

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2024, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order -6:05
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call – Chair John Guetens, Commissioners Bonnie Bacon, Adam Heckle and Elaine Hess were present. Alternate Commissioner Hess was read in to replace absent Commissioner Jeff Carver. Also present were Town Council Liaison Nick Sabilia, Mayor Lenny Bunnell, and Town Council Chair Tim May.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2024 – Commissioner Bacon motioned to approve minutes. Commissioner Hess seconded. Vote passed unanimously.
- 7) Communications -none
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update -Chair Guetens stated that new signs were installed by Public Works at the Fair Oaks and Black Ash trail entrances. Commissioner Heckle installed plantings by the Fair Oaks trail entrance. Chair Guetens noted that there is a need to mark the trails near the entrances. At the Mayor’s suggestion, Chair Guetens will meet with Public Works to discuss blocking some entrances to ATV’s and posting Ordinance information. ATVs have degraded the trails and are not permitted in the Conservation Center, but are entering despite signage indicating they are not allowed. Commissioner Hess will be further looking into a final price on a weed wacker with battery pack and string refills.
 - i. Purchase order status -Chair Guetens ordered extra wood for the Fair Oaks trail extension and will order additional tree tags. Commissioner Heckle will identify trees for the tags.
Chair Guetens designed a sign for the Horton Cove trail and provided the design to Mayor Bunnell. The mayor noted that Montville has adopted a consistent lettering style and color scheme for signs in the town. The sign needs to be approved by Land Use. There was a discussion on spelling of Horton vs Haughton.
 - b) Garden Club update – Commissioner Heckle has posted a number of dates on the Garden Club Facebook page for work parties. Commissioner Heckle will complete plantings around the Black Ash entrance sign this weekend.

c) Open space discussion

- i. Open space list – The list can be put together from the map provided by the Land Use Department. Town Council Chair May had also provided a town property list to use. Commissioners discussed what the list could potentially contain: address, size, classification (town, utility or private) and natural feature assessment, and a QR code if available. Commissioners need to develop further ideas on how to divide up the work and put the list together. Commissioner Hess noted that Chair Guetens had assembled a nice pamphlet of some open spaces in Montville for the Farmers Market booth. A cost for printing more pamphlets may be added to the budget for next year.
- ii. Cemeteries -Commissioner Hess had discussed cemeteries in Montville with John Geary in 2003. Mr. Geary provided a hand drawn map of all cemetery locations and some notes and history. Commissioner Hess will look into making copies of the map. Cemeteries are open space.

9) New Business Agenda

- a) Hydrilla on Gardner Lake – Mayor Bunnell noted that the Gardner Lake Association is asking DEEP to do a deeper draw down to kill hydrilla, but there is concern about effects on wildlife in the pond. Another option is chemical control.

10) Comments from the Public -none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison – Councilor Sabilia presented the commissioners with a bat house donated by Teagan Caviness, who a junior at Ledyard H.S. and is a Montville resident. The commissioners were delighted, because the bat house looks great and bats will help manage the mosquito population at the Conservation Center. Chair Guetens will install this at the Conservation Center. Commissioner Hess will draft a thank you note to Teagan.

12) Comments from Commissioners- Chair Guetens would like to schedule a work day for the Conservation Center in October. Commissioner Bacon will poll commissioners about a preferred day.

13) Adjourn – 8:46 p.m.