

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
September 1, 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; Commissioners Bonnie Bacon, Jess LeClair, Adam Heckle and Catherine Hinojosa; Alternate Commissioner Elaine Hess, Town Council Liaison Nick Sabilia, Town Council Chair Tim May, Mayor Leonard Bunnell Sr.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items - none
- 6) Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2026 - Commissioner Hinojosa moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Heckle seconded. Unanimously approved.
- 7) Communications -none
- 8) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update - Chair Guetens trimmed weeds around some trails and noted that a couple of trees were down across trails but so far this does not impede hiking. Someone vandalized/broke the 2x4 board that Chair Guetens installed to prevent motorized vehicles from crossing the bridges. Town Council Chair recommended that we do a walk-through of Lawton Trail (Houghton Cove), the Mostowy property, and the Conservation Center as the year ends to note any work that needs to be done for next year. Note: the Boy Scouts have been maintaining Lawton Trail. Questions regarding Mostowy property will be formalized by Chair Guetens and sent to the Mayor. The Mayor noted that Dept of Public Works (DPW) has mowed this property in the past and more mowing can be requested.
 - b) Garden club update – weeded Lawton Trail (Haughton Cove) garden and Town Hall and will do another round of work this weekend. DPW provided bags. The club will then request mulch from DPW.
 - c) Budget update –Trail markers for the Conservation Center: 2”x6” trail markers are \$0.39 each. Nails may be requested from DPW. This purchase was previously approved. Commissioner Heckle will forward information to Chair Guetens who will ensure that a P.O. will be submitted.
- 9) New Business Agenda
 - a) Request for input regarding three topics of interest to Conservation Commission, for discussion at POCD/Housing Advisory Meeting –

- i. Changing the open space/land conservation acquisition fund policy, which currently covers subdivisions over 50 units. Update/rewrite to expand revenue sources. For instance, any sale of Town property could put some funds aside for acquisition, Possibly could change the policy to include fees from any development over 5 units and from new apartments complexes.
- ii. Find ways to promote more outdoor activities, for instance 1) Schofield Pond (Town Council Liasson Sabilia) – find possible next steps to make the pond more usable for Montville residents. A private owner owns the pond. The Town of Montville owns the parking lot and trails. 2) Develop a plan for the Mostowy property. Note this is shared between Parks and Rec commission and Conservation Commission. Commissioner LeClair: get input from the public on what they want to use this for, so a development plan can proceed. Potentially include invasives removal.
- iii. Promote more pedestrian/bike use on public roads. For instance, install more sidewalks: Subdivisions (Lathrop, Manor, Heights), Route 163 and Route 32.

10) Comments from the Public -none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison -The mayor noted that a sidewalk is being planned and will be installed on New London Turnpike near Trading Cove Brook. Town Council Chair May noted there is an event being planned in October at Bond Property. More information to follow.

12) Comments from Commissioners -Request to send a reminder regarding Sept 29th POD meeting (Sept 29, 6-8 p.m., Fair Oaks/Montville Community Center).

13) Adjourn -7:15 p.m.