

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

March 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
Darrell Quinn, Alternate

Members absent:

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
David Webster

Guest:

Ranger John Wright

1. Open Meeting – New Business

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

a. Treasurer's Report

Chair Hadik reported expenses for the caretaker's cottage of \$40.78 in electricity usage, 68% of budget left with four months to go. For the bathhouse, \$16.21 in electricity usage, which leaves 59% of the budget left. There are no expenses for the Wason Pond Commission year to date, \$256 still remains.

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 - February 1, 2021

There were no changes to the minutes.

Ms. Reishus moved to approve the February 1, 2021 minutes. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

c. 300th Anniversary Committee's New Year's Eve bonfire.

Chair Hadik said the 300th anniversary celebration committee wants to hold a bonfire the evening of January 1, 2022. It will be in the circle, and people will be asked to bring their Christmas trees to burn. Selectman Myette said the committee wants to provide parking at

Spring Hill Farm if there isn't enough room at Wason Pond, and use wagons to transport people. He said that is a workable solution, although he believes there will be enough parking at Wason. There should be enough room for 100 cars to park in the lot, but he doesn't think there will be more than 50 or 60. They could use the wagons for hay rides if they don't need to shuttle people from Spring Hill Farm.

Chair Hadik said it would be an opportunity to clean up limbs on the property, but it would need to be done before it snows. Ms. Reishus said Mike does not plow the lot, and Chair Hadik said the 300th committee will need to plan ahead to make sure that's done.

Selectman Myette said the area will need to be cleaned up after the fire, and Chair Hadik said that would be taken care of; they can borrow the tractor from Maintenance. Ms. Reishus doesn't see that the bonfire will be an issue, but the 300th committee will have to present it to the Technical Review Committee, along with the other events they're planning. She said they will need to involve the fire department and possibly the police department as well.

Ms. Snyder asked if there would be a porta-potty available, and Chair Hadik said the 300th committee will take care of that.

Ms. Reishus said the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee wants to hold a winter carnival on their property, and maybe they could combine the two events. Chair Hadik said Spring Hill Farm might be a better place for a bonfire. Selectman Myette said it would be nice to have two events to break up the season. Chair Hadik said they could build the bonfire at Spring Hill Farm in the fall and burn it during the winter. He will take the idea back to the 300th committee.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Update

Selectman Myette said there were no relevant issues or discussions.

3. Recreation Commission

a. Firemen's muster August 2022 groundskeeping concerns.

Ms. Reishus spoke with Mr. Costine about the fireman's muster being held in July. The fire department wants to dig exploratory test holes in the fields with a backhoe. They will erect two utility poles with 150' of wire strung between them. She is concerned that digging holes, and the water from the fire hoses, will damage the fields. The committee discussed alternate locations and methods of erecting the poles. They aren't concerned about the other events damaging the fields, since it will just be foot traffic. Ms. Reishus is also concerned that children from the summer programs will try to climb the poles if they are erected in advance.

Chair Hadik said the poles will need to be erected in advance, since there is a 5K race that morning at Wason Pond. Ms. Reishus said July is a busy month, and mid-August would be a better time for the muster. Mr. Quinn asked if they had considered another location for the muster. Chair Hadik said they needed a place with adequate room for parking and spectators. They also need a water source. They will probably park at the school, with shuttle buses bringing people to Wason Pond for the event. Chair Hadik will meet Mr. Costine at Wason Pond

and see if they can find an alternative location for the hose duel event.

Chair Hadik asked Selectman Myette if it was possible to have vendors onsite during the event. The 300th committee was told it wasn't possible. Selectman Myette said there can't be advertising at Wason Pond. Signs can't be put on the fences and there can't be a permanent location, but nothing prohibits a vendor selling food for the day. Ms. Reishus said they will need to get permission from the Board of Selectmen. Vendors can't make money on the property since it's owned by the town, so in the past the Pounder organizers only invited nonprofit vendors. If the Board of Selectman gives permission, they can have other vendors.

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

Chair Hadik asked Ms. Reishus if she had received new guidelines from the state. She said no, she is still waiting. They are still in a state of emergency. She doesn't feel safe allowing large gatherings while the strict guidelines are in place. Chair Hadik asked about spring sports and Ms. Reishus said the day camps are being rewritten for the summer. They are trying to change the parameters to increase the size of groups from 10 to 20. She is concerned since Wason Pond is public property, and she can't control the size of a group swimming when the public can also swim in the lake. She discussed these issues with Eric Feldbaum of the New Hampshire Recreation and Park Association, and he had suggestions on how to deal with them.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Beaver update and sign.

Ms. Snyder said the beaver sign came in last week and will be installed at the end of March/beginning of April.

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

Ms. Snyder would like to order the fishing line receptacle signs by the end of March/beginning of April. She sent suggestions for the signs to the committee members, and they agreed on placing a duck and a fish on them. Selectman Myette said they need a decal and a sign, to make sure people read them. Ms. Snyder will get samples from the sign manufacturer.

Ms. Snyder spoke with Dan Jones from the Chester Rod and Gun Club and although he forgot to bring the issue up to the members, he believes they are willing to support the project and write a check for \$500. She said Fish and Game wants to be involved, and if they can't be present during the installation, she will send them pictures. Selectman Myette asked how many receptacles were being ordered and Ms. Snyder said two. The committee discussed possible locations for the receptacles, and Mr. Wright suggested one by the cement bridge and one by the covered bridge, near the podium with the plant information.

5. Ranger John Wright

a. Update

Mr. Wright had no update. He will start when the weather improves, around the middle to the end of the month.

150 **6. Master Plan – Projects**

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

154 Selectman Myette spoke with Alicia. She's talking to the engineering firm doing the design and
156 stamping, and the foundation engineering. She said they are "third in the pile," so they should
have the design by the end of the week.

158 **7. Miscellaneous**

160 **a. Pedestrian traffic count (Madeleine Dilonno – July 2021).**

162 Chair Hadik said the count will occur in July.

164 **b. ADA Compliance ramp status?**

166 Ms. Reishus spoke with Town Administrator Doda. They are in discussion with the town
168 attorney about the contract.

170 **c. Alex Brillhart Eagle Scout project.**

172 Chair Hadik said Mr. Brillhart has run into an issue with the DES, since the project involves
wetlands. Selectman Myette said he and Mr. Chouinard from the Conservation Commission are
174 working with Mr. Brillhart. Ms. Snyder said Mr. Brillhart has been in contact with the DES and
it shouldn't be a problem, but he needs to follow the formal process.

176 **8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday – April 5, 2021)**

178 *Ms. Reishus moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM. Ms. Snyder seconded. A vote was*
180 *taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

182 **Respectfully submitted,**
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary