

**Town of Chester
Wason Pond Commission Meeting
Monday, December 5th, 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 7:04pm.

Members Present:

Chris Hadik, Member at Large (arrived at 7:06pm)
Kevin Kistler, Recreation Commission
Stephen O. Landau, Selectman Liaison
Chuck Myette, Acting Chair; Treasurer / Conservation Commission
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Commission
Herb Rowell, Alternate / Chester Seniors

Members Absent:

Patrick Connelly
Tom Edwards, Member at Large

II. Treasurer’s Report

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

Ms. Reishus made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report; Mr. Quinn seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, and Hadik absent; so moved.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 7th, 2016 meeting were reviewed. For line 63, Ms. Reishus clarified that insurance information had been submitted *in the past* for the three events.

Mr. Myette made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Quinn seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, and Hadik absent and with Messrs. Kistler and Rowell abstaining due to absence from said meeting; so moved.

Mr. Hadik entered the meeting at 7:06pm.

IV. Recreation Commission

A draft Field Usage Form created by Ms. Reishus was passed around and will also be emailed to Members. Earlier Ms. Reishus spoke with the Town Attorney who deemed the form to be a good idea. Ms. Reishus also spoke with Fire and Police Departments; it was noted that events with over fifty (50) attendees would need to obtain Police Detail. Ms. Reishus will gather additional information on the Lead the Way Girls’ Walk and other events. The security deposit fee has been set for two hundred and fifty

dollars (\$250) and is generally returned to applicants two (2) weeks after the event. It was noted that since the Area is for Public use, that some groups such as wedding parties may not see the advantage in paying for such an event.

V. Conservation Commission

Mr. Landau asked if the boundaries of the Area had ever been marked; Mr. Myette confirmed that they had. There was no additional discussion on the Conservation Commission's behalf.

VI. New Business

a. Annual Budget

It was discussed whether recent repair of the dam valve had been expended from a Fire Department budget line (perhaps Fire Ponds) or the Wason Pond Maintenance line within the General Government Buildings budget. Mr. Landau suggested that the Dam Maintenance line of this budget was for licensing. It was agreed that the proposed Dam Maintenance line be reduced from two hundred dollars (\$200) to one dollar (\$1). The proposed Conservation Development line will be increased from five hundred dollars (\$500) to five hundred and fifty dollars (\$550) since that is closer to what is required in keeping with the Conservation Easement expenses. The members agreed that the other lines within the Wason Pond Commission's budget will remain unchanged for 2017/2018; allowing a decrease from nine hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$954) to eight hundred and five dollars (\$805) to be submitted for review.

The desire to eventually allocate funds for beach maintenance and security / patrol officer for the Area was noted and will be mentioned with the budget proposal so as not to be forgotten.

Mr. Landau made a motion to accept the 2017/2018 Budget Proposal for eight hundred and five dollars (\$805); Mr. Rowell seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor with Messrs. Connelly and Edwards absent, so moved.

b. Master Plan

A draft Management Plan initiated in 2004 was discussed and will serve as a starting point from which policies and procedures for use of the Area may be brought current. The extent to which the Conservation and Recreation Commissions will collaborate to develop such a Plan remains a question. Placement of a Forest Management Program was mentioned as a worthy inclusion. Mr. Landau expressed the desire to integrate a long-term plan to place trees (especially hardwood, i.e. Elm) along the roadside of the Soccer Field, as well as other locations in town. Ms. Reishus, Mr. Kistler, and Mr. Myette will relay this topic to Recreation and Conservation Commissions, respectively; discussion will continue at the next meeting of this Commission.

c. Miscellaneous

It was noted that the beach has been "shrinking" over the past several years due to overgrowth of brush. Loss of sand also appears to be an issue; pulling sand back up onto the beach was suggested to determine whether obtaining any additional sand need be considered.

A proposal to manage beaver populations in the Area by trapping had been received earlier by a Bryan Sullivan, who wishes to begin the program this year. Whether such traps should be marked for safety was briefly discussed, considering potential for theft or tampering if the traps are clearly marked.

It was mentioned that the Recreation Commission included a twenty by forty foot (20'x40') pavilion at an estimated forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for placement into the CIP, to be installed in the year 2022.

Mr. Landau and Mr. Hadik will gather information on obtaining an engineering / architectural study for the Barn; Dave Laurin will be contacted.

VII. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission will take place Monday, January 9th, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Municipal Complex.

Mr. Myette made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Landau seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor with Messrs. Connelly and Edwards absent; so moved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Rose Wilson
Recording Secretary