

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026, 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 -6:02 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call – Chair John Guetens, Commissioners Adam Heckle, Catherine Hinojosa, and Bonnie Bacon; Alternate Commissioner Elaine Hess was read in as a voting member in place of Vice Chair Jessica LeClair. Also present were Town Council Chair Tim May and Mayor Leonard Bunnell Sr.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2025 – Motion to approve by Commissioner Hinojosa, seconded by Commissioner Heckle, unanimously approved.
- 7) Communications – Commissioner Bacon stated that an email from CT Trail Finder was received by Vice Chair LeClair asking if there are any changes to the information on the Conservation Center or Lawton Trail information pages on CT Trail Finder.
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update- Regarding the request from CT Trail Finder to Commissioner LeClair, the trail to Fair Oaks could be added. Discussion of adding plastic trail markers to replace the painted markers (the painted trail markers are faded). DPW (Department of Public Works) cut up a large fallen tree on the Orange Trail. DPW also moved wood over to the Conservation Center for further walkway maintenance. Commissioner Heckle suggested slow thinning of diseased beech trees in groves, starting with smaller trees. Regarding larger dead trees, Chair Guetens will mark some of the large dead trees near the Orange trail that need to be felled (possibly felled and then left in place) and consult DPW. Commissioner Heckle pointed out that winter is a good time to fell trees without impacting the ground and other trees as much. Commissioner Hess asked about the motorized vehicle/ATV ordinance. Town Council Chair May and Mayor

Bunnell stated that a public hearing was held and the proposed ordinance is undergoing revision.

- b) Garden club update – Will meet in February with GS troop to plan Lawton Trails garden. Town Council Chair May and Mayor Bunnell suggested that the Garden club advertise for new members on the electronic information sign in front of Town Hall. Commissioner Hinojosa will email information to the Mayor.
 - c) Budget update – The budget is what was presented at the last meeting. Suggested purchase includes plastic trail markers, more wood for walkway maintenance, and signs (including signs for Trails Day).
- 9) New Business Agenda- Commissioner Hess moved to support separating the tract of land containing Fair Oaks and the Conservation Center into two separate parcels in order to get the Conservation Center designated as conservation land. Commissioner Heckle seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Town Council Chair May will speak with the Town Engineer regarding a lot line revision (Mayor Bunnell concurred).
- 10) Comments from the Public -none
- 11) Comments from Town Council Liaison - none
- 12) Comments from Commissioners –Commissioner Hess made comments regarding the Montville Cemetery Group’s work on their database and t-shirts.
- 13) Adjourn – 7:18 p.m.