

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2014

Vice Chairman Bob Bevilacqua called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Community Center.

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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: Watershed Ambassador, Jessica Aubrey

Minutes of the April 8 meeting were approved. (Motion: Lombardo, Second: Newman, AIF)

### **Public Guest**

Watershed Ambassador Jessica Aubrey suggested the invasive species control project be scheduled for June. Wisteria and English Ivy were mentioned as possible targets. The project will center on the invasives in the area around the tea house rather than a single invasive species. Jessica and Rich will inspect the area on 5/19 and evaluate what can be done there.

### **Vice Chairman's Report:**

#### **Review**

**Bird Quest** May 3. Rich reported the WEC Bird Quest team identified 49 species, birding at Maple Ridge and in the Wenonah Conservation Area. It was also noted the Ceravolo family team (The Wenonah Warblers) identified 100 species and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Bird Quest competition for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year.

Bob reported the planting of 100 pine trees and 50 hemlocks in the conservation area by various members of the WEC during the second and third weeks of April was successfully accomplished.

**Clean Communities Day, May 10.** The WEC met its goal of 10 volunteers for the event. Bob, Tommy, Frank & Rich also worked at the site of the Camels Back Run footbridge south of E. Elm St., constructing bulkheads and laying stone in the stream. The bridge has been seriously undercut by downward erosion of the stream bed. Dave indicated that changes in groundwater flow are contributing to the problem. Bob and Dave will assess what additional steps need to be taken at the footbridge and at the eroding bank at Clay Hill.

#### **Current Business**

The presentation of commendation awards to Emily & Maggie Duer was postponed until the June meeting since the recipients were unable to attend tonight.

It was decided the WEC 4<sup>th</sup> of July nature walk will be on the Eldridge Trail and end at the tea house. The walk will begin at 4 P.M. Ron Cline (Lions Club) and Jack Shepard Sr. will be informed.

Maria Ceravolo stated that Daniel has participated in a work party on Mantua Creek Trail but still need 4-6 hours of volunteer service. Possible activities include laying stone at Camels Back Run and the invasive species control project in June.

Tommy reported he and Bob installed the fountain at Comey's Lake but the anchors will need to be repositioned to stabilize the fountain.

Rich noted the deadline for the Summer Wenonah Newsletter is May 27. Items suggested for the article were: 1. The WEC & Ceravolo Bird Quest teams, 2. The invasive species control project at the tea house, 3. Congratulating Wenonah School student, Alexandra Colman for achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Soil Conservation District's annual poster contest, 4. The spring tree planting, 5. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July nature walk. Rich will write and submit the article.

The WEC has declined an invitation to participate in the Ice Cream Social on May 19.

The Borough has requested the WEC provide a letter of support for its application for a TAP Grant (Transportation Alternatives Program). Dave gave an overview of the proposal which will provide pedestrian oriented improvements to Mantua Ave from Marion to Monroe Aves. These include crossing bump outs, cross walk pavings and lighting. Dave said the grants awarded are from \$150,000 to \$500,000 and predicted Wenonah's project would cost close to \$500,000. The WEC agreed to support the Borough's proposal and grant application, and designated Rich to draft the letter of support.

### **Other Business**

Tommy reported the Borough has approved its 2014 budget, including the additional \$2,600 requested by the WEC at the 2/27 council meeting for a total 2014 appropriation of \$7,600.

Frank reported that Jack Lerner's kayak dock Eagle Project has some deficiencies that need to be corrected. Untreated wood was used (without Frank's approval). A water proofing seal and paint should be applied to the dock. In addition, one or more barrels need to be installed to provide sufficient buoyance for the dock. Frank requested the WEC send a letter to Jack Lerner and a copy to Scoutmaster Jack Morris requesting these improvements. The WEC agreed and designated Rich to write the letter.

Frank also suggested a low, wet area near the kayak dock be filled in as a kayak landing area. This is not connected to Jack Lerner's project.

Frank suggested an early evening work party to clear logs from Mantua Creek. The work party will be scheduled for May or June.

Dave indicated Maddie is continuing to work on the Wenonah Conservation Area Young Person's Guide including photos and a brochure. Rich has agreed to help with plant identifications, if needed.

The WEC has agrees to again offer \$75 Student Environmental Awards to two Wenonah School graduating 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Rich will notify the school by letter. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Lombardo, AIF)

Dave noted sink holes are again a problem along a section of Mantua Creek Trail. Also Dave noted the step on the south side of the foot bridge on the Garden Trail has washed away.

Rich reported that Princeton Hydro applied the first treatments to Dilks Pond and Comey's Lake on May 8. We have also received the invoices for the first of three installments for the

treatments (Dilks Pond \$584.10, Comey's Lake \$985.05) They have been submitted to the Borough

Rich reported the current balance of the FWT account is \$8,154.35. The only account activity in the past month was a \$150 payment to DEP for the Comey's lake treatment permit.

Maria noted someone has been seen using a metal detector and digging holes in Wenonah Park.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:38 PM. (Motion: Newman, Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.