

Town of Chester
WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION
November 4, 2019
Municipal Complex
Draft Minutes

Present were:

Chris Hadik, Chairman, Member at Large
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale, Conservation
Kristina Snyder, Conservation
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
Chuck Myette, Selectmen's Liaison

Absent were:

Leslie Hammond, Recreation Commission
Melinda Mafera, Recreation Commission
Herb Rowell, Member at Large
John Dalrymple, Alternate

Staff Absent:

Park Ranger John Wright

1. Open Meeting – New Business

Chair Hadik called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

a. Election of Officers (Vice-Chair, Treasurer)

Chair Hadik noted the positions of Vice-Chair and Treasurer are open.

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale said that she is willing to take the Treasurer position.

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale said that she thinks that someone from the Recreation Commission (REC) should be an officer. She said that she would like to work out a way to make this Commission more of a "joint venture" with REC.

Chair Hadik agreed with Ms. Neff-Ragsdale, pointing out that this Commission is a combination of Conservation and Recreation; he said that he would discuss this issue with Ms. Reishus (not present).

Chair Hadik thanked Ms. Neff-Ragsdale for volunteering to be Treasurer. He said he would get her name on the email list for her to get the monthly report.

The Commission discussed getting more participation during the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission meetings from the Recreation Commission members.

Selectman Myette said that it is important to get the Conservation and the Recreation groups to work together for the benefit of both groups.

b. Treasurer's Report

Chair Hadik presented the Treasurer's report. He noted that there are three budgets:

Wason Pond Budget (WP) - \$450 (\$0 spent)

Bath House Budget - \$ 280 (\$54 spent)

Care Taker's Cottage - \$900 (\$313)

Total - \$1635

Chair Hadik said that nothing has been spent out of the WP \$450 budget. The Bath House budget has had \$54 spent for repairs, maintenance and electricity. The Care Taker's Cottage has spent \$313 for repairs and electricity. When asked if there is concern about running out of money for the Care Taker's Cottage, Chair Hadik explained that the money can be moved between the lines to cover costs as needed.

Selectman Myette motioned to accept the Treasurer's report as stated; Ms. Neff-Ragsdale seconded the motion. Motion approved, 5-0-0.

c. Approval of minutes of October meeting.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the October 7, 2019 Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission.

On line 50, the name "Ms. Neff-Ragsdale" was corrected to "Ms. Leslie Hammond".

Line 143 had "in his email" added to the sentence and the spelling of "Trusties" changed to "Trustees".

Line 148 was amended from, "The sanding in the winter will help with the drainage." The new sentence reads, "The sanding in the winter will deteriorate the drainage by filling in the voids."

Mr. Quinn motioned to approve the minutes of October 7, 2019 as amended; Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. Motion approved, 3-0-2, Ms. Neff-Ragsdale and Selectman Myette abstained.

d. 2020-2021 WPC budget. Results of meeting with BOS on October 29th.

Chair Hadik said he had met with the BOS on October 29, 2019. He explained that \$199 was taken out of the WP budget for dam maintenance and put back into the Care Taker's Cottage line, keeping the total budget the same at \$1600; the General Government Buildings (GGB) budget now has the dam maintenance of \$199 as a line item.

Mr. Quinn asked about the electric for the Bath House.

The Commission discussed what the electric is for that structure; they agreed that the cost is for the meter.

Selectman Myette said that he would ask Selectman Landau (not present) about the Bath House electric.

Chair Hadik stated that two lines have changed on next year's budget, but the bottom line has stayed the same at \$1600.

e. Pedestrian traffic count at WP.

Chair Hadik advised that the pedestrian traffic count is available to do now and will proceed possibly as early as this week. He said that the traffic count will be on the trails.

**f. Reappointments: Melinda Mafera – REC Appt'd 10/4/2018 – term expired 5/31/19
Leslie Hammond - REC Appt'd 10/19/17 – term expired 10/18/19
Herb Rowell – At Large Appt'd 10/5/17 – term expired 10/4/19**

Chair Hadik noted that the two Recreation Commission member's appointment have expired and need to be reappointed.

Chair Hadik said that Mr. Herb Rowell (not present) term expired on October 4, 2019; Chair Hadik said he had received an email from Mr. Rowell that said that he will not be renewing his appointment to the Commission.

Chair Hadik expressed his appreciation for Mr. Rowell's work on the Commission.

The Commission discussed replacing Mr. Rowell.

Chair Hadik noted that he must communicate with the Recreation Commission about the term expirations. He said he would ask to be out on the agenda of a Recreation Commission.

2. Selectmen's Liaison

a. Contract with Alicia Spence for pavilion engineering.

Selectman Myette said that a contract has been created for Ms. Spence to get her under contract.

b. Parking meters or permits? Selectman request to evaluate again.

Selectman Myette discussed the parking permit ideas. He said that there are a couple of different ways this could be done and one idea is that a resident would get a permit when they register their car.

Selectman Myette said that although some research into a meter where you pay and get a ticket is still taking place, the cost of meters is approximately \$7000.

Mr. Quinn voiced concern about jeopardizing the immunity of Wason Pond.

Chair Hadik said that legal has explained that if the area is not restricted, charging for parking will not jeopardize immunity.

The Commission discussed ideas that are best for the residents in Town for a parking permit. They talked about residence stickers that include transfer station and WP parking that you get when you register your car.

Ms. Neff-Ragsdale suggested, if the sticker idea moves forward, having a table on site during a couple weekends at Wason Pond at which the residents can get their sticker for free.

Chair Hadik said that he is not adverse to the sticker idea if there is not a cost involved.

Selectman Myette said that he would bring the idea up to the BOS at their next meeting.

c. Barn Siding

Selectman Myette informed the Commission that the barn siding is being picked up this week and the Trustees will be putting the siding on the barn next week.

d. Ordinances

Selectman Myette explained that to do any parking permits, the Town must have an ordinance to enforce the permits. He noted that a sign at both entrances would be required.

Selectman Myette suggested not enforcing the permits during a sporting event or large event.

3. Recreation Commission

As no members of the Recreation Commission were present, Ms. Snyder presented information which she had received from Recreation Director Reishus (not present).

Ms. Snyder said that the Port-a-Potties will be gone this week.

There was discussion of the Port-a-Potties at the playground, whether there is one left there all year.

Ms. Snyder said she thought the one at the playground is left there.

Ms. Snyder noted that the sports have all concluded.

Ms. Snyder reviewed a conservation conference which she had attended; she said that she had heard that there is an organization that will provide grants for areas like Wason Pond that will put in bathrooms completely for free.

The Commission expressed enthusiasm for this information and requested Ms. Snyder bring in information on this grant possibility.

Mr. Quinn pointed out that the Town Master Plan has the bathrooms at the Bath House working again, but that REC has said that they don't need it.

Chair Hadik said that the Master Plan has three buildings in the front of Wason Pond: new bathrooms, and two storage sheds.

4. Conservation Commission

- a. Beaver Update
- b. Issues/concerns

5. Ranger John Wright

As there is no need for the ranger at this time of year, Ranger Wright is not present, and there is no report.

6. Master Plan – Projects

a. Pavilion

Selectman Myette said that the pavilion project is in the 2020/2021 CIP fiscal year.

Chair Hadik said that the next step is the soil samples.

Selectman Myette said that he will check to find out what is needed for soil samples.

Chair Hadik said that when that comes back, they can start pricing foundation costs. The timber will be cut on site, hopefully this winter. Pricing a roof would then be the next step, and determining what the floor will be doesn't have to happen to start getting it built.

7. Miscellaneous

Chair Hadik said that he was informed by the Town Administrator (not present) that the annual report must be submitted by January 24, 2019. He said he will get a draft compiled for next meeting.

Ms. Neff-Ragsdale asked about the invasive plants had been removed.

The Commission discussed the extra dirt left over from the parking lot and what should be done with it.

8. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. Motion approved, 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary
C. Molly Qualters