

**Town of Chester
Wason Pond Commission Meeting
Monday, May 1st, 2017
Municipal Complex Meeting Room
Approved Minutes**

I. Call to Order – Open Meeting

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
Herb Rowell, Alternate / Chester Seniors

Members Absent:

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

Others Present at Various Times:

John Dalrymple
Caelan Dunwoody
Jim Neal
Matthew Qualters
Wade Ungaro
Maria Veale

II. New Business

Acting Chairman Myette called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Mr. Myette explained that Mr. Amato of Maintenance expressed concern that vehicles were entering the Area near the Community Center and via the Dump Road access. Mr. Amato believed that a simple arm with lock would alleviate this. Mr. Hadik suggested first placing a sign to deter this entry. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Myette will contact BOS Administrative Assistant Debra Doda to have another sign made and placed in the back of the property. This will include the same language as the sign already in place; at an estimated cost of \$80.

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.

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 3rd, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

On line 31, Mr. Hadik noted that the negative balance of 252.20 was actually the *percentage*; the dollar amount should be \$2,406.

Ms. Reishus moved to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Rowell seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, Kistler absent, and with Mr. Landau abstaining due to absence; so moved.

V. Scout Projects: Plant Kiosk & Horseshoe Pits

Scouts from Troop 163 Caelan Dunwoody and Matthew Qualters appeared before the Commission. Mr. Dunwoody presented his final plan to place a kiosk detailing native flora & fauna in the area behind the Community Center to the left as heading to the Covered Bridge. Mr. Dunwoody plans to install 4 pressure-treated posts with the bottom of the kiosk 30" above grade and a finished height of 7'3". Mr. Myette suggested that 24" above grade would make it easier for all to see, Mr. Dunwoody agreed. The poster will be encased in plexiglass, sealed with a custom silicone gasket & covered by a cedar-shingled roof. Mr. Myette encouraged Mr. Dunwoody to contact the Building Inspector prior to construction. Mr. Landau mentioned that Mr. Dunwoody will need the Commission to sign a release relieving him and the Scouts of liability once he has completed his project; the Commission will use a template of this letter on file. Mr. Dunwoody, Mr. Hadik and Mr. Quinn plan to meet this Sunday, May 7th, at 9am to mark his construction site with stakes.

Mr. Hadik moved to accept Caelan Dunwoody's project as presented, subject to stakes being placed in the ground. The vote was five in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, and Kistler absent and with Mr. Landau abstaining; so moved.

Mr. Qualters reminded of his plan (already accepted by the Commission) to place 2 horseshoe pits and benches in the area to the right of the Community Center. Mr. Qualters will cut the pits on Saturday, May 13th. The horseshoes themselves will be bring-your-own to minimize potential issues (such as theft, vandalism). Mr. Rowell wondered if keeping some horseshoes in a box on the Community Center porch may be an option. Mr. Landau mentioned that he believes the cesspool is located in this vicinity; Mr. Myette advised both Mr. Qualters and Mr. Dunwoody to call DigSafe first. Mr. Qualters agreed, and will meet with Mr. Dunwoody, Mr. Hadik and Mr. Quinn this Sunday at 9am to stake out his site as well.

Mr. Dunwoody, Mr. Qualters, and Mr. Neal thanked the Commission and departed the meeting at 7:42pm.

VI. Recreation Commission Updates

6.1 Irrigation

The Water Cannon has been ordered and will be delivered to Northeast Nursery in Salem for assembly. At first it was thought that there may not be a place to store the cannon & pump; Mr. Amato of Maintenance texted Ms. Reishus and confirmed that a 15' by 15' area in the Barn accessed by 8' doors will accommodate.

6.2 Portable Toilets

Ms. Reishus explained that a handicap unit & a conventional unit were delivered, but to the wrong location; the provider has been notified and they will be moved. At the end of May, a third unit will be delivered at the beach.

6.3 Playground

60 yards of mulch was delivered to the playground, at a cost of \$1,200. Ms. Reishus recently participated in a Playground Safety webinar and will double-check with Primex that this amount of mulch satisfies their guidelines. More mulch may need to be ordered at the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st.

6.4 Wason Pond Pounder

The Wason Pond Pounder is this Saturday, May 6th. The process of setting obstacles has begun; all necessary paperwork has been received, including the Certificate of Liability Insurance.

6.5 Fishing Derby

The 15th Annual Cops and Bobbers Kids Fishing Derby is Saturday, June 3rd. 250 fish have been ordered and will be delivered the week of the Derby; the State will match this amount and provide an additional 250.

6.6 Bridge Damage

Ms. Reishus showed the Commission photos of damage to the foot bridge over the waterfall. The Pounder crew intends to fix this temporarily, but significant repair or replacement (culvert?) needs to be considered. The County Workers will be available on May 22nd, 23rd, 25th & 26th; perhaps they can collaborate with Maintenance on this. Mr. Amato called Mr. Myette and stated the bridge is "rotted," both the substructure and floor. Mr. Myette worried that this may mean the bridge will be too unsafe to hold the Pounder.

Ms. Reishus called Maria Veale, who joined the meeting at 8:04pm. Ms. Veale explained that there are 11 volunteers in charge of the Pounder; as of yet there are 965 registered participants with more to come, including 60 at-risk youth. Wade Ungaro joined the meeting at 8:06pm. Ms. Veale assured that no one will be allowed to use the bridge if it is deemed unsafe; but that there are many handy volunteers that will make sure it is safe before the Pounder. However, the course does not include the bridge anyhow. Ms. Veale was asked to keep in touch with Ms. Reishus on the status of this, and Mr. Amato will inspect the bridge again tomorrow morning.

Mr. Landau mentioned that an individual running for office has asked about passing out flyers at the Pounder. Ms. Veale already replied to the individual and advised her that the Pounder would not really be an appropriate venue (most participants reside outside of Chester / the flyers will become litter) but that she might consider going to Aggregate Industries where everyone will be parking.

Ms. Veale and Mr. Ungaro departed the meeting at 8:18pm.

VII. Conservation Commission

6.1 Beaver Trapping

Mr. Myette explained that there was still ice on the pond last month so Bryan Sullivan hasn't yet trapped the Beavers. Sometime within the next week (after the Pounder) Mr. Sullivan plans to remove the huts and beavers. Mr. Landau wondered if temporary signs should be placed to warn those who may let their dogs swim; Mr. Myette felt this could invite theft or vandalism.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission will take place Monday, June 5th, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Complex.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caroline Rose Wilson, Recording Secretary