

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

February 5, 2024

Approved Minutes

7:00 PM

Broadcast on Channel 6 and streamed on Government (cablecast.tv) – click “Watch Now”

Members present:

Chris Hadik, Chair

Kristina Snyder

Kathy Dircks

Sandy Wright

Darrell Quinn, Alternate

John Dalrymple, Alternate

Members absent:

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Treasurer

Steven O. Landau, Selectboard Liaison

Guests:

Ranger John Wright

PACT

1. Open Meeting – New Business

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

a. Treasurer’s Report

In Ms. Neff Ragsdale's absence, Chair Hadik reported \$54.81 in expenses for the month of January, which includes \$38.60 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage and \$16.21 for bathhouse electricity. This leaves \$2,080.38 available in the 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

Ms. Dircks moved to approve the December 4, 2023, minutes as written. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Selectboard's Liaison Update

Selectman Landau was not present to provide an update.

3. Recreation Commission Update

Ms. Dircks noted the individual from Raymond who was dumping trash at Wason Pond was contacted by the Chester Police Department.

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

Chair Hadik said the pavilion project is still on hold.

7. Miscellaneous - Old Business

a. Ash Street Bridge

Ms. Snyder shared the grant was approved, which would cover 50% of the total cost of the bridge, up to \$480,000. There will be a Warrant Article presented by Mr. Victor Chouinard, Chair of the Chester Conservation Commission, at the Town Meeting. The Conservation Commission will discuss the amount of additional funding they are willing to put towards this project. The estimate from DuBois & King was approximately \$280,000, plus \$45,000 in contingency fees. The Conservation Commission is working to reduce the amount required from the taxpayers.

b. Selective Cut - Maintenance

Mr. Dalrymple said the cut is delayed due to adverse road conditions but is still scheduled.

c. Selective Cut - Conservation

Ms. Snyder said Mr. Chouinard has tried to contact New Hampshire Fish & Game without success but continues to try. Mr. Chouinard said any dangerous trees should be removed.

d. Kayak Rentals

Chair Hadik reported that Recreation Director Reishus contacted Town counsel regarding insurance, and counsel said they cannot guarantee the open space immunity would cover the Town being sued, if there was an issue. They discussed the risk versus reward of this project.

Chair Hadik moved to meet with the kayak rental organization to discuss offering kayak rentals at Wason Pond. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were opposed. The motion failed unanimously.

e. Annual Report

Ms. Wright reported she should have the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission section of the Annual Report completed next week. The Commission will review it at the March meeting.

f. Barn Cleanout

Mr. Dalrymple said Town Maintenance cleared out some of the old furniture and will try to sell the chairs that were removed. He recommended asking the Wason Pond Wrangler organizers to determine which of the Pounder materials that are in the barn they plan to use.

g. Winter Fest

Ms. Dircks reported the Winter Fest will be held at Spring Hill Farm on February 24.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, March 4, 2024)

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

102 The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

104 Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary