

**WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**March 6, 2023**

**Approved Minutes**

**7:00 PM**

*Broadcast on Channel 20 and streamed on Government (cablecast.tv) – click “Watch Now”*

**Members present:**

Chris Hadik, Chairman

David Webster, Vice Chairman

Kristina Snyder

Kathy Dircks

**Members absent:**

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer

Sandy Wright

Darrell Quinn, Alternate

John Dalrymple, Alternate

Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison

**Guests:**

Victor Chouinard, Chester Conservation Commission Chairman  
PACT

**1. Open Meeting – New Business**

Chairman Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**a. Treasurer’s Report**

In Ms. Neff Ragsdale's absence, Chairman Hadik reported \$35.84 in electricity expense for the caretaker’s cottage and \$16.21 in electricity expense for the bathhouse for the month of February, for a total of \$52.05. This leaves an available balance of \$2,402.21, or 83% of the annual budget.

*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 – February 6, 2023**

On line 78, the Pounder is now called the Wrangler. It is scheduled for May 20. Chairman Hadik noted the group sponsoring the event has not met with the TRC yet. Ms. Snyder will attend that meeting and ensure that the group knows the rules for caring for the property.

*Ms. Snyder moved to approve the February 6, 2023 minutes as amended. Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**c. Bridge design and cost estimate**

Chairman Hadik said the design matches what the Commission requested. Mr. Chouinard explained he has taken measurements of the current structure and reviewed the design with Town Planner Hadik. They will share their concerns regarding the structure of the existing bottom with DuBois & King, but he is pleased with the design as presented.

Mr. Webster stated that he doesn't believe the residents of the Town will approve the cost of the bridge, if it is presented as a Warrant Article. Mr. Chouinard noted that not updating the structure risks the entire causeway. Chairman Hadik said the cost is currently estimated to be \$319,000, with a 15% contingency. He noted with a 50% grant, the cost could be closer to \$150,000.

Mr. Webster reported that a representative from the power company noted that there are power lines above the bridge and there is fishing gear on the lines. He urged the Commission to place a warning sign regarding the possibility of electrocution, if the lines are contacted with a wet fishing line.

The Commission members discussed the need for an improved bridge due to public safety concerns. They agreed to send the issue to the residents and let them decide, but the Commission supports the need for it.

## **2. Selectmen's Liaison - update**

Selectman Myette was not present, so there was no update.

## **3. Recreation Commission**

### **a. Update**

Ms. Dircks reported the dinosaur has been installed in the playground. The fields will most likely be opened in April.

### **b. 5K and Pig Roast**

Ms. Dircks said the event is scheduled for June 10th.

## **4. Conservation Commission**

### **a. Habitat restoration (treatment of invasives) update**

Ms. Snyder reported the Board of Selectmen approved the invasive species treatment plan. It will be easier and less expensive if the brush is cut before the treatment is applied.

## **5. Ranger John Wright**

Ranger Wright was not present at the meeting.

## **6. Master Plan - Projects**

### **a. Pavilion**

Chairman Hadik said this project is still on hold. Once the bridge is rebuilt, this project could be reconsidered.

## **7. Miscellaneous - Old Business**

### **a. Beach Sand Replenishment**

Chairman Hadik is working on the permit and hopes to present it to the Conservation Commission at their next meeting.

**b. Forest encroachment of field**

Chairman Hadik shared an update from Mr. John Dalrymple. They have received permission to remove the trees that have fallen in the path to the bathhouse, on the garage, and at the soccer field. He does not know if the bid for brush-hogging has been approved.

Mr. Webster noted there are other trees near the trails that need to be removed as well and the garage needs to be repaired. There is also a tree near the island near the covered bridge that needs to be removed to avoid creating issues with mosquitos.

**c. Caretaker's Cottage**

Mr. Webster suggested the caretaker's cottage be razed, if it isn't going to be used. Chairman Hadik will check the easement to see if it can be replaced once it has been razed. The Commission discussed moving the pavilion to this site.

**d. Cleaning under the covered bridge**

Mr. Webster noted there is debris under the covered bridge that needs to be removed. He observed there is less trash and less trouble on the property than in the past. Ms. Snyder noted the presence of Ranger Wright is helpful in eliminating problems. Chairman Hadik noted Mr. Webster's presence helps as well.

They noted there are geocaches on the property.

**c. Formal policy regarding use impact of conservation area**

Chairman Hadik is still working on this.

**8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, April 3, 2023)**

*Mr. Webster moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary