

**Town of Chester  
Wason Pond Commission Meeting  
Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
PACT Studio 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 7:02pm.

Members Present:

Chris Hadik, Member at Large  
Kevin Kistler, Recreation Commission  
Chuck Myette, Acting Chair; Treasurer / Conservation Commission  
Darrell Quinn, Alternate (arrived 7:34pm)  
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Commission  
Herb Rowell, Alternate / Chester Seniors  
Dick Trask, Selectman Liaison

Members Absent:

Patrick Connelly  
Tom Edwards, Member at Large

**II. New Business**

2.1 Signs

At last month's meeting it was agreed that additional signs would be placed to address vehicular traffic and after-hours use of the Area. Mr. Trask left the meeting briefly and returned with the 2 new signs ordered from Correctional Industries. The new signs were examined and some variations in language were discussed; but it was agreed that for now the Commission will post the signs and see how effective they are before moving forward with placing a gate, for example. Maintenance will drill the appropriate holes for mounting. The new signs will be placed at the beach area near the gate and by the Community Center. One of the old signs will be placed by the Dump Road entrance and the other will be set aside for possible future use.

2.2 Bridges

Photos of the foot bridges taken by Mr. Myette and Ms. Reishus were distributed. It was noted that the bridges are built with steel I-beams and are 12'-14' wide, most likely to accommodate vehicles (built decades ago when the Area was a campground). Mr. Myette explained that the current question is whether to replace the bridges with culverts, or to repair / replace the bridges. When all is said and done, the cost for bridges or culverts would likely be about the same--\$10,000 to \$12,000. However, a drainage study would be necessary to determine exact specifications for culverts. Mr. Hadik, Mr. Quinn, and Mr. Rowell are opposed to placing culverts.

The extent of work to be done to rebuild the bridges and types of wood (hardwood, pine, hemlock, etc.) were discussed; Dick Lewis of Chester Forest Products will be consulted. Materials pricing and general

project funding will need to be explored; Mr. Myette opined that use of Conservation funds would require a public hearing before the BOS.

Equestrian traffic was mentioned; Ms. Reishus wondered whether the Commission may look into prohibiting horses' use of the bridges. Mr. Myette felt that as he is not an engineer, he would not be qualified to make such a safety decision. The entire Area, including but not limited to bridges, is to be used at one's own risk. Mr. Trask reminded the Commission that if they feel something is an impending safety issue and they are unsure how to proceed, they may also defer to the BOS.

Ms. Reishus wondered how soon these repairs may happen; summer camp is to begin in ~3 weeks. Mr. Hadik felt the next step would be to compare wood costs; Mr. Myette expects the work to take place over the course of a long weekend and to be done by mostly volunteers. The Recording Secretary suggested the Building Inspector be consulted about these projects; Ms. Reishus noted that Building Inspector Bunker has been copied on emails and was aware of the condition of the bridges.

Some vertical boards on the Covered Bridge appear to have been intentionally kicked out. Mr. Quinn suggested placing another wall on the inside so that boards cannot be vandalized. Mr. Lewis of Chester Forest Products has also offered to help in this endeavor. Mr. Hadik questioned whether such repairs could promote moisture retention.

**Mr. Hadik moved to proceed with the work on the inside of the Covered Bridge; Mr. Trask seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor with Messers. Connelly and Edwards absent; so moved.**

### **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. The Conservation Development line (which has \$500) will soon be expended for the annual Conservation Easement monitoring (expected to cost \$550).

**Mr. Hadik moved to accept Acting Treasurer Myette's Report; Mr. Rowell seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor with Messrs. Connelly and Edwards absent; so moved.**

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

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

### **V. Recreation Commission Updates**

- On the day of the Fishing Derby, Ms. Reishus observed a tree down on a trail and has since submitted a Request for Maintenance.
- The Kids' Fishing Derby was a great success, bringing ~70 participants. An 18" fish weighing 3lbs. was even caught.
- Matthew Qualters installed 2 horseshoe pits and benches at the end of May for his Eagle Scout Project. The benches are to be stained in August. Recreation ordered sets of horseshoes which

will be kept at the Community Center. Mr. Quinn was concerned that there were still several rocks and some loam that needed to be cleaned up before mowing can be done safely; and loam and grass seed will need to be spread. Mr. Trask noted that Mr. Qualters is due to attend this Thursday's BOS meeting; Mr. Trask will inform him that he must return to the Wason Pond Commission to have his project signed off. Mr. Rowell will take a look at the horseshoe pit area tomorrow. Ms. Reishus feels that she hasn't been kept in the loop regarding start dates for Scout Projects and hopes that she will be, moving forward. Mr. Quinn was also concerned that Scout Projects aren't being constructed to the plans that the Scouts are submitting and this presents issues.

- Ms. Reishus has been receiving Requests for Usage for the Area, including one from a Derry resident looking to have a graduation party at the Beach with about 40-45 attendees. Since "group fees" cannot be charged, per se, Ms. Reishus will contact the Town's Attorney to see what solutions may be available to defray expenses to the Town.

## **VI. Conservation Commission Updates**

- Mr. Myette has not heard from Bryan Sullivan in a few weeks regarding the planned-upon beaver trapping and removal. There is still beaver activity; Mr. Myette will contact Mr. Sullivan tomorrow.
- Mr. Myette received a request from Ryan Neal to tap Sugar Maples on Town property for use in a business he hopes to create. The Town currently does not have a policy addressing this. It was felt by the Committee that, in addition to being somewhat aesthetically unpleasing, allowing such use at Wason Pond may set an undesirable precedent.

## **VII. Miscellaneous**

- Mr. Myette explained that he has been both Acting Chair and Treasurer for some time now, and that it is time for other Commissioners to consider taking on these roles. It was noted that, as the new Selectmen Liaison, Mr. Trask needn't be voted in. Mr. Hadik volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer.

**Mr. Myette moved to nominate Mr. Hadik as Treasurer for the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission. The vote was six in favor with Mr. Hadik abstaining and with Messrs. Connelly and Edwards absent; so moved.**

Mr. Myette asked Ms. Reishus if she would like to take on the role of Commission Chair; Ms. Reishus felt it would be better to allow herself more time to gain a stronger background before making such a commitment.

- Mr. Myette wondered who keeps piling brush across from the Playground; no one was sure, but Ms. Reishus will check with Mr. Amato of Maintenance. Perhaps brush can be moved to the back side of a trail.
- Mr. Trask explained that during warm weather about 60% of the Maintenance Department's time is spent at Wason Pond. Part of the reason the Maintenance Request system was put in place was to assess Maintenance needs, and it has proven useful as such. The position of Caretaker has been vacant for some years, and it was agreed that this position would be beneficial to resurrect. This position is already on budget rolls and a job description exists, therefore it should only be a matter of sending an updated request to the BOS to consider bringing it back. The Commission agrees that a Caretaker could take much burden off Maintenance, provide a watchful

presence, and be a great opportunity for the right individual. Alternatively, Mr. Trask wondered if a Part Time Seasonal role may be appropriate. This will be revisited at next month's meeting.

- Mr. Trask asked the Commission their thoughts on colors for roof shingles for the Barn, as some funding has become available for these repairs. It was agreed it would be best to match the current roof color. Repairs will begin August 14<sup>th</sup>. As the roof is bowed, Mr. Trask explained some structural / restorative work may be done as well.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission will take place Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Complex.

**Mr. Trask moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Rowell seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor with Messrs. Connelly and Edwards absent; so moved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Caroline Rose Wilson, Recording Secretary