

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2023, 6:00 PM
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence in Honor of our Military
- 3) Roll Call- Chairman Nick Sabilia, Commissioners Paul Chase, Bonnie Bacon, and Vice Chairman John Guetens were present. John Guetens was read in as a voting Commissioner. Town Councilor Tim May was also present.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Alterations to the Meeting Agenda
- 6) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items
- 7) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 3, 2023 Commissioner Chase motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Guetens seconded. Unanimously approved.
- 8) Communications -none
- 9) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Garden update and discussion -Commissioner Chase will call American Landscape to verify whether the drawing scale of the proposed plantings is 15' X 30', which is the approximate size of the garden, and will contact a professional stonemason for an estimate on building a wall around the garden. The Purchase Order for the landscaping is in process. Councilor May stated that the picnic table and sign will be installed when DPW staff has availability. A discussion of any further improvements that would require use of the approved ARPA funds will be continued at the next meeting.
 - b) Beech blight update with Frank Cervo-Forester Cervo cancelled his walk at the conservation center. Commissioner Chase will work with him to reschedule the beech blight walk and to discuss whether he can provide tree identification along the main trails.
 - c) Follow up for presentation by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station on Invasive Insects. March 7, 7-8 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers. Assistant Planner Bezanson provided flyers for the upcoming invasive insect presentation. Chairman Sabilia will contact her to request more copies to put up in schools and businesses, and to leave copies in the Conservation Commission mailbox. He will also publicize on Facebook. Other commissioners can take copies to post in stores and the post offices.

Vice Chairman Guetens pointed out that ideally, a copy should be posted at the Conservation Center. At this time, the kiosk doesn't have a protected portion (a cover or movable plexiglass) for displaying copies. Vice Chairman Guetens will research a kiosk that would provide more capability. Councilor May will contact Kevin Arnold to discuss publicizing the talk in The Day and Montville Times.

- d) Discussion of scheduling a presentation by Markham Starr-Chairman Sabilia confirmed the date as April 4, 7-8 p.m., for the presentation "Ancient Stone Mysteries of New England" and has asked Mr. Starr to send photos and text to put into a flyer to publicize the event. He will look into reserving Council Chambers and confer with Assistant Planner Bezanson about the audiovisual capabilities of the room.

10) New Business Agenda:

- a) Discussion of adding information to the Conservation Commission Town Webpage information regarding invasive species. Chairman Sabilia motioned to accept a resolution to add the content to the webpage. Vice Chairman Guetens seconded the motion and the resolution was passed unanimously. Chairman Sabilia will contact Assistant Planner Bezanson to inform her.

11) Comments from the Public- none

- 12) Comments from Town Council Liaison – Councilor May encouraged commissioners to think about other conservation center needs that require use of ARPA funds, including a sign/signs asking people to take their trash out of the center.

13) Comments from Commissioners- none

14) Adjourn