

Town of Montville  
Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 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](mailto: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 – 6:01 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call – Chair John Guetens, Vice Chair Jess LeClair, Commissioners Catherine Hinojosa, Adam Heckle, and Bonnie Bacon were present, and Alternate Commissioners Elaine Hess and Connie Herrmann were present. Also present were Land Use and Development Director Dennis Goderre, Town Council Liaison Nick Sabilia, Mayor Leonard Bunnell Sr, and Town Council Chair Tim May.
- 4) Presentations – none. However, the Commissioners were introduced to Director Dennis Goderre, who described his department’s recent projects including Revive and Renew Montville (Route 163 and 32). The next public meeting for this project will be **March 26, Council Chambers, 6 p.m.**, for presentation of an initial plan. Director Goderre discussed possibly connecting open space properties with a trail. Director Goderre also suggested that the commission consider and discuss open space ideas for the new Plan Of Conservation which will be developed over the next 18 months. Town Council Liaison Sabilia requested that Director Goderre review the town’s Subdivision Regulations with regard to open space acquisition language, which the Commission feels could be updated. Director Goderre will also look up details of a provision for open space for the Chapel Hill subdivision. The Director is the approver for purchase orders, so Commission should communicate any requests with him.
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items - none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 3, 2026 – Commissioner Hinojosa motioned to approve, Chair Guetens seconded, Commissioners Hinojosa, Heckle, Guetens, and Bacon voted to approve. Commissioner LeClair abstained. Motion was carried.
- 7) Communications -none
- 8) Old Business Agenda
  - a) Trails Day discussion and planning

- i. Signs -Commissioners Hinojosa and Heckle got quotes for at least 10 “arrow” signs for the day of the event (\$150 total). Another 10 signs that advertise the time and date could be purchased. Or the commission can consider 5 of each. Commissioner Hess showed a copy of what the official CT Trails Day arrow signs looked like from last year’s event. Commissioner LeClair says the logo is changed every year. Signs can have an empty space for the date to make them reusable, and the commission would buy stickers to add the date to the sign. Town Council Chair May also mentioned the electronic billboards in town, and Alternate Commissioner Hess will contact the schools. Commissioners Hinojosa and Heckle also got quotes for the trail markers, metal (2”x 6”) – at \$2 each, and will check to see what Avalonia uses (for comparison).

Commissioner Hess is a liaison for Montville with the “US 250” initiative, and described an event commemorating General Lafayette’s trip through Montville (from New London to Norwich), meeting his escort near Haughton Cove. Commissioner Hess thinks that the ceremonial installation of a commemorative sign could take place on the same day as Trails Day (June 6). Commissioner Hess would like to invite several speakers. Perhaps the unveiling would be first, then trails day hike following. (Note: Commissioners will keep an eye on the deadline for Trails Day events registration, which is May 1, 2026 at ctwoodlands.org. There is one more regular meeting before then).

Commissioner LeClair motioned to spend up to \$300 for the signs, and Commissioner Heckle seconded, motion was unanimously approved. The Commission will notify Chris Lawton and other stakeholders about the plans.

- b) Conservation Center update- Due to large snowpack, commissioners have not been out to the center since early winter. Chair Guetens proposed **Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. as a work day for maintenance at the Conservation Center.**
  - i. Discussion about adding Fair Oaks and Black Ash entrances to the map and information on cttrailfinder.com. Vice Chair LeClair will assemble verbiage on the additional entrances.
- c) Garden club update -Commissioners Hinojosa and Heckle provided a detailed plan and schedule **for** 2026, starting with a volunteer day on April 25 to clean and weed the Town Hall gardens. They met with the Parks and Rec. Commission to offer the Garden club’s help on projects.
- d) Budget update- no additional purchases were discussed beyond signs. Purchase requests should be directed to Director Dennis Goderre.

9) New Business Agenda –none

10) Comments from the Public - none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison - none

12) Comments from Commissioners – Agenda for next meeting will include a vote on the content and design of event signs, and developing a more detailed plan and then register the event for CT Trails Day.

13) Adjourn- Vice Chair LeClair motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.