

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2022, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order- meeting was called to order at 6:01p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence in Honor of our Military
- 3) Roll Call – Chairman Chase and Commissioners LeClair, Sabilia, and Bacon were present. Also present were Assistant Planner Bezanson and Councilor May
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Alterations to the Meeting Agenda -none
- 6) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items-none
- 7) Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 6, 2022-Commissioner LeClair moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Sabilia seconded the motion. Chairman Chase took a vote. Results were unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8) Communications- Chairman Chase received a communication from Inland Wetlands, which includes a permit to carry out the log work at the Conservation Center.
- 9) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Proposed species for CC plantings - pollinators versus dwarf evergreens? Chairman Chase hasn't heard from Frank Servo regarding specific recommendations for plants for the center of the parking lot. Chairman Chase noted that dwarf evergreens would require low maintenance, but pollinator plants would likely require more maintenance. Commissioner Sabilia spoke out in support of having both kinds. Chairman Chase and Commissioner Sabilia will continue to lead the effort to design a center planting area, which will be surrounded by a rock border, and to identify plant sources before spring, which is the target timing for planting. Several nearby plant sources and community members and youth groups were suggested as resources for this effort.
 - b) Beach blight resolution & sustainability funds availability? Note: this item refers to Beech tree blight. Frank Cervo noted a beech tree blight problem in his report and generally outlined a forest regeneration process. Chairman Chase will discuss this in more detail with Frank Cervo regarding possible treatment of larger trees and scope of the problem. Commissioner LeClair noted that work to address this problem may be eligible for a 1:1 match grant via Sustainable CT; however, the scope and budget would need to be defined for a grant application. Commissioner LeClair also noted another grant source that she had emailed to Chairman Chase, Commissioner Bacon, and

Councilor May. Commissioner LeClair recommends that the Commission consider a forest management plan for the Conservation Center, and ask Frank Cervo for guidance.

- c) Poisonous plants presentation? Archaeological / indigenous relics presentation? – Commissioners noted some examples of poisonous plants. Councilor May offered to contact UConn Ag extension in Norwich, and Assistant Planner Bezanson offered to reach out to DEEP to identify resources. Commissioners Sabilia and LeClair identified a speaker on indigenous stonework. Commissioner Sabilia will contact this speaker.
- d) Discussion of Sept. 9 Bond site walk- Chairman Chase, Commissioners LeClair and Bacon, and Councilor May attended the site walk with Avalonia leadership, who are seeking financial support from the Town of Montville to purchase the site. All who attended agreed that the site is a remarkable tract of land. that contains streams and ponds, and there are some good roads on the site that will help accessibility for recreation. Commissioner LeClair plans to attend the ARPA (“Ad-hoc covid committee”) meeting on Wednesday, October 12 at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers and has prepared comments for the meeting.

10) New Business

- a) Social media policy discussion – Assistant Planner Bezanson suggested revamping the Town web page for the Commission and considering a Town Facebook page. She is working to get a Town of Montville email account for the Conservation Commission. The emails will go to staff, who will then send it to the Chairman. She noted that misinformation was posted on a non-town Facebook site, and recommended that members contact the Chairman before posting anything to websites, to ensure accuracy. She provided copies of Resolution 2020-67, Town of Montville Social Media Policy, Revision 1, which covers use of social media tools on behalf of the Town. Councilor May noted that the intent of this social media policy is to regulate what is posted on the Town websites.

11) Comments from the Public -none

- 12) Comments from Town Council Liaison - Councilor May recently spoke with the Department of Public Works Director regarding these items for the Conservation Center: removal of the stump (to be completed very soon but not yet completed); installation of the new sign (expected next week); and post hole digging.

13) Comments from Commissioners. none

- 14) Adjourn. Commissioner Bacon motioned to adjourn and Commissioner LeClair seconded. Approved unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.