

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting – May 21, 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 is an informational meeting as a quorum was not present.**

**1. Call to order.**

Chairperson Stone called began the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**3. Roll Call.**

Present were Chairperson Rocky Stone, Vice-Chair William Barlow, Commissioners Matt Beaupre and Morgan Matthewson. Commissioners Noah Carver, Jon Chase, Mary Hillman, John Plikus 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 April 16, 2025. – No action taken

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

Recreation Director Bushway reported that summer camp registration was held last Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and there were 115 applications with close to 160 enrolled at present; and calls are still being received. There were five (5) to six (6) requests for scholarships and those registrants were referred to Town Social Services. Another request that would not qualify for Social Services will be on a payment plan of approximately \$50 per week that will be fully paid by the start of summer camp. Interviews were conducted but only five (5) staff were needed; staff was hired and letters sent out. Of the five (5) positions needed one (1) returning staff person was lost and a new hire—the Director will review the applicants to replace those two (2) staff persons. A report was given about one (1) backboard at Camp Oakdale that was vandalized; it was replaced at a cost of \$1,600-

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\$1,700. A suspect was identified, and the information was given to Police Lt. Radford to pursue so that the cost can be reimbursed. The Community Tag Sale is going great and is scheduled for June 7 at Fair Oaks Community Center. Contact was made with George Crouse concerning pickleball lessons once tennis season has ended for him at Stonington High School. A one-day class during the summer or in the fall is being considered. The local Girl Scouts purchased a handicap swing for Fair Oaks Playground through fundraising that will be attached to the existing swing with a crossbar and inground post on the end extending towards the woods, not Chesterfield Road. The handicap swing will be mounted by the vendor. Painting of the basketball court at Desjardin Park has begun but delayed due to rain. The paint color will be the same as the other Town park courts. As questioned by Chairperson Stone, the Director will speak with Public Works Director Carlson about repair of the blacktop at that Park. The Director expressed dissatisfaction with a lot of the work done by the vendor but noted that Public Works Director Carlson will be on site to make sure the backboards are leveled horizontally and vertically, which two (2) are not—Desjardins Park and Camp Oakdale. The cost of summer camp as questioned by Commissioner Matthewson is \$75 per week except for a holiday week which will be \$60. All summer camp trips are an additional cost. The summer camp program does not qualify for free breakfast and lunch meals unless the camp is moved to Mohegan School which does not have enough accommodations space wise. The 5-year grant for the same became eight (8) years due to covid. Director Bushway explained that discussion was had with the Board of Education regarding summer camp that would require additional classrooms, but they are being cleaned during the summer and would have required more kids to be bussed.

**8. Report from Finance.**

Director Bushway reported that one line item, Special Revenue #10735-50353, involving refunds will be processed for bills for dance and yoga this week. A cost of another \$10,000 will incur for painting the soccer sheds, football field, and bathrooms. Attendance for the karate program has risen from 60-65 participants to 80-85; the Director will send the current number later this week. Chairperson Stone reported that the Department budget was approved; Mayor Bunnell reported that a meeting has been called for Thursday for the upcoming budget and added that FY 2025 CIP items have been moved to FY 2026 and work is being done to find funds for other items.

**9. June Newsletter.**

Chairperson Stone noted that the newsletter is for June, not May. This newsletter is the final opportunity to blast information about the upcoming Carnival. The Chairperson reached out to Town Counselor Southard who will create the blast for the second page of the newsletter as she did last year. The blast will be sent to Commissioner Matthewson for review. Director Bushway reported on a \$1,000 donation from a sponsor for fireworks—a letter and invoice for the same will be sent out this week.

**10. Unfinished Business.**

a. Projects and funding status:

1) Desjardins Park Basketball Cour replacement

Chairperson Stone reported that Public Works Director Carlson would be sent an email about repair to the Desjardins blacktop. Director Bushway noted that Director Carlson is aware of the matter.

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2) Camp Oakdale Basketball Court replacement

Chairperson Stone reported that this item is now complete, but it appears that the wrong color was used although communication did occur. He noted that the paint color used is a baby blue which is not what the Commission asked for or approved. Town Councilor Southard noted that she would mention the same at the next Public Works meeting. Installation of signs regarding video would deter kids from creating damage. The Chairperson noted there was a plan for a camera at the location.

3) Camp Oakdale Trail Map

Chairperson Stone noted that the Camp Oakdale trail map was included in the meeting packet. Recreation Director Bushway brought a full-size one this evening and reported that large maps would be at the kiosks with a QR Code. Discussion was had concerning the material for the maps, i.e. yard signs; the cost for the signs at \$50 per the Director; using both sides of the kiosk; and the fitness station function—the Director will contact the company that made them. Commissioner Beaupre scanned the map QR Code but noted it has not been updated yet.

b. Carnival Committee

Commissioner Matthewson reported that the Carnival has a few new rides—the Zipper and a roller coaster for kids and teens and seven (7) more food vendors. Prices will remain the same as last year. The Committee would like a tent/table to display maps and Town activities. Recreation Director Bushway reported that part-timers will monitor parking at the event and also noted that the State would do its inspection on Friday morning. The Director also reported that Assistant Fire Marshal Meigel will have light towers to provide more light that Mayor Bunnell noted he should do. The Director also confirmed that the fireworks will be held at the baseball field.

c. Community Center Building Committee Update

Chairperson Stone remarked that there are no real changes as the addition of three (3) other members continues. He noted that the Commission members can petition for the positions.

**11. New Business**

a. Program Fee Discussion

Chairperson Stone reported that he and Recreation Director Bushway worked on a new form for those who rent facilities. The Director led the discussion regarding facility rentals with the Chairperson noting approval will be sought on the new facility rental form at the next Commission meeting. Director Bushway reported that program fees will be \$10 more for residents and \$15 more for nonresidents which is the decision of the Commission to make according to Mayor Bunnell. Chairperson Stone remarked that a more fair way would be a percentage of the fee. The Director noted that the gymnastics and karate programs are paying for building overhead unlike the other programs. The Chairperson noted that the charge for yoga is less than what is paid to the instructor; Director Bushway reported that the fee is normally \$50 for the instructor and \$60 for the Department. Chairperson Stone proposed an increase to nonresident fees also noting that the Commission will review and discuss this item at its next meeting.

**12. Communications.**

Chairperson Stone reported on an email he received concerning restarting the golf league. Recreation Director Bushway reported having spoken with the interested party in March by direction of Mayor Bunnell. The program is now being considered for the fall. Mayor Bunnell reported that only Town members were a part of the league. More members are being sought as

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thought is if Town residents are league members it would create more interest. Sign-up and follow-up contact with Bill Bucko on behalf of the golf group is pending.

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

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

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

Town Councilor Southard reported that work is being done for a Community Investment Grant for the Community Center. She also noted that she would get the bulletin for the Carnival to Recreation Director Bushway.

**15. Remarks from Parks & Recreation Director Bushway.**

Recreation Director Bushway noted having received an email from Town Councilor Southard concerning the Summer Concert series—posters for the Town Hall will be obtained.. The Director also had discussion with two (2) engineers at Electric Boat that concluded two (2) 18-hole golf courses would not fit on the Mostowy Property and is actually much more than planned by the Department. The engineers have contacts and noted that \$32,000 is adequate to get multiple T-boxes as the Department plan was not to do anything professional. A 10-minute presentation on the same will be heard at the June 18<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Commissioner Beaupre proposed reaching out to other towns as to the size of their courses. Chairperson Stone noted having a quick 18-hole schedule and expressed concerned about the safety of the public.

**16. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Vice-Chair Barlow remarked to all to enjoy the 3-day weekend with hopes that the weather will stay dry. Commissioner Beaupre proposed getting weights to hold down the pop-up for the carnival and other events.

**17. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 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.**