

**Town of Chester  
Wason Pond Commission Meeting  
Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
Wason Pond Site Visit  
Approved Minutes**

**I. Call to Order – Open Meeting**

At approximately 9:15am, Mr. Hadik, Mr. Myette, and Mr. Quinn began a walk-through of the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Area. Mr. Landau joined the meeting at approximately 10:10am.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

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

**II. Assessment of Various Features & Structures at Wason Pond**

**a. Playground**

Mr. Hadik, Mr. Myette, and Mr. Quinn examined the Playground area and found it to be relatively clean and overall in good condition. Town Maintenance Staff and those who use the Playground are responsible for maintaining the general cleanliness of the area. It was suggested that the area outside the playground fence closest to the Community Center be cleared of brush and vegetation up to the adjacent rock wall.

The water fountain was examined; it was noted that the water kept failing tests which prompted placement of a UV system. Question was raised whether the Town Maintenance staff would be responsible for shutting it down and cleaning it when needed. Portions of pole along the top of the chain link fence near the water fountain were bent; it is suspected that individuals jumping the fence have caused this.

A trash barrel had been placed near the sign indicating that the Area is Carry-In, Carry-Out. The gate latch required some manipulating to get it to function properly.

**b. Barn**

On examination of the Barn's exterior, it was observed that various windowpanes were gone, leaving the sills exposed. It was mentioned that Tony Amato, Maintenance Supervisor, was currently in the process of obtaining quotes for roof repairs. An area of the roof near the gable end closest to the Soccer Field

appeared substantially damaged. The area outside the Barn closest to Route 102 contained sandbags and wooden spools & pallets which are used for the Wason Pond Pounder.

Members present gained access into the Barn's interior and discovered that roughly half the main portion of the Barn was used to store equipment for the Wason Pond Pounder. The other half stored various Town-owned property, such as partitions used for the Polls on Election Day, and assorted maintenance materials & supplies. The smaller adjoining section of the Barn was accessed, and it was mostly empty and appeared to have been used as a workshop previously. It was believed that the Barn had not been receiving any electricity.

**c. Front Beach**

The portion of the beach across from the parking lot was observed to have sustained significant erosion.

**d. Soccer Field Shed**

The storage shed between the Soccer Field and the Pond stored plastic cones, Soccer balls, field striping equipment, etc.; and had newer flooring & an access ramp. It was determined that the well at the front of the shed was a dug well.

**e. Reclaimed Vegetation**

Mr. Myette noted that the area between the Soccer Field and the Pond had grown in quite nicely; it was planted five (5) years ago with a variety of approximately five hundred (500) seedlings of native vegetation to prevent erosion and to reclaim the area. A total of one thousand five hundred (1,500) seedlings were planted at that time at Wason Pond, another five hundred (500) of the remaining one thousand (1,000) were placed straight behind the pond adjacent to an old playground.

**f. Caretaker Cottage**

Mr. Landau joined the walk-through at approximately 10:10am. It was noted that various items previously stored in the Garage had been placed outside the Cottage and belonged to the current tenant. The front and side decks had been removed and replaced by Town Maintenance staff.

**g. Main Beach**

Reclamation of the main beach was mentioned. Vandalism of picnic tables is an ongoing issue; replacing with new tables anchored to large rocks was suggested. It was wondered whether DES approval would be required to renew the beach. Six to eight (6-8) years ago sand had been placed, which warranted a small fine from DES.

**h. Utility Building**

The building behind the Pond could not be accessed; it was noted that here the septic pump-up for the Cottage was powered. The roof was in overall good condition, with only one piece of trim missing on the rear gable end.

**i. Old Playground**

Some of the remaining seedlings (mentioned earlier) had been planted five (5) years ago in the area leading from the Utility Building to the defunct playground; it was noted that this area had grown in quite well. Remaining at the playground were old metal swing set, teeter-totter, basketball hoop, and asphalt court, etc. Whether path(s) could be brush-hogged every few years or if the area should continue to grow in was mentioned.

**j. Remaining Utilities**

The primary trail leading back around to the covered bridge was accessed. Old campsite utilities were examined, including a cylindrical hand pump structure dated 1980, electrical / telephone utilities, PVC pipes, etc.

**k. Covered Bridge & Dam**

It was noted that a diver that had been hired could not get the valve open as it was full of muck. However, recent cleanup under the dam had been successful. Two (2) boards had been removed from the bridge, perhaps by those performing recent maintenance. It was likely that the iron bars would be due to be tightened soon.

**l. Eagle Scout Project Proposal**

The area behind the Community Center was believed to be approximately where an Eagle Scout, Caelan Dunwoody, wished to place an educational kiosk featuring native flora and fauna. The kiosk is believed to be similar in concept and design to one currently in place on North Pond Road; and will be approximately four feet by six feet to four feet by eight feet (4' x 6' to 4' x 8').

**m. Brush Piles, etc.**

The brush piles were mentioned and it was wondered whether placing a limited number of fire pits (as are seen in some State Parks) would encourage burning of scrap wood and brush, thus keeping the area neater. Perhaps new metal picnic tables could be placed & anchored near such fire pits.

**III. Adjournment**

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

At approximately 11:30am, the site visit concluded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Rose Wilson  
Recording Secretary