

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

August 7, 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

Darrell Quinn, Alternate

John Dalrymple, Alternate

Members absent:

Stephen O. Landau, Board of Selectmen Representative

Guests:

Ranger John Wright

PACT

1. Open Meeting – New Business

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

a. Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported for the month of July, there was \$19.20 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage. This leaves an available balance of \$2,607.80 or 99.27% of budget.

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 – July 10, 2023

Line 59 was corrected to read, "Ms. Snyder said the poison ivy seems to have disappeared at the playground." Mr. Dalrymple said the Maintenance crew used string trimmers to remove the weeds around the fences, so probably removed it in the process.

Ms. Wright moved to approve the July 10, 2023, minutes as amended. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Ms. Neff Ragsdale and Mr. Dalrymple, who abstained. The motion passed 5-0-2.

c. Car Show August 13th

Chairman Hadik reported there will be a car show in the parking lot near Route 102 on Sunday, August 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be food trucks and approximately 20 cars.

d. Wason Pond Wrangler May 11, 2024

The Commission discussed the request to schedule the Wason Pond Wrangler for May 11, 2024. As the sponsoring group's accounting is still not complete and the Commission has no information on which charity a donation is being made to, this discussion was tabled. The group is not listed as a non-profit organization. If this is a commercial venture, it should not be occurring on the property. The Commission needs clarification before approving the event.

Ms. Dircks moved to table approval of the Wason Pond Wrangler on May 11, 2024, until further clarification is received regarding the non-profit status of the sponsoring group. Ms. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Selectmen's Liaison Update

Selectman Landau was not present, so there was no Board of Selectmen update.

4. Recreation Commission Update

a. Update

Ms. Dircks reported the portable toilet at the beach will remain in place through Labor Day weekend. The portable toilets at the fields and the playground will remain in place at least through Columbus Day weekend.

Soccer begins the last week of August and runs through the end of October/first of November.

Chester Academy will be holding cross-country meets on the property this fall.

b. Summer Program

Ms. Dircks said the summer program ended on August 4.

4. Conservation Commission

a. Habitat restoration (treatment of invasives) update

Ms. Snyder reported members of the Conservation Commission visited the property and examined the brush pile and the areas where the invasives were treated. They will discuss possibly locating piles of brush over the treated areas for wildlife habitat with the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD).

There has been positive feedback regarding the pollinator garden. Visitors to the property also enjoy seeing the beavers.

The Conservation Commission will be funding a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) survey for the Town as part of updating the Master Plan. The Wason Pond property will most likely be included. There is one currently underway at Spring Hill Farm.

5. Ranger John Wright

Ranger Wright reported a tree is leaning on the power lines at the beach and needs to be removed before winter. Mr. Dalrymple will notify the Maintenance Department.

6. Master Plan - Projects

a. Pavilion

Chairman Hadik said this project is still on hold.

7. Miscellaneous - Old Business

a. Ash Street Bridge

Chairman Hadik reported that there have been no new developments. They are still working on permitting and applying for grants. The work would not start until spring 2025, as the funds would not be available until after July 1, 2024, if the expenditure is approved at the 2024 Town Meeting. The engineers said fall is not a good time to do this work.

b. Barn

Ms. Dircks asked if the barn is structurally sound. Chairman Hadik said his understanding is that it has been deemed sound.

c. Garage Roof

Mr. Dalrymple reported the roof will be repaired soon, now the summer program has been completed.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, September 11, 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 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary