

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

June 6, 2022

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Members present:

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

Members absent:

David Webster
Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison

Guests:

Benjamin Wallin, Eagle Scout Candidate
Scout Master
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

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported \$38.93 in electricity use for the caretaker's cottage and \$22.05 for the bathhouse electricity, for a total of \$60.98. The account balance is -\$4,150.18, owing to the public safety emergency (closure of the Causeway [Ash Street] Bridge of \$5,118.54).

Chairman Hadik noted that there is 50% left in the electricity budget, with only one month left. Mr. Quinn suggested the water pump being turned off could be the reason for the reduced cost.

Ms. Neff Ragsdale suggested the Commission tour the buildings to check out their condition and share their impressions with the Board of Selectmen regarding maintenance and improvement. The Commission agreed, and this will be scheduled sometime this summer.

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

b. Approval of Minutes – May 2, 2022

Chairman Hadik noted that in the May 2, 2022 minutes, the April 7, 2022 minutes were approved **as amended**, but no amendment was noted.

Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to approve the May 2, 2022 minutes as written. Ms. Snyder

seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Benjamin Wallin Eagle Scout project

Mr. Wallin presented his proposal to change/fix the bulletin board at the beach. He proposed building a kiosk to display the current signs and also information on the local flora and fauna. The Commission discussed the size of the kiosk and the materials to be used. The Eagle Scout Board has approved the project. The next step will be fundraising, opportunities including the Chester Yard Sale. Mr. Wallin estimated the cost would be roughly \$2,000. He would like to begin construction in October. He will return next month with a dimensional sketch and a materials list.

d. Reappointments

Mr. Webster still needs to be sworn in.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Update on Ash Street bridge

Selectman Myette was not present, but he sent a report that the bridge has been approved for 3 tons by the Building Inspector. It can remain in place until it is replaced by the new bridge. The design process is underway and the Town has applied for a grant.

3. Recreation Commission

a. Update

Ms. Dircks reported that Chester is using the baseball and softball fields until the end of June. From July 5 – August 5, the summer program will be using them.

b. Final Pounder May 21st

Ms. Dircks reported the final Pounder is coming up. There are individuals who have expressed interest in organizing the Pounder next year. The Pounder materials have been removed from the barn and given to other groups. Chairman Hadik will find out more about these individuals.

c. Fishing Derby June 4th

Ms. Dircks reported 60 kids registered and there was a good turnout.

d. 300th Anniversary Celebration 5K Race

The 300th Anniversary Celebration 5K race is scheduled for July 23rd.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Beaver update

Ms. Snyder reported she and Mr. Chouinard are cleaning out the culvert 1-2 times a week. The water flow is not as heavy, so the beavers aren't building as quickly.

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported Mr. Nick Tranquillo from the Conservation Commission has contacted Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD), who has a team that deals with invasive vegetation. He will report his findings at the next Conservation Commission meeting. Ms. Snyder reported the Ortins are considering starting a goat business to control invasive plants and noxious plants. The milkweed is growing well and flowering, and she asked that the Town be careful not to mow it down.

b. Milkweed and pollinator project location

Ms. Snyder reported that Ms. Munson from the Conservation Commission and Selectman Myette met with the seniors. She believes they selected a location near the playground for a pollinator garden and are positive about the project.

5. Ranger John Wright

a. Update

Mr. Wright reported there is no signage, so he is having issues with dogs on the beach and being off leash. People are throwing trash brought from offsite into the receptacles and leaving bags of dog poop on the side of the trail. The Porta-Potties are also getting a lot of use.

6. Master Plan - Projects

a. Pavilion

Chairman Hadik reported there is no change on the pavilion project, as it is awaiting construction of the bridge.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Firemen's Muster July 23rd

Chairman Hadik reported there will be a firemen's muster starting around 10:30 am on July 23rd, after the 300th Anniversary Celebration 5K race. Granite State Telephone will erect the poles in early July. They will not be placed in the soccer field, but as close to the ledge as possible in the back. Teams are signing up. There will be food trucks onsite during the event.

b. ADA compliance ramp status

The ramp has been approved and is in use.

c. Sensitive wetland crossing

Chairman Hadik reported there doesn't appear to be any recent activity.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, July 11, 2022)

Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 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