

Town of Montville
Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 28, 2014

5:30 p.m. – Room 102 – Montville Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Longton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Longton, May, and Pollard. Also present were Donna Geary, Parks & Recreation Director Peter Bushway, Parks & Recreation Commissioners Chairperson Scott Lavallie, Vice-Chairperson Kerri Lawton, and Member Eileen Cicchese.

4. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit — none.

5. Alterations to the Agenda — none.

6. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2014

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Review of the Dog Ordinance Policy

Councilor Longton read the following originally proposed submitted language by the Parks & Recreation Commission:

In no event shall any dog be allowed, either leashed or unleashed, on any athletic fields and/or playgrounds owned or maintained by the Town of Montville. Dogs are permitted in designated areas only.

Commissioner Lawton stated that the verbiage has since been revised adding “surrounding spectator areas” to the designated areas.

The responses to their questions were reviewed and discussed by the Councilors and the members of the Commission.

The intent of the ordinance is to protect the health and welfare of the people by keeping animals away from any areas where people may be exposed to any health-related diseases. It was clarified that, while other towns, including Clinton, Chester, Darien, Milford, Norwich,

currently have a dog ordinance in place, the Town of Montville does not. Reference to service animals being exempt from the Ordinance was excluded to avoid any redundancy per Federal law. Councilor May suggested the possibility of constructing a board on which the Ordinance and a map indicating the areas where animals are/are not allowed. The map will be a living document that can be updated and revised as the park undergoes any future changes or expansions. The board can be a possible Eagle Scout project. Signage will be placed throughout the park and will be discussed with Public Works Director Don Bourdeau.

Councilor May stated the importance of enforcing the ordinance in order for it to be effective, using the current smoking ordinance as an example. He suggested consulting with Lt. Leonard Bunnell regarding the possibility of having the Dog Warden enforce the ordinance. Director Bushway stated that it is the expectation of the Leagues to, in part, be responsible for enforcing the ordinance(s). Councilor May suggested the ordinances be part of the discussion of the rules with all of the leagues prior to the start of the season. Commissioner Cicchese added that the ordinance also has an element of self-policing. Councilor Longton stated that the Police Department should be notified when events are happening so that they can help enforce the Ordinance during the events to which Director Bushway replied that he has been e-mailing their schedules to Lt. Bunnell. It was suggested he request a return receipt and/or receive acknowledgement of receipt.

With respect to the process, the Councilors felt that Lt. Bunnell, because it included enforcement ramifications, should have reviewed the Ordinance, prior to it coming to the Committee. Following the acceptance of the language as discussed (below), the Ordinance will be sent to the Lt. Bunnell and the Mayor for review. It will, then, return to the Committee for a final review and presented to the Town Council for final approval.

Ordinance as revised:

No dogs or other domestic animals shall be permitted, either leashed or unleashed, on any athletic fields, surrounding spectator areas, and/or playgrounds owned or maintained by the Town of Montville. Animals are permitted in designated areas only as defined in the map titled _____ as revised. Special events endorsed by the Town of Montville will be exempt. Service animals permitted by Federal Law. Violators shall be subject to a _____ dollar fine (\$____.00).

b. Review of the Policy Concerning Use of Town Vehicles

The review of the Town Vehicle Use Policy will remain under review; discussion to continue next month.

8. New Business — none.

9. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit
Donna Geary, 11 Depot Road, commented on the need for and lack of a statement of intent regarding the Policy Concerning the Use of Town Vehicles that was discussed last month.
10. Remarks from the Committee Members
Councilor May stated that he plans to recommend that the Town Council send the Vendors' Ordinance to the Parks & Recreation Commission so that they may add an addendum to the Ordinance in which they can develop their own policies regarding vendors who are invited to their special events for an additional level of control. He suggested the possibility of putting it out to the vendors to bid for a spot at the events.
11. Adjournment
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice Vote, 3-0, all in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville