

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2025, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least **1 working day in advance. Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Mayor, Council, Board or Commission.**

- 1) Call to Order -6:09 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call – Vice Chair Jess LeClair (Acting Chair); Commissioners Adam Heckle, Catherine Hinojosa, and Bonnie Bacon; Alternate Commissioner Elaine Hess, read in as a voting member for this meeting (motioned by Commissioner LeClair, seconded by Commissioner Hinojosa, unanimously approved)
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 3, 2025- Commissioner Hinojosa motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Hess seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 7) Communications – A letter to Chair Guetens, dated June 18, 2025, from Paul R. Michaud, Michaud Law Group,” re: Notice of a Proposed 1.99-MW AC Solar Photovoltaic Array to be Located 40 Old Colchester Road (Mblu 012/009/000) in the Town of Salem, CT” was received in the town hall mailbox. A copy of this letter will be sent to Assistant Planner Meredith Badalucca by Commissioner Bacon.
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update
 - i. Missing lumber discussion-Commissioner Heckle noted that two 4x6s (approximately \$30 each) intended for walkways are missing from the Conservation Center. Walkways need to be completed soon with remaining lumber.
 - ii. Work dates discussion – rest of 2025. Commissioner Bacon will ask Chair Guetens to propose a choice of dates for the fall and will poll members regarding availability.
 - iii. Requesting approval of new garden sites - End of Fitch Hill Road and 32, Camp Oakdale New Kiosk garden, and plantings at Horton Cove surrounding parking area. Commissioner Heckle provided these three proposals, and Commissioner Hess also

proposed garden sites at the Raymond Library. Commissioner Heckle will discuss these sites with Mayor Bunnell, and will talk to Raymond Library Director Michelle Westkamper about garden sites at the library.

- iv. Update on plans for Town Hall Garden cleanup day – will set up a cleanup day for the town hall and veterans memorial before November.
 - b) Review and discuss spending on budget – memberships: Vice Chair LeClair will look into a membership at CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions). Conferences: Commissioner Heckle mentioned Connecticut Land Conservation Council holds a conference around February. Printing: Commissioner Hess will look into getting a banner reading “Montville Conservation Commission” for events such as the Farmer’s Market booth, and an event sign with an arrow for events at the Conservation Center, including Trails Day events. Misc Supplies, etc: Commissioner Heckle mentioned that a survey of the 40 acre Conservation Center is needed to designate it a conservation property in order to get grants. The Commission is still waiting to hear about the purchase of a string trimmer for which a purchase order was requested before the end of FY2025.
 - c) Adding Lawton Trail at Horton Cove to CT Trailfinder -update – Vice Chair LeClair discussed the effort with Chris Lawton. Chris and Tyler Lawton will put together information needed to add Horton Cove to CT Trailfinder.
- 9) New Business Agenda
- a) Bond Property update and discussion – The CT State Bond Commission voted to provide the remaining funds to Avalonia for the purchase of the Bond Property. It will take some time before the purchase is finalized.
 - b) Booth at Farmer’s market – discuss having another booth this season – Commissioners reviewed the remaining dates for the Montville Farmers market. Vice Chair LeClair made a motion to send three dates, Sept 16, 23, and 30th to Chair Guetens to let him choose a date, because these dates were acceptable to everyone present. Commissioner Hess seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c) Looking for an alternate commissioner– Chair Guetens to advertise on Facebook page. Additional ideas were to talk to people at the Farmers Market booth and to ask Avalonia if they know of anyone who would be interested.
- 10) Comments from the Public-none
- 11) Comments from Town Council Liaison-not present
- 12) Comments from Commissioners – Commissioner Hess has been meeting with a group who is working to get a sign for the Old Rogers Burying Ground near Pires Drive, and may apply for a state grant to take care of Montville cemeteries. Commissioner Hess discussed looking to find who owns cemetery properties in Montville, and Vice Chair LeClair recommended using the GIS system or requesting assistance from the Planning department to view the accompanying Excel.
- 13) Adjourn -8:45 p.m.