

**Crystal Pond Park Commission**  
**Minutes from Meeting on May 10, 2023**  
**Location: Crystal Pond Park - 6 pm**  
**Submitted by David Barlow, Chairman**

Members present: David Barlow, Bill Bradley (by phone), John Cimochowski, Brian Griffin, Chuck Lee, Paul Oleszewski, Molly Thienel, Rick Torgeson

Members absent: Jillian Jette, Mallory Selfridge

**1. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:07 pm**

**2. Citizen's Participation:** None.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2023:** Lee made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Thienel and approved unanimously.

**Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2023:** Lee made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Cimochowski and approved unanimously.

**4. Financial Report:** No report.

**5. Rental Update:** There are currently 16 rental events confirmed for 2023, including two disc golf tournaments. One Cabin Rental had to be cancelled due to damage from the vandalism which occurred on April 30th. No other rentals have been affected.

**6. Maintenance and Management:**

Water Testing – Cimochowski was notified that the water tested OK.

Fire Marshal Inspection & Allstate Testing of the Fire Suppression System – Torgeson arranged both, and both successfully passed.

Annual Spring Cleanup Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>) – We had a good turn out by the Commission, plus five additional volunteers from Eastford. Tasks accomplished: Dining Hall kitchen and bathrooms thoroughly cleaned. Cushioned chairs cleaned with upholstery cleaner. Removal of leaves and sticks from the lawn, driveway, and fire ring. Re-blazed the Trout Pond Trail. Cleaned up the entrance gardens. And conducted a walk through and clean-up of the disc golf course.

Wayne Morrell Paintings – Cimochowski forwarded information regarding our paintings to the curator of the Rockport Art Association.

**7. Recent Vandalism and Fires:**

On Apr 28<sup>th</sup> we discovered that vandals had broken into the Dining Hall and used our supply of excess paper towels, toilet paper, etc. plus leaves and sticks to set fire to the large decorative logs displayed in the Dining Hall fireplace. There was lots of smoke damage but nothing else of value was burned. The police were notified, conducted a thorough investigation and informed us that they planned to stake out the premises for the next several nights.

At 5 am on Apr 30<sup>th</sup> the same vandals returned. They broke into the Lakeside Cabin, set fire to a mattress, but then used the cabin's fire extinguisher to put it out. They then broke into the Dining Hall, arranged several wooden benches in a circle, applied an accelerant to some window curtains and lit a fire in the center of the Dining Hall floor. The police who were staked out on Walker Lane saw what was happening and extinguished the fire while the perpetrators drove off. The police completed a thorough investigation and the Commission was later notified that two arrests were made in connection with these two incidents.

Torgeson and Barlow thoroughly cleaned the Lakeside Cabin following the fire and discharge of the fire extinguisher. One rental had to be canceled. But the cabin is now again ready for future rentals.

The following items were damaged and are, or soon will be, repaired or replaced: A burnt section of the Dining Hall floor, one table, three wooden benches, three beds (frames and mattresses), ten window blinds, 2 sets of window curtains, an area rug, a spent fire extinguisher, and four damaged doors.

The insurance claims adjuster has reviewed the damage. The Commission has received an estimate for total cleaning of the two buildings.

Chris Lowe Construction was hired to remove and replace flooring that was damaged by the fire. Estimates for floor refinishing are now being obtained.

Torgeson made a motion to spend up to \$3,500 to purchase round & rectangular plastic folding tables (with storage carts) to replace the current wooden tables. The motion was seconded by Cimoichowski and passed unanimously.

**8. Update on STEAP Projects:**

Dining Hall Windows – 41 new windows have arrived and will be stored at Chace Building Supply until arrangements for installation are made.

HVAC System – CNM Piping Heating & Cooling and Godaire Electrical are scheduled to install the new HVAC system on May 11. Barlow and Torgeson installed a crushed stone base to support the exterior condenser units. We thank Gary Whittenburg for donating the material.

**9. Response to National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Program:**

Cimoichowski will respond to NRCS informing them that the Commission is still interested in pursuing possible funding for the Trout Pond Dam project by this program.

**10. Additions to the Agenda (upon 2/3 vote by members present and voting):** None

**11. Motion to Adjourn:** Cimoichowski made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Torgeson. The motion passed unanimously at 7:10 pm.