

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

October 3, 2022

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Members present:

Chris Hadik, Chairman

Kristina Snyder

Sandy Wright

Kathy Dircks

Darrell Quinn, Alternate

John Dalrymple, Alternate

Members absent:

David Webster, Vice Chairman

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer

Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison

Guests:

Ranger Wright

PACT

1. Open Meeting – New Business

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

a. Treasurer's Report

In Ms. Neff Ragsdale's absence, Chairman Hadik reported the budget reflects \$1,650 for beach maintenance. A request was made for these funds, but they never appeared on the monthly report. There was \$90.44 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage in September and \$16.21 in electricity expense for the bathhouse, for a total of \$106.65. The account balance is \$2,670.93. The beach maintenance funds can be encumbered next year, as long as a contract exists by June 30th.

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 – September 12, 2022

Ms. Wright moved to approve the September 12, 2022 minutes as written. Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Chairman Hadik, who abstained. The motion passed 5-0-1.

c. Erosion points

Mr. Dalrymple noted that there are spots that have been washed out near the hydrant and the dog beach due to the recent rains. He said rocks were placed near the hydrant to start to address this and said Town Maintenance will take care of this. Ranger Wright offered to help.

e. Bridge style

Chairman Hadik noted that the bridge engineers were scheduled to meet with the Commission to discuss the style of bridge they would like to see, but no one has heard from them. The Commission discussed the materials that could be used, but agreed they need to hear from the engineers. Chairman Hadik will contact the engineers to find out more about the options available.

f. Forest encroachment of field

Mr. Dalrymple reported there is autumn olive (an invasive species) growing behind the baseball field, which is encroaching on the field. The Commission agreed the mower the Town Road Department uses should be able to remove it, although it is difficult to eradicate completely. Mr. Dalrymple will find out more about this.

g. 2023-24 fiscal year budget

Chairman Hadik presented the proposed budget for 2023-24. The Commission discussed the DES requirements to add sand to the beach. Mr. Dalrymple will find out more about this.

h. Pounder storage in the barn

Chairman Hadik reported that the question of storing the obstacles in the barn was brought up at a TRC meeting with the new group responsible for the Pounder. Chairman Hadik read minutes from a WPC meeting in 2015, which established that the obstacles would be stored in the barn. The number of obstacles has been reduced, so there is less to store. The Commission discussed whether the barn could be used for other events, but decided to allow the group to store the obstacles on a year-by-year basis. The liability for damage to the obstacles was discussed.

Chairman Hadik moved to allow the Pounder group to store the obstacles in the barn during 2023. This agreement is on a year-by-year basis. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Selectmen's Liaison - update

Selectman Myette was not present to give an update. In an email, he mentioned the design of the bridge, suggesting the Commission, "go back to the master plan for guidance. Simply summarized, use natural materials (wood preferred) and natural colors. As large as necessary but no larger. Build something that looks either like the covered bridge (no roof needed) or something that you would see in a state or national park."

3. Recreation Commission

Ms. Dircks reported soccer is being held on Saturdays on the fields at Wason Pond through the first week in November. Chester Academy held a cross-country race at Wason Pond today. There was confusion over a trail ride that was moved from Spring Hill Farm to Wason Pond, but the Commission wasn't notified and the markers were removed.

Director Reishus does not plan to conduct a scavenger hunt on the property this winter, as there aren't as many families using the trails as in the past.

There are problems with people disposing dirty diapers between the Porta Potties. The Porta Potties will be removed the first week of November, once soccer is over.

Spring Hill Farm is planning a Winter Festival for February 18th.

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4. Conservation Commission

a. Invasive species update

Ms. Snyder and members of the Conservation Commission toured Wason Pond with representatives from the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) to discuss ways to control invasive plants. RCCD will submit a proposal to undertake this process. The charge is by the acre. The RCCD will help the Conservation Commission find information about possible grants. Once it is received, the Conservation Commission would present the proposal to the WPC for approval.

b. Beaver update

Ms. Snyder reported the beaver is beginning to build under the bridge, but there is enough clearance and low flow so that it isn't an issue.

5. Ranger John Wright

a. Update

Ranger Wright reported that the beavers are building a winter lodge.

6. Master Plan - Projects

a. Pavilion

Chairman Hadik reported the pavilion is on hold.

7. Miscellaneous - Old Business

a. Kiosk

Ms. Snyder spoke with the RCCD regarding the proposed Eagle Scout project to erect an informational kiosk near the beach. As it is replacing an existing structure, there is no problem with the placement of the kiosk. The Scoutmaster has been notified.

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

Mr. Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary