

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
April 2, 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 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- 6:02 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call -Chair Guetens, Commissioner Heckle, Commissioner LeClair, and Commissioner Bacon were present. Alternate Commissioner Hess was read in as a voting member to replace Commissioner Carver. Town Council Liaison Sabilia was present. Town Council Chair May and Mayor Bunnell were present.
- 4) Presentations -none
- 5) Alterations to the Meeting Agenda
- 6) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none
- 7) Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2024 – one typo found. Commissioner Bacon moved to approve, Commissioner Heckle seconded. Commissioners Heckle, Bacon, Guetens and Hess voted to approve, and Commissioner LeClair abstained.
- 8) Communications -none
- 9) Old Business Agenda
 - a) Conservation Center update- including forest management plan -Forester Frank Cervo will walk through the Conservation Center with Commissioner Heckle on April 18 to recommend items for the forest management plan and identify beech trees that need to be treated for beech blight. Commissioner Heckle stated that CT extension recommends dilute polyphosphate be used at the base of infected trees to treat. Commissioner Hess moved for Commissioner Heckle to purchase 1 gallon of polyphosphate. Commissioner LeClair seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Chair Guetens stated that two Conservation Center entrance signs were ordered for the Black Ash and Fair Oaks entrances. He will provide pricing from Critical Signs for signposts to DPW Director Carlson. Still waiting for the dog waste station to come in. Chair Guetens will write a Purchase Order request for 10 bags of mulch for the flower garden. On March 30, Chair Guetens and Commissioner Heckle built more walkways

(bog logs) on the blue trail at the Conservation Center. Town Council Chair May also assisted. Commissioner Bacon cleared some trails of brush and sticks.

Chair Guetens observed that motorized vehicles have been coming through the Conservation Center, despite signage. On Sunday, Chair Guetens observed some destruction of the trails due to motorized vehicles. There was some discussion whether (partially) blocking some entrances with stone or wooden barriers would prevent access by motorized vehicles. Chair Guetens will research what ordinance is relevant to this situation and post the ordinance.

- b) Horton Cove Trail update – A discussion took place around the historical name of “Haughton Cove”. However, official maps have this as “Horton Cove”. Mayor Bunnell is developing a citation to honor Tyler Lawton’s work on the trail. The Town Council approved a resolution to have the Conservation Commission oversee upkeep of the trails.
- c) Website update- tabled because Commissioner Wall was not present.
- d) Garden club update -subcommittee update: Commissioner Heckle stated that the club discussed mulching of town flower beds in the area of the Town Hall and Old Town Hall. Mayor Bunnell volunteered to discuss mulch with DPW Director Carlson (who will buy the mulch and who will put it down). Edging was also discussed to prevent mulch from washing away. Commissioner Heckle will send the mayor information regarding the Garden club to post on the electronic bill board.
- e) Trail Day and Arbor Day– subcommittee update – nothing will be done on Arbor Day (April 26), but saplings are being ordered to give away on Trails Day. The saplings will be for participants to take home or to plant at the Conservation Center in a designated area. Commissioner LeClair will post information on Trails Day, which will include a guided walk at the Conservation Center starting at 10:30 a.m. on Trails Day (June 1, rain date June 2) and a scavenger hunt.
- f) Nips update – The fund-raising cleanup program is fully operational under Montville’s Adopt a Road program, and several youth groups have participated. A flyer is being developed by the Mayor’s Office. Town Council Liaison Sabilia provided a copy (to Commissioner Hess) of the documents required to be filled out by participants and answered some questions about the requirements and process. Commissioner Hess went through the documents and noted to commissioners that the process is complex. She suggested that a flow chart or guidance be provided on steps required to complete all of the paperwork. The paperwork is available through public works, because DPW has the equipment needed to do the cleanup work.

10) New Business Agenda -none

11) Comments from the Public -none

12) Comments from Town Council Liaison – no additional comments

13) Comments from Commissioners- Commissioners will take a walk through the Mostowy property adjacent to Camp Oakdale on **Sunday, April 7 at 12:00 p.m.** and will park on the upper right-hand side of the ball fields parking lot (upper Camp Oakdale parking lot) to access the Mostowy property from the trail that runs behind the football field.

14) Adjourn – 8:48 p.m.