


Town of Montville Conservation Commission

Special Meeting Minutes November 9, 2021, 7:15 PM Room 102 – Town Hall

- Call to Order - 7:15 p.m.
- Roll - Chairman Chase, Commissioner Carver, Commissioner Bacon, and Councilor May were present, with Commissioner LeClair joining via Zoom.
- Approval of Special Meeting Agenda – Agenda as published
- Comments from the Public on Agenda Items – no comments
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from October, 2021 – A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, and seconded by Commissioner LeClair. Chairman Chase called a vote, all voted in favor, and the motion was carried.
- Old Business
 - Discuss Montville Conservation Center Operations and Maintenance
 - Councilor May stated that the DPW has not gotten back to him on the sign and other work requested yet. See attached email dated Sept 7 2021. Chairman Chase and Councilor May will follow up to get a commitment.

Letter to DPW
dated Sept 7 2021.p
Also, Councilor May plans to talk to Police Lt Radford to request that the MPD check the Conservation Center after hours to discourage people from frequenting the parking area after hours and leaving small bottles and other trash.
 - Approve update on Niantic 4-Town Bioretention Project. Mayor McDaniel, as of October 26 confirmed that he will take care of all details to be filed as of his confirmation dated October 26.
 - Chairman Chase had contacted the mayor a few days after our October 5 meeting, and the mayor said that he will take care of all details and the Conservation Commission has no duties to fulfill in this project.

- New Business
 - Proposed photovoltaic facility to be located at 486 Fitch Hill Road (Silver Brook Farm) owned by Conrad Nelson. Petition was filed (or to be filed) with the CT Siting Council by the end of June, 2021.
 - Commissioner LeClair stated that towns do not have a say in the siting of solar array fields. If towns have concerns about this use for agricultural lands, she suggests that an ordinance can be written, for instance defining uses of agricultural lands for other purposes. Councilor May stated that the developer/owner may approach the town to sign off on getting renewable energy credits. There was general discussion about potential stormwater runoff issues caused by a solar field, but potentially no request for Conservation Commission involvement is expected.
 - Discuss 2022-2023 budget as proposed by Finance Director Hart.
 - \$700 budget was proposed. Discussion about using the \$700 in addition to the America Cares Act funds that were approved for the Conservation Commission on improvements to the Montville Conservation Center.
- Comments from the Public – no comments
- Comments from Municipal Liaison – Councilor May will invite appropriate staff from the DPW to the next meeting to get input on proposed improvements to the Montville Conservation Center and provide a progress update. Councilor May also stated that the Conservation Commission can provide advice about improvements to the Mostow property.
- Comments from Commissioners – Commissioner LeClair proposed that the Conservation Commission website be improved by adding the locations of open space trails in town that Montville residents can enjoy. She will contact IT director Bill O’Neill. Commissioner Carver will also contact Mr. O’Neill regarding addition of QR codes and digitized maps to the website.
- Adjourn – Chairman Chase brought a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Carver. Motion carried.