

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2015

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 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	
Maria Ceravolo	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair)	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck	X	
Tommy Lombardo		X
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present: Chuck Forsman.

Public Guests Present: Joe Traum (Watershed Ambassador), Lorrie Forsman.

Minutes of the January 14 meeting were approved. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Ream AIF)

Public Guests.

Watershed Ambassador, Joe Traum, introduced himself to the Commission. He said his term of service here would last until mid-July. He said he is willing to undertake educational and student oriented projects, can do stream assessments and offered to work with the WEC on a stewardship project. Scott suggested the invasive species project proposed by the GCNC would be a good fit as a stewardship project with the W.A.. Rich suggested removal of invasive English Ivy from trees on Mantua Creek Trail would be a beneficial target activity. A tentative date of Sat. May 16, 2015 was set. Dave said he would work with Joe and contact teacher Heidi Kolwaski at Wenonah School about classroom activities.

Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes.

Report: 5 Mile Hike on 1/31/15.

Scott reported the event was a success although he was the only WEC member present to lead the hike. 15 people (including Mayor Dominy) and 4 dogs took part. Maria mentioned she also led a separate walk in the conservation area that day.

Reassignment of Trail Responsibilities.

Scott indicated we will need to divide the trail system into sections for individual commission members to monitor for problems and conduct minor repairs or improvement. Dave produced a trail map to facilitate the process. The agreed division was as follows:

Mantua Creek Trail and Monongahela Brook Trail east to Marion Ave: Dave and Scott. Dave will take MCT from Mantua Ave. to the first bridge on to the island. Scott will take MCT & MBT from there to Marion Ave.

Monongahela Brook Trail east of Marion Ave., Eldridge Trail, Monongahela Loop Trail, Comey's Lake Trail. Bob and Julie will jointly handle those trails with Bob concentrating on the Comey's Lake Trail and Julie on Eldridge Trail.

Break Back Run Trail, Wenonah Lake Loop and other trails. Rich and Maria will take responsibility for those trails.

Camel's Back Run/Synnott area. Maria will also take this area.

Dave noted that a flood barrier erected by Frank on the island has washed into the creek and needs to be removed. He asked for assistance, which he will arrange with Bob, Tommy and John Forren to remove the barrier.

Bob also noted that a number of large trees had fallen along Camel's back Run north of the teahouse. No action is needed at present but some removal from the stream in future may be needed if the trees block the flow when they settle.

Near Term Projects.

East Cherry St Entrance. This access to the conservation area is currently a hazard, badly eroded and with fallen trees. The land is owned by former mayor Tom Capaldi. His permission would be needed to address any of the problems at the site. Chuck said in a conversation last year, Mr. Capaldi was agreeable to improving the area for access. Chuck said he would again contact and discuss the matter with Mr. Capaldi.

Spring Work Party on 3/14/15. The focus of activity for the work party was discussed. Bob noted there is work still to do at the Synnott's Pond site. Dave indicated there are holes along a section of Mantua Creek Trail (but he would try to address that problem himself). It was agreed that member would monitor the trails over the next weeks and make recommendations at the March meeting for work party activities.

Green's Lake Bog Walk Repairs. Bob said we will need pressure treated boards cut to 9'x4' x2.5" to make the repairs. When arrangement have been made to have the sawing don, Bob will purchase the boards. The cost is expected to be modest.

Stone Purchase. Bob also proposed we purchase 10 tons of 6" to 8" rip rap stone for Synnotts and future projects. The stone would be stored at the borough yard. Dave will contact the Borough to arrange. The cost will be approximately \$250. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck AIF)

Borough Newsletter. Scott indicated the Spring Newsletter date was approaching. He said he would include mention on the Spring Work Party, Bird Quest, a photo from the 5 mile hike, a request that people report problems along the trails to the WEC and remarks on Frank Eggert's passing and legacy.

Stewart Estate Questionnaire. Scott announced we received another questionnaire from the Stewart Estate on conditions in the conservation area. Although the request referenced specific parcels, Scott will answer the questions (as we have done in the past) about the conservation area as a whole.

Maddie Kreck Student Project. Rich met with Maddie on 1/16/15 to go over her photos and assist with plant identification. Maddie told Rich she wishes to include some April blooming wildflowers and additional wildlife photos to complete the project. Maria offered to make available her bird photos taken in Wenonah. Maddie hope to complete the project this spring.

Long Term Projects.

Synnott's Pond. Bob said much work still remains, most importantly, sand bagging the bend in the stream by the north bridge.

Clay Hill. Dave indicated a section of the upstream bulkhead needs repair.

New Trail Condition Survey. Scott encouraged the members over the next few weeks to photograph and document problem areas on their assigned trail that will require Commission attention. The photos and written notes can be presented at the March meeting.

GIS mapping of Conservation Area (Dave). Dave reported he is waiting for the surveyor to fit this into his schedule.

Storm Drain Medallions. Dave reported that NJDEP has requested the Borough replace any missing storm drain medallions. Dave is having Public Works do this at present. This activity could also be a part of an Eagle scout or service project in future.

Honoring Frank Eggert's Legacy. Scott asked the Commission to think about ways to honor Frank's legacy of service. Rich suggested three possibilities: 1. Designate an unnamed section of trails east of Wenonah Lake as the Frank Eggert Trail., 2. Designate the WEC Student Environmental Awards as the Frank Eggert Environmental Awards., 3. Do a tree planting in the conservation area or at a trail head. There would be no on site plaque but the tree would be referenced on our web site and social media. It was also suggested that Frank could be nominated posthumously for the 4th of July Home Town Hero Award. Dave will look into this with the Borough and Maria with the Lions Club.

Dave made a motion that we designate the WEC Student Environmental Awards as the Frank Eggert Environmental Awards. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Ream AIF)

Miscellaneous Comments. Bob noted the owners of the Comey mansion told him teenagers have been hanging out in the out buildings at the back of the estate. Julie reported the Great Blue Heron often seen at Comey's Lake has died. The carcass has been seen there. Maria reported she cleaned out the stone pool on the Garden Trail. Dave indicated he had done some repairs on Mantua Creek Trail including resetting a foot bridge over a small stream near Mullens and realigning and securing a section of boardwalk on the island.

Bird Quest. Rich reported we received a request from the GCNC to again sponsor Bird Quest as an EC at the \$100 level. (Motion: Ream, Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

Planning Board. Scott reported there was no Planning Board activity.

Maple Ridge. Rich reported the state has told us remediation of the contaminated area is nearing completion. This and the completion of a survey by the state are the only things holding up settlement. Settlement could come as soon as March 2015.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account. Rich reported the current balance in the FWT account is \$8,909.76. Bob submitted a \$3 check from a trail guide sale for deposit.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:30 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.