

**Town of Chester  
Wason Pond Commission Meeting  
Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Municipal Complex Meeting Room  
Approved Minutes**

**I. Call to Order – Open Meeting**

Acting Chairman Myette called this meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission to order at 6:32pm.

Members Present:

Leslie Hammond, Recreation Commission  
Kevin Kistler, Recreation Commission  
Chuck Myette, Acting Chair / Conservation Commission  
Darrell Quinn, Alternate  
Herb Rowell, Alternate / Chester Seniors  
Dick Trask, Selectman Liaison

Members Absent:

Patrick Connelly  
Tom Edwards, Member at Large  
Chris Hadik, Member at Large / Treasurer

**II. New Business**

2.1 Appointments

Chairman Myette explained that the BOS have recently asked all boards, committees, and commissions to identify all their members and term expirations. The Commission discussed each member's designation and desired term:

- Leslie Hammond is representing the Recreation Commission; her seat was previously held by Recreation Director Reishus. Ms. Hammond agreed to a 2-year term.
- Kevin Kistler has been representing the Recreation Commission and agreed to a 1-year term.
- Herb Rowell has been an Alternate and agreed to a 2-year term.
- Chuck Myette has been representing the Conservation Commission; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conservation Commission seat is presently vacant.
- Chris Hadik has been a Member at Large.
- Darrell Quinn has been an Alternate and agreed to a 3-year term.

Chairman Myette noted that, aside from the Conservation Commission vacancy, the only remaining vacancy is a representative from the Budget Committee.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

Chairman Myette noted that no monies have been spent from the balance of \$954.00, aside from the Security Expense from last Summer.

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

**Mr. Trask moved to accept the minutes as written; Mr. Quinn seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, and Hadik absent and with Mr. Kistler abstaining due to absence; so moved.**

**V. Foot Bridges**

Chairman Myette reported that it took about 4 hours to repair the first foot bridge on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Once the old boards were torn off, it was clear that about 1/3 of them were wet and decomposing. Mr. Quinn noted that the old bridge debris was burned at the Transfer Station on Tuesday. Materials for the repairs cost \$830 at Lowe’s with the Town discount. \$880 has been received from 13 donors; and another \$500 is anticipated. The bridge is now expected to last another 15 to 20 years. It was questioned whether Building Inspector Bunker had conducted a final inspection; Chairman Myette was not sure but noted that a Minor Building Permit had been issued.

It was felt that necessary repairs should be done as soon as possible on the second foot bridge. Since it gets more sun, it may not be as water-damaged as the other bridge was. Chairman Myette will speak with Building Inspector Bunker and Maintenance Supervisor Amato about moving forward with this project.

**VI. Recreation Commission Updates**

Ms. Hammond and Mr. Kistler noted that Summer Camp has ended and Soccer Club meets every Saturday.

**VII. Conservation Commission Updates**

Nothing to report.

**VIII. Roof Projects**

Mr. Trask reported that the barn roof and two other roofs were recently replaced by the County Workers; all projects went smoothly and the workers did an excellent job. A total of \$14,600 was spent, which covered the cost of materials as well as the rental of a boom lift and a scissor lift.

Mr. Trask explained that currently, each side of the barn is covered by various materials (barn board, cedar shake, clapboard) and that it eventually should be made uniform. Mr. Trask suggested having the County Workers come back out this Fall to strip all the siding and install new barn board. It was noted that Dick Lewis would cut and provide the lumber once he is given the dimensions. Then the barn could be painted in Spring to match the other buildings at the Area (grey with red trim). Chairman Myette will also contact additional volunteers for this task.

## **IX. Security Cameras**

Mr. Trask had not received a sketch of proposed locations for security cameras at Wason Pond; this was discussed and a rough sketch was made. The 3 highest priority locations for cameras include Community Center (facing Covered Bridge), beach, and parking lot / kids' play area. Another location to consider would be at the well house facing the small beach. Mr. Trask explained that although the Town Hall security system can't be tied into, a security system can be placed at Wason which can be accessed online.

Ms. Hammond asked how this would be funded; Chairman Myette is working on figuring that out. If nothing else, it could be voted on at Town Meeting.

## **X. CIP: Gazebo or Pavilion**

Mr. Trask mentioned that the CIP meeting was next month and asked members for their thoughts on building the gazebo or pavilion that's been reserved in the CIP; which may be constructed in 2018/2019. Chairman Myette explained that such a structure had been approved by the conservation easement for placement in the beach area.

Chairman Myette thought that perhaps the Timber Framers Guild could become involved and provide a unique design for its own educational purposes; others didn't think the Guild's services were quite warranted for this type of project, and the use of a simpler design or pre-manufactured structure was suggested. Mr. Quinn mentioned that the Guild was still an excellent resource and that the lead carpenter (of the Covered Bridge) lives in Barnstead should any expert advice be sought.

Mr. Trask noted that Summer Camp attendance had doubled from last year to this year (from ~60 in 2016 to ~120 in 2017) and the campers among others could enjoy taking cover in such a structure. The current location of the Boy Scout tent was noted to be an ideal spot. Chairman Myette will email members the plans and information he already has in his file for this project.

## **XI. Caretaker's Cottage**

The Caretaker's Cottage has been vacated and Maintenance will be cleaning it out soon. Mr. Trask wondered if the Commission had any plans for the Cottage; Chairman Myette said no, except for possible future use by a Ranger or Summer Camp staffer. Ms. Hammond explained that it is challenging to find qualified Camp Directors at the rate of pay offered and therefore use of the Cottage could be an incentive. It was explained that the Town is not interested in renting the Cottage; however, conversion into an office area or bath house may be considered.

### **Mr. Quinn made a motion to rehab the Cottage into a habitable guest cottage.**

Mr. Kistler wondered where this expense might be placed in the CIP; Mr. Trask believes that it would be considered a Government Building as it is managed by the BOS.

Chairman Myette mentioned that the Cottage can only be rebuilt in-kind; the easement prohibits expansion of its footprint but does not restrict its actual use. Mr. Trask felt that it would be most important to rehab the building correctly for the right use, to be determined.

## **XII. Possible Barn Uses**

It was discussed whether a structural engineer should be enlisted to evaluate the barn for possible future uses. Mr. Kistler feels it's worth checking out, and others agreed that since the roof was just repaired it makes sense to utilize the barn to its fullest potential. Chairman Myette suggested putting this topic on the agenda to look at next year. It was agreed that future uses for the barn will be researched; including but not limited to bathrooms, hosting farmers' markets, dances, or other events.

### **XIII. Miscellaneous**

- Mr. Kistler reported that yesterday he saw someone over by Caelan Dunwoody's Flora and Fauna Kiosk. However, as far as anyone else is aware, there has been no further progress with the project.
- The new Water Cannon was discussed. Although in one instance it was noted having taken 4 hours to be put away, Mr. Trask explained that was because the tractor used at the time could not get it up the hill; the new tractor does a fine job. It was agreed that the grass on the field looks great.

### **XIV. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission will take place Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Complex.

**Mt. Trask moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Kistler seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, and Hadik absent; so moved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Rose Wilson  
Recording Secretary