

**Town of Chester  
Wason Pond Commission Meeting  
Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
Municipal Complex Meeting Room  
Approved Minutes**

**I. Call to Order – Open Meeting**

As Acting Chairman, Mr. Myette called this meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission to order at 7:06pm.

Members Present:

Chris Hadik, Member at Large  
Stephen O. Landau, Selectman Liaison  
Chuck Myette, Acting Chair; Treasurer / Conservation Commission  
Darrell Quinn, Alternate  
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Commission

Members Absent:

Patrick Connelly  
Tom Edwards, Member at Large  
Kevin Kistler, Recreation Commission  
Herb Rowell, Alternate / Chester Seniors

Members of the Public Present, at Various Times:

Caelan Dunwoody  
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times

**I. New Business**

**a. Boy Scout Flora and Fauna Sign Project – Caelan Dunwoody**

Caelan Dunwoody appeared before the Commission to propose his Eagle Scout Service Project. Mr. Dunwoody wishes to create a kiosk in the vicinity of the Community Center as a means to educate visitors on the Flora and Fauna of the area so that greater appreciation and conservation may be attained. Mr. Myette noted that this would be very similar to the kiosk built by Greg Lowell on North Pond Road.

A proposal packet was passed around for review by each member of the Commission present; and included preliminary graphics, plans, descriptions, etc. of the project as well as the official Eagle Scout Service Project application form. Mr. Dunwoody hopes to place cedar shingles on the roof, and had obtained pricing information from Home Depot. Custom printed posters with plants on one side and animals on the reverse, for example, would provide the visual aid for this project; which would be constructed next Spring pending Eagle Board approval.

Mr. Hadik made a motion to approve the project concept pending actual plans and location; Ms. Reishus seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Mr. Landau having abstained due to association with the Scouts, and with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler, and Rowell absent; so moved.

Mr. Dunwoody explained that ideally the Commission would sign the proposal this evening for submittal to the Eagle Board the first Wednesday of the month. An approximate cost of three hundred and seventy-one dollars (\$371.00) for materials plus ~twenty dollars (~\$20.00) per each custom poster was noted by Mr. Dunwoody. Mr. Hadik suggested having extra poster(s) printed since they tend to fade; Mr. Dunwoody agreed.

Mr. Landau noted that although the Commission could provide the approval for Mr. Dunwoody to proceed with this project, the Board of Selectmen could also sign off on the legal end of this project should the Commission wish; Mr. Myette agreed.

Mr. Dunwoody departed the meeting at 7:22pm.

### **b. Police Reports / Security Update**

Mr. Landau explained that the Board of Selectmen and the Police Department enlisted the services of the security firm, Securitas. Securitas has provided monitoring on Saturdays, Sundays, and a couple of weeknights per week at approximately thirty dollars (\$30.00) per hour for approximately thirty-five (35) hours per week. During the weekend prior to hiring this service, there were six to seven (6-7) arrests made at the area for disorderly conduct, drugs, etc.; with none of those individuals arrested being from Chester.

Another major issue involves animals; particularly unleashed dogs, and both dogs and horses not being picked up after. Mr. Landau recently received a report from an individual whose grandchild was digging on the beach and came upon dog droppings; it was reiterated that there is no such thing as a "dog beach" at the area.

Ms. Reishus confirmed that the Rules for the Area prohibited pets from the beach and informed that owners were responsible for picking up after their pets. Also, all dogs must be leashed. Ms. Reishus will forward a copy of the Rules via email to the Board of Selectmen and the Police Department, and will request that a copy be forwarded to Securitas.

Mr. Myette felt it would be essential to make policies clear; and if no policy exists on a certain issue, one must be developed and approved by the attorneys. Ensuring that policies are consistent and making as many aware of them as possible would be key.

It was noted that certain individuals had expressed gratitude in the past for the ability to enjoy the area with their horses, and had even volunteered to clean up after others' horses should this jeopardize such use in the future. Mr. Quinn wondered if these individuals should be contacted for assistance; and Mr. Myette noted that areas such as Massabesic Lake had recently restricted horse access for this reason.

Mr. Landau explained that Securitas would be monitoring the area on a day-by-day basis, until approximately Mid-September. It was agreed that a long-term solution should involve the addition of a Police Officer, even if part-time, to ensure maximum enforcement- and cost-effectiveness. Regardless of how this is funded (whether through Conservation or Police Department funds, for example) or which authority or commission spearheads the process, it was agreed to be of utmost importance that this issue is addressed.

### **c. Gates**

Mr. Myette reiterated recent discussion that gates may be placed along Route 102 at both entrances to show that the area is closed from Dusk til Dawn; possibly including boulders or timber frame gates akin to those used by various State Parks. Mr. Myette had requested that Maintenance Supervisor, Tony Amato, follow up tomorrow with more information on black wheeled gates sold by Tractor Supply Company. The Police Department feel that such placement would go a long way to curb after-hours usage as they do not have the manpower to drive through at night; and they would be in charge of opening and closing the gates daily. Theoretically, the gates may also be managed by the individual residing in the Caretaker's Cottage in the event the Police are unavailable.

Mr. Landau explained that although the Board of Selectmen are able to direct town employees to install the gates, the Board wishes to receive a request from the Commission saying that this is what they would like to see done.

Mr. Hadik made a motion to compile a letter stating that the Chief of Police recommends placement of gates; Mr. Quinn seconded the motion. Mr. Myette recommended the letter suggest going the fastest route and placing two (2) twelve-foot (12') gates with perhaps four- (4-) rail fences from Tractor Supply Company within the next couple of weeks. If town employees are unable, Mr. Myette volunteered to complete this installation. The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler, and Rowell absent; so moved.

Mr. Amato of Maintenance will be directed to check with Digsafe prior to moving forward with placement of any fence posts.

#### **d. Bath House Repairs**

Mr. Myette asked whether the Bath House was getting used, and noted that Mr. Amato had recently made repairs; Ms. Reishus was unsure whether it was being utilized by Summer Program participants.

### **II. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Myette noted that a balance of nine hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$954.00) remained.

### **III. Dam**

It was noted that wood on the lower level of the dam needed to be removed. Mr. Quinn stated that the last time this task was performed, three individuals (Mr. Rowell, Mr. Quinn and another gentleman) used rope and trash barrels to load debris into Mr. Quinn's old dump truck. The truck was filled three times and debris was placed on the East side. Mr. Quinn felt it was more a matter of manpower, and less so a matter of requiring [fire truck] hooks, for example.

Mr. Landau suggested asking Selectman Trask to see if the County Workers may be enlisted; Mr. Myette agreed this would be ideal and noted that the Workers' lunches may be purchased from the Dam Maintenance line. Mr. Quinn suggested having six (6) workers, since it took three (3) individuals three (3) hours last time, and added that a one-ton truck be used for this. Mr. Landau noted that obtaining a truck for such use may be arranged with the Highway Department.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 were addressed.

Ms. Reishus requested that “during camp hours” be added to “on weekdays” on line sixty-four (64).

Mr. Quinn clarified that line one hundred (100) should read “limb(s)” instead of “tree(s).”

Mr. Landau noted that line one hundred and five (105) should read “ladder” instead of “staircase.” Mr. Landau also confirmed that Ash Street is not a public way, and is a town private road.

Mr. Myette made a motion to accept the minutes of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as amended; Mr. Landau seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Mr. Hadik abstaining due to absence on that date and with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler, and Rowell absent; so moved.

## **V. Ballfields**

Ms. Reishus noted that the Recreation Commission discovered that measurements differed from what was previously thought due to the location of the tree line when they walked the grounds of the Ballfields at their last meeting. Ms. Reishus presented a map with amended measurements noted, indicating where the baseball and softball fields will be swapped due to lost area.

Mr. Landau felt that field-style games, such as soccer, football, lacrosse or flying of model airplanes should take precedent at this particular field; and that baseball and softball required placement of a mound and dirt, as well as high maintenance expenses. Mr. Landau suggested consideration of a long-term plan (i.e. utilizing the CIP to fund and perhaps locating behind the Municipal Complex.) Mr. Myette suggested incorporating this into a five- or ten- (5- or 10-) year plan, preferably to be devised by the Recreation Commission. Ms. Reishus noted that fence materials were ordered two (2) weeks ago.

Cleanup of utilities was mentioned; Mr. Hadik suggested enlisting the County Workers, and Mr. Quinn reminded it would be necessary for one or two (1 or 2) individuals from the Commission to mark what should be removed. Mr. Myette suggested a letter be sent to Selectman Trask requesting a work crew for this, and Mr. Landau believes that the workers would be in town on the 13<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

## **VI. Additional Ordinances at Wason Pond**

As per town attorney, Diane Gorrow, it is thought to be best for now to leave ordinances as-is; with the exception of blacking out the line about firearms on the sign at the entrance. Pending resolution with a current lawsuit and other issues, the ordinance issue will be revisited.

## **VII. Miscellaneous**

Mr. Landau mentioned that a call had been received recently inquiring about Rototilling the beach due to hard sand. At one time sand had been placed on the beach, but this had presented issues with the Department of Environmental Services (DES.)

Mr. Myette wondered whether sand was being lost in the pond, and whether clay or silt was underneath the sand. It was noted that sand may periodically be added to the beach, and that the DES requires intent to be filed to do this as a means to manage the type of sand used.

Ms. Reishus will check with the Recreation Commission to determine who would be enlisted for sand testing.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission will take place Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm at the Municipal Complex.

Mr. Quinn made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hadik seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler, and Rowell absent; so moved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Rose Wilson  
Recording Secretary