

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2016

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:43 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Lake pavilion at the conclusion of the WEC annual picnic.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Sharon Ceravolo	X	
Maria Ceravolo	X	
Bob Bevilacqua	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)	X	
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present: Chuck Forsman, Pat Duncan, Mary Ellen Bush.

Public Guests Present: Mayor John Dominy, Kathy Schools, Laurie Forsman, Rebecca Kreck, Eric Spross and additional picnic guests.

Minutes of the May 11 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ream AIF)

Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes.

Review

Clean Communities Day 5/14. Scott reported a successful morning of activities with two beaver flumes installed at the two dam locations on Monongahela Branch. Bob noted the flume under the first bridge had gotten clogged with debris and that he cleared it last week. Also on CC Day, Julie wrapped several trees with wire to protect them from beaver and trash was cleaned up at the tea house.

Conservation ordinance revision. Scott asked Mayor Dominy for a follow up to the issues the WEC brought up at the 5/24 council meeting. The Mayor said the Borough Council Legal Subcommittee is working on a revision of the conservation area ordinance which would increase the violations fine from \$200 to a more substantial figure. He also said the Borough views the actions of the homeowner at 2 W. Cedar to be the felling and dumping of a tree from his property on to conservation lands. Whether the homeowner will receive a ticket for this action will be a police matter. The Mayor concluded by saying the WEC has the full support of Mayor and Council in our actions and goals. Dave remarked that doing a survey of the property there would not be cost effective, even if the full current fine were paid as a result. Sharon urged that specific penalties for vandalism also be included in the revised ordinance. Bob proposed that once the new ordinance is adopted, the WEC send a letter to residents who border the conservation area and to publicize it in the newsletter and online.

Near-Term Projects

Wenonah Lake Kiosk. The kiosk was installed on 5/24. Julie noted two minor concerns: the plexiglass is siliconed in which makes it difficult to slide the boards in and out and the corbels on the sides were not installed. Gateway said they were not needed for support but Julie felt they added decorative value. We will put a "you are here" sticker on the map. Julie has three keys to the display area. We need to decide who will take charge of them. At present, only the main display areas has a lock. We will also put a QR code on the final map. Julie asked us to continue

to think whether the full descriptive text should be on the kiosk map. The two dedication plaques could be put on at the dedication ceremony, depending on how they are to be attached.

4th of July Hike. It was decided that following the 4:00 P.M. dedication ceremony with the Woman's Club for the kiosk, the hike will follow the Wenonah Lake Loop.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake. Bob noted there is increased trash at the tea house even though the trash can is being used, and the area needs a cleanup Maria suggested putting up a sign to "please dispose of trash properly" as incentive to reduce littering. Bob noted a limb fell near the tea house but caused no damage.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave reported the storm earlier today knocked down 4 trees on MCT not far from Mantua Ave. One was uprooted and created a large hole in the trail. That trail section should be rerouted around the hole. He also noted a tree down near the Mullens property. Dave said he would check with a tree service about clearing the trail of the 4 trees near Mantua Ave. Dave also said he has been working on other repairs along MCT.

Other Items

The conservation area sign on Mantua Ave. by Camel's Back Run is obscured by foliage. Dave said he would contact Public Works about clearing it.

Bob indicated he was informed a beaver was run over and killed on Maple St. near the lake dam. The beaver population of Wenonah Lake is now uncertain.

Rich reported he has written Wenonah School offering the WEC student awards again this year. When the school responds he will make up the award packets. Graduation is June 21.

Maria reported various t-shirt designs are possible at a cost of \$10-15 per shirt. We could have volunteer shirts for work parties and "Friends of Wenonah Trails" shirts for us and to sell. Maria will continue to investigate.

Dave said he has priced several hand tool for possible purchase. He and Bob will check them out and make a selection. Dave said they can be stored at Public Works.

Rich had had all three posters reprinted and laminated for the interpretive signs. The one at Wenonah Lake is not in need of replacement at present. Bob will replace those at Comey's Lake and Dilks Pond.

Eric Spross, homeowner on S. Jefferson, whose property includes part of the south shore of Dilks Pond attended this evening. He said he is planning to spray for mosquitos on his property, had put an aerator in the pond and is pulling some branches out of the water. He asked the WEC to recommend tree species for two trees he wants to plant near the pond. It was also noted he has created a small sand beach on the shore. Dave said there is by law a 50 buffer on disturbing vegetation on the pond margin. Maria noted he is permitting his children to swim in the pond, even though it is being chemically treated for algae and duckweed.

Rich reported the dedication ceremony for Tall Pines State Preserve is now set for June 20 at 11:00 A.M. Wenonah Boy Scout Troop 50 will do a Tall Pines Cleanup on 6/18

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Deposits.

\$700.00 from Woman's Club for kiosk.

Expenses

\$115.56 for poster reprintings

Current balance: \$9,715.52

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:34 PM. (Motion: S. Ceravolo, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.