

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2023, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least **1 working day in advance.**

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Mayor, Council, Board or Commission.

- 1) Call to Order – 6:05 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call- Commissioners John Guetens, Jeff Carver, Jessica LeClair and Bonnie Bacon are present. Alternate Commissioner Elaine Hess is present and read in as a voting member. Town Council Liaison Nick Sabilia is present. Members of the public are present
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Alterations to the Meeting Agenda -none
- 6) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items- none
- 7) Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2023 – Commissioner LeClair motioned to approve and Commissioner Hess seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- 8) Communications -none
- 9) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update
 - i. Kiosk update -no update since last meeting.
 - ii. CT Trail Finder update -Commissioner LeClair had forwarded questions from Emily Wilson at CT Trail Finder, with a request that commissioners help to answer the questions.
 - iii. Installing bench donated by Montville Lion's Club update –Department of Public works will install a cement pad when weather permits. Commissioner Hess will follow through with acknowledgements and press once the bench installation is completed.
 - iv. Building trail loop in NE corner – Commissioner Guetens proposed that available commissioners gather at the Conservation Center to walk the NE corner on Dec 17, 2023, at noon.

- v. Picnic table by pond was moved and needs repositioning – Town Council Liaison Sabilia repositioned the table.
- b) Certified mail, letter dated Oct 26, 2023 – Commissioner Bacon reported that Liz Burdick, Director of Land Use and Development advised that the Conservation Commission does not need to take action on the matter before the CT Siting Council.
- c) Garden club update – members of the garden club subcommittee conducted cleanup and decorations at the Library with holiday sprays and recycled/reused some decorations from the Transfer station.
- d) Nips update -the program is up and running. Town Council Liaison Sabilia will talk with DPW Director Carlson about communicating the process to interested groups.
- e) Trails Day planning, including scavenger hunt -discussion tabled
- f) Fall walk update -discussion tabled
- g) Lights Out update – a concern of lights around the tennis courts and other facilities being on after dark while no one was using them was raised. Town Councilor Sabilia will raise Lights Out discussion to Town Council in January meeting.
- h) Discussion of remaining funds and uses –Commissioners need to supply recommendations (links to items in ULINE with pricing for instance) for the items previously discussed, including dog waste containers, tree identification signs, a bike rack, and trail markers. Commissioner Hess suggested that some work tools, for example a battery powered weed wacker, could be purchased for the commission instead of asking commissioners to bring their own each time.

10) New Business Agenda

- a) Election of officers
 Chair – John Guetens was nominated by Commissioner Bacon, seconded by Commissioner Hess, and unanimously voted in as Chair.
 Vice Chair – Jessica LeClair was nominated by Chair Guetens, seconded by Commissioner Carver, and unanimously voted in as Vice Chair.
 Secretary – Bonnie Bacon was nominated by Vice Chair LeClair, seconded by Chair Guetens, and unanimously voted in as Secretary.
- b) 2024 Calendar – a proposed calendar was provided by Meredith Badalucca. It was suggested by Commissioner Bacon that a change be made to hold the November meeting on Nov 6 (Wed) to avoid meeting on Election day. Motion to approve was made by Vice Chair LeClair and seconded by Commissioner Bacon. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

MEETING DATES 2024

**Tuesdays at 6:00 pm – Room 102
 Montville Town Hall**

January 2, 2024

February 6, 2024

March 5, 2024

April 2, 2024

May 7, 2024
June 4, 2024
July 2, 2024
August 6, 2024
September 3, 2024
October 1, 2024
November 6, 2024
December 3, 2024
January 7, 2025

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, with the exception of November 6, which is a Wednesday.

11) Comments from the Public -none

12) Comments from Town Council Liaison - none

13) Comments from Commissioners -Commissioners have observed runoff near the Conservation Center. Commissioner Carver will follow up with Wetlands to find out if testing has been done.

14) Adjourn – Motion to adjourn made by commissioner Carver, seconded by Vice Chair LeClair, and vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.