

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

June 2, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Present were:

Chris Hadik, Chair
Corinna Reishus, Vice-Chair
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Conservation Rep.
Kristina Snyder, Conservation Rep.
Leslie Hammond, Recreation Rep. (@7:13 PM)
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
John Dalrymple, Alternate
Chairman Chuck Myette, Selectman Liaison

Absent were:

Staff Present:

Ranger John Wright

1. Open Meeting – New Business

Chair Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

a. Chief Berube

Chief Berube indicated most of the calls for service were for business/property checks. The arrests were for drug/alcohol/mischief related incidents. Business/property checks are routine. Chief Berube indicated some improvement since the area reopened. Ranger Wright has been extremely helpful and lessened the burden on the Department.

Mr. Hadik asked how hiring is going and Chief Berube indicated one applicant is over 18 and background checks are being done now.

Mrs. Reishus indicated the under aged kids will keep an eye out while doing maintenance work but are not able to do park ranger type duties.

Chief Berube indicated they will use the same approach as in the past with staff and appreciate the Commission's support.

b. Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale indicated two expenditures totaling \$64.15 with \$827.53 remaining (over 50%) for caretaker cottage and bathhouse, dam maintenance and rec and cons. development.

Mrs. Reishus indicated she already took care of signage for rec and that does not roll over.

Ms. Snyder asked if the fishing line receptacles are done before the end of the month, could we take

from that. Mr. Chouinard plans to do one quickly before the end of the month.

Mrs. Reishus motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as stated. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Reishus – aye, Dalrymple – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Snyder – aye, Hadik – aye, Myette – aye, Quinn – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of minutes of May 5, 13 & 18 meetings

May 5, 2020 - Tabled

May 13, 2020

Mr. Quinn made the statement on Line 122.

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to accept the May 13, 2020 minutes as amended. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Reishus – aye, Dalrymple – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Snyder – aye, Hadik – aye, Myette – aye, Hammond – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

May 18, 2020

Line 45 motion was shortened. Line 60 was amended to change regulation to recommendation.

Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the May 18, 2020 minutes as amended. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Reishus – aye, Dalrymple – abstain, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Snyder – aye, Hadik – aye, Myette – abstain, Hammond – aye. The motion passed 5-0-2.

d. Open position – Sandra Wright

Mrs. Wright indicated she has lived in Chester for 15 years and Wason Pond is very special to their family.

Mr. Hadik noted Mrs. Wright would be eligible for the full member at large position.

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the appointment of Sandy Wright to the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission. Mrs. Reishus seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Reishus – aye, Dalrymple – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Snyder – aye, Hadik – aye, Myette – abstain, Hammond – aye. The motion passed 6-0-1.

e. Discussion of Phase 2 of re-opening

Mrs. Reishus indicated the Commission is doing everything the state is recommending. The fields are closed, there is guidance on youth sports but can't implement that yet. Transitional movement is all that is recommended. Phase 2 could be implemented when the Stay at Home order is lifted with the reopening of the Community Center parking lot.

Mr. Hadik was uncertain more parking was needed right now. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale asked if the owner of the private property where people have been parking has been in touch with the Town or Commission yet and Mr. Hadik was unsure. Selectman Myette indicated the property belongs to a developer and he may not be aware. There are still more parking across the street than in the lot.

Mr. Hadik indicated some form of reserving spaces could be implemented. Pawtuckaway allows visitors to reserve a 30'x30' square.

Ranger Wright indicated it gets crowded when it is warm out and social distancing is not being followed.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Update

Selectman Myette indicated the Board is monitoring the situation right now to see what happens as the weather gets warmer.

b. Ordinances?

3. Recreation Commission

a. Events – Summer program – cancelled

Mrs. Reishus indicated the Summer Program is definitely cancelled.

b. Fields (Currently closed)

c. Playground (Currently closed)

Mrs. Reishus indicated the playground equipment is being maintained.

Ms. Hammond noted soccer camp has not been cancelled yet or publicized. UNH is trying to figure out where to hold the program.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Tree cutting along paths. Complete?

Selectman Myette indicated the last of the tree cutting will be tomorrow morning. There were a lot more trees than estimated. Something is spreading through the Hemlock trees and takes about 4-5 years to kill the tree.

b. Receptacle for fishing line at bridge. (KS emailed link on 5/8)

Ms. Snyder noticed tangled fishing line everywhere which can be detrimental to wildlife. Ms. Snyder contacted Fish & Game who recommended using receptacles as a place to put line. Mr. Chouinard will be making those. Mr. Chouinard indicated they are inexpensive to make using only PVC. Ms. Snyder is looking into a sign to display with them. Mr. Hadik noted he was hopeful this would encourage people to dispose of gear properly.

Mr. Hadik motioned to expend up to \$100 from miscellaneous budget line for the materials to make the receptacles. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Reishus – aye, Dalrymple – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Snyder – aye, Hadik – aye, Myette – aye, Hammond – aye. The motion passed 7-0-0.

c. Issues/Concerns?

5. Ranger John Wright

a. Update

Ranger Wright indicated he had nothing new to report. A few were jumping from the bridge. Trying to keep clear so families are not intimidated to pass through.

Mr. Hadik noted the Commission is hopeful to get more of a presence when the Ranger is not able to be there.

b. Issues/Concerns?

6. Master Plan – Projects

a. Pavilion – awaiting design.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Pedestrian traffic count (Madeleine Dilonno – July)

b. ADA Compliance ramp. (Senior Center currently closed)
Are we in favor of having Maintenance proceed with work?

Mrs. Reishus reviewed the Warrant Article and noted the ramp is not handicapped compliant. Funds were encumbered last year but will only be through this month. Maintenance proposed an aluminum-based ramp and the Building Inspector did not think we had the right slope. Wooden sides could hide the aluminum.

Selectman Myette asked whether anyone had considered using the front entrance. Mr. Hadik indicated he had no objections.

c. Beavers

Ms. Snyder noted the beavers have been active again. Mr. Chouinard cleaned out the blockage, but they were back the next day. Mr. Broadwater consulted with them and suggested running a long culvert pipe beneath them. Road Agent Oleson was contacted by email to see if he could provide a pipe or steel grating. The concern would be keeping water flow steady.

Mrs. Reishus noted there were funds available in the contract services line. Mr. Chouinard indicated Conservation would be willing to assist as well.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Tuesday – July 7, 2020)

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all were in favor, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary