

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

August 1, 2022

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Members present:

Chris Hadik, Chairman
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer
Kristina Snyder
Kathy Dircks
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
John Dalrymple, Alternate
Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison (left at 7:33 PM)

Members absent:

Sandy Wright
David Webster

Guests:

Ranger Wright
Benjamin Wallin
Boy Scoutmasters

1. Open Meeting – New Business

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

a. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported \$19.21 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage in July. There was no expense for the bathhouse, but that bill might still be coming. The account balance is \$1,207.79, or 98.43% of budget.

For June, there was \$58.84 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage and \$32.42 in bathhouse electricity, for a total of \$91.26. The account balance for June was -\$5,876.44, 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. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Minutes – July 11, 2022

On line 53, the cost of replenishing sand was taken from the budget **request**; it was never part of the budget. Selectman Myette noted that it was removed as they thought it should have gone into the Town maintenance budget. He suggested requesting sand from the Town. The state has criteria for the kind of sand that needs to be applied.

Mr. Quinn moved to approve the July 11, 2022 minutes as amended. Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Selectman Myette and Ms. Dircks, who abstained. The motion passed 5-0-2.

c. Benjamin Wallin – Eagle Scout project

Mr. Wallin has retooled his plan for the new beach sign and shared a drawing of the proposed sign. The Commission discussed his plans and made suggestions. Selectman Myette suggested he speak with Building Inspector Bunker to find out the size limitations for signs. Mr. Wallin intends to begin construction in October. He will be fundraising by selling fried dough at the 300th anniversary celebration. He will email the final design to the Commission members for approval.

d. Discussion on last month's field trip

Chairman Hadik reported that the Commission examined the caretaker's cottage last month. They would like to remove the appliances and trash, and do a general cleaning. Mr. Quinn asked about the status of the well pump house replacement and Chairman Hadik said Recreation has funds to pay for this project. Selectman Myette said the Board of Selectmen has decided not to be landlords, so are not interested in using it as a rental. The Commission discussed other uses for the cottage.

e. Beach sand

Selectman Myette said the cost of beach sand was removed from the budget request as the Board of Selectmen felt this could be handled by the Town. He suggested contacting the Town Maintenance Department to obtain a price for sand. Recreation needs to check with DES before this can be done. Their next meeting is September 13, so Ms. Dircks will bring it up then.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Update

Selectman Myette reported they are waiting for a schedule for the bridge design.

3. Recreation Commission

Ms. Dircks reported that the last day of the summer program is August 5th. Soccer will start the last week of August.

There are ground wasps near the beach at Wason Pond. Maintenance is aware of this problem and has contacted the extermination company.

There is some erosion near the fire hydrant. Mr. Quinn pointed out there is material onsite that could possibly be used as fill. Ms. Dircks will speak with Director Reishus to request this be discussed with the Highway Department.

The structures (sections of aluminum frame with tarps on them) were moved near the fence for the Firemen's Muster and were not moved back. The tops blew across the fence during a storm and damaged it. One structure was repaired using parts from the other, which was too badly damaged to repair. Another structure is now needed.

Wason Pond has been extremely busy. The water was tested on June 27th. Ms. Dircks will speak with Director Reishus about having it tested again due to the recent heat.

There are used condoms being left at the beach. Ranger Wright has asked the police to patrol the area after dark.

The signs saying no dogs have disappeared and need to be replaced. The Commission discussed alternative locations at Wason Pond where dogs could swim safely.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Beaver update

Ms. Snyder reported the culvert doesn't need to be cleaned as often as there is no flow due to low water levels, so little beaver activity.

b. Milkweed and pollinator project location

Ms. Snyder reported the pollinator patch by the Community Center is being maintained by Ms. Deb Munson of the Conservation Commission.

She also reported that some of the material in the brush pile near the bridge is going to be moved to Spring Hill Farm to create habitat piles.

5. Ranger John Wright

a. Update

Mr. Wright reported a woman with an electric wheelchair wanted to use the boardwalk, but the ground at the entrance has settled. So, she wasn't able to access the boardwalk.

There are no Porta Potties at the beach as the truck can't cross the bridge to clean them. The Porta Potties on the other side of the bridge have been trashed. People are using the woods instead of walking across the bridge.

6. Master Plan - Projects

a. Pavilion

Chairman Hadik reported the pavilion is on hold until Recreation moves forward with the project.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Ash Street Bridge engineering

Selectman Myette reported they are waiting for a schedule for the bridge design.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, September 12, 2022)

Mr. Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM. Ms. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary