

**Town of Chester
Wason Pond Commission Meeting
Monday, July 10th, 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 6:36pm.

Members Present:

Chris Hadik, Member at Large; Treasurer
Chuck Myette, Acting Chair; Conservation Commission
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Commission (departed at 7:01pm)
Herb Rowell, Alternate / Chester Seniors
Dick Trask, Selectman Liaison

Members Absent:

Patrick Connelly
Tom Edwards, Member at Large
Kevin Kistler, Recreation Commission

II. New Business

2.1 Security

Mr. Myette and Police Chief Berube recently discussed the status of disturbances at Wason Pond thus far; it was noted to be about the same as last Summer (some assaults, threatening, drinking, etc.). Chief Berube had suggested increasing monitoring presence (via ranger) and/or installing security cameras. Mr. Myette wondered about source(s) of funding for either solution; Chief Berube questioned where the cameras would be placed and who would monitor footage.

It was felt that Thursday & Friday evenings, as well as Saturdays & Sundays and days with particularly hot weather would be priority for security coverage. Ms. Reishus explained that Summer Camp continues through the end of the second week in August, followed by Soccer Camp which ends the third week in August. Town Groundskeeping & Maintenance staff have a fairly regular presence at the Area as well.

Mr. Quinn wondered if those visiting the Area were reluctant to call 911 and suggested use of the on-duty Police officer phone number; Mr. Trask was concerned with the idea of the Police being called for things like smoking or dogs being let off-leash. Mr. Trask feels that if there is a regular monitor-type presence this in itself could deter some of the criminal activity just by regularly enforcing simple rules. Mr. Quinn agreed and has observed that individuals tend to follow suit in social settings: if a precedent of peaceful, organized behavior is set, it is that much more likely to continue.

Mr. Hadik felt that, all things considered, adding a caretaker role would be the best solution. Mr. Myette wondered if the benefits of having a caretaker would outweigh the associated costs; vandalism repairs

thus far have been repaired inexpensively by Mr. Quinn and Mr. Myette on a volunteer basis. Mr. Trask also wondered whether a caretaker would be onsite on Saturdays and Sundays; Mr. Hadik reiterated his preference to have a caretaker living on premises, as this would create a significant deterrent.

Should the Commission begin an active search for 2-3 individuals to work part-time for the remainder of the Summer? Ms. Reishus hires for Recreation and mentioned that there was no shortage of applicants this year for the Summer program, and individuals had to be turned down. However, many of the candidates leave for college around the 3rd week of August.

Mr. Hadik wondered how such young individuals would be received; would their authority be respected? Mr. Myette mentioned a recent incident in which a youngster jumped off the top of the Covered Bridge; when Mr. Myette called him out, the individual responded respectfully. This actually prompted other youngsters in the vicinity (using the rope swing) to leave. Mr. Trask mentioned that he has had the County Workers remove the rope swing at least twice; it always seems to make its way back up.

If security cameras are installed, Mr. Quinn felt that it would make sense to place them in the parking lot to capture license plate numbers. Ms. Reishus wishes to move forward with whatever solution Chief Berube feels is best; Mr. Trask agrees. Mr. Trask added his opinion that a Part-Time seasonal Recreation employee would be an asset in both monitoring the Area and assisting with maintenance duties for 3-4 months of the year. Ms. Reishus will inform the Recreation Commission of the discussion at hand and will email this Commission tomorrow with more information.

Mr. Hadik suggested putting security cameras in next year's budget. Mr. Trask noted that Alarm Systems Plus recently installed security cameras in the Municipal Complex, Police Department & Fire Department; and that the footage can be viewed by logging into a website. Game cameras were suggested, but it was quickly agreed that these are questionable from a legal standpoint; and also the purpose of providing visual deterrence would be defeated. Power source(s) and mode of internet connectivity for any surveillance systems is as of yet undetermined. Mr. Hadik offered to draft a location installation plan / schematic; with this, Mr. Trask will obtain an estimate from Alarm Systems Plus. It was agreed that this project could entail an expense of thousands of dollars; Mr. Myette felt that Conservation, Finance, and the BOS should be consulted. Mr. Trask suggested designating a place in the CIP for this as well.

2.2 Bridges

Mr. Myette suggested stripping boards off the waterfall bridge and replacing with a single layer of pressure-treated 4x6s. The Derry Trail Riders have donated \$100 toward bridge restoration; there are others who wish to volunteer time (such as the Wason Pond Pounder Crew) and Mr. Myette will take this subject to the Conservation Commission for discussion.

Ms. Reishus departed at 7:01 to attend the Recreation Commission meeting.

Mr. Quinn stated for the record that the trail bridges are the ones in question; not the Covered Bridge.

A bridge repair party is scheduled for Saturday, August 19th.

III. Treasurer's Report

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

Mr. Hadik moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Mr. Trask seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler, and Reishus absent; so moved.

Mr. Hadik will obtain account reports from Finance Director Smith moving forward.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 5th, 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, Kistler and Reishus absent; so moved.

V. Recreation Commission Updates

- Backstops are up at the Ball Field
- The Water Cannon is up and running; Mr. Trask reported that it works great
- The fields are being trimmed low to promote strong roots & healthy grass

VI. Conservation Commission Updates

Mr. Myette still has not heard from Mr. Sullivan about the status of Beaver Trapping. Mr. Myette will reach out to him again, but if he doesn't hear back, there is a licensed animal control contractor in the BOS' Rolodex that Mr. Trask suggested contacting.

VII. Scout Projects

Mr. Myette confirmed that the area around the Horseshoe Pits has been raked and the project is now considered complete. The Flora & Fauna Kiosk has been started; four 6x6 posts have been placed about 6'-8' forward from where originally planned. Mr. Myette stated that the kiosk should not block the view of the Pond.

Mr. Trask believes a protocol should be put in place for any type of volunteer project, including but not limited to Scout Projects. The originating board or commission would permit the project, then it would be sent the BOS for review / approval. Mr. Trask will discuss this with BOS Administrative Assistant Doda, and see if such a form may be drafted. Mr. Myette added that his main concern with Scout Projects is that there is no maintenance protocol; things are constructed and it's anyone's guess who (if anyone) will take care of them in the years to follow.

VIII. Miscellaneous

- The County Workers will be onsite beginning August 14th to perform repairs on the Barn roof
- Since the Covered Bridge is a main focal point of the Area, Mr. Quinn feels that some mowing / trimming would alleviate the overgrown appearance and restore the scenic appeal of the Bridge. It was agreed that the County Workers will be enlisted to do this if they have a chance next month.
- Ms. Reishus provided the Commission with recent water test results

IX. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission will take place Monday, August 7th, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Complex.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caroline Rose Wilson, Recording Secretary