 3, 2019, 7:15 PM Montville Town Hall, Room 102

- Call to Order
 - The September 3, 2019 meeting of the Town of Montville Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:15 PM.
- Roll Call
 - Commissioners Emilyyta, Chase, LeClair were present. Commissioner Lespier arrived at 7:20 PM. Commissioner DiNoto arrived at 7:40 PM.
 - Town Councilman McNally was present.
- Approval of Agenda
 - Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve the September 3, 2019 meeting agenda, Commissioner Emilyyta seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- Comments from the Public on Agenda Items
 - NA.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2019
 - Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve the August 6, 2019 meeting minutes, Commissioner Emilyyta seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- Correspondence
 - Councilman McNally received an electronic correspondence from a resident on Kitemaug Road:
 - A resident expressed concern that she no longer sees active birdlife in the Kitemaug/Massepeag Road area. In the past she saw herons, eagles, egrets, and more. She would like to know if there is anything that can be done to bring the bird life back. The concern did not include any information on the exact area, including an address The Commission determined that they would drive this area before the October meeting and then discuss what they saw.
 - Commissioner Lespier noted that there is increased traffic in that area.
 - The Conservation Commission received an email from John Melcher, Enforcement Officer, EPA Region 1. Mr. Melcher was forwarding a tip that his office received regarding dumping of grey water at a private residence in

Montville. The Commission discussed the tip, and did not feel it felt under the its purview. Councilman McNally suggested that the Council forward this tip to the Building Department and Water Pollution Control Authority.

- Old Business
 - Discuss Montville Conservation Center Operations and Maintenance
 - On Sunday, September 8, 2019, at 10:00 AM Commission members agreed to meet to mark the trails. A Special Meeting will be called.
 - Commissioner Emilyta recently cleared some poison ivy blocking the trailheads at the Conservation Center. Commissioners will visit the Conservation Center on their own to perform simple maintenance that is needed.
 - Commissioner Lespier noted that he will investigate online mapping tools that the Commission may use to create a new map for the Center.
 - Commissioner LeClair recently contacted the Rotary Club with no response, regarding sign upgrades. She will contact the new president of the club to discuss the project.
 - Discuss Open Space Priorities
 - Commissioner Chase quoted the state statute for open space and would like to offer these as considerations for open space in the town:
 - “The term ‘open space land’ means any area of land, including forest land, land designated as wetlands under Section 22a-30 and not including farm land, the preservation or restriction of the use of which would a) maintain and enhance the conservation of natural scenic resources; b) protect natural streams or water supply; c) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes; d) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, natural reservations, or sanctuaries, or other open spaces; e) enhance public recreation opportunities; f) preserve historic sites; or g) promote orderly urban or suburban development.”
 - Additionally, the Commission discussed the importance of farmland, storm buffering, climate mitigation advancement, and wildlife corridors outside of the Camp Oakdale area.
 - Discuss Property Located at 15 Benway Court
 - Councilman McNally informed the Commission that the Town Council will not take action on the property located at 15 Benway Court and it will be turned to conservation property at a later date.
- New Business
 - Explore Opportunities for Creating Young Forest in Montville
 - The Commission will explore the funding opportunities available for creation of Young Forest on municipally owned land.
 - The Mostoway Property purchased by the Town last year was discussed as an option. The property is being surveyed. When a map of the property is

- finalized the Conservation Commission would like to meet with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the possible future uses of the site.
 - Staff Support
 - Councilman McNally will contact the Planning Department to inquire about the availability of staff to participate in Conservation Commission meetings.
 - Explore potential for hosting a public information workshop
 - The Commission is interested in hosting another education educational workshop, composting was discussed as a potential option., could be something to have at a table at the farmers market next year. In the past, with SCRRA the Town has offered reduced rate compost bins. Commissioner LeClair will contact Flo Turner at the Transfer Station to discuss this as an option.
 - Consider hosting a social media page for the Commission
 - The Conservation Commission would like to establish a Facebook page to interact with the public. Commissioner Lespier will create the page that will be discussed at the next meeting before going live. All Commissioners interested will be made administrators of the page.
 - The Commission discussed the possibility of creating a Commission logo. Commissioners will brainstorm on possible logo ideas and discuss further at the next meeting.
- Comments from the Public
 - NA.
- Comments from Municipal Liaison
 - Councilman McNally will send the Commission a copy of the approved municipal budget.
 - Councilman McNally informed the Commission that the Town is gaining ownership of a 97-acre property on Fire Street that abuts the bus parking area across the street from the Conservation Center. He suggested that the Commission contact the Planning Department to request a map of the property to learn more about conservation possibilities at the site.
 - Councilman McNally informed the Commission that the owners of the dam on Oxoboxo Lake are planning to draw down the lake soon to perform repairs on the dam.
 - The Councilman recommended that the Commission explore offering fun activities at the Conservation Center site, like a haunted trail walk (perhaps with the Drama Club at the High School) or ice skating in the winter. If the Commission raises funds through these endeavors they could go into an account.
 - The Councilman also suggested that the Commission host an occasional table at the Farmers Market next year.
 - Councilman McNally will only be serving as the Commission's Municipal Liaison for two more months. Before he leaves he will request that the Public Works Department reposition the Conservation Center roadside sign. The

Commission thanked Councilman McNally for his dedication to the Commission efforts and for his insights and recommendations.

- Comments from Commissioners
 - Commissioner Chase asked Councilman McNally if all streams in town should be marked. Councilman McNally will look into this question.

- Adjourn 8:30 PM
 - Commissioner Chase made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner DiNoto seconded. The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.