

WASON POND CONSERVATION & RECREATION COMMISSION

March 4, 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 \$53.75 in expenses for the month of February, which includes \$37.54 in electricity expense for the caretaker's cottage and \$16.21 for bathhouse electricity. This leaves \$2,026.63 (77%) available in the budget.

Ms. Wright 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 February 5, 2024, minutes as written. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Metal Detecting at WP

Chair Hadik reported this is an event put on by the Chester Historical Society. However, it will occur at the Wason Field at Spring Hill Farm, not at Wason Pond.

d. Helicopter Landing at WP

Chair Hadik summarized a request for a proposal at the covered bridge that involves a

helicopter landing. The request has not been presented to the BOS or WPCRC. The pilot will check the area first and Chair Hadik has asked to be present. The requestor has been told a police presence will be required. The Commission agreed more information is needed and will prepare questions for when the request is presented.

e. Annual Report

Chair Hadik shared the WPCRC's contribution to the Annual Report with the members and thanked Ms. Wright for her work on this. He will submit it by the end of the week.

2. Selectboard's Liaison Update

Selectman Landau was not present to provide an update.

3. Recreation Commission Update

Ms. Dircks had nothing to report.

4. Conservation Commission Update

Ms. Snyder reported on the status of the invasive treatment by the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) done last year, which involves a follow-up treatment. She asked if the WPCRC wanted the follow-up treatment and they agreed this was part of the initial approval.

5. Ranger John Wright

Ranger Wright reported a few beaver-damaged trees snapped during the recent windstorm. Mr. Dalrymple said there are two trees hanging towards the wires in the recreation area that need to be removed. Individuals have been metal detecting on the property and Chair Hadik noted that permission is needed for this activity. He said there are not enough trash cans, so dog waste bags are being left on the property. Mr. Dalrymple said a can has been added.

6. Master Plan - Projects

Chair Hadik said the pavilion project is still on hold.

7. Miscellaneous - Old Business

a. Ash Street Bridge

Chair Hadik said the warrant article will be presented at the Town Meeting. Ms. Dircks confirmed that the new bridge will only be accessible by emergency and permitted vehicles, not the general public. It will be gated, as in the past. Ms. Snyder reported the Conservation Commission voted to approve up to \$180,000 towards the cost. Chair Hadik noted his concern that the funds being repaid go back to the taxpayer, not the general fund.

b. Selective Cut - Maintenance

Mr. Dalrymple said the contractor is still waiting for the trails to improve.

c. Selective Cut - Conservation

Ms. Snyder reported that RCCD referred this request to the Natural Heritage Bureau. There was a hit, so NH Fish & Game needs to approve the cut. Fish & Game are not responding due to being busy. Conservation Chairman Chouinard said he will contact RCCD about removing any hazardous trees, as this is a safety issue.

8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting (Monday, April 1, 2024)

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

102 The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

104 Respectfully submitted,
106 Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary