

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
October 7, 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 pm
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call- Chair John Guetens; Vice Chair Jess LeClair; Commissioners Adam Heckle, Catherine Hinojosa, and Bonnie Bacon (Secretary); Alternate Commissioner Elaine Hess; Mayor Leonard Bunnell Sr; Town Council Chair Tim May
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2025 – Commissioner Heckle motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hinojosa, unanimously approved
- 7) Communications -none
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update -During the Work Day on Saturday, October 4, commissioners cleared brush and weeds and placed rocks on the edges of trails to deter motorized vehicles, which continue to be a problem. Another Work Day at the Conservation Center was set by the Chair for Saturday **November 1, 10 a.m.** to further work on blocking trails and natural areas to motorized vehicles. On Monday, October 6, Chair Guetens and Commissioners Heckle and Hinojosa met with Girl Scout Troop 63034 and Leader Liz Preiss at the Conservation Center. The troop hid a letter box and had a discussion with the Conservation Commission members about what the Commission does.
 - b) Garden Club update – The Garden Club is working on the Town Hall and Veterans memorial gardens to clean them up before Veterans Day. The club is also working with MYSB, DPW, Parks and Rec, and the Butzgy family on a tribute garden at Fair Oaks in memory of Isabella Butzgy.
Girl Scout Troop 63034 is planning to install a low water garden near the Lawton Trail at Houghton Cove and discussed the plan with the Garden Club.
 - c) Review and discuss spending on budget

- i. Banner and sign discussion – The Mayor noted that the Farmer’s Market (Town Councilor Kate Southard) used Vista print for signs. Commissioner Hess will look into this option, and opened a discussion on different options for a banner. Vice Chair LeClair noted that tablecloth may be a good option for the banner, and Commissioner Hess will look into that also.

Regarding spending on a membership to CACIWC, Vice Chair LeClair will follow up to see if our membership is up to date. Commissioner Hinojosa motioned to join CACIWC, Vice Chair LeClair seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by vote. Town Council Chair May said he would forward CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) emails for the commissioners’ interest, and Vice Chair LeClair mentioned CST (Council of Small Towns) as another group of potential interest to commissioners.

9) New Business Agenda -none

10) Comments from the Public -none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison – none (absent)

12) Comments from Commissioners – Chair Guetens has examples of how other towns can collect fees that can go toward purchase of open space and will speak with the town planner. Commissioner Hess is working with a cemetery group which is creating an excel sheet of Montville cemeteries. There will be a presentation **on Oct 30 at the Raymond Library at 6 p.m.** The mayor will provide Commissioner Hess with the contact information of the grant writer, in support of the cemetery group. The mayor encouraged all commissioners to have events posted in the Montville app.

13) Adjourn – 7:35 p.m.