

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

February 1, 2021

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Members present (remotely):

Chris Hadik, Chair
Corinna Reishus
Sandy Wright
Kristina Snyder
Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison
John Dalrymple, Alternate

Members absent:

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
David Webster

Guests:

Eagle Scout Candidate Alex Brillhart
Steve Brillhart
Ranger John Wright

1. Open Meeting – New Business

Chair Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

a. Treasurer's Report

Chair Hadik reported expenses for the caretaker's cottage of \$41.00 in electricity usage, which brings the total this year to \$304.00, about 27% of the budget line. The bathhouse, \$16 in electricity usage, which is 54% of the budget. There are no expenses for the Wason Pond Commission year to date. From a budget of \$1,635, there is \$1,232.95 remaining as of January 31st.

Ms. Reishus moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Minutes - January 4, 2021

There were no changes to the minutes.

Ms. Reishus moved to approve the January 4, 2021 minutes. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Alex Brillhart proposed Eagle Scout project

Mr. Brillhart presented his Eagle Scout project proposal, which will earn his Eagle Scout rank while also improving the community. The current bog bridge is rotting and is no longer suitable for foot traffic. He plans to build a 4' x 150' Type 3 puncheon bridge to replace the current bridge. He will raise funds for the materials, and use volunteer labor to help him construct and install the bridge. He will post a sign at the site that explains the process, and invites questions and offers of assistance. Installation will occur in June. The cost of the materials is estimated at approximately \$5,000.

The design will need to be changed to allow for horse traffic. He asked if he could have tractor and trailer access to transport materials, and if he would need a construction permit. He will be presenting to the Board of Selectmen at a later date. Selectman Myette said there is access for a tractor and trailer, and is not a violation of the easement.

Selectman Myette suggested narrowing the bridge to 3 feet to allow room for horses to walk beside it. They can install a sign instructing that horses be ridden next to the bridge. They can remove some of the brush to avoid spooking the horses. He also asked if the curbs were needed on top of the bridge as they could be a trip hazard, and other members agreed. Mr. Brillhart said they were not required.

Chair Hadik said there needs to be emergency access, and recommended that Mr. Brillhart check with the fire chief to find out how much room they would need on the side of the bridge.

Ms. Reishus suggested speaking with the building inspector to answer any questions, especially involving ADA requirements. She said June is a very busy month, and asked how long it would take to install the bridge, since access would be limited in that area during the process. Mr. Brillhart hopes to build most of the bridge offsite and construct it onsite in two or three weekends. He will block it off when he isn't there so people don't walk on it.

Chair Hadik asked Mr. Brillhart how long the bridge would last and how difficult it will be to replace the boards, since maintenance is a burden for the town. Mr. Brillhart estimated that it should last 15 years. Selectman Myette recommended using galvanized spikes instead of screws as they would be easier to remove, and Mr. Brillhart agreed. Selectman Myette complimented Mr. Brillhart on his presentation and his selection of a project. Ms. Snyder said she appreciates this project, as it will improve a bad spot on the trail.

Mr. Brillhart will make the suggested revisions to his plan, speak with the appropriate parties, and return with a final proposal.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Update

Selectman Myette said there were no relevant issues or discussions.

3. Recreation Commission

a. Events – January Scavenger Hunt

Ms. Reishus removed the scavenger hunt on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and saw a lot of people

enjoying the trails.

b. Fields (Open for individual and approved group use)

Ms. Reishus said baseball has been in touch with her regarding the use of town fields and Wason fields, but nothing official has been started. She suggested revisiting the topic in March. Soccer wasn't allowed to host games on the fields in the fall for the Rec Program due to a restriction on towns comingling, so only the in-house league was active. She hopes they will receive spring guidance from the governor soon. She will follow the state's guidelines and consult the Board of Selectmen if necessary. Selectman Myette reminded her to follow the CDC guidelines. Ms. Reishus said she will, but it's difficult as the state is very vague in some areas and not so vague in others.

Ms. Reishus has received another wedding request for 2022. The other request has been tabled since the person understands Ms. Reishus can't give her an answer right now. Ms. Reishus has been in discussion with New Hampshire Parks and Recs regarding summer camps and opening spring sports, and is expecting guidance by the end of February.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Beaver update and sign.

Ms. Snyder had positive feedback from the committee members regarding the informational sign. She received an estimate for a 12 x 18 sign, but asked if it should be larger and how many are needed. Chair Hadik said he only saw the need for one, since a replacement can be ordered if the sign disappears. Ms. Snyder will order the sign tomorrow.

b. Receptacle for fishing line at bridge. (Looking for sponsors)

Ms. Snyder contacted Dan Jones, the president of the Chester Rod and Gun Club, and he will bring it up at their board meeting. She said they're looking for a small donation and collaboration on social media to promote it. He will let her know the board's decision and how much they're willing to donate to the project. She spoke with Victor and they will start making the receptacles this month, and hopefully will be able to install them by the end of March. Selectman Myette asked if the Chester Rod and Gun Club had ever been associated with the fishing derby and Ms. Reishus said no. He suggested that they might be interested in teaming up with the committee.

Ms. Snyder asked if the committee put aside \$100 for the receptacles. Private people are willing to donate to the project. Selectman Myette said this is a good project for the Conservation Commission and there are funds there. Ms. Snyder will reach out to other organizations, and believes the cost should easily be covered. Victor has ideas on how to make it more affordable and better. Ms. Reishus said the committee voted on June 2nd to expend up to \$100 from the miscellaneous budget line for the materials to make the receptacles.

From Chester Conservation, Ms. Snyder said Saturday, February 6 at 6:00 PM, there will be a live animal virtual presentation in partnership with Squam Lake Science Center called "Animals in Winter." They will be presenting ambassador animals through Zoom that either hibernate or migrate, and how they adapt to winter. It will be a good presentation for families and children.

150 **5. Ranger John Wright**

152 **a. Update**

154 Mr. Wright said he hadn't walked the trails, but he has driven through a couple of times and
156 called out people with dogs off leash.

158 **6. Master Plan – Projects –**

160 **a. Pavilion – Design received. Footings and timber cut.**

162 Selectman Myette has heard nothing from the engineer. Chair Hadik said they will have to do
164 something this fall if it's going to be up in 2022.

166 **7. Miscellaneous**

168 **a. ADA Compliance ramp. Status on contract?**

170 Chair Hadik said the final number from the contractor who has been hired is \$15,364.00, which
172 includes \$4,285 for the architectural permit drawings and letter of code compliance. The only
174 issue is that getting it powder coated a different color is not an option. It will be a bare
176 aluminum code-compliant ramp.

178 **b. No Hunting stickers**

180 Chair Hadik had the no hunting stickers made to add to the rules signs. They are a different
182 color than the existing signs and slightly larger, and he asked if the committee had any issues
184 with that. There were none. There is duct tape on the signs now, so that will have to be removed
186 before the stickers can be applied. They will be difficult to clean in the cold weather, so he will
188 take them inside to apply the stickers, and then reinstall the signs.

190 **c. Eagle Scout projects**

192 Ms. Reishus said if there are any Boy Scouts looking for projects, the posts for the trail maps
194 need repair. Chair Hadik suggested a good Eagle Scout project would be to review the notes and
196 catalog the existing Eagle Scout projects in town, and perform maintenance on them. He also
suggested a spare kiosk map is needed to replace the current one once it fades. Steve Brillhart
said he would take the suggestion to the troop.

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

199 *Ms. Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Selectman Myette seconded. A vote*
200 *was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

202 **Respectfully submitted,**

204 **Beth Haggeli, Recording Secretary**