

**Town of Chester
Wason Pond Commission Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2017
Rangeway 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 7:04 pm.

Members Present:

Chris Hadik, Member at Large / Treasurer
Leslie Hammond, Recreation Commission
Chuck Myette, Acting Chair / Conservation Commission
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
Herb Rowell, Alternate /Chester Seniors
Dick Trask, Selectman Liaison

Members of the Public Present:

John Dalrymple, PT Groundskeeper
Russ Norman

II. New Business

2.1 Introductions

Chairman Myette acknowledged the presence of Russ Norman, and asked him to introduce himself. Mr. Norman owns property abutting Wason Pond. He said it's a special place to him, and he had been told that the town was looking for people to join commission, so he was in attendance to see what might be involved. Chairman Myette thanked him for his interest, and the Commission members welcomed Russ, and introduced themselves.

Chairman Myette took a moment to discuss the Commission's history and charter, its purview, and mission, as well as the process by which members get appointed and sworn in. He explained that there is typically a two to three meeting trial period to ensure that the potential member is interested in the Wason Pond Commission specifically. He agreed to send a copy of the easement and master plan to Russ to provide additional details and background.

III. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hadik had lost his voice, so Chairman Myette delivered the budget report.

Chairman Myette noted there were no expenditures from the balance of \$954.00.

BOS Chairman Trask moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Mr. Quinn seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor with Messrs. Connelly and Edwards absent; so moved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Myette asked if there were any changes or questions about the minutes as written.

There were none, and Mr. Quinn moved to accept the minutes as written; Mr. Rowell seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Mr. Hadik abstaining; motion carried.

V. Recreation Commission Updates

Ms. Hammond noted that the fields for baseball and softball will be worked on later this month. She explained that there will be sod removal and new material will be put on. She described the details of field repairs, including plans to redo the base running pathways and pitcher's mound. There were questions about the pitcher's mound specifically, and Ms. Hammond stated she wasn't absolutely sure of the specifics, but would obtain them and report back.

Ms. Hammond also asked where the removed sod should be deposited. Chairman Myette suggested that if there are places needing topsoil this would be a good way to use the sod; but if not, it could be taken to the back of the property and put out of the way. Mr. Dalrymple suggested a spot to the left of the ledge where there is a clump of birch trees which he feels would work well. Ms. Hammond said she'd reach out to Mr. Dalrymple to obtain specifics when the material is ready to be moved and deposited.

There was a question from Mr. Rowell about paint on the ledge, which has been there since the summer camp kids painted it. Ms. Hammond explained that this was an approved activity, and the paint was thought to be water soluble at the time it was painted. In fact, she explained, it is field paint which is slow to wash away. Mr. Rowell requested that it be pressure washed or somehow removed, if possible, because it's unsightly and part of his view.

VI. Conservation Commission Updates

Chairman Myette stated that the beavers have not returned, which is a good thing, and that otherwise there is nothing to report.

VII. Kiosk

Chairman Myette said that the Scouts are making progress on the kiosk but had nothing more to report.

VIII. Security Cameras

BOS Chairman Trask told the Commission that we received a quote for \$21,000 for security cameras. He explained that the expense is due to the distance that wireless cameras will have to transmit. Further, the lack of electricity necessitates having to use solar powered transmitters as there appears to be no place to run wires to transmit the signal.

All agreed that the amount quoted is prohibitive, so there was discussion about alternatives. Some suggestions included: Putting cameras on the caretaker's cottage and running wires along the poles on the property; or, bringing electricity to the barn vs spending \$4,000 for solar power. There was a suggestion by Mr. Quinn to utilize the existing conduit that was installed for the campground, which may provide PVC pipes through which wires could be run.

There was also discussion about where, specifically, the cameras are most needed, in case there's some need to triage the project to bring the cost down. Mr. Hadik noted that it's always possible to have live cameras in key spots, and then to put fake ones and signs elsewhere as a preventative measure.

All agreed, that being able to see the playground, as well as vehicles coming in and out is critical, both for safety and security. There was a brief discussion about storage of video from the cameras and how long it should be kept before being overwritten, which also will affect the cost of the project. Mr. Hadik noted that he had done a similar project recently for about \$2,000.

The matter was tabled after agreeing to the following:

- BOS Chairman Trask will look at the drawings to ascertain if there are pipes that could be used for wires
- BOS Chairman Trask will obtain information on costs to bring power to the barn
- Mr. Hadik will provide details about the scope and cost of the project he had done

IX. Bridge Project

Chairman Myette reported that the Bridge Project was completed on Saturday morning. He noted that both bridges are now done. It's his opinion that with all the work that has been performed on the bridges we shouldn't have to look at them for perhaps 15 to 20 years.

The costs involved have been about \$1,700 so far, with donations in the \$1,300 or \$1,400 range and the Conservation Commission making up any gap.

X. Barn Roof Siding

Chairman Myette then moved to the next project, which is siding of the Barn. He noted that the roof has been done, so siding needs to be next. He stated that the lumber is cut and available to be picked up any time the project is ready to use it. An additional twenty 14 foot boards have been ordered as well. The cost of the lumber is yet to be determined, but it is anticipated that with the lumber that has been cleared by Tony Amato and what is currently owed by Chester Forest Products, it will be a wash. The only anticipated other cost would be stain to protect the wood, but Chairman Myette stated that the Conservation Commission will cover that cost.

XI. CIP: Gazebo or Pavilion

Chairman Myette explained that there is a plan to allow a shelter type structure of about 800 square feet, over where the beach is, exact location yet to be determined. It is on a CIP, and the question is whether we want to move forward with it, and when.

Ms. Hammond noted that the Recreation Commission has CIP budget which can be proposed for approval by the Planning Commission. While this expenditure is not currently slated by for FY 2018, we can move it up or back depending on what we want to do, but this will require a decision where it is in our priorities.

Mr. Hadik noted that to move forward we will need a design and estimate, as we have not come to any agreement as to what type of structure it should be and/or what materials should be utilized to construct it.

BOS Chairman Trask noted that a standard pavilion would be simple and relatively inexpensive to have a contractor erect.

Chairman Myette suggested that we may want to consider having the Timber Framers' Guild do the work. Should they do it, they will want to do something unique as a learning opportunity for those who are involved in the construction. Chairman Myette agreed to contact Joel of the Timber Framers' Guild to get some possible designs for various types of structures.

A discussion ensued about what the purpose of the structure would be, as that might help decide design, and who to use to build it. Specific questions were asked about the type of structure, pavilion or gazebo; as well as the type of floor material: wood, cement or gravel. It was noted that wood needs to be pressure treated to avoid decay, cement would involve getting a heavy truck to the site and gravel is difficult to clean after an event. Other questions were raised about whether the roof should be metal or cedar and about whether the structure should be raised up, in which case a ramp would be required.

All agreed that with so many questions, there needs to be fact finding, and each member must consider what s/he thinks would be best to fit the form and function of the potential structure. As a next step it was agreed that members would take photos of structures that seem appropriate and which may meet our specific site needs. Ms. Hammond said she would take photos of the Candia Sports Complex as that was specifically referenced as a possible example. At the next meeting, photos and information gathered will be discussed to help guide next steps.

Ms. Hammond will bring the item to the CIP meeting on October 16, 2017 to determine if the Recreation Commission is open to allocating the funds for FY2018 or 2019. Once funds are available, we will be able to develop a project plan and move forward.

XII. Membership

Chairman Myette discussed the fact that the Wason Pond Committee doesn't have sufficient full time members to meet the requirements of the Warrant Article. Specifically, the Wason Pond Commission is required to have two members from the Recreation Commission, two members from the Conservation Commission, two At Large Members, one Selectman, and two Alternates.

Chairman Myette reminded the Committee that at Thursday night's meeting of the BOS, Commission members will be appointed. He requested that as many from this Committee attend as possible.

XIII. Miscellaneous

A question was asked about an unauthorized, very large wedding held at Wason Pond by a couple from Raymond. Ms. Hammond explained that this did, in fact, occur, that the police were called and when they arrived, they were told the group had permission to use the area. This is not the case; Recreation Director Reishus had no knowledge of this event until contacted by the Police the next day, and had not given permission. The police believed them and then never contacted anyone from the Recreation Commission to report it. There were parked cars obstructing traffic, there was a great deal of public drinking, and it was a very large event. Ms. Hammond said that the incident has been handed off as a trespassing incident. Members were surprised that if there had been a permit, that so much public drinking was not dealt with by the police. Further, the police are aware that there is a process to be followed when events occur, and that if there is any question, someone from the Recreation Commission should be contacted.

Chairman Myette was asked if anyone had contacted him about updating the trail signs as there was a posting on Facebook about it. He indicated that no one had reached out to him as of yet.

XIV. Adjournment

Chairman Myette asked if there were any other items to discuss. There were none.

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Commission will be scheduled for November 6, 2017.

Mr. Hadik moved to adjourn the meeting; BOS Chairman Trask seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lys Miller-Drake, Recording Secretary