

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2015

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Jack C. Sheppard Sr. 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, John Mullens, Sharon Ceravolo.

**Public Guests Present:** Pat Duncan, Dave Coates, Mellany Alio.

Minutes of the July 8 meeting were approved. (Motion: Ream, Second: Ceravolo AIF)

## **Chairman's Report Scott Barnes.**

### **Review**

**July 12 Work Party.** Scott reviewed the work party which cleared trails on Mantua Creek Trail, the Glen Trail, the Garden Train, and at the tea house. Scott said much was accomplished and with a few exceptions (noted below), the trails were open and walkable. Maria suggested the WEC invest in purchasing some hand saws for future trail work. Rich suggested purchasing axes as well and John Mullens also suggested loppers. The tools would be stored by one or more WEC member. The proposal will be brought up again at the Sept. meeting for discussion by those absent this evening.

### **Near Term Projects**

#### **Trail post storm clean up status.**

**Comey's Lake Loop/Tea House.** The dangling tree near the Lenape Trail pump station was removed by the Borough on 8/7. Julie had previously marked the area with caution tape as the tree was unstable. There is still one leaning tree near Comey's Lake but it is not an imminent danger to hikers. Maria noted she saw and photographed duckweed in the northern section of the lake. Rich will check to see when Princeton Hydro last treated Comey's Lake.

**Eldridge Trail.** Clear

**Monongahela Loop Trail.** Julie said she had not yet assessed that trail. Pat said there were several trees down on the upper elevation portion of the trail. It was generally agreed that this section of the loop be cleared and reopened. It was not resolved whether the lower section along the brook should be reopened. WEC members will walk and assess the trail before planning a work party there.

**Monongahela Brook Trail.** It was reported the stump blocking the trail below the Cornell home is still there. Scott suggested we confer with Bob before contacting Delor Cornell.

**Garden Trail/Stone pool.** There is a large toppled tree and resulting hole along the trail and also a large branch balanced on the upended roots. We would need to cart in fill dirt to fill the hole. It was also noted the water level in the pool should be lowered by inserting a notch or leveling pipe.

**Glen Trail.** An upended tree has created a large hole in the trail and dirt will need to be hauled in to fill it.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** The bridge at the east end of the island is under repair. New boards have been placed there but not yet secured. Rich noted there are a couple of large trees down across the trail near the railroad tracks. They can be stepped over but will need to be cut at some point.

**Break Back Run, Wenonah Lake Loop & Eggert Trails.** Clear.

**Dilks Pond.** The Borough removed the large trees from the pond with a front end loader and disposed of them. There is still debris on the ground that needs to be cleared. Dave had previously stated trees will be planted as a part of the new well project on Maple St to replace those trees lost from the storm.

**Synnott's Pond Trail.** The area is very overgrown this time of year. The gabion cage and bench still need to be repaired.

**Hannisey's Landing.** Rich reported Bob had cut the remaining trees blocking access and the workmen who had been clearing debris from Hayes Ave. have also cleared the cut debris at Hannisey's Landing. Access to the kayak launch is now open. Julie suggested we could repair the post on the launch by inserting a slightly smaller post in the broken one.

**Women's Club Project.** Scott reported the Wenonah Women's Club has contacted the WEC asking for suggestions for a project they could fund. Scott suggested repair of the Glen Dam or the Clay Hill bulkhead. Maria suggested the creation of a large sign with a complete trail map. It could be erected at one of the trailheads. Conversely a large board with a protective awning or roof could be used to display a copy of the trail guide. Scott will offer this as a possible project for the Women's Club. Scott also noted that the online version of our trail map needs to be updated to reflect changes since 2008.

**Mad Hatter's Tree Party.** Scott proposed the WEC offer to partner with the GCNC to again present the tree party in the Wenonah Conservation Area. The Tree Party was last held in 2010 and 2011. He further said the most likely dates would be Sat. 10/24 or Sun. 10/25. Rich noted the GCNC has dedicated funds to cover any costs related to the event. Scott then made the motion we pursue having the event this year with the GCNC.

(Motion: Barnes, Second: Ream AIF)

**Newsletter.** Scott said the deadline for submission to the fall borough newsletter is 8/17. He indicated we would mention in our article: 1. The Fall Work Party (Nov, 7), 2. A report on the July 12 work party with a photo, 3. The possible Tree Party with the nature club, 4. The Sept. WEC meeting at the Tea House, 5. The announcement that Hannisey's Landing Rd. is now clear for kayak launch access.

### **Long-Term Projects**

**Comey' Lake.** The new owners of the N. Stockton Ave. home, at Comey's lake, Joshua and Lauren Hazelton, have suggested reactivating the man-made stream that runs from the home into the lake. The WEC agreed there were no objections to this. Scott also said the owners are agreeable to donating the electric power to run the fountain. Scott said that the fountain would not be installed this year but could be next. Scott also said he hopes to have a discussion in future about a trail easement or agreement with the new owners. Julie reported the E. Cherry St. trail entrance to the conservation area is still blocked.

Rich reported two items on behalf of Bob. 1. Bob said he had some cedar posts that can be used as trail signs to replace those destroyed by vandals. Rich noted two location where they could be installed- at the fork of the MCT with the W. Cedar St access trail and where the MCT comes out to the railroad. 2. The total cost of the stone memorial for Frank was \$573. Bob will forward the receipts to Rich who will reimburse Bob and then contact John Forren and the Legion for them to forward to us their portion of the cost.

**Tall Pines.** Rich reported there has been no news since last month. He is waiting for the state to announce a settlement date. It is expected to be very soon. After settlement, the park will need to have some basic maintenance and improvements to make it "people ready" then the dedication ceremony will be scheduled.

**Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.** Rich noted there were no expenditure last month. There were three deposits:

\$275 Clean Communities Day  
\$250 prize money from 4<sup>th</sup> of July float  
\$69 trail guide sales

**Current Balance: \$9,965.13**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:22 PM. (Motion: Barnes, Second: Ceravolo AIF)  
Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.