

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2016

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 6:30 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the tea house pavilion in the Wenonah Conservation Area.

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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:** None.

**Public Guests Present:** Don Miller, Barbara Capelli, Jaime Fallon, Heidi Congolton.

Minutes of the August 10 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ream, AIF)

**Public Guest.** Jaime Fallon said she frequently runs the trails and spoke in support of the beaver colony on Eldridge Trail. She said she has seen up to three beaver at a time there. She felt we should concentrate on raising the trail rather than lowering the water level in the beaver pond. She also offered to donate funds or materials for the trail there. Jame showed us a beaver photo she took and offered to have photos printed up for a display at the Mad Hatter's Tree Party.

Bob responded that we now have a balance with the installation of the flume and pipe where the beavers have their pond and the trail is generally walkable. He said additional stone should be brought in to raise the low sections subject to frequent flooding.

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

### **Review**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> Work Piarty.** Scott said much was accomplished on the Garden Trail clearing overgrown vegetation around the stone pool, the garden and along the trail. Bob said he worked at Camels Back Loop. He cleared the trail and repaired the small bridge over the northeast inflow channel. Bob said there is still one tree that needs to be cut there.

### **Near-Term Projects**

**Lions Club Donation Offer.** Sharon said we will need to decide soon on a project. Possibilities are the raising low area on Eldridge Trail or trail rails and crushed stone on the muddy sections of MCT near W. Cherry St. Bob said he would confer with Dave and work up a cost estimate for the MCT section. Sharon said Dan Ceravolo of the Lions can talk to Dave about the financial donation and also volunteer labor from the Lions Club.

**Mad Hatter's Tree Party.** Scott said this joint event with the GCNC will be on Oct. 23 from 1 to 4 P.M. on the Eldridge Trail and at the tea house. He said anyone who would like to volunteer who is not already signed up can contact Erik Mollenhauer with the GCNC.

**Work Parties.** Julie remarked that the WEC needs to have the Eldridge Trail ready for the MHTP on Oct. 23 and proposed an early evening work party. A work party was scheduled for Wed. 9/21 at 6:00 P.M. to evaluate what needs to be done on Eldridge Trail. Bob said he also has boards he can bring to lay on muddy trail sections near the north head of Wenonah Lake. We also hope to schedule a weekend work party with Gateway student volunteers to move and lay stone on the low lying sections of the Eldridge Trail in advance of the MHTP on 10/23.

**WEC Kiosk & Trail Signs.** Julie said new signs will be made up for the Woman's Club (green) and Gateway (blue). They will be metal or plastic and one will go on each side of the kiosk. Julie said she had recently visited Crystal Lake Park in Burlington Co. and noted some of the signage concepts there might be used for our smaller trail head signs. Some used satellite images. QR codes could also be included. Don Miller suggested using blazes like on the Appalachian Trail, with one color for the main trail and another for side trails. Julie said she would talk to Gateway about working with us on the smaller signs. Julie also brought up whether we should waterproof the kiosk roof to prevent the cedar shingles turning gray. It is likely the waterproofing would have to be done annually or so to be effective. The consensus was to let the wood age naturally without waterproofing the roof. Julie said she has purchased the two \$100 Lowe's gift cards as a gesture of appreciation for the two Gateway teachers. Sharon noted she has placed a copy of our map in the town kiosk.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Monongahela Brook Trail.** Sharon said she has purchased the paint (sand color with grit added for traction) to paint the plywood on the bog walk.

**Glen Trail.** Bob said he still needs to check the board on the bridge near the Glen Trail that has been reported loose.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** The muddy area near Cherry St remains a problem, the bulkhead at Clay hill needs repair and Scott will continue to work on the English ivy at the Willow St access trail.

**Wenonah Lake.** Bob noted he has boards to place on the muddy spots near the north end of the lake. He will bring them to the 9/21 work party..

**Duckweed/Algae Control.** Rich reported the final invoice from Princeton Hydro has been received and submitted. Both ponds seem in good shape.

**Tall Pines.** Rich reported a draft of the official state map of Tall Pines is complete. It was done with the assistance of the Friends' member Don Evans. The map will be made available on the DEP web site. Rich also said the state is beginning to establish a marked trail system. The first trail will be a perimeter trail (coded green). A kiosk will soon be erected in the Tall Pines parking lot. Rich also noted the Friends of Tall Pines will be hosting a free walk in the Preserve on Oct. 16.

Scot has asked Rich to get a copy of our municipal budget to determine our remaining balance.

### **Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.**

No activity this past month.

Current balance: \$9,216.02

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:35 PM. (Motion: Ream, Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.