

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Special Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2024, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order- 6:00 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call- Chair John Guetens, Vice Chair Jess LeClair, Commissioner Bonnie Bacon, Commissioner Adam Heckle, (Alternate) Commissioner Kari Wall, (Alternate) Commissioner Elaine Hess. Commissioner Wall was read in as a voting member.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2024 -item 9)e) dates for Trails Day was corrected from (June 3, rain date June 4) to (June 1, rain date June 2).
- 7) Communications- Vice Chair LeClair, who registered the Montville Conservation Center event for Trails Day, received a package with T-shirts and brochures from trailsday.org. Also, Planning Director Matthew Davis emailed a draft Regional Open Space Plan to Chair Guetens. This will be forwarded to Commissioners for review and comment.
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update- Forest management plan. Commissioner Heckle met with Frank Cervo, who previously outlined his recommendations to the commission. He has stated that the beeches will die, and again recommended that understory beeches be removed, especially in diseased areas. Also, starting on the western edge, he recommended removing 25% of the trees to create opportunities for new growth and to get rid of the beeches. Wildlife biologist Jane Seymour was also present. Commissioner Heckle also noted that there are invasives, particularly near Black Ash Rd, which could be cut back or possibly sprayed. Commissioner Wall noted that she knows foragers who can present on how to prepare and cook invasives.
 - b) Trails Day – Outreach discussion. Vice Chair LeClair told the commissioners that the Trails Day event is posted at trailsday.org <https://trailsday.org/events/explore-the-montville-conservation-center/> Participants don't need to register, just show up. Event is 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 (rain date June 2) and includes a guided walk at 10:30 a.m. as well as an independent, kid/family-friendly scavenger hunt which participants can do independently. Chair Guetens and Commissioner Heckle will lead the guided tour. Chair Guetens will

post the event information on Facebook. Commissioner Wall will contact the schools regarding getting the word out to families, and the mayor regarding posting on the town's electronic bulletin board. Commissioner Wall has developed a scavenger hunt document and will get copies printed; she also has prizes. Chair Guetens will organize a meeting of the subcommittee on Wed May 29 6:00 p.m. to finalize logistics for the Trails Day events.

- c) Garden club update-Mulch has been laid around Town Hall gardens. Regarding collaboration with the senior center on their gardens, Commissioner Heckle plans to meet with Director Doherty-Peck. Commissioner Heckle has also been cleaning up the conservation center and planning whether a garden or stone work can be added to protect the guardrails from accidental damage by cars.

9) New Business Agenda - none

10) Comments from the Public -none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison – not present

12) Comments from Commissioners -Chair Guetens mentioned the need to get all of the outstanding requests for Purchase Orders dispatched before the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Wall has been working on a Conservation Commission website which will link to the town website and have additional links to information on local trails, pollinators, and watershed. She is also developing a logo. Commissioner Bacon mentioned that Community Day at the Farmer's market is coming up on June 25, and the conservation commission could host a table there like last year.

13) Adjourn -7:40 p.m.