

**WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**August 2, 2021**

**Approved Minutes**

**7:00 PM**

**Members present:**

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

**Guests:**

Ranger John Wright  
Victor Chouinard  
Deb Munson

**1. Open Meeting – New Business**

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

**a. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported expenses for the caretaker's cottage of \$19.40 in electricity usage. There was no figure for the bathhouse. This leaves a balance of \$1,615.60 or 98.81% of the budget. The need for two meters and the possibility of putting the bathhouse on the caretaker's cottage meter were discussed.

*Ms. Reishus moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed.*

**b. Approval of Minutes – July 12, 2021**

*Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes as written. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed.*

**c. Update on causeway bridge**

The Commission discussed long-term and short-term options for repairing/replacing the causeway bridge and dealing with the beaver dam. Selectman Myette gave an update on the engineer's report. The Board of Selectmen would like suggestions from the Commission as to how to proceed.

The cost could run from approximately \$1,500 to \$700,000, depending on the method chosen. Ms. Snyder recommended seeking options that would maintain optimal aquatic passage, deal with flooding, and protect wildlife. She said there are recreation grants available that she will research. The Commission discussed removing the causeway completely and allowing the pond

to return to a natural state.

Mr. Webster recommended having the Army Corps of Engineers examine the causeway and provide their input. Chairman Hadik suggested doing a stress test to determine how much weight the causeway can bear. Mr. Chouinard suggested having a DES representative examine the causeway and will also notify the Rockingham County Conservation District.

Mr. Quinn said the Jersey barriers and chain-link fence make it impossible to remove the beaver dam mechanically. Mr. Chouinard and Ms. Snyder will continue to clear the beaver dam manually.

The Commission supports a short-term solution to allow foot traffic, the Fire Department and the Police Department Gators, and the Recreation golf cart to cross, while long-term solutions are researched. Chairman Hadik will contact Town Administrator Doda with this suggestion, to be passed on to the Board of Selectmen.

**d. Update on dog leash ordinance**

The Commission asked the Board of Selectmen to look into a leash ordinance. They have consulted the Town attorney and prefer establishing a site-specific ordinance as opposed to a Town ordinance. An ordinance will require manpower to enforce it. Chairman Hadik said it might serve as a deterrent if an ordinance exists. Currently, Ranger Wright warns offenders, but cannot write tickets.

**2. Selectmen's Liaison**

**a. Update**

Selectman Myette said there were no further relevant issues or discussions.

**3. Recreation Commission**

**a. Update**

Ms. Reishus reported that the bubbler has been turned on. The summer program ends this week. The soccer program begins at the end of the month.

**4. Conservation Commission**

**a. Milkweed project**

Ms. Snyder reported that the milkweed plants were mowed down by accident. She and Ms. Munson will remove invasive plants and possibly plant milkweed seeds in the fall. Ms. Neff Ragsdale suggested erecting a guardrail around the area in the spring, as signs did not prevent people from trampling the plants.

**5. Ranger John Wright**

**b. Update**

Mr. Wright reported that the property has been quiet, as the bridge is closed. More people are using the dog beach.

**6. Master Plan – Projects**

**a. Pavilion**

Selectman Myette said the pavilion project is on hold due to the causeway bridge being closed. The project still needs to be discussed for next year. Timber will need to be cut this winter while the sap content is low.

100  
102  
104  
106  
  
108  
110  
112  
114  
116  
  
118  
120  
  
122  
124  
  
126  
128  
130  
132  
  
134  
136

**7. Miscellaneous**

**a. Firemen's Muster in 2022**

Ms. Reishus met with Mr. Costine and identified a location for the pole placement on the field that is not in the playing surface. She is concerned that a safety issue will exist if wires are attached to the poles and left for an extended period of time. Dates for the muster and the pole placement need to be decided. Granite State is donating the poles and their placement.

**b. Pedestrian traffic count 7/29-8/16 (Cameron Prolman – July, 2021)**

The traffic count started last week and will continue until August 16<sup>th</sup>. The count will be skewed due to the causeway bridge being closed. Results will be sent to the Commission once the count is completed.

**c. ADA Compliance ramp status?**

The project is moving forward. The contract has been signed and construction should begin soon. The main issue was the landing to the parking lot has to be a specific grade, which can't be done until the ramp is completed. The community center has reopened.

**d. Alex Brillhart Eagle Scout project**

Mr. Brillhart is halfway through fundraising. Construction will begin mid-August and be completed by mid-September.

**e. Other concerns**

Mr. Webster noted that the bank is eroding on the left-hand side of the covered bridge and might need to be reinforced with rock.

People are building a bridge over the little pond where the walkway is, which is restricting flow to the frog pond. These materials will need to be cleaned out on a regular basis.

**8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, September 13, 2021)**

*Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 PM. Ms. Reishus seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary