

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION
July 10, 2023
Draft Minutes
7:00 PM

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

Members present:

Chris Hadik, Chairman
Kristina Snyder
Kathy Dircks
Sandy Wright
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
Stephen O. Landau, Board of Selectmen Representative

Members absent:

John Dalrymple, Alternate
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer

Guests:

Ranger John Wright
PACT

1. Open Meeting – New Business

Chairman Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

a. Treasurer’s Report

In Ms. Neff Ragsdale's absence, Chairman Hadik reported for the month of June, \$65.00 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage and \$32.58 in electricity expense for the bathhouse. Total expenses were \$97.58. This leaves an available balance of \$1,715.79.

Ms. Snyder 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 – June 5, 2023

Ms. Dircks moved to approve the June 5, 2023, minutes as written. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Selectman Landau, who abstained. The motion passed 5-0-1.

2. Board of Selectmen Update

Selectman Landau reported that a meter is going to be attached to the bathhouse. He asked the Commission if they have any intention of using the bathhouse, but they do not. The water pump is going to be removed, as the pump house is gone.

Town Maintenance Director Paul Cavanaugh has estimates to repair the damage to the garage roof.

Insurance will pay for the repairs, minus the deductible. Insurance did cover the cost of removing the tree.

3. Recreation Commission Update

a. Update

Ms. Dircks reported that the roof repairs are being scheduled. Recreation Director Reishus will meet with Supervisor of Roads James Piper to discuss repairing the pavement that was damaged by the tree removal company.

Ms. Snyder said the poison ivy seems to have disappeared at the playground.

Ms. Dircks reported a water test was done on Wason Pond on June 26th and passed.

Ms. Dircks reported the Chester Academy assistant principal submitted a proposed fall cross-country schedule, but has since resigned. Director Reishus is waiting for the school to follow up on the request.

b. Summer Program

Ms. Dircks reported the summer program is going well. There have been issues with smoking at the beach. Field trips occur on Wednesdays and field maintenance will be done on these days. The program ends August 4th.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Habitat restoration (treatment of invasives) update

Ms. Snyder said the Rockingham County Conservation District has treated the invasive species. She reported that in the areas that were treated, the bittersweet is starting to die. The areas that were not treated are still full of bittersweet. They found black swallow wort, which mimics milkweed. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on it and the caterpillars die. The Conservation Commission is going to try to remove it.

Ms. Snyder and Mr. Chouinard from the Conservation Commission cleaned out the beaver debris under the causeway bridge in preparation for today's rainstorm.

She noted that the fishing line receptacles have been filled with trash. The Commission discussed putting a trash can near the receptacle by the bridge, but there is a trash can near the receptacle at the playground and there is still trash in that receptacle. She expressed her disappointment that the receptacles are not being used properly, which makes it difficult to recycle the fishing line.

The Commission discussed people taking their dogs to Spring Hill Farm instead of Wason Pond, but that property is not equipped to handle them (no trash receptacles, etc.). Discussions have been had regarding creating a dog park. Selectman Landau suggested getting a compostable barrel for dog waste.

5. Ranger John Wright

Ranger Wright reported that things are normal on the property. The Porta Potty located at the beach is helping resolve the toileting issues in the woods.

6. Master Plan - Projects

a. Pavilion

Chairman Hadik said this project is still on hold.

7. Miscellaneous - Old Business

a. Beach Sand Replenishment

Chairman Hadik reported the sand has been delivered. The Commission thanked Selectman Chuck Myette, who spread the sand on the beach. They agreed the beach looks better and is more usable now.

b. Ash Street Bridge

Chairman Hadik reported the engineers have been given the go-ahead to begin the permitting process. A Warrant Article will be presented at the next Town Meeting to cover part of the cost of the bridge. Construction will start in March/April of 2025, if the article is approved. The Town Administrator is also seeking grant funds.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, August 7, 2023)

Ms. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dircks seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary