

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
November 4, 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 Jessica LeClair; Commissioners Adam Heckle, Catherine Hinojosa, and Bonnie Bacon (Secretary); Alternate Commissioners Elaine Hess and Connie Herrmann; and Mayor Leonard Bunnell Sr.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -There was a question of why the old red oak tree at Fair Oaks was cut down and a suggestion that another red oak be planted in town.
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 7, 2025-Vice Chair LeClair motioned to approve, Commissioner Heckle seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.
- 7) Communications -Chair Guetens stated that Dennis Main (Avalonia) communicated that Avalonia hopes to close on the Bond Property before the end of 2025.
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update – during the Nov 1 work day, a boardwalk near the beaver pond bridge was completed and the narrow trail from that bridge to the Black Ash entrance was slightly widened by cutting back some new growth vegetation.
 - i. Uses for wood from recently cut tree at Fair Oaks – Commissioner Heckle would like to know if the commission or the Garden club could use some of the wood from the oak tree. Mayor Bunnell arranged with DPW (Department of Public Works) for Commissioner Heckle to get some of the oak wood.
 - ii. Improving the Black Ash trail entrance (stone steps) –Commissioner Heckle stated that stone could be sourced from the Black Ash Rd section of the conservation center. There was also a suggestion that a red oak could be planted in open space near the Black Ash trail entrance. Commissioner Heckle may reach out to neighbors on Black Ash Road.

- b) Garden club update -The Garden club worked with Montville Girl Scout Troop 63034 and Troop Leader Liz Preiss to begin installation of the low-water garden near Haughton Cove. The GS troop members and families removed sod and added soil and mulch (generously donated by Home Depot). The troop will meet to discuss plants and then source them. The Garden club also assisted the Butzgy family, MYSB and DPW with installation of Bella's Garden at Fair Oaks, building metal beds and installing stone and hardware cloth and adding soil and amendments. One hundred and fifty tulips have been planted. Also, the Garden club has been putting a lot of work into the Veterans Memorial Garden, and a final workday will be held this weekend to get it ready for Veterans day. Commissioner Hinojosa will send out an invitation to commissioners with date and time details.
 - c) Review and discuss spending on budget
 - i. Banner and sign discussion-tablecloth examples -Alternate Commissioner Hess presented several designs for a fitted table cloth (\$195) and several options for a stretch tablecloth (\$212). Alternate Commissioner Herrmann recommended a fitted tablecloth which will have good longevity. All commissioners preferred yellow lettering over white lettering, with text that says "Town of Montville Conservation Commission". Reminder: the tablecloth will fit a 6' table and will be used instead of a banner at events. Vice Chair LeClair motioned to approve, Chair Guetens seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
 - ii. CACIWC membership follow-up- Vice Chair LeClair obtained information that the Montville Inland Wetlands Commission renewed its membership and the Conservation Commission can join for \$65. However, the annual conference is Nov 15 and it is late to register; therefore, she recommends that we join next year, with IWC, for a discounted two-commission rate of \$120. Annual membership runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
- 9) New Business Agenda
- a) Lawton Trail update -including planting a tree -The Girl Scouts are considering planting a silver maple. Additionally, Alternate Commissioner Hess noted that a tree has fallen over the path on the upper loop. The mayor requested that she notify DPW.
 - b) Proposal to participate in the Christmas parade (float?) -Commissioner Hinojosa discussed ideas for participating in the Christmas parade. Commissioners discussed that it may be too soon, and there was a preference for participating in the Memorial Day parade.
- 10) Comments from the Public -Alternate Commissioner Herrmann mentioned that there is a lot of bittersweet around her neighborhood and asked for advice on removing it.
- 11) Comments from Town Council Liaison -none
- 12) Comments from Commissioners – Chair Guetens mentioned that there is a lot of tree of heaven growing beside Route 163. Vice Chair LeClair mentioned that we could request a speaker from the CT invasive species working group to give a presentation focusing on how to treat these specific invasives (bittersweet and tree of heaven).
- 13) Adjourn – The chair adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.