

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

January 4, 2021

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Present (remotely) were:

Chris Hadik, Chair
Corinna Reishus
Sandy Wright
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Kristina Snyder
Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison
John Dalrymple, Alternate
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
David Webster

Staff present:

Ranger John Wright

1. Open Meeting – New Business

Chair Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

a. Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale reported expenses from the electricity line totaling \$43.39 for the Caretaker's Cottage and \$16.21 for the Bathhouse. The balance for the year is \$1,290.70, or 79% of the budget left.

Ms. Wright motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as stated. Selectman Myette seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Minutes

December 7, 2020

Ms. Neff Ragsdale recommended edits to line 99. She noted that Selectman Stephen Landau was listed as absent, but since Selectman Myette is the Selectmen Liaison, Selectman Landau should not be counted as absent. Ms. Reishus recommended edits to lines 15, 34, 35, 60, and listing Brenda Goudreau as present. Mr. Hadik recommended listing Gary Goudreau as present. Selectman Myette recommended edits to line 86, 73. Mr. Quinn questioned his need to vote as an alternate if a quorum existed, and Mr. Hadik said it was not necessary.

Ms. Reishus motioned to approve the December 7, 2020 minutes as amended. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Review of 2021 Annual Report

Selectman Myette congratulated Chair Hadik on capturing what was a different year very well.

Ms. Neff Ragsdale noted the need to delete words in the What's Happening at Wason Pond section and the Plans for 2020-21 section. She also questioned referring to 2020 since the plans are for 2021. Chair Hadik said the report is supposed to cover fiscal year 2019-20, but agreed the plans are for 2021, so will edit the title. Chair Hadik noted that he made a correction to the term beaver box, changing it to beaver flow pipes.

Ms. Reishus requested an edit to the History section, changing verbiage from "disbanded and replaced" to "transitioned." Also suggested the addition of verbiage in Membership section, that if meetings are not held in person, they are held remotely and open to all to attend. Chair Hadik noted that the term "remotely" means not held in person so clarification isn't necessary, but will add that the public is welcome to attend. Ms. Reishus also suggested listing the events that did happen in the What's Happening at Wason Pond section.

Chair Hadik will make the suggested edits and resubmit the report to the committee. If there are no changes, he will forward it to Janis.

d. Photos for Town Report

Chair Hadik requested that committee members send him pictures. He will forward them to Janis, along with ones he received from Kristina.

e. Update of the rules signs

Chair Hadik asked if anything had been done about the "no hunting" signs. Ms. Reishus submitted a maintenance request on December 18 to install them along entrances and trailways. Chair Hadik will order lettering to place in the blank spots on the existing signs saying "no hunting" and "no discharge of firearms."

Chair Hadik discussed the need to move the sign on Dump Road to the entrance to Wason Pond. Mr. Quinn suggested locating the sign at the entrance to the property. Chair Hadik said if the sign on Dump Road isn't moved, a "no hunting" sign should be added at the entrance so no one can enter the property on a path without seeing a sign. Selectman Myette said the sign should not be on the Class 6 road, as people are allowed to hunt there.

Mr. Dalrymple said there is a white conservation sign on the tree before the benches, and the sign with the rules could be moved there. Chair Hadik suggested Ms. Reishus submit a maintenance request to move the sign, once it is properly lettered. Mr. Dalrymple concurred.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Update

Selectman Myette said there were no relevant issues or discussions.

3. Recreation Commission

a. Events

Ms. Reishus said the scavenger hunt is still going on. It was scheduled to end on New Year's Day, but due to numerous requests, they will leave it up through Martin Luther King Day. Ms. Neff Ragsdale has seen families enjoying it, and thought it was a great idea.

Ms. Reishus has a request for a wedding to be held in May at the covered bridge, but the town is not accepting facility requests due to the state of emergency. The wedding will include 40 people, and will be open to the public. The petitioner asked to use the barn, which isn't possible since it's not suitable for use. Ms. Reishus questioned if she should ask the Board of Selectmen to allow the event, or wait another month. Chair Hadik suggested following current state guidelines, so the answer is no to the wedding, but the committee can contact revisit if/when the guidelines change.

Selectman Myette asked if the Pounder was in May, but it has currently been rescheduled for September 18, so there would be no conflict with the wedding.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Beaver update

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported that the beaver lodge is coming up on the walkway. Ms. Snyder took pictures, and said the pipes are working. She would like to order an informational sign for the beaver lodge, requesting that people not interfere with it or the beavers. Janis or Ms. Reishus can order the sign through Rockingham County Corrections. Ms. Snyder will ask for committee approval of wording to be used on the sign.

Chair Hadik requested that the sign be similar to the existing green and white rules signs since the wide variety of signs at Wason Pond is aesthetically unpleasing. Mr. Quinn suggested keeping the wording brief since people don't read long signs. Ms. Neff Ragsdale suggested using a QR code that refers to the town website, but it might not work on a metal sign. Chair Hadik suggested applying a sticker with a QR code on the sign.

Chair Hadik motioned to allow Conservation to add a sign at the beaver lodge with information about the beavers, and asking people to leave them alone. Ms. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Receptacle for fishing line at bridge

Chair Hadik asked if there had been any response to requests for funding. Ms. Snyder plans to get in touch with her contact this week. She sent a message last month that Fish & Game is still on board with it. They will help promote the project and put it on their social media sites. She will do another round of outreach, sending letters and making phone calls.

Fish & Game said clubs might want to put their club decal on the receptacle if they donate, like a sponsorship. The committee will have to discuss this as it might fall under advertising. Chair Hadik agreed. Ms. Neff Ragsdale said that plaques are used to thank Eagle Scouts for their projects and maybe the committee could create something standardized to thank people who donate. Ms. Snyder said they will be thanked in social media, and Fish & Game will mention

150 them. Clubs could also promote it themselves. Ms. Snyder said Fish & Game is finally
understanding the issue of fishing line and getting more interested in promoting the receptacles.

152 Selectman Myette asked if there had been a response from the Chester Rod and Gun Club. Ms.
Snyder said no, but Fish & Game told her with COVID-19, it's taking months to get responses
154 from clubs. Ms. Snyder will call again. She thinks they would be one of the best groups to work
with because they're Chester-based. She also reached out to the Raymond Sports Club, but had
156 no response. Selectman Myette said they can reach out to members of the clubs, who can bring
the topic forward. Chair Hadik sent a request to the club he belongs to, and hasn't had a
158 response. He will attend a meeting and bring it up to the membership.

160 **5. Ranger John Wright**

162 a. Update

164 Ranger Wright had nothing to report.

166 **6. Master Plan – Projects**

168 a. Pavilion

170 Selectman Myette has heard nothing from the engineer. Chair Hadik put in the town report that
the committee hopes to have this completed for 2022, so Selectman Myette will push her again.
172 He said she was going to reach out to the other engineer on the footings.

174 b. ADA Compliance ramp. Status on contract?

176 Selectman Myette has heard nothing. Chair Hadik will reach out to Deb.

178 **7. Miscellaneous**

180 Chair Hadik reiterated that he will edit the town report and send it to committee to review.

182 Ms. Neff Ragsdale will be out of town for the next two meetings, but will join at least the
February meeting remotely.

184 **8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday – February 1, 2021)**

186 *Ms. Snyder motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A
188 vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

190 **Respectfully submitted,**

192 **Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary**