

Town of Montville  
Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes  
June 4, 2024, 6:00 PM  
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order -6:02 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call -Commissioner Bonnie Bacon and Alternate Commissioners Kari Wall and Elaine Hess were present. Town Council Chair Tim May was also present. Commissioners Wall and Hess were read in as voting members.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 6) Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2024 -Commissioner Wall motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Hess seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- 7) Communications – Email communication between Chair John Guetens and the Department of Public Works regarding the Purchase orders is discussed below under 8)a).
- 8) Old Business Agenda
  - a) Conservation Center update- Purchase orders- Shelly Seals from DPW confirmed via email to Chair Guetens on May 15, 2024 that Purchase orders were processed for the Dog Waste Station and supplies, and 2 entrance signs with poles and brackets; also new purchase orders for tree tags and tree seedlings were processed May 15, 2024.
  - b) Trail Day – recap – The Trail Day event at the Conservation Center went well. Eight members of the public attended, including children who participated in the scavenger hunt. The event was well advertised via social media, through the schools and on electronic signs. Recommendations for next year by Commissioner Hess include: putting up the paper signs at the entrance of the Conservation Center a week early so that passers-by will see them, and personally visiting the fire stations to speak with the members about the advertising the event.
  - c) Garden club update – no update
  - d) Website update – Commissioner Wall stated that the website is live. She will contact IT Director Bill O’Neill to get it linked to the town website.
- 9) New Business Agenda
  - a) Glemboski-Ous walk with Avalonia on May 26, 2024 – recap – Chair Guetens, Commissioner Bacon, and Town Council Chair May attended the walk. Commissioner

Bacon brought in copies of a map and described the trail we were led on, which is primitive in places. Avalonia is looking for members and/or volunteers to maintain the trails there.

- b) Regional Open Space plan discussion – preliminary comments from the commissioners were noted. Commissioner Bacon believes that a bike path on roads in Montville might be better suited for Route 163 and other roads in the area between Camp Oakdale and Fair Oaks, because much of the existing Town recreation facilities are based around Camp Oakdale, Fair Oaks, and the Conservation Center. A number of people are seen walking, biking, and running along Route 163. Also, Montville High School students, for instance members of the cross country team, are seen running in that area. Conversely, the Route 32 corridor between the Waterford town line and the intersection with Route 163 has heavy traffic during rush hour, and the intersection of Route 32 and Route 163 can be dangerous due to lack of a dedicated left hand turn lane.

10) Comments from the Public -none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison – Town Council Liaison Sabilia was not in attendance. Town Council Chair May mentioned a news article describing state grants to local towns for improvements to open space, and suggested that the Conservation Commission look into grants. He also noted that the police are funded for community outreach, and commissioners should consider ways in which we could work together.

12) Comments from Commissioners -Commissioner Bacon will send out a reminder 1 week before the June 25 Community Day at the Montville Farmer's Market. Commissioner Hess recommended assembling at 3:30 p.m. and will provide a table. Everyone should bring their own chair. Commissioner Wall motioned to approve funding up to \$170 for a tent canopy, seconded by Commissioner Hess, and unanimously approved. Commissioner Wall will look into getting a canopy. Commissioners plan to assemble materials (photos, posters, brochures) from last year's community day as well as materials left over from Trails day for our table. Commissioner Bacon communicated that Chair Guetens plans to set agenda items regarding discussion of open space acquisition and maintenance of open space lands within Montville, including the Milo Light Preserve, at the next meeting.

13) Adjourn – Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.