

**WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**May 2, 2022**

**Approved Minutes**

**7:00 PM**

**Members present:**

Chris Hadik, Chairman  
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer  
Kristina Snyder  
Kathy Dircks  
David Webster  
Darrell Quinn, Alternate  
John Dalrymple, Alternate

**Members absent:**

Sandy Wright  
Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison

**Guests:**

Benjamin Wallin, Eagle Scout candidate  
Scout Master  
Deb Munson, Chester Conservation Commission  
Ranger John Wright  
Chester PACT

**1. Open Meeting – New Business**

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

**a. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported \$36.14 in electricity use for the caretaker's cottage and \$16.21 for the bathhouse electricity, for a total of \$52.35. Year-to-date expenditures are \$5,724.20, which is 250.10% of the budget, owing to the public safety emergency (closure of the Causeway [Ash Street] Bridge of \$5,118.54).

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

**b. Approval of Minutes – April 4, 2022**

Ms. Neff Ragsdale noted that she abstained from voting for the approval of the minutes for the March 7, 2022 meeting, as she was not present at that meeting. The minutes were amended to reflect this.

*Ms. Dircks to approve the April 4, 2022 minutes as amended. Ms. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**c. Benjamin Wallin potential Eagle Scout project**

Mr. Wallin presented a proposal for a potential Eagle Scout project to replace the trail maps

installed as an Eagle Scout project approximately 15 years ago. However, the Scout Master noted that an Eagle Scout project cannot consist of fixing earlier Eagle Scout projects. The Scout Master said the Troop could take inventory of former Eagle Scout projects around Town that need to be updated and take that on as a project.

The Commission discussed projects that are needed on the property that would qualify, included replacing the bulletin board near the beach with a kiosk. Mr. Wallin will bring a formal proposal to a future meeting. Ms. Snyder said the Commission would like to provide more information about the wildlife at Wason Pond, and perhaps this could be added to the kiosk. The Commission discussed the kinds of structures that are permitted to be built on the property, including bridges over waterways.

**d. Reappointments: Kathy Dircks, Kristina Snyder, David Webster, BOS April 28<sup>th</sup>**

All members were reappointed except Mr. Webster, who will take care of this. They will contact the Town Clerk to be officially sworn in.

**2. Selectmen's Liaison**

**a. Update on Ash Street bridge**

Selectman Myette was not present, but told Chairman Hadik he had no new information on the bridge.

**3. Recreation Commission**

**a. Update**

Ms. Dircks reported the last Pounder being put on by the current group is coming up. Boot Camp (fully in person) and Senior Fitness (hybrid) are still running. The qualifications for an individual to qualify as a senior were discussed. They also discussed the need for cosmetic updating in the Center, including paint and furniture.

Open Gym will be held on Mondays from 4-6 PM. If there is enough demand, more days/hours can be added. Summer Program registration opened on April 15<sup>th</sup> and staff are being hired. The Fishing Derby will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the fish drop is \$982.50. Chester PD will split the cost. The Chester Rod & Gun Club is willing to help.

The portable toilets have been delivered at Wason Pond. Chester Baseball and Softball are using the fields.

Mr. Webster reported the erosion problem has been resolved.

**4. Conservation Commission**

**a. Beaver update**

Ms. Snyder reported the beavers continue to block the bridge opening and the blockage continues to be removed.

**b. Milkweed and pollinator project location**

Ms. Munson from the Chester Conservation Commission discussed installing a pollinator garden (flower garden) near the Community Center, with perennial native plants and some annuals. Ms. Dircks said the seniors are concerned about who will care for the garden and suggested someone come down and explain the project to them. Chairman Hadik said the Commission is in support of this project. The members discussed potential locations for the

garden. Ms. Munson will arrange a presentation.

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported that Ms. Kristina Snyder, Mr. Ted Broadwater, and Mr. Victor Chouinard were reappointed to the Chester Conservation Commission. The dandelion photograph contest is underway. She reported there is a bill under consideration that would allow committee members to vote and attend meetings via Zoom and meet quorum requirements.

**5. Ranger John Wright**

**a. Update**

Mr. Wright asked about horses and dogs using the beach area, and the Commission said the regular rules apply. The corresponding signs have been removed, so the area needs to be posted again.

**6. Master Plan - Projects**

**a. Pavilion**

Chairman Hadik reported the pavilion project is still on hold pending the outcome of the bridge issue.

**7. Miscellaneous**

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

Chairman Hadik has no update on the muster. Ms. Neff Ragsdale said the 300<sup>th</sup> is working on it, but there have been problems getting other fire departments to commit this far before the date.

**b. ADA compliance ramp status**

Chairman Hadik said the yellow tape has been removed from the ramp, so it is being used. He will find out if the Building Inspector has approved it.

**c. Sensitive wetland crossing**

Chairman Hadik reported the makeshift bridge and materials were removed, but it is being built up again. The Commission is concerned someone will get hurt, if it continues to be built with found materials.

**d. Roadside garbage pickup**

The Commission thanked the residents who remove trash from the roadsides.

**e. Caretaker's cottage**

The Commission discussed the condition of the caretaker's cottage. They agreed they need to come up with a suggestion as to what to do with the buildings on that side of the bridge to present to the Board of Selectmen.

**8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, June 6, 2022)**

*Mr. Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary