

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

May 1, 2023

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

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

Members present:

Chris Hadik, Chairman

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer

Kristina Snyder

Kathy Dircks

Sandy Wright

John Dalrymple, Alternate

Darrell Quinn, Alternate

Members absent:

Stephen O. Landau, Board of Selectmen Representative

Guests:

PACT

1. Open Meeting – New Business

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

a. Treasurer’s Report

For the month of April, Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported \$19.37 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage. There was \$0 in electricity expense for the bathhouse, as the wires were pulled out when the tree fell. The fee to apply to the DES for a permit to replenish the beach sand was \$400. There was a \$25 miscellaneous charge. Total expenses were \$424.37. This leaves an available balance of \$1,867.31 or approximately 65% of the annual budget.

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

b. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2023

Chairman Hadik noted the selectman in attendance is a voting member, therefore is a representative, not a liaison.

Mr. Quinn moved to approve the April 3, 2023 minutes as written. Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Ms. Neff Ragsdale, who abstained. The motion passed 4-0-1.

c. Open position and new Selectman member

Chairman Hadik reported Mr. Webster is no longer a member of the Recreation Commission

due to his work schedule, so will no longer be attending the WPC meetings as a representative for the Recreation Commission. Ms. Dircks reported that Recreation Director Reishus is working on filling the position.

The new Selectman's Representative is Stephen O. Landau, with Steve Couture serving as his backup.

d. Reappointments

Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Quinn, Ms. Wright, and Mr. Hadik expressed interested in continuing as members of the Commission. They will be reappointed at the May 18th Board of Selectmen's meeting.

e. Election of Officers

Mr. Hadik is willing to remain as Chairman. Ms. Neff Ragsdale is willing to remain as Treasurer. Ms. Dircks volunteered to fill the Vice Chairman position as Mr. Webster is no longer on the Commission.

Ms. Wright nominated Mr. Hadik as Chairman, Ms. Dircks as Vice Chairman, and Ms. Neff Ragsdale as Treasurer of the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Request from Chester Public Library

The Chester Public Library is offering "Chester Community Clue" July 24-29, similar to the game "Clue." They have asked if they can post a clue at Wason Pond. The Board agreed it could be posted on the kiosk. Ms. Dircks will confirm this with the library. If the kiosk is not suitable, the Commission will discuss an alternate location at the June meeting.

g. Maintenance request for clearing of trails

Mr. Dalrymple reported that the trees that fell during the winter storm will be removed this week.

2. Board of Selectmen Update

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

3. Recreation Commission Update

a. Update

Ms. Dircks reported that baseball and softball are using the fields. The Recreation Department is waiting to learn when the invasives will be treated, so they can close the fields. Mr. Hadik reported the Rockingham County Conservation District will coordinate the spraying with the Recreation Department.

The kids' fishing derby will be held on June 3. The Chester Police Department pays for 50% of the event, the state covers the other 50%. The Chester Rod & Gun Club has donated \$500 for prizes for the kids. Ms. Dircks invited everyone to watch the event.

The playground is in use. The Porta Potties have been installed.

The Summer Program will run from June 29 through August 4.

b. Wason Pond Wrangler May 20, 2023

Ms. Dircks reported that the Wrangler will be held at Wason Pond on May 20th. The Commission has no information on which charitable organization will receive donations from the proceeds.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Habitat restoration (treatment of invasives) update

Ms. Snyder will obtain an update at next week's Chester Conservation Commission meeting on the plan to spray the invasives. Any date will be tentative, as it cannot be done when it is raining.

Ms. Snyder reported she and Mr. Chouinard are cleaning debris from under the bridge regularly.

Chairman Hadik shared that Mr. Webster reported there is a tree down between the island and the shore. The Commission discussed the difficulty in moving it.

5. Ranger John Wright

Ranger Wright reported that the property is quiet. There was a trail ride this weekend and the riders cleaned up after themselves. He asked for notice before these events occur, so he can help with trailer parking.

There are no signs at the dog beach prohibiting animals swimming in the pond. He will discuss this with Director Reishus to see if she has the signs.

6. Master Plan - Projects

a. Pavilion

Chairman Hadik said this project is still on hold, which will probably be the case until the bridge is completed.

7. Miscellaneous - Old Business

a. Beach Sand Replenishment

Chairman Hadik reported that the DES requested additional information before issuing the permit, which he has submitted. There are no specifications for the type of sand required. The New Hampshire National Heritage Bureau checked for endangered species and none were found. The cost for sand will be approximately \$315 through the Town Highway Department. The Commission discussed where and how it could be delivered, as trucks cannot cross the existing bridge.

b. Forest encroachment of field

Mr. Dalrymple reported the brush has been cut. The Commission discussed if the area could be brush hogged, so the lawn can grow back.

c. Ash Street Bridge

Chairman Hadik had nothing new to report.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, June 5, 2023)

Mr. Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all

148 *were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.*

150 The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

152 Respectfully submitted,
Beth Haggeli, Recording Secretary