# Town of Montville Conservation Commission

# Meeting Minutes May 11, 2021, 7:15 PM via Freeconferencecall.com

- Call to Order
  - o Roll Call
- Commissioners Chase, LeClair and Bacon were present.
   New Commissioner Jeffrey Carver was present.
- o Councilman May was present.
- Approval of Agenda
- o Comments from the Public on Agenda Items
  - o NA.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2021
  - O Commissioner LeClair made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Bacon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Presentations

O Notes from "Finding the Right Tree for the Right Time" series. Commissioner Bacon provided a LINK to the CLEAR website where the descriptions, schedules, recordings, and presentation slides for the four presentations are available. Background on the series, which is sponsored by Avalonia Land Trust as a knowledge-sharing endeavor based on the work to revitalize the Hoffman Evergreen Preserve forest which has been adversely impacted by climate change. Overviews of the first two of the four talks were shared: the first is a historical overview of Southern New England forests, and factors including climate which affect the composition of the forests; the second focuses on effects of climate change on carbon storage and sequestration.

## Old Business

- o Discuss Montville Conservation Center Operations and Maintenance
- o Following up on three previous action items:
  - Councilor May circulated a brochure describing the kiosk which provides a bulletin board. The cost is \$430 each. Councilor May proposed that the commission vote during the next meeting, and subsequently request funding from the Town Council if necessary. Commissioner LeClair suggested asking the Rotary for support.

- Councilor May had a discussion with Don Bourdeau, Public Works, regarding the proposal of a new sign which is perpendicular to the entrance and can be seen by traffic driving in either direction. A suggestion was made to use a carved sign, similar to the one at Town Hall, which can be carved on both sides. Additionally, aluminum signs (blanks) could be used with steel posts, which are available, for the trails. Volunteers, example high school youth, could be asked to paint them or stickers could be identified. Commissioner LeClair stated that five signs would be useful for trails.
- Councilor May asked Assistant Planner Colleen Benson about building an elevated walkway through wet areas on the trails. She stated that thre may be an active wetlands permit, which is good for 10 years; otherwise, the commission can obtain a permit and would have to develop a basic design. Commissioner LeClair also suggested that the trails could be moved in some instances, or in one instance a fallen tree could be incorporated as an elevated walkway. Commissioner Chase may have some suitable 4-5 feet wide board to donate.
- ACTION: determine if there is an active wetlands permit.
- ACTION: Have the wetlands flagged.
- ACTION: Commissioners will walk the trails behind the Bozrah farm market to see the boardwalks (suggested by Commissioner LeClair).
   ACTION: Councilor May will check with the transfer station whether they have suitable waste wood.
- O Discuss updating letter to the Town Council re: Mostoway Property. The commission discussed having no further development beyond access through Camp Oakdale, due to species seen on property. Commissioner LeClair reported spotting a woodcock on the property. Commissioner Carver suggested informational signs similar to the Conn College arboretum. Commissioner Bacon made a motion to recommend that the Town Council resolve that the Mostowy Property has been dedicated for passive recreation and conservation uses only, with development limited to trails for walking, jogging or nonmotorized bicycling, open space, and land management practices consistent with passive recreation and conservation purposes and with the 2010 Montville Plan of Conservation and Development and the purpose for which the property was acquired. Commissioner Chase seconded. The motion passed unanimously
- Commission roles. Commission welcomed Jeff Carver as a full commissioner.
   Commissioner Sweeney-Lespier has resigned.

## New Business

- Discuss the emerald ash borer issues in town. Commissioner LeClair recommends that we raise awareness of this problem. The issue will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- Commissioner Carver proposed exploring the options for light rail that is being discussed for Montville. This will have benefits including enhancing economic opportunity and reducing traffic on the roads.

- ACTION: Commissioner Carver will find out more information.
- Comments from the Public
  - o NA
- Comments from Municipal Liaison
  - o Councilor May suggested we go back to old agendas to revitalize some ideas if applicable.
- Comments from Commissioners
  - o Welcome to Commissioner Carver.
- Adjourn