

Town of Montville  
Conservation Commission

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Special Meeting Minutes  
December 27, 2018, 7:00 PM  
Montville Town Hall, Room 102

*Call to Order*

- Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM.

*Roll Call*

- Commissioners Present: DiNoto, Emilyta, Chase, LeClair
- Commissioner Absent: Crossley
- Municipal Liaison: Councilman McNally

*Amendments of Agenda*

- None.

*Comments from the Public on Agenda Items*

- None.

*Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from November 27, 2018*

- Commissioner Emilyta made a motion to approve, Commissioner DiNoto seconded. Unanimously approved.

*Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2018*

- Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve, Commissioner DiNoto seconded. Unanimously approved.

*Correspondence*

- The Commission has received a great deal of correspondence over the past several years. Commission members will review the correspondence and report out at the next meeting of the Commission.

*Old Business*

- Discuss Opportunities for the Mostoway Property
  - The Mostoway property is located adjacent to Camp Oakdale. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Conservation Commission met to walk the property. Commissioners in attendance on the 9<sup>th</sup> shared reflections of the site walk.
  - The Montville Parks and Recreation Commission is developing a strategic plan for the future of the property; currently there are about 15 acres of wetlands on the site. The Montville Town Planner has a map of the property with the wetland areas depicted.

- The Conservation Commission will try to have a representative(s) attend a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to learn more about the plans for the site and identify ways to collaborate.
  - The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is January 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

### *New Business*

- Discuss Possible Letter of Support to the Avalonia Land Conservancy for a Grant Application to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program to Acquire 41 Beckwith Road.
  - Commissioners discussed the Avalonia Land Conservancy grant proposal. Commissioner Chase made a motion to endorse a letter of support for the application, and Commissioner Emilyta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Discuss Fire Street Property.
  - A Commissioner was recently notified that there might be a culturally and historically important area located at a privately owned property on Fire Street.
  - The Commissioner learned of concerns that an outside entity might put the area at risk. The Conservation Commission will discuss the issue with the Montville Town Historian and attempt to identify the current landowner(s) and will continue to investigate the possible situation.
- Election of Officers.
  - Chairman: Commissioner LeClair was nominated Chairman by Commissioner Chase, seconded by Commissioner DiNoto, and unanimously approved.
  - Vice Chairman: Commissioner Chase was nominated Vice Chairman by Commissioner LeClair, seconded by Commissioner Emilyta, and unanimously approved.
  - Secretary: Commissioner LeClair was nominated Secretary by Commissioner Chase, seconded by Commissioner DiNoto, and unanimously approved.
  - Treasurer: Commissioner DiNoto was nominated Treasurer by Commissioner LeClair, seconded by Commissioner Emilyta, and unanimously approved.
  - Substitute Presiding Officer: Commissioner Emilyta was nominated Substitute Presiding Officer by Commissioner DiNoto, seconded by Commissioner LeClair, and unanimously approved.

### *Comments from the Public*

- Gary Blackstone, former Conservation Commission Chairman and member for 18 years presented the history of the Montville Conservation Center and the roll of the Conservation Commission in the Center's maintenance and development.
- The Conservation Center was designed to have two main areas; a managed area (located near the school bus garage), and an unmanaged area (the stream on the property divides the two areas). The intent of this design was to showcase human influence versus natural succession through a living classroom. The last time the property was managed was in the early 2000s.
- There is a duck pond built by the Army Corps of Engineers in the Conservation Center. There is an island in the pond that serves as a waterfowl roosting location.

- In the past the Conservation Commission has allowed non-impact camping at the Center, as well as the installation of several Eagle Scout projects.
- Mr. Blackstone recommended that the Conservation Commission cultivate a relationship with science teachers at the Montville Middle and High Schools to see if there is interest in utilizing the Conservation Center as an outdoor classroom. Additionally, Mr. Blackstone recommended contacting local scouting organizations to share the resource.
- The Montville Rotary Club would like to do a project at the Conservation Center. Rotary members will be in contact with the Conservation Commission to discuss opportunities.

#### *Comments from Commissioners*

- The Commission is interested in learning more about the Rotary opportunity.
- Commissioners would like a map(s) of open space property owned by the Town. Commissioner DiNoto will request such map(s) from the Planning Department.
- Commissioners will walk the Conservation Center trails prior to the next Special Meeting of the Montville Conservation Commission to assess the condition of the site. In the future, the Commission may opt to share information on the Center with the public via the Town of Montville website.
- Commissioners would like to reach out to existing connections with scouting organizations to gauge interest in scouting projects at the Conservation Center.

#### *Motion to Adjourn*

- Commissioner Chase made a motion to adjourn, Commission DiNoto seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.