

**Town of Chester
Wason Pond Commission Meeting
Monday, November 7th, 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 7:16pm.

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

II. Treasurer’s Report

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

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

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 1st, 2016 site visit and walk-through at Wason Pond were reviewed. Mr. Landau noted that line 31 should state that Town Maintenance Staff and those who use the Playground keep it clean.

Mr. Hadik made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Landau seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler, and Rowell absent; so moved.

IV. New Business

a. Recreation Commission

Ms. Reishus noted that Fall Activities had ended and the portable toilets would be removed from the premises by this week or next week. Impact Fee funds had been spent to aerate the Soccer Field & apply lime and grass seed.

A proposal from John Dalrymple quoting thirteen thousand seven hundred and forty-seven dollars (\$13,747) for portable irrigation was received, and will be submitted at this Wednesday's Planning Board meeting relative to the CIP. Town Maintenance Staff will manage the irrigation system. Questions such as how the irrigation system would operate, what a drought season may imply, and sustainability for wildlife remain. The system would pump twenty-five thousand (25,000) gallons of water per week from the Pond; therefore no permission is required from the Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Ms. Reishus recently communicated with TruGreen and noted that the contract ends next year. TruGreen representatives advised Ms. Reishus that, without irrigation, treatments would be of little benefit to the Field. Ms. Reishus had been requested by Maintenance to obtain additional quote for basis of comparison to complete the fence along the parking lot to act as a barrier for cars.

Upcoming Springtime events include a 5K, the Wason Pond Pounder (date TBD), and a Lead the Way Equestrian Center Girls' Walk. In the past, all three events had submitted insurance information to the Recreation Department. Ms. Reishus intends to create a basic events form (as there currently is none) and will send it to Commission members. The form will include a simple checklist, insurance requirements, and security deposit information. It was noted that security deposits are not a source of revenue and are generally returned to the applicant after the event. Ms. Reishus will contact the Police and Fire Departments for thoughts on security needs relative to event size or quantity of attendees. Regarding any use of fire pits, Mr. Landau reminded that permission must be obtained from the Board of Selectmen as the Town owns the Area.

b. Conservation

Mr. Myette observed on the October 1st walk-through of the area that various saplings planted to reclaim previous campsite areas a few years ago had grown in quite nicely. Whether the campground's old playground should be left alone or mitigated was discussed; features include concrete pads, swing set, basketball hoop, etc. It is not known whether heavy equipment would be necessary to remove the abandoned items; nor whether the workers from the County program may be available to assist in the Spring.

c. Barn

The condition of the Barn and its possible future use were discussed. Mr. Amato of Maintenance called into the meeting and noted that he recently received estimates to strip and repair the roof: fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for asphalt and thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000) for metal.

Mr. Hadik made a motion for Mr. Myette to draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen to put fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) into the General Governmental Buildings (GGB) section of the budget; Mr. Landau Seconded the motion and suggested omitting the dollar amount and simply stating "roof." The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler, and Rowell absent; so moved.

d. Other Buildings

Ms. Reishus noted that additional storage for Recreation will be necessary at some point; and the concept of using trailers (such as for Soccer storage, snacks, etc.) was mentioned. The Bath House had been converted by Mr. Amato into a changing area with lockers for Summer Recreation participants and was confirmed to have electricity.

e. Future Use / Management Plan Update

Ms. Reishus mentioned there was interest in placing a fitness trail with simple wooden structures and signs; Mr. Myette felt this may not conform with Conservation requirements. Ms. Reishus clarified that it didn't necessarily need to be at Wason Pond, and the concept would still be considered for the Recreation CIP.

Mr. Myette asked whether limits ought to be placed on the scope of activities that may be allowed at Wason Pond. It was agreed that the current Management Plan draft would be brought forth and examined at the next meeting.

f. Dam

Mr. Quinn noted that the Dam Pipe had recently been cleared; a diver back flushed it from the low end.

g. Scout Projects

The Eagle Scout Project Proposal of Matthew Qualters was discussed; it is a Horseshoe pit to comprise a forty-eight foot (48') by twelve foot (12') area beside the Community Center, including benches. It was felt that the only regular maintenance would be raking. Ms. Reishus made a motion to accept Matthew Qualters' Eagle Scout Proposal for a Horseshoe Pit to be placed in the Recreation area between the Southeast corner of the Community Center and the Bridge; Mr. Hadik seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler, and Rowell absent; so moved.

V. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission will take place Monday, December 5th, 2016 at 7pm at the Municipal Complex.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Rose Wilson
Recording Secretary