Town of Montville
Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2026, 6:00 PM
Room 203 – 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 – 6:00 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call - Chair John Guetens, Vice Chair Jess LeClair, Secretary Bonnie Bacon, Treasurer Adam Heckle, Commissioner Catherine Hinojosa, Alternate Commissioner Elaine Hess. Also present: Mayor Leonard Bunnell Sr., Town Council Liaison Nick Sabilia

4) Presentations - none

5) Comments from the Public on Agenda Items -none

6) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2026 – Vice Chair LeClair motioned to approve, Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7) Communications - Montville housing plan public workshop Nov 16, 6-8 p.m. at the Town Hall, Council Chambers. The email from Katherine Rose was circulated to all Conservation Commissioners.

8) Old Business Agenda
   a) Conservation Center update - Cleanup was on Sat Oct 31 at 9 a.m. A bridge by the beaver dam and another bridge were out of place and were moved back into place. Trails were cleared with clippers.
   Commissioner Hess noted there is a bat house on a tree near the pond which is probably not oriented correctly. She will print out info on how a bat house should be oriented (facing south, on a pole) and bring it to the next meeting. A tree needs to be cut down near parking lot. Chair Guetens will mark it with orange tape for Dept Public Works to take down. Commissioner Heckle made a motion to increase the amount approved for trail markers to $150, seconded by Secretary Bacon. The motion was nanimously approved.
   At a future meeting, the commission will discuss replacing the map at the main entrance with something nicer -Chair Guetens has identified a weatherproof map style and has gotten a price quote. The Mayor suggested speaking with the Land Use and Development Department to ensure approval for the sign. Further discussion regarding a new sign or repurposing the old sign will be scheduled for the next meeting.

b) Garden Club update – The club is working on pruning and cleaning the Veteran's Memorial Garden before the Veteran's Day ceremony (Nov 11). A Liberty tree (white oak seedling) – was requested by Commissioner Hess from UConn and she will pick it upthis week. It will be planted by the Garden Club near Lawton Trail. Commissioner Heckle will take a photo of the proposed spot and send that to the Department of Public Works for approval before planting.
c) Budget update -There is $500 left for this year according to Commissioner Heckle. If a new sign with a map is being considered for the Conservation Center, the estimated cost will be submitted as a request in next year's budget.

9) New Business Agenda - none

10) Comments from the Public -none

11) Comments from Town Council Liaison -Avalonia will have a guided hike at Glemboski-Ous on November 20, 9-10:30 a.m.(search "weekly wanderers" at Avalonia.org)

12) Comments from Commissioners -Commissioner Hess discussed Montville Cemetery Group cleanup work and planning for signs for Montville cemeteries.

Chair Guetens requested that any commissioner who has time should do a walkthrough at Lawton Trail before the next meeting. If issues are found, the commission may plan a workday, perhaps this winter.

13) Adjourn – 6:45 p.m.