

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting – August 19, 2026 -- 6:30 p.m.
Room 203 – Montville Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comments by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

This was an informational meeting; a quorum was not present.

1. Call to order.

Chairperson Stone called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Chairperson Rocky Stone, Vice-Chair William Barlow, Commissioners Morgan Matthewson and Deborah Schober. Absent were Commissioners William Bauer, Jon Chase, Mary Hillman and John Plikus. A quorum was not present.

Also present were Recreation Director Peter Bushway and Town Council Liaison Kate Southard. Mayor Lenny Bunnell was absent.

4. Alternations to the Agenda -- None

5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit).

Chairperson Stone asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve. – No action

- a. Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2026
- b. Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2026

7. Recreation Director's Report for August 2026.

Recreation Director Bushway reported on Department activities as follows:

- The new bathrooms at Fair Oaks are working well but work needs to be done on the other facility.
- For the pickleball court bid process opened last Wednesday for the \$175,000 grant funded project. Expensed was \$10,000 for this process.
- There has been some costs for the Camp Oakdale project and work for it will go out to bid in the fall. Work on it will be done in June-July of 2027. Funds for the bid process is in the Public Works budget.

Town of Montville – Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2026

- Summer Camp concluded on August 7th, and it was noted that phones did not always work. Discussion was had about use of the tent and its location that was distanced from the parked cars. The attendance level was low, 160 participants, for the first couple of weeks and many did not want to be in the tent. Normally, there are 180-220 kids.
- Two (2) concerts were cancelled, and one (1) band could not accommodate with the replacement date.
- Revisions are being made to the large pavilion drainage and site plan. The \$27,000 for the cameras is under consideration as an addition to the project.
- Discussion was had that the fireworks for the carnival had to be rescheduled to the Police Department's National Night Out.

8. Report from Finance.

Recreation Director Bushway noted that there is not currently a spending phase. As to the fee increase for rentals, some reservations were made for Camp Oakdale prior to the fee change. Use of signage has been problematic; two (2) bags of clips were purchased and 50-60 are dispersed for each rental. The new trash receptacles have a smaller opening and placement of them needs to be considered for continued use and signage for them is needed. Per Town Councilor Southard, one (1) receptacle was placed near the grills, and another will be taken to the fishing pier. The Recreation Director noted that there have been fewer large crowds and permits must be had if the police or Public Works Director shows up. The rental that resulted in oil spillage on the grass has been taken care of.

9. September Newsletter.

Recreation Director Bushway reported that the September issue of the newsletter is a work in progress as he continues to get information. Discussion was had about emails received concerning the cross country group that may cause pushback although it seems to be educational and worthy of support. Also mentioned was the volleyball car wash. Further discussion included half-page ads and revisions to the Department website.

10. Unfinished Business.

Chairperson Stone and Recreation Director Bushway reported on unfinished business as follows:

a. Projects and funding status:

1) Pickleball Parking Improvements (\$175,000 State Bond)

The Chairperson reported that the bids for the improvements have been received and the hope is that the work will get done next year.

2) Large Pavilion Phase 1 Parking Improvements (\$200,000 State Bond)

Chairperson Stone reported that work continues to finalize the plan and get it out to bid. Recreation Director Bushway reported on new planters obtained for review.

3) Pickleball Camera Project (\$26,250 CIP Budget)

The Recreation Director responded that the pole for the camera is not installed. What is needed is to get the conduit and/or wire to the pole. Town Councilor Southard also reported that service from Frontier must also be installed.

4) Pickleball privacy screen (approved up to \$2,500 from Fund #079)

Town of Montville – Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2026

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Recreation Director Bushway reported the privacy screen has arrived but without the zip ties. A call was made to the vendor for them as they must be a certain strength to sustain wind. The zip ties will be removed in the spring.

5) Camp Oakdale Parking Improvements (\$1,150,000 CIF Grant)

Chairperson Stone reported that the bid package will go out this year for work to begin next year.

6) Community Center Discussions

Chairperson Stone reported that this item added again to the meeting agenda for discussion at will.

11. New Business.

a. Program Fees

Chairperson Stone reported on having asked Recreation Director Bushway for a summary of income and expenses for all Department programs. Expenses included instructor fees and supplies that includes first aid item which is minimal. The purpose of the report was to take a snapshot for the year to include the number of persons participating in the programs and whether there were surprises or not. Also noted was that Eva works hard on the website entry; 1300 kids participated in dance classes and 400 in soccer. As to lacrosse, 40% of participants are from out-of-town and football numbers looked low. The Recreation Director noted that many kids take multiple classes using dance as an example and that yoga had one (1) class this year but will restart the first of September. Town Counselor Southard noted that the profits go back into the program and pay for maintenance, electricity--overhead that does not meet costs. It was also noted that the programs are not about making and/or losing money. Recreation Director Bushway commented about the fees that other towns charge and partnering with them to balance the sessions in order to increase the numbers was suggested by Commissioner Matthewson.

12. Communications. -- None

13. Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit).

Chairperson Stone asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison Southard.

Town Counselor Southard reported that she had made all of her remarks.

15. Remarks from Parks & Recreation Director Bushway. -- None

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Schober remarked that she would be at a conference in Philadelphia and would not be at the next meeting.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Schober; seconded by Vice-Chair Barlow to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: all in favor. Motion approved.**

Respectfully submitted by,

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Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary
Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON
THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE UNDER THE “RESOURCES” LINK.**