

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting – February 19, 2025 -- 6:30 p.m.**  
**Town Council Chambers**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comments by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced.**

**This meeting was informational as a quorum was not present.**

**1. Call to order.**

Chairperson Stone called began the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**3. Roll Call.**

Present were Chairperson Rocky Stone, Jon Chase, John Plikus, and Mary Hillman. Vice-Chair William Barlow and Commissioners Matt Beaupre, Noah Carver, Mary Hillman, Morgan Matthewson and Deborah Schober were absent. A quorum was not present.

Also present were Recreation Director Peter Bushway, Town Council Liaison Kate Southard and Mayor Lenny Bunnell.

**4. Alternations to the Agenda – No action taken**

**5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit).**

Chairperson Stone asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

**6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:**

- a. The Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2025. – No action taken

**7. Recreation Director's Report for February 2025.**

Recreation Director Bushway distributed to the Commission a map from CLA Engineers about the Camp Oakdale and the Mostowy Property Recreational Trails. The map still needs some revision as some fields are not marked, the planning for four (4) 3' x 4' kiosks, and identification of kiosk locations indicating "you are here." Some variation of the map will be accessible on the website per Chairperson Stone. The Director also reported that the lacrosse program is under new management with a new Board as the Ventrescas who started the program are no longer involved. The Director and Public Works Director Carlson will set up a meeting with the lacrosse and soccer program managers concerning scheduling. Priority will be given to lacrosse for field use as it will be in season early April. Director Bushway also reported that the high school will not

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accommodate its use for summer camp this summer and unlikely for the future given an email from the MHS principal. Work will be done at the high school on the track and field turf and practice for athletic teams out-of-season with coaches will be expanded. Discussion followed by the Commission concerning the start date for the turf refurbishment, its effect on certain high school sports, and the cost that will be paid by a bond. Town Councilor Southard asked if the fitness stations on the map distributed earlier are marked, functional; Chairperson Stone remarked that the information for the signs has been obtained and the next step is to get funds for them.

**8. Report from Finance.**

Director Bushway reported on the programs line item deficit attributed to basketball noting that the Connecticut Sun sponsored t-shirts with their logo and ours and he is waiting on check from them. The \$2,042 cost for the shirts will get reimbursed and backed out of the special revenue line item as a wash. Chairperson Stone inquired if the Department FY2025-2026 budget request had been approved; Director Bushway reported on having met with Mayor Bunnell and his Assistant Cindy noting that the Mayor's recommendations were in the last column. Mayor Bunnell reported that his recommendation has not been made yet as he is still meeting with departments and noted ongoing negotiations and once he makes his recommendations they will be forwarded to Finance Committee.

**9. February Newsletter.**

Town Councilor Southard noted a correction to the newsletter; there is no educator vendor this year and that should be deleted. Chairperson Stone noted that all Department programs were well represented, and that the commissioner information was updated with Commissioner Barlow as Vice-chair.

**10. Unfinished Business.**

a. Projects and funding status:

Chairperson Stone reported on these projects are on hold until spring.

b. Job Description Committee

1) Carver, Chase, Hillman, Stone

Chairperson Stone reported that a time and date to meet is still being determined.

c. Website Improvement

Chairperson Stone remarked that this item is on hold as Director Bushway has had comments regarding registration and is awaiting new updates. Director Bushway reported that the online payment methods for Department programs will look different. Now, there is no charge for payment by cash, check or credit card--program fees were increased some years ago to compensate. Per a Zoom meeting with IT, the upgrade and transition will take 1-2 days. Chairperson Stone noted the changes will be more user friendly and flexible so the Department can make changes if needed.

d. Farmers Market Update

Town Councilor Southard reported the Committee meet last week and applications for vendor are all set and were sent. Music is being setup for the event. Some theme nights have been set. The start date for the Carnival is June 24 thru October 7 as last year there was an issue with graduations. Commissioner Chase commented on notifying Public Works as to spreading grass seeds in that area.

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e. **Carnival Committee Update**

Chairperson Stone did not attend the meeting last month. Director Bushway was present with Commissioners Matthewson and Schober and Mayor Bunnell who arrived later. Plans are being firmed for food vendors and vendor applications and sponsorship letters are being updated. The Chairperson reported on the signed 5-year contract with the vendor with dates for that period.

**11. New Business**

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve the Camp Oakdale Pavilion and Dog Park Improvement presentation for the purpose of obtaining design concepts for improvements to Camp Oakdale Pavilion and the Dog Park areas.

Chairperson Stone reported on his frustration regarding the plan that has been ongoing since last September and referred to the Excel spreadsheet he prepared that included information from the walkarounds. Commissioner Chase remarked on sequencing and the need for flexible plans; the Chairperson noted that all plans can be independent from each other. Discussion was had about making changes, taking them to the next step, and how to get there. It was also noted that CLA may not be the best for the job that seems to require a company with landscaping experience per Commissioner Chase. The Chairperson is interested in something that the Commission can vote on and move forward to the next step and also commented on pockets of funding and relocating the \$25,000 from the Community Center project. It was asked whether CLA had a landscape architect on staff and the Groton Sutton Park renovation was also noted.

**12. Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit).**

Chairperson Stone asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

**13. Remarks from Town Council Liaison Southard.**

Town Councilor Southard reported on her search for a pickleball instructor and discussion with the tennis coach in Stonington, George Crouse of Pawcatuck who showed interest. His contact information was given to Director Bushway who will reach out. The Town Councilor will also email to the Commission via do not reply the information on the bond property.

**14. Remarks from Parks & Recreation Director Bushway. -- None**

**15. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Chase remarked that this meeting may be the only time there was not a quorum. Director Bushway congratulated Commissioner Plikus on his daughter having made State champion for pole vaulting.

**16. Adjournment.**

The meeting came to a close at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Gloria J. Gathers

Town of Montville -- Recording Secretary/Minutes Clerk

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON  
THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**