

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

December 6, 2021

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Members present:

Chris Hadik, Chairman
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer
Sandy Wright
Kristina Snyder
Kathy Dircks
Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
John Dalrymple, Alternate

Members absent:

David Webster

Guests:

Ranger John Wright
Chester PACT

1. Open Meeting – New Business

Chairman Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

a. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported \$27.02 in electricity use for the caretaker's cottage and \$22.23 for the bathhouse for a total of \$49.25. Total expenditures for the year equal \$5,477.02, which is over budget by \$3,842.02, due to the unusual public safety expenditure for the Causeway Bridge of \$5,118.54.

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

b. Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2021

On line 31, the amount should read \$5,118, not \$1,518.

Mr. Quinn moved to approve the November 1, 2021 minutes as amended. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Ms. Neff Ragsdale, who abstained. The motion passed.

c. Annual Report (due January 21st)

Chairman Hadik has been asked to provide an annual report for the fiscal year by January 21st, 2022. The report covers the time period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Ms. Neff Ragsdale volunteered to create the report and send it to Commission members for review and approval.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Update on Ash St. Bridge

Selectman Myette reported that a revised estimate has been received from Dubois & King, reducing the number of lanes. It has been put forward to be carried in the CIP. The cost of the upfront engineering is approximately \$120,000. The cost of the feasibility study and the primary conceptual is about \$40,000. The rest is in construction oversight. The estimate for the bridge is between \$250,000 and \$350,000.

The Recreation Commission might have funds available in the CIP from impact fees to cover part of this cost. A request would have to be made to release those funds to move the project forward. Chairman Hadik noted there were funds available for the Pavilion, but as that project has stalled, perhaps those funds could be used for the bridge project as it is more of a priority. Selectman Myette said the Board of Selectmen or the Recreation Commission has the ability to approve moving the funds and changing the prioritization of the projects.

3. Recreation Commission

a. Update

Ms. Dircks reported the Boot Camp is still being held twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with 6-10 people attending. The instructor is prepared to go virtual again, if necessary. The Senior Fitness is still being offered online. There will probably be a winter scavenger hunt at the end of February.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Beaver update

Ms. Snyder reported that debris has been removed a couple of times. The water is starting to freeze. Mr. Chouinard from the Conservation Commission has ordered a device to remove the debris without anyone having to enter the water. Selectman Myette said Dubois & King inspected the structure and discussed the Town's preferences for the new bridge with Town representatives. The new design will include smoother sides, which will make it more difficult to support beaver activity. The weight of emergency vehicles needing to cross the bridge is being taken into consideration. The size of the current structure is the correct size, approximately 12' x 20'.

Ms. Snyder mentioned that the area behind the shed is filled with bittersweet and asked if it could be removed. It will need to be removed by hand as the area is too close to the water to apply a herbicide. Chairman Hadik recommended bringing it up again in the spring as a work project.

b. Milkweed and pollinator project location

Ms. Snyder reported that Deb Munson has not able to proceed with this project due to health issues. They will reassess possible locations in the spring, but are hoping to use a section of the area between the Senior Center and Route 102.

5. Ranger John Wright

a. Update

Mr. Wright reported that it has been very quiet on the property.

b. Dog Leash Ordinance

Chairman Hadik reported that the Board of Selectmen received the Commission's recommendation regarding the ordinance. Selectman Myette said it was reviewed by the

attorneys and approved.

6. Master Plan – Projects

a. Pavilion

Selectman Myette said the timber has not been cut; they do have a timber list. The project remains on hold.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Firemen's Muster in 2022

Chairman Hadik had no update on the Firemen's Muster.

b. ADA Compliance ramp status

Selectman Myette reported that the contract has been signed. The contractor has the ramp but has not been able to get the concrete poured for the installation.

c. State Dam Reports

Mr. Dalrymple said he observed a State representative inspecting the dam at Edwards Mill recently, who said he had already inspected Wason Pond. Mr. Quinn said the Edwards Mill report has been incorrect in the past and he corrected the error. Mr. Dalrymple will find out how to obtain those reports.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, January 3, 2022)

Ms. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary