

Town of Montville  
Conservation Commission

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Special Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2024, 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](mailto: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 – 6:02 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call – Chair John Guetens, Town Council Liaison Nick Sabilia, and Commissioners Adam Heckle, Bonnie Bacon, Kari Wall (alternate) and Elaine Hess (alternate) were present. Commissioners Wall and Hess were designated to substitute for absent Commissioners Carver and LeClair. (Town Council Chair Tim May joined the meeting at 7 p.m.)
- 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 December 5, 2023-Commissioner Hess motioned to approve and Commissioner Bacon seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.
- 8) Communications -Communication from PACE was received by Vice Chair LeClair in advance of the meeting and the topic is included in tonight's agenda.
- 9) Old Business Agenda
  - a) Conservation Center update
    - i. Kiosk update – Dept of Public works is expected to install this in the spring/summer.
    - ii. CT Trail Finder update -Commissioner LeClair sent in feedback and this is all set for now.
    - iii. Update on walk through of MCC on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> -Commissioners walked the blue trail and footpath.
    - iv. Update on runoff/contamination (Commissioner Carver)-tabled until next meeting.
  - b) Garden club update – no update (Commissioner Heckle) but may organize a planning meeting this winter.
  - c) Lights Out update – Town Council Liaison Sabilia stated that there will be a presentation to Town Council on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> and recommended that commissioners attend.

## 10) New Business Agenda

- a) Vote on funding for:
  - i. Additional lumber/hardware needed for bog logs (walkways) – Commissioner Heckle motioned to authorize Chair Guetens to write a purchase order for \$500 for additional boards and hardware to complete walkways for priority areas. Commissioner Bacon seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - ii. Dog waste station – Commissioner Hess motioned to authorize Chair Guetens to write a purchase order for \$400 for a dog waste station and extra bags. Commissioner Bacon seconded. Unanimously approved
- b) Discuss planned location for bench – the bench could be located on the opposite side of the trail from the kiosk.
- c) Discuss estimated cost for tree tags and trail markers -Commissioner Heckle and Chair Guetens may identify 15-20 specimen trees. Chair Guetens will bring a cost estimate for tree tags to the next meeting. Town Council Chair May will visit Home Depot to identify paint to use (4 colors) to freshen the trail markers.
- d) Discuss additional MCC signs for Fair Oaks and Black Ash trail entrances- Additional signs would be nice to mark the entrance from Black Ash Rd and potentially from Fair Oaks. The existing sign at the entrance was made by Critical Signs. Commissioner Wall will also look into costs of signs forbidding motorized vehicles. ATV tracks were found in the Conservation Center. There was discussion of placing boulders where the trail leaves the Conservation Center to the Utility area. Chair Guetens will also speak with the Montville Schools Facilities Director about adding boulders to an entrance to the utility area at Tyl Middle School. Also, parking was discussed for Black Ash trail entrance. It would be nice to have a parking area there.
- e) Determine priority of all planned 2024 projects and timelines to completion and assign committee members for each.- #1) put a crossing near the pond on the footpath trail; #2) finish bog logs (walkways). #3) Cut down/clear fallen trees in the pond; #4) installation of kiosk, bench and slab for picnic table (spring/summer); #5) plan for Trail Day; #6) plan for October walk (may do this in 2025 instead).

Discussion on Trail day possible options:

  - i) Stations:
    - Boy scouts/girl scouts
    - Conservation commission members
    - One near the beaver pond
    - Could have stamps
    - Guided tour
  - ii) Description:
    - Easy or difficult
    - Dogs allowed or not
    - Limit on # of people (for guided tour)
    - Might be just one tour (for guided tour)
    - Work with Parks and Rec
    - Get fish into the pond and Fox Brook

- f) PACE reaching out for citizens to discuss solar legislators-Vice Chair LeClair received a letter from PACE requesting interested citizens to talk with their legislators to improve implementation of solar energy in Connecticut (email attached)
- g) Discuss adding links to other nearby trails to Conservation Commission website  
Commissioner Wall will develop a prototype website which can be linked to Commission's website, and may contact Montville Town IT director Bill O'Neill for discussion.

11) Comments from the Public -none

12) Comments from Town Council Liaison - update on Nip Fund – none of the money set aside for non profit or youth organizations to clean up has been spent yet

13) Comments from Commissioners -none

14) Adjourn – Adjourned at 7:56 p.m.