

Town of Montville
Ad-Hoc COVID-19 Impact Study Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Montville Town Hall

Town of Montville has lifted the mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022 throughout Town facilities in coordination with our schools. Although the mask mandate has been lifted, Uncas Health strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors.

1. Call to Order
Chairman Mandler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call (Councilors Caron, Mandler, and McNally)
Present were Councilors Caron, Mandler and McNally.
4. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2022
Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
5. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda (3-minute limit) – *none*
6. Old Business – *none*
7. New Business
 - a. Gravel parking lot for new walking trail at Public Safety Building (Estimates and Diagram)
Chairman Mandler provided the estimates and diagram for the gravel parking lot. It was noted that \$1,000.00 has already been allocated to the Police Department. It being Town property, it was agreed that additional funds may be allocated for the project. The project will be completed by the Public Works Department.
Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to allocate an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for the gravel parking for the walking trail, adjacent to the Public Safety Building. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

- b. Request from Avalonia Land Conservancy for funding for the purchase of the Bond property \$560,000.00

Terri Eickel, Director of Development & Programming, Avalonia Land Conservancy, provided the Councilors with promotional material, including a Case Statement for the Bond property. She provided a brief background of the Conservancy, which currently stewards and manages over 4,600 acres of land in southeastern Connecticut.

Approximately 100 properties are in conservation, 45 to 48 of which offer trails for a variety of activities. They are currently in the process of expanding their holdings to the Montville and Bozrah area. The proposed Bond property, located on Beckwith Road, consists of 669 acres of highly developable land. The bulk of the property is wild, providing habitat for wildlife and protecting the drinking water for the towns of New London, Waterford, and part of East Lyme. The acquisition would also provide 2,900 acres of contiguous wildlife corridor, important to prevent the loss of species due to habitat loss. Approximately 17 acres of the Bond property was used for gravel extraction and would provide roads and trails for numerous recreational activities. In addition, the property is located one mile from one of the Town's elementary schools and could provide a living classroom for the schoolchildren. While the asking price for the property is \$5.5 million, the Conservancy's goal is to raise \$6 million to cover the costs of stewardship, provide an endowment, and legal expenses. To date, they have raised approximately \$2.5 million with several promising leads and opportunities, including a \$500,000.00 matching grant should they be successful in raising an additional \$1.1 million in non-Federal Funds. The Town's financial support is critical in reaching its funding goal. They are requesting that towns fund 10% of the asking price. The property would become the Conservancy's largest preserve. Their goal is to close on the property by December 2022. She continued to explain the many benefits of the purchase and offered to send a PowerPoint presentation and brief video regarding the property.

Access/Parking & Tour (Chairman Mandler) – The public will have access to the property to engage in a variety of recreational activities and parking will be available. Trailheads will be placed marking the entrance/exit to/from the property and a site plan will be drafted. A tour, highlighting the key areas, may be arranged.

Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to table the item, pending a tour of the property and additional information. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. Request from Finance Department for Everbridge invoice \$7,715.70, WPCA paid \$2571.90 total bill \$10,287.60

Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to allocate \$7,715.70 for the Everbridge invoice. Discussion: The allocation is a one-time payment. Finance Director Hart stated that the funds were originally allocated through another fund, which has since been closed. The item is included in the FY2022/23 budget. Based on the population breakdown, the WPCA agreed to contribute 25% of the costs. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Remarks from the public (3-minute limit)

Heather Pettengill, 384 Raymond Hill Road, requested that the Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, and the public be invited to review and tour the property with the Committee. She also questioned whether funds were also being requested from the surrounding communities whose drinking water the property protects. She expressed her support for conservancy but also felt the need to watch their funds.

9. Remarks from the Councilors

Councilor Caron reported that he has met with the Library regarding their future requests which will be presented to the Committee in the near future.

Chairman Mandler expressed his support for preserving and upgrading the town's infrastructure, some of which have been neglected. He stated that Committee must evaluate the benefit of all of the requests to the Town.

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor McNally, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 2-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES