

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

February 7, 2022

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Members present:

Chris Hadik, Chairman

Sandy Wright

Kristina Snyder

Kathy Dircks

David Webster (remotely)

Darrell Quinn, Alternate

John Dalrymple, Alternate

Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison (joined at 7:53)

Members absent:

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer

Guests:

Ranger John Wright

Chester PACT

1. Open Meeting – New Business

Chairman Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

a. Treasurer's Report

Chairman Hadik reported \$37.41 in electricity use for the caretaker's cottage and \$16.21 for the bathhouse electricity, for a total of \$53.62. The balance is -\$3,930.19, which is the result of the public safety emergency (closure of the Causeway [Ash Street] Bridge of \$5,118.54).

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

b. Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2022

Ms. Snyder to approve the January 3, 2022 minutes as written. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

c. RCCD Letter of February 2, 2022

The Commission discussed the letter from Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) to New Hampshire Governor Sununu regarding HB 307. This bill has passed the House and the Senate and is on the governor's desk, regarding removing local control over firearms use and possession. One of the intents of the bill is to make the laws uniform statewide. Ms. Snyder mentioned it is pertinent to Wason Pond as the WPC regulations prohibit discharge of firearms and hunting on the property. This bill might nullify those regulations.

Mr. Hadik pointed out the state has statutes prohibiting firearms in specific locations, including parks and gathering places. He said an ordinance might need to be written and presented to the

legislative body to ensure Wason Pond is covered under this RSA, which would protect it from being nullified by the bill. The Commission discussed the definition of the word "use" of firearms.

The Commission agreed to wait to see if the governor signs the bill. If so, they will request that the legislative body passes an ordinance to protect the current restrictions on the property. Ms. Snyder will find out when the governor is scheduled to sign the bill.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Update on Ash St. Bridge

Selectman Myette had no report.

3. Recreation Commission

a. Update

Ms. Dircks reported a Winter Carnival is being held on February 26th at Spring Hill Farm. Recreation, SHFAC, and the 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee are coordinating the event.

Mr. Hadik noted Recreation Director Corinna Reishus discovered the New Hampshire Dog-Walking Club had scheduled a dog-walking event on the property and were charging an entry fee. Ms. Reishus contacted them and explained the process to obtain permission to use the property, as well as the fees associated. They decided to move their event elsewhere.

4. Conservation Commission

a. HB 307

Ms. Snyder reported the Conservation Commission will be discussing HB 307 at their next meeting, as it affects conservation easements. When property is donated, the donors establish the intended usage. This bill could impact the donors' wishes.

5. Ranger John Wright

a. Update

Mr. Wright said there has not been much activity on the property.

6. Master Plan - Projects

a. Pavilion

Chairman Hadik reported the pavilion project is still on hold.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Firemen's Muster in 2022

Chairman Hadik has no update on the muster. He does not believe the Fire Department has heard back yet.

b. ADA Compliance ramp status

Selectman Myette said a surveyor had to measure the slope from the ramp to the parking lot, so they were waiting for that to occur. There were boards replaced on the deck, but the upper deck will probably need to be rebuilt in the spring. He will check to find out the results of the survey.

c. Water pump replacement

Mr. Quinn questioned the expenditure of over \$12,000 to replace the water pump. Chairman

Hadik said it has been removed from the CIP Warrant Article. He explained the building that houses the pump has been condemned and needs to be relocated. He suggested Mr. Quinn bring up the issue with the Budget Committee or the Board of Selectmen, as it was not a Wason Pond Commission issue.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, March 7, 2022)

Mr. Dalrymple moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 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