

Town of Montville  
Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2024, 6:00 PM  
Room 102 – Town Hall

**Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk at [townclerk@montville-ct.org](mailto:townclerk@montville-ct.org) at least **1 working day in advance**.**

**Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Mayor, Council, Board or Commission.**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call- John Guetens, Adam Heckle, Nick Sabilia (Town Council Liaison). Chair Guetens requested a motion to allow (Alternate) Commissioner Hess to stand in for Commissioner Carver (absent) and (Alternate) Commissioner Wall to stand in for Commissioner LeClair. Motion was unanimously approved. Arriving after roll call: Bonnie Bacon and Jeff Carver. Town Council Chair May and Mayor Bunnell were present.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Alterations to the Meeting Agenda -Commissioner Hess motioned to add an item to New Business regarding a sign from the Girl Scouts. Commissioner Wall seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.
- 6) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 7) Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2024 -passed with correction to two typing errors
- 8) Communications -none
- 9) Old Business Agenda
  - a) Conservation Center update -signs, dog waste bags, tree tags, trail markers, concrete pad installation, bench repairs
    - Signs- “No Motorcycle” signs were posted: two at entrances off power lines, one at the Black Ash entrance, one at the front entrance/parking lot. Question was raised and suggestion made that we reference the town ordinance with a small sign underneath the posted signs. Councilor May to research what ordinance number covers this.
    - Chair shared quotes from Critical Signs on the two additional Montville Conservation Center signs discussed at February meeting for placement at Black Ash entrance and trail entrance extension at Fair Oaks Community Center. Commissioner Hess made a

motion for the Chair to request a PO for \$800 for the two signs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bacon and passed unanimously.

- Dog Waste Station- email was sent by Chair Guetens to Public Works, and station has been ordered. There was discussion around placing it near the trail entrance, with consideration of keeping it far enough away from the kiosk and bench to avoid “odor” at that location.
  - Trail Markers- no update
  - Tree Tags- Commissioner Heckle created a list of trees types to identify with tags. Chair Guetens will place PO request with Public Works after discussing with vendor the option of including QR Code on each tag that would point to web site with info on tree.
  - Concrete pads have been placed for picnic table and bench at front entrance.
  - Chair has approached Boy Scouts (Troop Leader John Carlson) about having them repair the wood benches on trails and also with an invitation to discuss other projects that the troop might be interested in assisting.
- b) CT Trails update-Completed, conservation center trails and description have been added to the CT Trail website.
- c) Horton Cove Trail update- Letter was sent from Chair Guetens to Council Chair May, requesting oversight of the Horton Cove trails property by the Conservation Commission. Council Chair May will place a resolution on the Town Council agenda for March 11 meeting. Chairman May recommends that the Town Council recognize Tyler Lawton for his work by naming the trails Lawton Trails at Horton Cove.
- d) Website update - Commissioner Wall will continue to work on building the website with a goal of having it completed by the next meeting
- e) Garden club update - Meeting scheduled for March 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the library to discuss planned projects and priorities. Need for mulch was discussed. Commissioner Heckle will verify that Public Works doesn't use mulch from the dump.
- f) Trail Day and Arbor Day– subcommittee update
- Trail Day subcommittee has suggested Guided Walks and a Scavenger Hunt for the Trail Day activities. The including of prizes for those who complete the scavenger hunt was discussed. Trail Day is Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>, and we would schedule a “rain day” of Sunday June 2. Discussed promotion of the event with elementary schools, through Facebook pages and any town electric sign options, as well as other resources. Details will be discussed by the committee and presented to commission during the April meeting, plans finalized by the May meeting.
  - Arbor Day- falls on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Bulk seedlings cost \$79 for 50 trees through the Arbor Day Foundation. Thought is that we can promote celebration of Arbor Day on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at the conservation center and offer seedlings to either plant on the property or for visitors to take home with them. Promotion with elementary schools in particular to encourage parents of younger students to come down to the conservation center. Chair requested motion to approve purchase of three types of tree saplings (150 total), agreed on Eastern White Pine, Northern Red Oak and Sugar Maple.
- g) Nips update

- Councilman Sabilia to work on a graphic that can be shared electronically or printed to promote the program. Commissioner Hess described the recent proposed Bill by the State Legislature to authorize towns to individually prohibit the sale of nips within their jurisdiction. As proposed, the town would have to hold a public hearing for the community to discuss.

10) New Business Agenda

- Commissioner Wall shared a request by the Girl Scouts to post “Leave No Trace” signs at the conservation center. She shared the sign graphic with the commission, all agreed to allow them to be placed at the conservation center and suggested one be placed at the Horton Cove trail entrance as well.

11) Comments from the Public-none

12) Comments from Town Council Liaison-none

13) Comments from Commissioners-

- Chair Guetens shared that he has two keys for the new kiosk at the conservation center and that he would have additional keys made, one to be given to Public Works so they have access and a key in the possession of the Town (Council Liaison Sabilia).
- Work Day at conservation center was discussed and scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Work planned on trails, cleanup of area as well as possibly adding a cleanup to the four corners roadside at Old Colchester/Chesterfield Rd intersection. Chair Guetens will promote via Facebook page.
- Chair Guetens shared an article on an archeological “souterrain” structure that was forwarded to him by Isaac Tate (member Planning and Zoning).
- Commissioner Bacon noted the improvements and progress that is being made by the Commission at the MCC.

14) Adjourn-8:10 p.m.