

**WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**December 4, 2023**

**Approved Minutes**

**7:00 PM**

*Broadcast on Channel 6 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

Steven O. Landau, Selectboard Liaison

**Guests:**

Ranger John Wright

PACT

**1. Open Meeting – New Business**

Chairman Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**a. Treasurer’s Report**

Ms. Neff Ragsdale reported \$157.70 in expenses for the month of November, which includes \$41.34 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage, \$16.37 for bathhouse electricity, and \$99.99 for miscellaneous (reimbursement for Victor Chouinard). This leaves 83.44% of budget available.

*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**

*Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to approve the October 2, 2023, minutes as written. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to approve the November 6, 2023, minutes as written. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**c. FY '25 Budget**

Chairman Hadik reviewed the proposed FY 2025 budget. Selectman Landau said his understanding is the Budget Committee has requested the Town achieve -1% on the budget. They agreed to move \$500 from the beach maintenance line to miscellaneous, as no beach maintenance will be done next year. This reduction of \$1,000 will help meet the requested reduction.

*Mr. Quinn moved to request the budget as follows: \$650 for caretaker electricity, \$1 for bathhouse repairs and maintenance, \$220 for bathhouse electricity, \$1 for development, \$1 for conservation development, \$1 for cultural resources, \$1 for scenic resources, \$1 for public safety, \$150 for utility decommissioning as before, \$1 for dam maintenance, \$1 for beach maintenance, and \$500 for miscellaneous. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**d. Rental Kayaks**

There is a company interested in renting kayaks at Wason Pond. The Commission discussed liability issues and whether this is a commercial or a recreational enterprise. They considered whether the pond is too small and that kayaking might affect wildlife. Ms. Snyder has contacted the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) to get their input. Once this information is obtained, the company could be invited to give a presentation.

**e. Annual Report**

Chairman Hadik noted the annual report will most likely be due in March 2024. Ms. Neff Ragsdale and Ms. Wright offered to work on it.

**f. Cleaning Out Barn**

The Commission discussed disposing the assortment of materials stored in the barn, aside from the Wrangler supplies. Selectman Landau has spoken with the Town Maintenance Department, who plan to handle this. Anyone who wants to volunteer to help is welcome. Mr. Quinn noted the Town pays for metal to be hauled away and that they might be paying more than they're making for this service. Selectman Landau said this is being discussed.

**f. Garbage Cans**

Mr. Dalrymple reported the garbage cans are being filled with offsite garbage. He was able to determine that it came from an individual in Raymond and reported this to the Police Chief, who will follow up. The Commission discussed storing two of the containers in the barn for the winter.

**2. Selectmen's Liaison Update**

Selectman Landau reported the Select Board is looking at budgets. The Commission discussed whether the electricity could be cut to the caretaker cottage and/or the bathhouse. Selectman Landau said work is needed on the dam and funds might be needed to accomplish this.

**3. Recreation Commission Update**

Ms. Dircks had no report.

**4. Conservation Commission Update**

Ms. Snyder had no report.

**5. Ranger John Wright**

Ranger Wright reported it is very quiet on the property.

**6. Master Plan - Projects**

Chairman Hadik said the pavilion project is still on hold.

**7. Miscellaneous - Old Business**

**a. Ash Street Bridge**

Chairman Hadik received an email from Town Administrator Doda. She has been asked to complete additional paperwork for the matching grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is a good sign. Mr. Quinn clarified that a warrant article will be presented to the legislative body to approve the expenditure of funds to replace the bridge.

**b. Selective Cut - Maintenance**

Mr. Dalrymple said he will follow up with the tree service to find out when the cut will occur.

**c. Selective Cut - Conservation**

Ms. Snyder said the Conservation Commission is waiting to hear from New Hampshire Fish & Game regarding removal of trees. She said if any trees are in a hazardous position, they can be removed without going through these steps.

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

*Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary