

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2017

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 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	
Sharon Ceravolo	X	
Maria Ceravolo		X
Bob Bevilacqua	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)	X	
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present: Dave Coates.

Public Guests Present: none.

The minutes of the Sept. 13 meeting were approved. :(Motion: S. Ceravolo, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Report: Tea house work party Oct.7. Scott reported the morning work party to clean up at the tea house in advance of the Mad Hatter's Tree Party on 10/22 went swiftly and the area is now in good shape for the event. The Eldridge and Comey's Lake Loop trails were checked and policed that morning as well.

Fall Work Party Nov. 4. The work party will be at the Camel's Back Run Loop Trail. The principle tasks will be the back filling of the new stream bulkhead and spreading of mulch along the trail. Bob and Sharon said they would be unable to attend. Bob will familiarize Dave with what needs to be done. Sharon and Julie will contact the boy scouts to request volunteers for the work party. Dave will have Public Works deliver two loads of mulch.

Garden Trail Sign. Bob reported an 8x11 color sign of vinyl on aluminum can be made as a replacement for the original sign. He also noted a stone carved sign with a concrete base would be more durable and less subject to vandalism. He will research the costs of both sign materials.

Kayak launch signs. Bob reported he has installed both signs, one on Mantua Ave. and the other on Hayes Ave.

Near Term Projects

Beaver Activity.

A new beaver dam has been observed on the Monongahela Branch just upstream from the new raised walkway on the Eldridge Trail. Water level behind the new dam is now noticeably higher. With this and the older dam further upstream, the viability of the lower section of the Monongahela Loop Trail is dubious. It was noted that the raised walkway has rescued the Eldridge Trail from flooding issues from the new and the main beaver dams.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake/Tea House. The area is in good shape following the Oct. 7 work party. Julie will empty the tea house trash can prior to the MHTP..

Eldridge Trail. In generally good shape but some boards need to be replaced. Dan & Bill Ceravolo will try to work on this.

Indian Trail. The trail is currently clear.

Monongahela Loop Trail. The upper trail is clear and walkable. The lower loop is impassable due to beaver activity.

Monongahela Brook Trail. A downed tree was cleared by Pat Donnelly.

Garden Trail. There is still some hole filling needed. The stone garden was weeded by a work party last month. The sign needs to be replaced (see above).

Glen Trail. Trash at the area of the bench is an ongoing problem. It has become a hangout spot.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave reported a sink hole has opened up at Clay Hill. Dave cleared the trail east of the RR and on the island. Also he noted there is a tree down west of the RR. It is a step over, and Dave suggested leaving it there as an impediment to ATV's and four wheelers. Dave also said that persons seeing unauthorized vehicles or other violations in the conservation area should call the police using the "non-emergency 911 number" of 589-0911.

Break Back Run Trail. Sharon reported there is a very serious erosion problem in a ravine starting at a property on N. Jefferson Ave. near Buttonwood St. Sharon showed some photos she had taken. Bob suggested putting stones at the points of erosion may be a fix. Dave will determine the street address of the property and contact the homeowner. Sharon also noted the Poplar St. Access trail is blocked by two fallen trees.

Break Back Run Eagle Scout Project-Tyler DeMaise. Dave reported he, Sharon & Rich walked BBR Trail with Tyler to identify areas that need work. It was agreed the eagle project would consist of: 1. replacing some trail rails, 2. constructing two bridges over seepy areas, 3. installing steps in a steep ravine and 4. blazing an access trail from N. Jefferson, near Buttonwood (near the Stewart plaque). Cedar posts can be used for trail head signs there. Sharon will ask Pat to give Tyler some guidance on bridge design and construction.

Hanisey's Landing. The new floats need to be installed on the dock. Bill Ceravolo will be able to schedule a time for that after mid-Nov.

Tool Shed. Dave reported that Ken of Public Works has ok'd us to have a toolshed at the Borough yard on Garfield Ave. it will be on the left along the fence. Dave recommended a plastic rather than a wooden shed as being more durable. Dave will price the shed. We will also have space for a nursery there.

Potted oaks. It was noted this might be a good time to plant the potted red oaks we received from the nature club. Dave suggested some could go near the new well on Maple St.

Sustainable Jersey. Sharon said the SJ group will next meet on 10/17. She said she still does not know the reason for our latest application denial. She also said SJ plans to have a table at the Fall Festival.

Fall Festival. Oct. 28. It was agreed the WEC and Sustainable Jersey would combine and share table space. Dave said he had storm water, rain barrel, composting, lawn care and other literature from Rutgers for the table. Scott will provide a demonstration rain barrel. Rich will bring the old conservation area signs and trail maps for sale. Sharon said she will provide two tables to accommodate the materials. Rich noted the Friends of Tall Pines will have a table also and will ask to be next to the WEC table.

T-shirt. There was no update on t-shirts since Maria was absent, but Julie suggested WEC hats or caps might also be a good idea as they are worn year round. Bob said the WEC had hats years ago and he still has one he could show us.

Trail Easements. Sharon said it would be prudent to have formal easements established for the Coleman and Zupko properties. Dave said this process would have costs, require surveys, and the filing of documents. He said we should have the services of an attorney on this. It was noted other trail sections that cross private property are Mantua Creek Tr. behind S. Jefferson and on the island, The Monongahela Brook Tr. and Comey's Lake Loop.

WEC web site redesign. Scott said he is beginning the redesign process. He said a high quality trail map will be essential. Julie will send him the new revised trail map as a pdf or jpeg.

Princeton Hydro. Rich said both Dilks Pond and Comey's Lake were in good shape. He said there was some algae on Comey's Lake noted on Oct. 7. He also said the lake was last treated on 9/24. The algae problem this year was much less than in the last couple of years. Duckweed in both lakes has been minimal. The final vouchers for both lakes have been submitted to the Borough for payment.

Native Planting at Camel's Back Loop. Rich reported Sharon had purchased a number of shrubs and wildflowers at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance Native Plant sale on 9/23. She and Rich planted them on 9/25 along the north end of the Camel's Back Loop Trail. Planted were: Shrubs- spicebush, buttonbush, winterberry, Itea, sweet pepperbush, arrowwood and sweet bay magnolia (tree); Wildflowers- 4 cardinal flowers, 2 marsh mallows, 4 swamp milkweed, 2 slender blue iris.

2018 WEC Activities Calendar. Rich noted the Borough requested the annual facilities use agreement and meeting date schedule be submitted. Rich did so but noted we should now compile our activities calendar and submit it early enough we can have the activities listed on the town calendar. Rich will put together a draft for 2018.

Planning Board. Scott reported that the planning board is studying the Mantua Ave. overlay, which will allow for more business use of properties on Mantua Ave. in the "downtown section". Scott also noted the EIS for the proposed light rail line has started up with new funding. Dave said there are three choices for the Borough concerning a proposed walk up station in Wenonah. 1. Permanent rejection, 2. Agree to a station being built, 3. Opt out for now. He said the opt out for now would permit the EIS for Wenonah to be done, even if we choose not to have a station, while the rejection option would also terminate the EIS for Wenonah.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Deposits: none.

Expenses: none.

Current balance: \$8,645.17

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:38 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua; Second: Kreck AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.