

Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes (Amended)
August 3, 2021, 7:15 PM
Room 203
Montville Town Hall

- Call to Order
 - Chair Chase called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
- Roll Call
 - Commissioners Chase, Carver and Bacon were present.
 - Councilman May was present.
- Approval of Agenda
 - Commissioner Carver added an agenda item regarding foraging deer in the Lathrop subdivision neighborhood. Commissioner Carver moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Bacon seconded.
- Comments from the Public on Agenda Items
 - NA.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 6, 2021
 - Commissioner Carver moved for approval of the minutes, Commissioner Bacon seconded, unanimously approved.
- Old Business
 - Discuss Montville Conservation Center Operations and Maintenance
 - Review status of elevated walkways in wetlands at the Nature Center. Chair Chase has noted that he has sections of board, 6'8" long by 3'8" wide by 6" thick, to donate for walkways .
 - Commissioner Bacon and Councilor May had measured the boardwalks in Maple Farm Park (Bozrah), and these were constructed from 3 8"X2" boards, nailed at 5' intervals to 1' diameter logs that rested on the ground (soil) or on rocks. Material was not determined. Commissioners discussed oak or cedar as possible material. Councilor May had measured some muddy sections on the Blue Trail of the Montville Conservation Center that are from 60' to 110' long. There are also muddy sections near the western bridge on the Yellow Trail. Commissioner Carver suggested using crushed clamshells (\$130 for 1 cubic yard) as pathway liners, to keep things from growing and provide nutrients to enrich the ground without adding nitrogen to the soil. Councilor May noted that although there are

also muddy stretches at Camp Oakdale, the Parks and Rec commission is responsible for Camp Oakdale trails.

- Review status of kiosk, trail markers, entrance sign
Kiosk: Chair Chase called for vote to replace plexiglass on the kiosk. Vote passed unanimously. The map may eventually be replaced to include QR code. ACTION: Commissioner Carver and Councilor May will go to Montville Hardware for plexiglass, and then replace the damaged plexiglass.
 - Entrance sign: The entrance sign is to be two sided. Councilman May has already spoken to Public Works and will craft an email to request the 2-sided entrance sign which will be dark green with white lettering.
- American Rescue Plan funds for conservation projects (Councilman May)
 - There are potentially funds that can be used for trails and community activities. The uses for the money are limited to covid-related projects. The Commission voted to request \$10,000 from the Montville Town Council subcommittee on the American Rescue Plan funds. Approved unanimously. ACTION: Chair Chase will email the subcommittee requesting \$10,000 to support repairs and improvements to the Montville Conservation Center. Commissioner Bacon will assist in drafting the email.
 - New Business
 - Discussion on Open Space and the possibility of the Town of Montville establishing a fund to acquire desirable land as it becomes available for sale

Chairman Chase noted that we may want to preserve some of the rural character of the town by acquiring and preserving open space land, including non-forested land. Some properties are up for sale, for instance across Route 163 from the recently acquired Mostowy property. Councilor May noted that potential properties for open space are identified in the long term (10 year) Economic Development Plan for the town created in 2010 by Marcia Vlaun. [This document is available at the town website via the following link [DownloadFile.aspx \(townofmontville.org\)](#)]. For instance, the Mostowy property and land near Pink Row were previously identified and then acquired. The benefit of identifying these properties in the Economic Development Plan is that the town may be eligible for grants to assist in the purchase. The EDP is handled through the Planning Department. There is a new 10 year EDP being developed now for 2021-2030. Commissioner Carver clarified that conservation lands allow for human usage.

ACTION: Chair Chase to set criteria or identify specific properties and meet with Marcia Vlaun to get those into the new Economic Development Plan.

- Deer issues

Commissioner Carver discussed the abundance of deer invading the Lathrop subdivision which is causing problems, and was advised by Chair Chase to consult with the DEEP about possible remedies for this issue.

- Comments from the Public
 - NA
- Comments from Municipal Liaison
 - Councilor May stated that designating the Mostowy property as passive recreation will be put to a vote at the next Town Council Meeting. Also, he will continue to work with the Public Works Department to get the requested improvements and maintenance done (pruning on Blue Trail, installing 2-sided entrance sign, constructing walkways over muddy sections)
- Comments from Commissioners
 - No additional comments
- Adjourn
 - The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.