

Town of Montville  
Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes  
October 3, 2023, 6:00 PM  
Room 102 – Town Hall

- 1) Call to Order -6:03 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call- Chairperson Sabilia, Commissioners Guetens, LeClair, Bacon, and Carver are present. Councilor May is present.
- 4) Presentations -Lights Out CT (Kari Wall). Director Wall is seeking to establish a program in Montville. Act 23-143 requires all state buildings to dim all outdoor lights from 11 p.m. – 6 a.m. to protect migrating birds.
- 5) Alterations to the Meeting Agenda – Lights Out discussion added as 10 e. Motioned by Commissioner LeClair and seconded by Commissioner Bacon. Approved unanimously.
- 6) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 7) Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 4, 2023 – Motioned by Commissioner LeClair, seconded by Commissioner Guetens. Approved unanimously.
- 8) Communications -none
- 9) Old Business Agenda
  - a) Conservation Center update
    - i. Kiosk -Chairperson Sabilia will get P.O. for kiosk.
    - ii. CT Trail Finder- Commissioner LeClair is filling in the form and received some input from other commissioners. She will circulate at the next meeting.
  - b) Garden club update – Three leaders (M Myers, A Heckle, C Hinojosa) from the Garden club spoke. A number of people have reached out through sign up or via facebook, wanting to join the club. The leaders will invite them to meet to discuss the direction of the club. They may also connect with youth, seniors and scouts, and may work with the Raymond Library to connect with potential members. They have finished cleaning up the area of the veteran’s memorial near the old town hall.
  - c) Participation in community expo event at Raymond Library September 30<sup>th</sup> - Commissioner Hess and Councilor May manned the booth and talked with other organizations. The Garden Club also had a booth. Seeds were given away.
  - d) Nips update – Councilor May said that the town has ironed out some legal issues with paying organizations to clean up, but the initiative is still not fully realized.

10) New Business Agenda

- a) Installing bench donated by Montville Lions Club - Chairman Sabilia will contact Bruce Engelman of the Lions Club. Director Wall stated that the benches are made from recycled plastic wrapping, which is collected by the Lions Club and is collected at the library. (Note by secretary added later: <https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/montvillect/page-10.php>). Councilor May will discuss installation of a concrete pad with DPW.
- b) Planning a fall walk – Commissioner Carver will put out a public service address (PSA) regarding the trails available in Montville. There was a discussion of planning a Walktober walk for next year. The Raymond Library would like to participate in this.
- c) Trails day planning- Commissioner LeClair is on the CT Trails contact list and suggested adding others to the list. Some ideas discussed included having a forestry guide or other expert, geocaching, other activities.
- d) Discussion of remaining funds and uses -bags and bag holder for dog feces; tree signs; signs directing people to put trash in the can; mulch/crushed shells to keep weeds from the paths (Commissioner Carver will source/price out crushed shells and touch base with an expert as to whether this is appropriate)
- e) Lights Out CT discussion – Director Wall noted that some towns, for example Greenwich, are implementing the State guidelines. Commissioner LeClair suggested that town buildings could turn off lights during those hours, and requested that Director Wall forward a media kit to Chairperson Sabilia which the Commission can post on our Facebook page and website. Chairperson Sabilia will draft a letter for the Town Council. Councilor May noted that all streetlights in Montville are now downcast with LED lightbulbs.

11) Comments from the Public -the Raymond Library will host a talk on Nov 2 (Thursday) at 6 p.m. on Landscaping for Water Quality, with Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Project Manager for the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

12) Comments from Town Council Liaison -none

13) Comments from Commissioners – Commissioner Bacon attended the Niantic River Watershed Summit on Sept 12 in Waterford. She noted that Director of Land Use and Development Liz Burdick and Assistant Planner Meredith Badalucca were also in attendance, and stated that she will give a short presentation about the highlights at the next meeting.

14) Adjourn – 7:39 p.m.