

Town of Montville
Sustainable CT Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022, 3:00 p.m. Room 203 – Town Hall

Town of Montville has lifted the mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022 throughout Town facilities in coordination with our schools. Although the mask mandate has been lifted, Uncas Health strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors.

1. **Call to Order.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
3. **Roll Call.** Present were Colleen Bezanson (Assistant Planner), Barbara Lockhart (Youth Services Director), Wills Pike (Board of Education Chairman), Kathie Doherty-Peck (Senior & Social Services Director) and Peter Bushway (Parks and Recreation Director). Absent: Mayor Ron McDaniel
4. **New Business:**
 - a. Discussion of Action items 1.2.2 and 7.1.1. Barbara Lockhart indicated that she contacted our Equity Coach, Ashley Stewart. She had sent her an email regarding some ideas that she had and possible training options for the Committee that might satisfy action item 1.2. She has signed up for additional training in October and had spoken to Janelle-Posey-Green about having an equity training session during a future Committee meeting. She also handed out information regarding Equity vs Equality. She gave a brief statement regarding Town Demographics and indicated that there has been a 3.2 % increase in Montville's Hispanic/Latino Population. A list of existing policies & practices related to Equity-Diversion-Inclusion in the Town was provided. Suggestions for thoughtful and impactful change were discussed. These included:
 - Creating an adopting a "Proclamation of Solidarity"
 - Offer all public meeting agendas in multiple languages, all information disseminated on social media platforms and digital signage. She indicated that forms at the Youth Center are in different languages.
 - Post Language Line information in all public building/offices which provide access to live interpreters and post information on language translation apps for phones. A list was provided with examples. Kathie Doherty-Peck followed up with TVCCA and found that they have a call in service for translation in approximately 13-15 languages. Discussion was held regarding the comparison of having a translator at meetings vs the phone option. Discussion was held about researching these options and then see which one worked best. If this option was selected then signs could be created to post around areas where meetings were held and outside offices.
 - Public screenings of the social impact film RACE to be a Human. Youth services has done public screenings for other topics in the past and they had a good turnout.
 - Have Equity, Inclusion and cultural competency trainings available to all municipal and school staff as well as all boards and commissions.

Discussion was held about it being possibly mandatory just as the sexual harassment training is, but may not be easily done.

- Host multicultural art and food festivals in local venue through Parks and Rec, Senior and Social Services and Youth Services. Peter Bushway handed out an email from LatinoFestUSA.com regarding upcoming Latino events in Connecticut. This may be a source for possible future events in town.

If Ashley is available, Barbara will have her come before the Commission possibly in October.

Wills Pike said he is going to work with Steve Carrol from the Board of Education for action item 7.1.1.

Discussion was held regarding different categories for minorities and that those with disabilities are not always part of the discussion. Committee should look at ways to include them as well especially for meetings or interactions with municipal offices. Accessibility for those in wheelchairs should be looked into at the Community Center. Affordable housing options were also discussed and copy of the Affordable Housing Plan will be sent to the Committee.

- b. Discussion of ongoing projects and proposed projects from various departments or commissions that meet action item criteria. Peter Bushway and Barbara Lockhart indicated that this month's newsletters for Park and Rec and Youth Services included Library events. This will be added to the web action item submission. Peter has also been in contact with Maria Matos, executive director of LEAD (Latinos for Educational Advocacy and Diversity), and she has been invited to the next meeting of the Committee to discuss her work with the Latino community. He indicated that she is interested in a tablet program for kids. Discussion was held that there was one in place so there may not be a need for an additional one.

5. **Other Business:**

- a. Approval of Minutes from meetings of 8/24/2022. Motion by Wills Pike and seconded by Peter Bushway to approve the minutes of the 8/24/2022 meeting. Voice vote. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

6. **Correspondence:** None

7. **Remarks from the Public.** None

8. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn by Wills Pike and Seconded by Peter Bushway. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.