

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2024, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order – 6:07 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call - Chair John Guetens, Vice Chair Jessica LeClair, Commissioners Adam Heckle, Elaine Hess (alternate) were present. Commissioner Hess was designated to substitute for absent commissioner Jeff Carver.
- 4) Presentations - none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2024- motion to approve made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Heckle, approved unanimously.
- 7) Communications - none
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center
 - i. New center map/history sign - Chair Guetens spoke with Prokof signs about a weatherproof sign with a map and history of the center. The cost for a 3x4 sign will cost \$375.00. Vice chair Leclair stated we can get a map from Mapfinders that was used for our Trails Day. She will look for documents she might have on the history. Chair Guetens shared that he spoke with John Carlson about the location of the signs for the entrances at Fair Oaks and Black Ash Swamp and the location of the dog waste station. He also contacted Ct. AG extension to get water tested in the pond and brook, but hasn't heard back yet.
 - ii. Continued motorcycle/ATV riding - Chair Guetens states there is still a problem with people riding these vehicles on property. We discussed ways to block the areas where they are entering the center. Mayor Bunnell says he will check with John Carlson about finding rocks or other items to use as a blockade.
 - b) Garden club update - Commissioner Heckle removed a stump across from the property at the bottom of Fitch Hill and Rte. 32.
- 9) New Business Agenda
 - a) Discuss Farmer's Market 9/24, get a role call on who will be able to attend - Chair Guetens recruited volunteers for a table at the last Montville Farmer's Market of the year. It was suggested that we can also collect winter items for the Homeless Hospitality Center. Commissioner Heckle will check with Flo Turner to see if this being considered

already. Commissioner Hess will check with the UConn Extension center to see if we can get informational pamphlets.

- b) Approval for additional lumber purchases - Commissioner Hess motioned to authorize Chair Guetens to purchase up to \$500.00 in lumber and other hardware. – Commissioner Heckle seconded. Unanimously approved. Commissioners asked Mayor Bunnell the budget for the Conservation Commission and he stated the budget line was \$490.00. The mayor also checked with Town Council Chair Tim May to find out that approximately \$3,000.00 remains of the ARPA funds designated to the Conservation Commission, and that needs to be spent by December 24th, 2024.

10) Comments from the Public -none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison - none

12) Comments from Commissioners

Chair Guetens and Commissioner Heckle will continue maintenance of the dying beech trees. Chair Guetens says a second bench has been donated by the Lions club and it will be placed at the Fair Oaks entrance.

Chair Guetens wanted to know who maintains the cemeteries in town since these are considered open space. It was suggested to check with Jon Chase. Commissioner Hess will collect information on all of the cemeteries in town.

Commissioner Heckle stated that the Conservation Center is not designated for conservation use, making it difficult to get grants. We need to investigate how to make this change happen.

Commissioner LeClair mentioned the use of Sustainable CT to find out conservation plans of other towns.

13) Adjourn - 7:35p.m.