

**Town of Montville Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

**All persons in attendance must wear a face mask if  
not fully vaccinated and remain six feet from others.**

**Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by  
the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of  
Procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced.**

1. Call to Order  
Chairman May called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military
3. Roll Call  
Present were Councilors Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Kathleen Pollard, and Joseph Rogulski. Absent were Councilors Billy Caron and Colleen Rix. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda  
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski, to add the following item to the Agenda:
  - 16(c) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the appropriation of \$30,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the purchase of SCBA (Self-controlled Breathing Apparatus) equipment.  
(Mayor McDaniel)

Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that it was recently discovered that the current air packs being utilized by the Chesterfield Volunteer Fire Company have expired. As such, they are requesting an emergency appropriation of funds for the purchase of replacement SCBA (Self-contained Breathing Apparatus). The Fire Company is currently utilizing borrowed tanks in the interim. He recommended appropriating part of the town's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds for the purchase. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
  - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2021  
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session
  - a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Economic Development Commission, Montville Housing Authority, and Planning & Zoning Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.  
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
  - b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the agreement between the Town of Montville and the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut. Discussions to include members of the Town Council, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and Attorney Matt Willis.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Invited parties exited Chambers for Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 7:49 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit  
Jon Chase, 1011 Route 163, spoke in support of Item 16(b) regarding the use of the Mostowy Property. With the help of Town Council Liaison Rix, the Commission has been able to realign its objectives and clarify its role and responsibilities. Ten years prior, the town approved their Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which identified the future acquisition of the property for the purpose of open space. Subsequently, the Planning & Zoning Commission issued a favorable §8-24 Review, leading to the eventual purchase of the property for recreational purposes.

Noah Carver, 9 Lathrop Court Ext., also expressed his strong support for item 16(b). He felt that the resolution would benefit the townspeople, as a whole, and would be an attractive feature of the town. After being confined to the indoors due to the recent/ongoing pandemic, he has come to further appreciate the outdoors.

Denise Gladue, 44 Cook Drive, also spoke in favor of item 16(b), which she felt would be best for the town and would further encourage the public to enjoy the outdoors and natural environment.

Wills Pike, 71 Pheasant Run, who was a member of the Town Council when the purchase of the Mostowy property was approved, spoke in favor of Item 16(b), adding that the purchase of the property and the proposed resolution is tailored around the town's POCD. Nevertheless, he expressed his concerns regarding the proposed resolution to *permanently* dedicate the property to "public use for open space, passive recreation and conservation purposes". Part of the reasoning behind the purchase of the property was to allow for the expansion of the Camp Oakdale property. He also commented on item 16(a) and questioned to which roads/properties the resolution refers.

Jeff Carver, 9 Lathrop Road Ext., expressed his support of item 16(b). He felt that the town is already home to numerous ball fields, including fields at Montville High School, old Fair Oaks Elementary School (now known as the Montville Community Center), Mohegan Elementary School, and the like. The town is in need of walking and running trails, which can be, in the near future, connected with each other and instilled with an educational component. This is a great opportunity to bring the neighborhood back to nature and for people to reconnect with their natural environment.

Jon Chase, 1011 Route 163, spoke in response to Mr. Pike's comments. He stated that, in accordance with the Town Charter, the role of the Parks & Recreation Commission is to meet the recreational needs of the town by utilizing its existing facilities. They have restructured their Capital Improvement Plan to improve and maintain the care of their current facilities and return other facilities, which are being utilized by other departments, to the Commission.

Public Safety Commission Chairman Robert Yuchniuk, 478 Fire Street, questioned item 16(c) and requested an explanation as to how the expiration of the SCBA Air Packs was overlooked to ensure that the issue does not arise in the future.

Vince Young, 375 Chapel Hill Road, spoke with respect to item 7(b) and questioned which roads are being proposed to be gifted and who would be maintaining the utilities that are housed on the roads.

Kate Southard, 89 Wildwood Lane, spoke as both the Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Commission and citizen of the town. Many good points were made by both Mr.

Chase and Mr. Pike. She assured Mr. Pike that she has visions for the property, adding that passive recreation includes not only walking, biking, and jogging. She envisions the property being utilized for such activities as disc golf and outdoor classrooms with picnic tables and a pavilion. She thanked the Town Council for their consideration.

Wills Pike, 71 Pheasant Run, expressed his understanding of the explanations provided, but felt that the language contained in the resolution should be clarified and that restrictions are not placed prohibiting the property from other possible uses.

*Councilor Rogulski issued a point of order, stating that the public comment portion of the meeting is not intended for banter by the public.*

Jon Chase, 1011 Route 163, stated that the resolution may be reviewed and amended in the future.

9. Communications
  - a. Copy of the July 2021 Financial Reports from Terry Hart, Finance Director
  - b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of May 2021
  - c. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of June 2021
  - d. Copy of letter from Robert Manfredi regarding the utilization of masks by the children for extended periods of time (*recited by Mayor McDaniel*)
10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Fire Marshal Paul Barnes stated that it is the responsibility of each of the fire companies to maintain and periodically test their SCBA equipment. The need to replace the equipment was discovered by a career staff member while conducting a routine review of their equipment.

He also responded to one of the Town Councilor's comments regarding the arrival of the police prior to the fire company(ies) during a recent motor vehicle accident on Oxoboxo Dam Road. He explained the timeline of the calls and response times from the initial 9-1-1 call, during which it was understood that no injuries were involved. He urged the Councilors to contact him, as the Dispatch Supervisor, directly with any questions or concerns they might have in the future.

Mayor McDaniel reported that he attended a discussion regarding the unmet COVID-19 needs with the Council of Governments' Regional Human Services Coordinating Committee. They are expecting to receive solicitations from various non-profit organizations regarding the possibility of receiving part of the town's ARPA Funds to supplement their needs.

Negotiations with the Town Hall and Transfer Station Teamster Unions are continuing.

A Ribbon Cutting event, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, was held for *Thames Valley Relief*, which was recently rebranded as *The Botanists*.

A staff meeting regarding the recent receipt of a STEAP (Small Towns Economic Assistance Program) Grant was held as they wait to hear back from the State agencies. Due to the significant increase in cost for contracted materials and services, they were forced to restructure their finances. The grant includes funding for the Community Center improvements, including resurfacing the gymnasium floor and the installation of radiator covers. The funding for the HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) improvements in the library will derive from the town's ARPA Funds.

The Town Council's Ad-Hoc COVID-19 Impact Subcommittee met with Congressman Joe Courtney regarding the utilization of the ARPA Funds. One of the Congressman's staff members has volunteered to aid the town in ensuring that the funds are being used properly.

The Mohegan Volunteer Fire Company held a very respectful and well-attended 75th Memorial Service.

Over 700 cars attended Household Hazardous Waste Day.

A graduation ceremony was held for Caleb Osunniyi, the Police Department's newest member; he has begun his field training. The Police Department now has a full slate of 26 members. With the retirement of Jon Leonard, Larry Thompson has been promoted as the Lead Dispatcher, effective Sunday, August 15. The Public Safety Commission is scheduling interviews for the new firefighters.

In response to Chairman May, Mayor McDaniel stated that the town should be prepared for the upcoming hurricane season. The upcoming Community Booklet includes information regarding hurricane resources, creating an emergency preparedness kit, and the Everbridge notification system.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *no meeting; no report*
- b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *no meeting; no report*
- c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron – *not present; no report*

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

- a. Councilor Bunnell: Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau  
The Youth Services Bureau, along with Parks & Recreation and the Oakdale Fire Company, will be hosting their 5th Annual Mud Run on Saturday, August 21, at Camp Oakdale.

Public Safety Commission

The following statistics were reported for the month of June:

Police Department:

1,271 Calls for Service    48 of which were Type I Calls  
27 Arrests; no Juvenile Arrests

Fire Department:

252 Calls for Service    176 of which were Medical EMS calls

The town weathered well during the recent tropical storm, with the usual flooding and no invasive home flooding. A successful meeting was held between the fire companies, the Mayor, and paid staff; additional meetings are planned.

Animal Control:

12 animals impounded (82 year-to-date)  
73 complaints investigated (977 year-to-date)

Town of Salem:            0 animals impounded (10 year-to-date)  
4 complaints investigated (61 year-to-date)

- b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services – *not present; no report*
- c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education – *no meeting; no report*

- d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission

The Conservation Commission discussed their proposed improvements for the Conservation Center, including trail clean-up and maintenance, creating/installing footbridges, and trail signage.

The Economic Development Commission is in the process of reaching out to local businesses to create a program in which the older, established businesses could provide mentorship to younger, new(er) businesses.

- e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations

The Homeless Hospitality Center will be hosting a complimentary webinar on Wednesday, August 18, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., for elected officials and community leaders regarding a possible eviction and homelessness crisis. Attendees must register.

- f. Councilor Rix: Parks & Recreation Commission, Farmer's Market Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission

Councilor Rogulski reported that the Food Truck Festival was well-attended. Chairman May concurred and announced that tomorrow evening's Farmers Market will also feature a Car Show and live band; he encouraged everyone to attend the event.

- g. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund

The Fire Fighters Relief Fund will be meeting later this month.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Jessica LeClair to the Inland Wetlands Commission with a term to expire on September 17, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a motion to accept the resignation of Timothy Sullivan from the Housing Authority effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Christopher DiNoto from the Conservation Commission effective immediately

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to remove Zachary Sweeney-Lespier from the Conservation Commission effective immediately

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: Councilor Rogulski requested that the Chairman reach out to the Chairpersons of the town's boards and commissions and remind them to inform him regarding any members who have not attended the scheduled meetings for an extended period of time. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- e. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Jeffrey Carver to fill a vacancy as a Regular Member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on April 9, 2022.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2021-46. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Agreement Concerning Road Discontinuance, Property Transfer, And Snow Removal Obligations and authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel is authorized to execute any and all documents related thereto. (Mayor Ronald McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel reported that the Mohegan Tribe is interested in having Sunny Hill Drive and part of Shantock Heights transferred to them. The Tribe owns the property on either side of Sunny Hill Drive and Old Shantock Road. The roads do not have any functional use for the town. Per the Agreement, the Tribe will be responsible for the snowplowing and de-icing of the roads and the town will be responsible for all other maintenance needs on Shantock Road. Following the passage of the resolution, a Town Meeting will be held, an §8-24 Review will be conducted by the Planning & Zoning Commission, and, upon final approval, the roads will be discontinued and deeded to the Tribe. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that the land now commonly known as the Mostowy Property be dedicated permanently to public use for open space, passive recreation and conservation purposes. (Councilor May)

**WHEREAS**, the Town's current (2010) Plan of Conservation and Development identified certain land, known as the Mostowy Property, for future acquisition as open space land;

**WHEREAS**, on August 28, 2018, the Planning and Zoning Commission favorably reviewed such acquisition following referral by the Town Council, and on August 20, 2018 the Town Council voted to purchase said land;

**WHEREAS**, on September 11, 2018 the Town acquired the Mostowy Property by deed recorded at Volume 628, Page 121 of the Montville land records.

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2021, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to recommend to the Town Council that it formally resolve that the property be opened to public use for passive recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 11, 2021, the Conservation Commission voted to recommend that the Town Council resolve to dedicate the Mostowy Property to passive recreation and conservation uses only, with development limited to trails for walking, jogging or non-motorized bicycling, under land management practices consistent with passive recreation and conservation purposes, the 2010 Montville Plan of Conservation and Development, and the purposes for which the property was acquired;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds that the Mostowy Property has important open space value for passive recreation and conservation purposes, and should be preserved and maintained as such in perpetuity for use and enjoyment by the public.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

1. That the real property known as the Mostowy Property, located on Route 163 and known as Assessor Map 46, Lot 66, is hereby dedicated permanently as a public park, to be managed as open space for conservation purposes and the following passive recreation uses and activities only:
  - a. Walking, hiking, jogging, nature observation, and non-motorized bicycling;

- b. Such similar passive recreation uses as are mutually recommended by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission, provided they do not diminish the open space and conservation values.
2. That trails and open spaces may be established and maintained in accordance with plans jointly approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission, consistent with this Resolution and their respective powers.
3. That all such uses and activities may be in accordance with rules and hours of access as may be established by the Parks and Recreation Commission, in consultation with the Conservation Commission, and not inconsistent with this Resolution.
4. That the Town Attorney is hereby authorized to record a copy of this Resolution on the Montville land records.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Councilor Bunnell thanked the Parks & Recreation and Conservation Commissions for all of their hard work and efforts. He felt that the resolution would be good for the town and expressed his support. Councilor Rogulski also commended the Commission for all of their hard work and efforts and stated his openness to the resolution and requested that the Parks & Recreation create a plan for the property. He also expressed his concerns regarding the use of the term “permanently”, which could limit their future needs and proposed the following amendment to the original motion:

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to amend the resolution as follows:

**THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that the land now commonly known as the Mostowy Property be dedicated **permanently** to public use for open space, passive recreation and conservation purposes. (Councilor May)

Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 3-2. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Pollard, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Jaskiewicz and May.

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to approve the resolution, as amended. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor.\*

- c. **Resolution #2021-47. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the appropriation of \$30,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the purchase of SCBA (Self-controlled Breathing Apparatus) equipment for the Chesterfield Fire Company. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the item was part of the town’s long-term Capital Plan. He also reported that as of September 1, an 8.5% price increase would apply, which is also part of the reasoning behind the immediate need to replace the SCBA equipment. The actual cost of the equipment is \$31,176.00. Councilor Rogulski recalled a discussion regarding the air packs in previous years and the inability of the air packs to be compatible with those of the other fire companies. It was confirmed that the intention is to purchase air packs that are uniform across all of the fire companies. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Bunnell congratulated Mr. Leonard on his retirement and expressed his hope that he will remain active in the community and in public safety. He also congratulated Mr. Thompson on his promotion; he is confident that he will do a good job and looks forward to working with him.

Councilor Jaskiewicz concurred and wished Mr. Leonard well.

Councilor Rogulski also congratulated them. He added that their role as a Town Councilor is such that they must consider the future impact of their decisions and is not because they oppose the proposal.

Councilor Pollard concurred with the Councilors.

Mayor McDaniel also congratulated Mr. Leonard and Mr. Thompson.

Chairman May commended the Parks & Recreation Commission and expressed his pride in the Farmers Market, Carnival, and other events. He encouraged everyone to attend tomorrow evening's Farmers Market/Car Show/Live Band event. On a personal note, he announced that he will officially be retiring this week from his position with Electric Boat.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

\* Per Section C310(c) – Procedure, Voting – of the Town Charter, which states that,  
“no action of the Town Council,...shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of four or more members of the Town Council.”  
the amended motion did not pass, making the final vote on the amended motion invalid.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – MEETING RECORDINGS**