

Town of Montville  
Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 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 – 6:03 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call -Present: Chair John Guetens, Commissioners Bonnie Bacon, Jess LeClair, Adam Heckle, and Alternate Commissioners Kari Wall, and Elaine Hess. Town Council Chair Tim May attended in place of Town Council Liaison Nick Sabilia. Mayor Bunnell and members of the public were present. Chair Guetens requested a motion to allow (Alternate) Commissioner Wall to stand in for Commissioner Carver (absent). Commissioner LeClair made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Bacon and unanimously approved.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Alterations to the Meeting Agenda - none
- 6) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items
- 7) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2024 -Chair Guetens requested a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Bacon made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Wall. Commissioner LeClair abstained, and the motion was passed with all remaining votes.
- 8) Communications – No communications were received by the Chair or Secretary. Commissioner LeClair received a response from CT Trail Finder administrators (see Agenda item 9)a)iii below).
- 9) Old Business Agenda
  - a) Conservation Center update:
    - i. Work completed at Center- including fallen trees, walkway at pond spillover, replacement of bog logs- Chair Guetens cleared some fallen trees near the pond and with Commissioner Heckle, also constructed a walkway on the footpath next to the pond at the spillover. Chair Guetens will contact Director Carlson to get a purchase order for additional boards needed to repair and construct walkways.

- ii. Kiosk, bench, signs, dog waste station, lumber, tree tags, trail markers update -Chair Guetens has contacted Critical Signs regarding a quote for two additional signs to mark the Montville Conservation Center at the Black Ash Road entrance and at Fair Oaks and will also consult Director Carlson regarding sign vendors. Commissioner Wall identified brown “Trail Entrance” signs for sale, as well as signs stating that motorized vehicles are prohibited. She will consult Zoning about installing the signs, possibly at Black Ash Road, Fair Oaks, the power lines, and the main entrance. She will also contact Assistant Planner Badalucca for the street address of the Center. Chair Guetens will ask Director Carlson to write a purchase order for the dog waste station that was approved at the last meeting and request that DPW store the spare/replacement refill bags. Commissioner Heckle identified a number of trees beside the trails. Chair Guetens obtained pricing for tree tags which screw on to the trees (common and latin names), and it was proposed that at 20 trees be tagged to start, and the Commission can discuss later whether more should be tagged. It was also discussed whether stakes could be purchased for shrubs and ground covers that are identified; however, there was concern that these might be removed by vandals. Chair Guetens requested a motion to approve spending \$220 for 20 tags. Commissioner LeClair moved to approve spending. Commissioner Wall seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The kiosk was installed. Chair Guetens will find out whether Director Carlson has the key. Commissioners discussed what to post at the kiosk, including a flier for the Lights Out presentation at the Town Council meeting on Monday, Feb 12. The commission also discussed posting a bar code with link to our website. The bench, which will be positioned across the trail from the kiosk, and the picnic table near the Chesterfield Rd entrance, are still awaiting concrete pads. The commission will discuss repainting trail markers (orange, blue, yellow, white) when the weather is better, e.g. March. Chair Guetens has asked Director Carlson to talk with the Boy Scouts regarding fixing the benches.
- iii. CT Trail Finder update – Commissioner LeClair was contacted by the CT Trail Finder administrator to clarify several items on the map, including the location of the beaver pond vs the other pond and the name of the other pond. Naming of the pond is tabled for a later meeting. Commissioner LeClair will provide the clarifications to the administrator.
- b) Web site links- Commissioner Wall provided a presentation of a prototype for a website. A link to this website can be added to the Conservation Commission’s Town web page (per Director O’Neill)
- c) Horton Cove Trail – discussion of possible MCC oversight-Chair Guetens will discuss this with other stakeholders.
- d) Garden club update- Commissioner Heckle stated that he is considering having a general meeting at the Library soon, and will plan some meeting days. He identified needs including trimming bushes at the Veteran’s Memorial. Alternate Commissioner Hess said that that the club will have access to a shed at the Senior Centers.
- e) Lights Out reminder: Feb 12<sup>th</sup> presentation to Town Council has been arranged by Councilor Sabilia. Members of the Conservation Commission, Town employees, and citizens are encouraged to attend.

10) New Business Agenda

- a) 2024-2025 fiscal budget -The Commission will stick with the numbers submitted, because approved ARPA grants are still being used for maintenance at the Conservation Center. Commissioner LeClair will identify training opportunities for 2024.
- b) Trail Day – subcommittee formation. Chair Guetens, and Commissioners LeClair, Wall, and Hess volunteered to be on a Trail Day subcommittee.
- c) Arbor Day (April 6, 2024) – planning – Chair Guetens suggested offering some saplings to a group of students to plant at home or at the Center.

11) Comments from the Public – Ellen Desjardins spoke about the impact of nip bottles on the environment and on driver safety and urged the commission to communicate with the Town Council and legislators in support of the banning of nip bottles.

12) Comments from Town Council Liaison -none

13) Comments from Commissioners -none

14) Adjourn -8:26 p.m.