

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2025, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order-6:01 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call-Chair John Guetens, Vice Chair Jess LeClair, Secretary Bonnie Bacon, Commissioner Adam Heckle, Commissioner Catherine Hinojosa, Alternate Commissioner Elaine Hess
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2025 – Vice Chair LeClair motioned to approve, Commissioner Hinojosa seconded, vote to approve was unanimous
- 7) Communications -Chair Guetens received a letter from Michaud law group re “Notice of a Proposed 1.0-MW AC Solar Photovoltaic Array to be Located 95 Old Colchester Road (MBLU 012/010/000) in the Town of Salem, CT”. Secretary Bacon will send a copy to Assistant Planner Meredith Badalucca and inquire whether the Conservation Commission needs to take any action.
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Montville Trails System brochure review – Commissioner Hinojosa is adding more maps to show the properties as well as parking for each.
 - b) CT Trails Day (June 7-8, 2025) planning- Alternate Commissioner Hess will bring a table on Saturday or commissioners can use the picnic table. She also has the youth supplies from last year and will bring those. Commissioners will arrive by 9:30 am. Commissioner Heckle will lead the guided walk at 10:30 am. Vice Chair LeClair passed out 3 t-shirts provided by CT Trails Day organizers. We need to let the organizers know by 8 am on Saturday if the walk will be postponed (to Sunday) due to rain. Alternate Commissioner Hess contacted Montville Schools and provided a flyer to promote the event to youth. She also created 2 signs with graphics, one for the corner of Fair Oaks and one for the Conservation Center to post on Saturday. Secretary Bacon also created 2 large-text signs and posted one near the Conservation Center.
 - c) Conservation Center update – On May 18, commissioners weeded the garden at the Conservation Center, weeded on the trails, and built additional boardwalks in wet areas of the trails.

- d) Garden club update -Members planted and mulched in front of the guardrails at the Conservation Center, cleaned up the Veteran's Memorial in front of Town Hall, and worked on the parking lot gardens at Town Hall.
- e) Review and discuss spending on budget -string trimmer was ordered.
- f) Adding Lawton Trail at Horton Cove to CT Trailfinder -Vice Chair LeClair obtained a list of information needed by Trailfinder. She will forward the list to commissioners so that they can add information as known (list includes a map, description of the trail, length of the trail, etc).

9) New Business Agenda -none

10) Comments from the Public -none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison -none

12) Comments from Commissioners -Alternate Commissioner Hess brought up Farmer's Market Community Day (July 1). She recommends buying a banner. Secretary Bacon will contact the Farmer's Market Committee to register the Conservation Commission for the event and will bring an easel to the event.

Chair Guetens noted that Dennis Main of Avalonia requested a Montville stewardship committee for properties in Montville. Chair Guetens and Town Council Chair May will be searching for committee members. Commissioner Heckle will be a committee member. Chair Guetens mentioned that Montville has a grant writer now and requested that Conservation Committee members look into grants. Commissioner Heckle mentioned that the USDA and NRCS offer conservation grants. Alternate Commissioner Hess mentioned that there is an AARP Community grant and there are also cemetery grants.

13) Adjourn – Vice Chair LeClair motioned to adjourn, Chair Guetens seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.