

Town of Montville
Sustainable CT Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 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), Peter Bushway (Parks and Recreation Director), Mayor Ron McDaniel and Kathie Doherty-Peck (Senior & Social Services Director)
4. **New Business:**

Motion was made by Wills Pike and Seconded by the Mayor to discuss item 4b before item 4a to allow for Ms. Matos to arrive. Voice Vote. All in Favor. Motion Carried

- b. Discussion of ongoing projects and proposed projects from various departments or commissions that meet action item criteria. Barbara Lockhart indicated that Ashley Stewart would no longer be our Equity Coach but she has reached out to Jessica LeClair and would be working with her. The two would be meeting in early October to discuss what the Town has done that may qualify and training options for the Committee. She also indicated that TVCCA's phone interpretation system was in line with the United Way. She suggested another option to having signs with numbers to call would be to have a QR code that linked to the TVCAA number. Other areas to look into would be look into working with Norwich and/or New London on a regional projects that would promote cultural diversity. She handed out flyers for Parents Pride, a support group for parents and caregivers of LGBTQIA children and indicated that this is an area that should also be looked into.
- a. Presentation by Maria Matos, Executive Director of LEAD (Latinos for Educational Advocacy and Diversity), on what LEAD does for communities and the free tablet program. Ms. Matos gave the history of LEAD and how it branched off into the Mosaic Coalition. Their mission is to connect and organize diverse communities through educational programs, cultural sharing events, bring community leaders, organizations and stakeholders together and to promote cross cultural cooperation and unity. She explained how they have had an office in Danbury but recently opened one in Norwich. They have been working with different agencies, such as the United Way, to help provide assistance for different ethnic groups in the area. Wills Pike described a language barrier issue at the last Board of Education meeting and asked how they could possibly help. Maria explained how they are working with volunteers to provide assistance for translation for communities for both written documents as well as for meetings. She stated that language barriers are one of the issues that keep people from attending meetings and joining events as they feel that they are not being heard and/or do not understand what is going on. She could have a translator at the next Board of Education meeting if needed. Wills thanked her and said he would need to discuss with the rest of Board of Education members. Barbara Lockhart shared a flyer

regarding the Norwich Regional Adult Education program for families learning English. Ms. Matos indicated that they were working with them as well. One thing she wanted to point out was that the program offered child care. Ms. Matos said that this was very helpful as it allows parents to attend meetings without having to face an additional cost of child care. Ms. Matos explained a program that they would like to bring to Montville called the Free Tablet program. This program would allow families, who meet certain criteria, to receive a free tablet. Criteria included must be on Husky, EBT, WIC, Social Security or have tax id. In addition tablet could be provided to those who make under \$45,000 a year. The intent of the program is to provide access for parents to resources such as online learning, tele-med appointments, and other resources online all year. Currently the kids are provided a chrome book during the school year but it has to be returned at the end of the school year. In addition it is to encourage seniors to learn how to use computers so they can easily access resources. The Committee thought that this was a great program and the Mayor and Kathy-Doherty Peck will look into creating a survey for the seniors to see how many would be interested. Barbara Lockhart would look into it as well for the families. The Committee will reach back out to Ms. Matos in the future to discuss the tablet program as well as other ways that the Town can partner with them on events and training.

During the presentation Kathy Doherty-Peck had to leave at 3:30 pm and the Mayor left at 4:00 pm.

5. **Other Business:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from meetings of 9/14/2022. Continued to next meeting.
6. **Correspondence:** None
7. **Remarks from the Public.** None
8. **Adjournment.** Motion by Wills Pike seconded by Barbara Lockhart to adjourn the meeting. Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 pm.