

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2014

Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Community Center.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair)	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Bill Klaus	X	
Dave Kreck		X
Tommy Lombardo (Mayor)		X
Chris Newman		X

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Maria Ceravolo

Public Guests Present: Jessica Aubrey (Watershed Amb.), Rebecca Kreck, Madeline Kreck.

Minutes of the January 8 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Dilks, AIF)

Swearing In of Officer

Rich Dilks was sworn in to a new three year term by Chairman Barnes.

BUSINESS

Public Guests:

Watershed Ambassador Jessica Aubrey offered to do an invasive species control project in conjunction with the WEC in the conservation area in May or June of 2014. Plans will need to be in place by April for her to recruit volunteers. It was suggested a target species for the project be Wisteria.

Madeline Kreck offered to create a "Young Person's Nature Guide For the Conservation Area" as a school project. The first phase would be a winter nature guide to be compiled in the next month and involve at least 10 hours of activity. Members of the WEC offered assistance if needed.

Maria Ceravolo reported that Daniel Ceravolo will perform an eight hour service activity this spring (towards earning the citizenship merit badge) and it will include placing stone at the foot bridge on Camels Back Run near E. Elm St. Daniel is organizing volunteers for the activity.

Chairman's Report:

Scott reported the Moonlight Hike on Jan. 17 was well attended with approximately 35 participants. Thanks were expressed to Dave for making his home available for refreshments afterward. Scott further reported the 5 mile hike on Feb. 1 was a success with 16 people and 3 dogs participating.

The WEC voted not to renew our membership in ANJEC for 2014, citing that the benefits received did not justify the \$290 membership fee. Rejoining in future years would remain an option. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kraus, AIF)

Bob noted that despite the Coir Logs holding back material the small foot bridge on the Eldridge Trail continues to be clogged with sediment. The only long term solution is to replace the bridge with a raised one. This will be a project for the Spring Work Party on March 15.

Rich reported that Princeton Hydro has sent the WEC a contract to treat Dilks Pond in 2014 for \$1770. The pond treatment is still covered by the two year DEP permit. Rich will contact

Princeton Hydro and request an estimate for the cost of treating Comey's Lake. The 2013 estimate for Comey's was \$2500 plus \$150 for the DEP permit.

Bob confirmed the cost of site restoration at Synnott's Pond will be \$4,000-4,500. Rich has put together a photo display of the site for a presentation to borough council. The WEC will need to present firm costs for the Synnott's Pond area restoration and for the Dilks & Comey's Lake treatments when we request fund from the Borough in addition to our \$5,000 budget request for 2014. It was decided we will attend council in Feb. or March and make our request.

Bob reported he and Dave have had no additional discussions on the proposed bulkhead expansion at Clay Hill.

Bob also reported that Dave has confirmed that the monies remaining in the Rec. Trails Grant have been dedicated for bridge repair at Maple Ridge and will be unavailable for the Synnott's Pond restoration.

The town newsletter article deadline is Feb 18. Scott said he is happy to continue writing the articles. This issue he will include items on fire safety, the Spring Work Party, Bird Quest and encourage hikers to carry bags and pick up trash along the trails.

The WEC decided to accept a suggestion (made by Rebecca Kreck on the moonlight hike) to create a FaceBook page as a way of facilitating public involvement and communication with the WEC. The page will be called The Friends of Wenonah Trails. Scott has offered to create and manage the FaceBook page.

Bob noted he has old minutes and agendas of the WEC stored at his home and will inquire whether the Borough can provide archive storage for those papers.

Bob thanked participants in the recent Wenonah Cemetery clean up and noted additional cleanup activities are still needed.

Rich has agreed to attend the Friends of Wenonah Park meeting on Feb. 20.

Rich reported that Tall Pines (Maple Ridge) is close to going under contract. Rich has issued a preservation update to FMR supporters.

Scott, as Planning Board Rep., reported that a suit has been filed against the Planning Board for its vote to approve conversion to unrestricted housing at Wenonah Meadows. The suit is currently in the appeals process.

Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert) Frank reported no activity due to the season and winter weather conditions.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:33 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Klaus, AIF)

Minutes Respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.