

Town of Montville Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes August 6, 2019, 7:15 PM Montville Town Hall, Room 102

- Call to Order
 - The meeting called to order at 7:26 PM.
- Roll Call
 - Commissioners Chase, LeClair, and Lespier present.
- Approval of Agenda
 - The Commission removed the second “Discuss Open Space Priorities” under New Business from the agenda. Commissioner Chase made the motion for the change, Commissioner Lespier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Comments from the Public on Agenda Items
 - NA
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 2, 2019
 - Commissioner Lespier made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Chase. The motion passed unanimously.
- Correspondence
 - The Commission received a letter dated July 26, 2019 from the Planning Department of the Town of Montville regarding a decision of the Inland Wetlands Commission at their July 18, 2019 meeting. See “Old Business” for more details.
- Old Business
 - Discuss Montville Conservation Center Operations and Maintenance (Phase I, Phase II, Phase III)
 - Phase I of the Montville Conservation Center improvements was brought to the Town of Montville Inland Wetlands Commission on July 18, 2019 for consideration. The Inland Wetlands Commission voted unanimously that the routine maintenance proposed did not require a permit. The Phase I proposal stated:
 - The Montville Conservation Commission would like to resurface the parking lot area of the Montville Conservation Center. 50 cubic yards of secondary millings will be deposited and will be spread by volunteers using hand tools and wheel barrows. The project will occur over one or two weekends. The existing parking lot will not

expanded, nor will any area outside of the existing parking lot be impacted. The total area of the parking lot is 7,800 square feet.

- The project is an important first phase to an improvement plan for the Montville Conservation Commission. Future improvements will include trail maintenance and enhancements, trail infrastructure improvements, and other improvements that will create an educational and recreational experience for visitors. Resurfacing the parking lot is a critical first step to make the Conservation Center accessible to all Montville residents and visitors.
 - The Eagle Scout candidate finished the parking lot resurfacing project at the Conservation Center and it came out great.
 - Mapping support for the trails is being investigated by Commissioner Lespier.
 - The trails at the Conservation Center still need to be marked. Commissioner LeClair will try to schedule a Special Meeting to finish the trail marking project.
 - Phase II will include (at least):
 - Trail marking and mapping;
 - Improvements to the trailhead sign and park sign (try to connect again with Rotary Club) (Content will be determined at a later date);
 - Identification of priority areas of trail that require improvements (once trail mapping is complete);
 - Identification of beautification projects, like native flower plantings around the Center's signs;
 - Identification of metrics regarding site use;
 - Exploration of two-way communication with Montville residents regarding desired improvements from the public to the Conservation Center.
- Discuss Open Space Priorities
- The Commission looked closely at the Town of Montville open space acquisition priorities, as outlined on page 44 of the 2010 Plan of Conservation and Development:
 - “The land is in close proximity to Camp Oakdale.”
 - “The land is in a public water supply watershed.”
 - “The land or structure is cited in the *Historic and Architectural Resource Survey of the Town of Montville, Connecticut 2001*.”
 - “The land contains a critical habitat area or contains a significant ecological unit such as old growth forest or farmland.”
 - “The land links existing open space areas which are significant natural resource areas or active recreation areas such as trails.”
 - “The land provides public access to a lake of the Thames River.”
 - “The undeveloped land area will significantly contribute to or sustain water quality in a basin.”

- “The Town should not accept isolated pockets of wetlands.”
 - The Commission will discuss further at a future meeting.
 - Discuss Property Located at 15 Benway Court
 - A letter in support of maintaining municipal ownership of 15 Benway Court will be drafted and send to the Planning Department.
 - Debrief Young Forest Initiative Workshop – July 9, 2019
 - Commissioners remarked that there was a good turnout at the event, that the content was interesting, and that the audience was engaged in a thoughtful discussion.
 - Links to the Young Forest Initiative will be shared on the Conservation Commission page of the Town of Montville website.
- New Business
 - Explore Opportunities for Creating Young Forest in Montville
 - The Commission would like to discuss if any Town owned properties might be a good fit for young forest creation with Councilman McNally at a future meeting. The Commission will explore alignment with open space acquisition criteria and land management planning.
 - Staff Support
 - The Commission would like to request staff support and will request such to Councilman McNally at a future meeting.
- Comments from the Public
 - NA
- Comments from Municipal Liaison
 - NA
- Comments from Commissioners
 - At a future meeting the Commission will explore possible creation of a Facebook page to inform the Town about environmental issues at large as well as to inform and get input on items related to Commission activity.
 - Commission should consider participation at the Montville Farmers Market next year.
 - The Commission will consider hosting a composting workshop in the future, and will explore opportunities to provide compost bins at reduced prices.
- Adjourn
 - The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.