

Town of Montville Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes July 6, 2021, 7:15 PM

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
 - Commissioners Chase, Carver and Bacon were present in person, and Commissioner LeClair was present via remote.
 - Councilman May was present.
 - Chair Chase called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
- Approval of Agenda
- Comments from the Public on Agenda Items
 - NA.
- Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2021
 - Commissioner Bacon made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Carver seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Old Business
 - Discuss Montville Conservation Center Operations and Maintenance
 - Discussion of elevated walkways in wetlands at the Nature Center. We recapped that if a wetlands permit is in effect we can proceed with the elevated walkways. Commissioner Carver noted that the elevated walkways can't obstruct waterways and should be a minimum of 5 feet wide. Chairman Chase initiated a conversation of who will do the work. Councilman May recommended that Public Works or volunteers do the work. Chairman Chase proposed that the photo(s) provided by Commissioner LeClair of a boardwalk in trails behind Bozrah CT recreation center and farmer's market could be shown to Assistant Planner Colleen Bezanson. There were no objections. ACTION: Councilman May will contact Colleen Bezanson regarding attending a meeting and discussion of the elevated walkway.
 - Review of status for kiosk, trail markers, entrance sign
 - The entrance sign is to be two sided. Councilman May has already spoken to Public Works.
 - The kiosk (small structure for providing information, e.g. trail map) is damaged. Commissioner Carver proposed that there be a bar code on the map in the kiosk for phones to pull up maps (e.g. via QR scanner). Does

the kiosk need to be replaced or prepared? Chairman Chase stated that we will make a decision at the next meeting.

- ACTION: Councilman May to email a copy of the brochure shown at the May 11 meeting to all commissioners.
- ACTION: Commissioner Carver will circulate photos of the existing kiosk.

- New Business

- American Rescue Plan funds for conservation projects (Councilman May)

- There are potentially funds that can be used for trails and community activities. The uses for the money are limited to covid-related projects. There is a Montville commission to consider and approve proposals. Town leaders have met with SCOG (Southeastern Council Of Governments) to get an idea of what other towns are considering. We have up to four years to spend the money. The requests should go in now.
- ACTION: Provide a rough estimate for how much is needed for improvements to the Nature Center (including the kiosk, trail markers, entrance sign, and elevated walkways)

- Additional discussion: Chairman Chase brought up the possibility that the town could purchase and maintain the Mercy Raymond House, which has historical significance, for the public. Commissioner Carver brought up the possibility of an e-tour of historical properties in Montville. Commissioner Carver suggested that it would be ideal to link public lands to make a more continuous green belt. Commissioner LeClair stated that there is a 2010 master trail plan created by Marcia Vlaun. [This document is available at the town website via the following link [DownloadFile.aspx \(townofmontville.org\)](#)]. Chairman Chase also noted that surrounding towns have many trails and that East Lyme puts aside money for the purchase of land as it becomes available. Can the American Rescue Plan funds be used for this purpose?

- Comments from the Public

- NA

- Comments from Municipal Liaison

- No additional comments

- Comments from Commissioners

- No additional comments

- Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.