

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2020 -- 6:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

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On March 14, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology.

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via GoToMeeting.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk's Office at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least **1 working day in advance** (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Live audio comments may be made via GoToMeeting by calling from your telephone.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chairperson of the meeting. The Parks & Recreation Commission Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.

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1. Call to order.

Vice-Chair Southard called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Matt Beaupre, Jon Chase, Kevin Clang (6:33 p.m. by phone), Heather Kenniston, Morgan Matthewson, Kate Southard, and Rocky Stone. Also present was Park Recreation Director Peter Bushway and Town Council Liaison Colleen Rix (by phone). Commissioners Jennifer Hajj and Noah Carver were absent. A quorum was present.

4. Adjustments to the Agenda. *None*

5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit). -- *None*

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve.

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Beaupre; seconded by Commissioner Stone to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2020. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

b. Director's Report for September 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Stone; seconded by Commissioner Beaupre to approve the September 2020 Director's Report. Discussion: Commissioner Chase commented on the discussion at last month's meeting regarding the Mostowy Property, the great meeting regarding its resources, and an email on October 6 from Director Bushway referencing his follow-up regarding plans for the property. He asked where was the direction from the Commission and spoke of Director Bushway's proposal for development of it, for sports, and the lack of resources for the same. Commissioner Chase described the condition of fields as "disastrous" and spoke of a future agenda for the Commission to talk about the qualities of the property. Director Bushway explained he was seeking costs for CIP for the budget and said there were no ties to the company he contacted. Commissioner Chase spoke to appreciation of the efforts but asked that the Commission be kept informed. Commissioner Beaupre said he thought it was mentioned at the last meeting that the property when purchased was for fields and conservation, and said it was also discussed with former members of the Commission. Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. P&R Newsletter for October 2020

Commissioner Matthewson asked about the status of the holiday parade. Director Bushway said it was still up in the air. He spoke of a parade in Niantic that will be a stationery event where people will drive around it. He said the Town parade has a finale with a tree lighting.

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8. Report from Finance

Commissioner Beaupre asked whether the figures from the summer camp were included in the report. Director Bushway reported they were still waiting for the transfer of funds from the Mohegan tribe. Commissioner Chase thanked Director Bushway for the theoretical loss from summer camp and spoke of his request for the outcomes of the summer camp for the past 10 years. He noted each year there was a financial improvement and agreed with Director Bushway that the programs are not operated as profitmaking.

9. Review of Recent Programs and Events

a. September and Current 2020 Events and Programs

i. Mud Run

Director Bushway reported the event would take place next Saturday, September 26, postponed from August. He said there were half the number of attendees but there were more sponsors. The funds raised was \$806.07 was split between Parks & Recreation, the Senior Center, and the Oakdale Fire Department.

ii. Judo

Director Bushway reported judo was still cancelled as it is a full contact activity.

iii. Karate

Director Bushway reported in-person classes meet once a week; virtual classes meet twice a week in-person and virtually; and the Thursday class is in-person.

iv. Gymnastics

Director Bushway reported gymnastics classes are doing well. He also said the instructors are from ABC Gymnastics and Covid measures seriously and have strict protocols in place. Parents do not enter the facility and masks are worn by the participants.

v. Dance

Director Bushway reported dance classes are held five (5) days a week, but the number of participants is down. He said there are only six (6) in the class until 6:00 p.m., but after 6:00 p.m. there are 12-14 kids at the Community Center. He also said only four (4) are attending virtually.

vi. Yoga

Director Bushway reported the virtual Wednesday class was cancelled as there were only three (3) registrants but may be offered again after the holidays. The Thursday class is in-person with 14-15 participants.

b. October 2020 Events and Programs

i. Pumpkin Decorating Event

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Director Bushway reported the event was last Saturday with 25 persons present (there are usually 50). Commissioner Matthewson attended the event and said some of the kids were highly creative.

ii. Trick or Trunk

Director Bushway reported he has 27 trunks (there are usually 46 or more) for the event and said the fire/police would be there to direct traffic. The event will go around the Tyl School and will include two (2) food trucks, Mr. Hotdog, and the Rolling Tomato; a balloon artist, and the dancers, All the Right Moves, who will perform at the front of the school. Four (4) volunteers from the Commission and three (3) others will be present.

iii. Scarecrow Village

Director Bushway stated the event was not so successful as there were only three (3) participants.

c. November 2020 Events and Programs

i. Basketball Evaluation Clinics

Director Bushway reported there were 1-2 registrations and on the request to use the schools if they are open but said the program may be delayed. Commissioner Beaupre spoke of the risks and asked if refunds would be given.

ii. Indoor Volleyball

See the comments for 10.b.i above. Director Bushway said the contact for volleyball said play may be indoors.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion to have documents relative to the Parks & Recreation Commission for distribution—ordinances, Town Charter, bylaws, etc.—to address Commission questions. Commissioner Chase commented he was not sure of the meaning of the item as the bylaws were not being followed. He also spoke of the law and purpose to the establish committees and reporting on them. He added he was hopeful the Town Attorney would inform the Commission through the Town Council the questions posed regarding the same.

b. Development of Parks & Recreation Logo

Commissioner Stone reported at noon today he received an email from David Blanchette who asked that he send the information but made to promises due to Covid and school closings. He said he sent links from Parks & Recreation to him. Commissioner Chase said he appreciated Commissioner Stone's efforts and spoke about Camp Oakdale and to identify it as part of the Town. Director Bushway reported he was looking at national sights; Commissioner Stone said he had looked at them as well and if the project does not work out the Commission could come up with ideas on its own.

c. Holiday Parade (December 2020)

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Director Bushway reported the decision for the parade is being put off and said no funds had been spent for it although the permit had been attained. Commissioner Beaupre asked whether thought had been given to extending the route for purposes of social distancing. Director Bushway the parade and tree lighting may be on different days. Commissioner Stone asked about the memorial bulbs that Director Bushway said just started last year with 15 of them. He said some were picked up and some he still has.

d. 2020 Decorations

Town Councilor Rix suggested tabling this item pending feedback from the Town Council. Commission Chase had a question regarding*****.

e. 2020 Bus Trips

Director Bushway spoke on the New York City trip but said with Covid-19 spreading it was not a good idea. He also said there were no signups per a question by Vice-Chair Southard. Director Bushway reported three-weeks' notice was required prior to the trip and at least 40 persons to go. Commissioner Clang said it was a bad idea for an out-of-state trip to a state that is shutdown and with Covid cases on the rise. Director Bushway said he would contact the bus company and remove the event from the newsletter.

f. Potential Events and Programs

Director Bushway reported there was no interest in the Newport bus trip but said 40 persons were interested in the Boston trip that was cancelled with refunds given. He suggested tabling the bus trips until Covid is over. Vice-Chair Southard asked about other events. Director Bushway said he reached out to Arts in CT concerning wreathmaking and making gingerbread houses. Commissioner Matthewson asked if there were events scheduled for February thru April. Director Bushway said there were none traditionally but was considering doing some for moms for Valentine's Day. Commissioner Beaupre suggested a snowman building contest—the biggest, the skinniest, the one still standing.

11. New Business -- None

12. Communications

Director Bushway reported on an email he received about converting the tennis courts to wiffleball courts. He said he referred the party to Public Works. Director Bushway also spoke with five (5) men who wanted to use removable tape on the courts for the same purpose. Commissioner Chase spoke of the economical use of the facilities and proposed looking into paddle tennis.

13. Remarks from the Public of Non-Agenda items (3-minute limit)

Vice-Chair Southard asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison

Town Councilor Rix said she had no remarks.

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15. Remarks from Parks & Recreation Director Bushway -- *None*

16. Remarks from the Commissioners

Commissioner Clang asked Director Bushway if he needed volunteers for Trick-or-Trunk. Commissioner Matthewson said she was looking forward to Trick-or-Trunk. Commissioner Beaupre remarked he would be out of town for the event but said it would probably be smaller but still successful. Commissioner Chase thanked Commissioners Carver and Southard who made time to speak with Lisa Wale, a Program Biologist with CT Energy Protection on a site walk of the Mostoway Property. He also thanked the Commission for its support, and said he looked forward to providing more details on the property. Vice-Chair Southard said she was excited for Trick-or-Trunk and to bringing back some normalcy. Director Bushway said there were 2,500 people in attendance at last year's Trick-or-Trunk but said this year he was unable to collect the 200 bags of candy from Stop & Shop. Commissioner Chase asked if there was a mechanism to move funds to purchase the candy shortfall. Director Bushway said he had already purchased 2,000 pieces of candy and had 15 bags left over from the pumpkin decorating event. Commissioner Matthewson asked Director Bushway if he would set candy aside for the dancers who would be performing at the event that he agreed to do.

17. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Beaupre; seconded by Commissioner Chase to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gloria J. Gathers
Town of Montville Recording Secretary/Minutes Clerk

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN
OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**