

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2026, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order -6:00 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call -Chair John Guetens; Secretary Bonnie Bacon; Treasurer Adam Heckle; Commissioner Catherine Hinojosa; Alternate Commissioners Elaine Hess and Connie Herrmann; Town Council Chair Tim May. Alternate Commissioner Elaine Hess was read in as a voting member for this meeting to replace Vice Chair Jessica LeClair.
- 4) Presentations - none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items - none
- 6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2026 - Secretary Bacon motioned for approval of the minutes, Chair Guetens seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- 7) Communications -none
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Trails Day discussion and planning
 - i. Signs -Commissioner Hinojosa showed two different sign designs for the Trails Day event, and similar versions that had arrows but overall were the same designs as the event signs. Overall, the commissioners preferred the design with the light green stripe. Commissioner Hinojosa added an event start time,10 a.m., to the signs. Chair Guetens motioned to approve this design, Secretary Bacon seconded. The design was unanimously approved. (An amount of up to \$300 to purchase signs was already approved at the March meeting). Five event signs and either five or ten arrow signs will be ordered. Stickers can be added to the signs with the date so that the signs can be reused each year, while the date will vary each year. Commissioner Hinojosa will place the event signs near Lawton Trail and the parking area, and the arrow signs will be placed along Route 32 to guide participants to the location.
 - ii. Registration – Secretary Bacon will contact Vice Chair LeClair to inform her of the start time and events, so that the Vice Chair can register the event online with the CT Trails Day organization before May 1. (Event is Saturday, June 6)
 - iii. Events planning -A scavenger hunt and guided tours, upon request, will be hosted by the Commission. Commissioners Heckle and Hinojosa will update the scavenger hunt sheet to reflect items that can be found at Lawton Trail. Secretary Bacon will send a couple of photos she has. Chair Guetens will buy some stickers as prizes for

the scavenger hunt, and will reach out to Chris Lawton regarding the planned event. Alternate Commissioner Hess has lanyards and magnifying glasses. Alternate Commissioner Hess, who is a member of the Montville America's 250th team, is working with her team to determine the start time of the Lafayette trail sign dedication, which will be in the same area but a separate event. She will suggest 11 a.m. as the start time for the dedication but the time is "to be determined". She will also speak with Chief Blanchette about parking for the event.

- b) Conservation Center update -Chair Guetens noted that someone has cleaned up some of the tree deadfall on the trails. Ducks and Eastern Phoebes, and salamander and frog eggs have been seen at the Center. For the upcoming workday on Saturday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m., participants should bring gloves and tools to clean up garbage, trim thorns near the pond, rake trails, lop tree limbs (with loppers and pole saw), and screw down any loose walkway boards. Chair Guetens and Commissioner Heckle will look into getting good quality wood chips to cover some dangerous roots on the trails. Chair Guetens and Vice Chair LeClair submitted updated information to the CTtrailfinder.com website that included the other entrances to the trails.
 - c) Garden club update -The Garden Club installed a border, including large boards, for Bella's Garden at an event with the Butzgy family. MYSB Director Barbara Lockhart provided a lot of materials. Public Works will add soil and some landscaping. The Garden Club will be working on the Town Hall Gardens next and will post information about date and time.
 - d) Budget update -no update
- 9) New Business Agenda -none
 - 10) Comments from the Public -none
 - 11) Comments from Town Council Liaison -none
 - 12) Comments from Commissioners - Commissioner Heckle discussed an idea to build and install an insect hotel near the Conservation Center, Fair Oaks entrance. Alternate Commissioner Hess discussed her committee's ideas for the Montville America's 250th celebration, including planting Liberty trees in various places to be determined, and having a patriotic bunting and planters in front of the Old Town Hall. Also, she informed the commission that July 7 is the first day of the Montville Farmers Market for 2026, and will also be Community Night and will have America's 250th as the theme. Before the next meeting, Chair Guetens will contact DPW Director Carlson or Finance Director Chapman for an update on the NIPS fund.
 - 13) Adjourn – 7:25 p.m.