

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

March 7, 2022

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Members present:

Chris Hadik, Chairman
Sandy Wright
Kristina Snyder
Kathy Dircks
David Webster (joined at 7:11)
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
John Dalrymple, Alternate
Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison

Members absent:

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer

Guests:

Mary Dutton
Ranger John Wright
Chester PACT

1. Open Meeting – New Business

Chairman Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

a. Treasurer's Report

Chairman Hadik reported \$37.35 in electricity use for the caretaker's cottage and \$16.21 for the bathhouse electricity, for a total of \$53.56. The balance is -\$3,983.75, which is the result of the public safety emergency (closure of the Causeway [Ash Street] Bridge of \$5,118.54).

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

b. Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2022

On lines 99 and 102, **Mr. Dalrymple** should be replaced with **Mr. Quinn**.

Ms. Dircks to approve the February 7, 2022 minutes as amended. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Mary Dutton

Ms. Dutton asked for permission to install a box by the bench overlooking the pond for visitors to leave notes about their visit. There was a guest book in a Tupperware container, but it disappeared last year. She will be responsible for maintaining the box. Ms. Snyder will notify the Rockingham County Conservation District that this is occurring. Selectman Myette suggested it look as natural as possible. Ms. Dutton's son will construct a wooden box.

Mr. Quinn moved to allow installation of a box by the bench overlooking the pond to hold a

book for guest notes. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

d. RCCD Letter of February 2, 2022/RSA 159:26

Chairman Hadik shared that the proposed bill HB 307 is an expansion of RSA 159:26 that was effective August 6, 2011. The house bill adds penalties and means of redress for jurisdictions that violate the RSA. The Commission discussed how this will affect Wason Pond. Hunting and discharge of firearms are restricted on the property; the Commission cannot limit carrying weapons as they do not have that authority.

Ms. Snyder reviewed the amended version of HB 307, which was passed by the Senate. She spoke with Senator Gannon, who said the amended version will go to the House to approve or further discuss, but this will probably not happen until late May or early June.

Chairman Hadik explained that per RSA 159:26, the Commission cannot establish rules against hunting and the discharge of firearms on the property; only the Town legislature can do this. The Commission could ask for an ordinance to be put on the warrant next year or hold a special Town Meeting. If there is an ordinance in place, the police can charge and fine offenders. Mr. Webster pointed out there is currently no problem, so questioned if it was worth taking action unless the current rules are challenged.

The Commission agreed no action needs to be taken at this point. Ms. Snyder will watch the progress of this bill.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. ADA compliance ramp status

Neither Selectman Myette nor Mr. Dalrymple has seen the engineer's report. The Community Center is being used, although accommodations for handicapped individuals need to be made until the ramp is complete.

3. Recreation Commission

a. Update

Ms. Dirks reported that the Winter Festival held at Spring Hill Farm was a success. There was a lot of positive feedback. Many groups were involved in planning and coordinating the event, including the Boy Scouts, the PTA, and Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee. They plan to hold a festival again next winter and dates are being discussed.

b. Playground

Ms. Dirks said Recreation will begin cleaning up the playground once the snow melts.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Pollinator project

Ms. Snyder met with Ms. Deb Munson, who is still interested in installing a small pollinator section in front of the Community Center, as earlier discussed. This would not happen until next month, depending on the weather. They plan to start and plant seedlings at Spring Hill Farm and Wason Pond.

5. Ranger John Wright

a. Update

Mr. Wright said there have been dogs on the soccer field, as the signs have been removed. Ms. Wright reported there was an animated discussion on Facebook about it, but there was overwhelming positive support in response to the negative comments. Dogs are not allowed on athletic fields in Town for health reasons. Recreation Director Corinna Reishus will be notified that the signs need to be replaced.

6. Master Plan - Projects

a. Pavilion

Selectman Myette reported that the bridge repair takes priority over constructing the Pavilion. The engineering for the bridge can be contracted at any time; the cost is being covered by the Conservation Commission and Rec. There is a design for the Pavilion but the wood has not been cut and no foundations have been put in. There is access to the area via the road on the back side, if necessary. There are monies in the CIP for the Pavilion, so the project can move forward at any time.

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 anything.

b. Erosion

Mr. Webster reported the banks on both sides under the covered bridge have eroded past the fabric and the mud is becoming unmanageable. He suggested putting large rocks and pea gravel to prevent further erosion. There is also serious erosion on the beach.

Mr. Dalrymple said they have received the dam inspection report from the State on the Wason Pond dam. The condition was acceptable, but there were issues that need to be monitored. Selectman Myette said the erosion issue needs to be brought to the Board of Selectmen, so preventative action can be taken.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, April 4, 2022)

Mr. Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Mr. Webster seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary