

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting – August 17, 2022 -- 6:30 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

The Town of Montville has lifted the mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022, throughout Town facilities in coordination with our schools. Although the mask mandate has been lifted, Uncas Health strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comments 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.

Chairperson Southard called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Matt Beaupre, Noah Carver, Deborah Schober, Morgan Matthewson, Kate Southard, and Rocky Stone. Absent were Commissioners Jon Chase, Kevin Clang, and Denise Gladue. A quorum was present.

Also present was Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell. Director Peter Bushway was absent.

4. Adjustments to the Agenda. -- *None*

5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit).

Chairperson Southard asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Carver; seconded by Commissioner Beaupre to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2022. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Recreation Director's Report for August 2022. *No comments*

8. Report from Finance.

Commissioner Stone commented the report submitted by Director Bushway looks like the current years' budget and not the close out for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. That report will be requested for the next meeting.

9. September Newsletter.

Commissioner Matthewson inquired about the outdoor movie usually held in the summer. Chairperson Southard responded there was an issue with the screen last year. Commissioner Stone reported the Race Day event of having two (2) dates, September 11 and September 12. Director Bushway will be notified of the same.

10. Parks and Facilities

a. Walk Arounds

Chairperson Southard reported it was time to review the condition of the parks and facilities as done last year for reporting by the Commissioners at its October meeting. Commissioner Stone suggested the Commissioners keep their assigned site location from last year; Chairperson Southard will resurrect the assignment list and email it.

11. Unfinished Business.

a. Montville Farmers Market

Chairperson Southard reported the market has been doing well although the weather has been unbearable. A car show was held earlier this month and another is scheduled for September. Commissioner Matthewson asked about an indoor market for the winter. Chairperson Southard reported on discussion for pop-up markets during holidays, winter and spring; during off season. She said it was a possibility although it is a lot of work with having only five (5) members on the committee.

b. Status of ARPA Purchase Orders

Commissioner Stone reported that at the last ad-hoc committee meeting Phase I projects were discussed, the status of the projects and possibly taking back funds for them. He referenced Town Councilor Bunnell's comments regarding the funds. Town Councilor Bunnell reported on an August 4 email sent concerning a pre-bid meeting on August 23 at 11:00 a.m. and his understanding from Director Bushway on obtaining pricing for fence demolition and reconfiguration of the four (4) courts, \$650,000, and a total demolition of all asphalts and grading for \$680,000 in addition to the continually rising costs on all projects. Commissioner Beaupre explained the pricing discussed was from a vendor on the State approved list and said the bid process was done to get a better bid. Commissioner Matthewson commented on the reluctance to commit to project pricing that she has experienced with her employer. Town Councilor Bunnell stated he would attend the pre-bid meeting and provide more information. Commissioner Stone commented the cost does not include the pickleball courts, only the tennis courts, which is not what the Commission requested.

c. Parks Signage

Chairperson Southard reported the park signage would move forward given the appointment of a new Public Works Director (PWD). Commissioner Stone gave the signage list to the new PWD and reported the donated signs as well would be installed.

12. New Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve the choice of the Accessible Playground in the following order: Option 1, Option 3 or Option 2 based on adequate ARPA funding.

Motion by Commissioner Carver; seconded by Commissioner Matthewson Approve the choice of the Accessible Playground in the following order: Option 1, Option 3 or Option 2 based on adequate ARPA funding. Discussion: Chairperson Southard reported almost everyone liked Option 1 but the decision would be limited to what can be obtained given current funds. Commissioner Stone noted funds were sufficient and within budget as reported by Director Bushway at the July meeting. The Commission reviewed the options and noted Option 1 is already built and stated the new playground will be situated next to the existing one at the Community Center. Town Councilor Bunnell asked if a schedule for the project has been set; Commissioner Stone responded Director Bushway has to obtain a purchase order. Roll Call vote: *In favor:* Commissioners Beaupre, Carver, Matthewson, Schober, Southard, and Stone. *Opposed:* none. Motion carried.

b. Ice Rink

Chairperson Southard reported that she and Commissioner Stone had spoken last year about a ice rink and said two (2) Town Councilors had contacted them regarding the same. Feedback was requested from the Commission. Commissioner Stone the ice rinks are reusable, pre-built kits in varying sizes, 40' x 60' and 40' x 80'. Commissioner Schober asked about the liability issue associated with an ice rink; Commissioner Beaupre acknowledged a lot of towns have them and the issue can be resolved. Use of the ice rink for an outdoor festival or special events was suggested by Chairperson Southard; Commissioner Stone suggested preparing a proposal and approaching the ARPA Committee about a location somewhere at Camp Oakdale.

c. Bus Trip

Chairperson Southard reported it is time to move forward again with bus trips and will have Director Bushway research them. Commissioner Beaupre gave a recap on prior planned bus trips to Boston, Newport, and New York and said ticket sales for them are better if associated with an event.

d. Future Programs and Activities

Commissioner Beaupre reported on talk at the Farmers Market about having outdoor volleyball running teams two (2) nights a week. He also mentioned additional activities--horseshoe pits that are not being used, cornhole tournaments/leagues, pop-up Farmers Market with crafting for kids, a kickball league (Shoreline Sports has a league of younger adults in various spots in Connecticut.), and resurrecting a softball league involving the firefighters, police officers and the community. Town Councilor Bunnell commented on the last informal softball league that played on Sundays and was very popular and on one that still exists in Sprague. Commissioner Beaupre commented it had been a while since the Commission spoke on this Agenda item.

13. Communications.

Chairperson Southard reported she met Barry Ward at the Farmers Market last night who is an avid pickleball player who travels to Old Saybrook to play. Mr. Ward warned to be careful with the pickleball lines and dimensions and also noted these courts are smaller, easier to play, and the paddle is larger, than with tennis. As a nationally ranked player, he offered to provide pickleball clinics, at no charge, due to his love for the game.

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

Chairperson Southard asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell remarked on concern regarding the redistribution of ARPA funds and urged the Commission to contact the Town Council to explain that project delays are not related to the Commission.

16. Remarks from Parks & Recreation Director Bushway.

Director Bushway was absent from the meeting.

17. Remarks from the Commissioners. *None*

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Carver; seconded by Commissioner Beaupre to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, 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.**