

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2018

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 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	
Dave Coates	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)		X
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present: Bob Bevilacqua

Public Guests Present: Scott Conway, Don Sparks

The minutes of the January meeting were approved:
(Motion: M. Ceravolo, Second: Coates, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Five Mile Hike, Jan. 27. Scott reported it was a very successful walk attracting nearly 40 hikers and 9 dogs. The weather was unusually mild for January and likely contributed to the large turnout.

Sparks Donation. Scott confirmed that he has sent the thank you/acknowledgement letter to the Sparks donors. Don Sparks (public guest) was asked if he had any preferences on how the donation should be used. He replied that in the conservation area often "less is more" but using the funds for appropriate signage might be helpful.

Beaver Activity.

Eldridge Trail-first bridge. Bob reported the heavy rains a few days ago have severely undermined the bridge's north abutment. The now breached beaver dam had channeled the water flow against the north bank and undercut the bridge's foundation. Bob said the remaining portion of the dam needs to be cleared or opened up to take the force of the water flow away from the north bank. Bob said temporary repairs have been made and the bridge is open and walkable, but a permanent repair needs to be done. He said he has boards to be used as forms for pouring a durable concrete foundation. Then he recommends placing riprap stones in the area and using additional cement to secure them in place. Bob said we can purchase riprap and the Borough can deliver it from the PW yard to the bridge site.

Comey's Lake. Bob noted his brother found a dead beaver near the east shore of Comey's Lake.

Boy Scout Island. Julie shared a photo she took of the beaver lodge at B.S.I.

Near Term Prolects.

Trail Maintenance.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave Kreck reported (by email) that sections of the boardwalk on the MCT island were dislodged by the recent heavy rains. He said the stakes holding them in place were

not deep enough to be effective. Bob said he will get some log posts to use to secure the boardwalk. Julie suggested that we could also make the boardwalk wider as part of any major repair. Dave Kreck also mentioned that several trees across MCT need to be cleared and that he and John Forren will be working on that. He also asked if anyone was aware of additional trees in the conservation area that need to be cleared, let him know.

Hanisey's Landing. Bill Ceravolo is intending to do the dock repair when the weather breaks, possibly in March.

Camel's Back Loop. Bob reported the newly installed bulkhead on Camel's Back Run held up well during the recent heavy rains. He said there is still some bank stabilization to be done there.

Comey's Lake Loop. Julie noted some trees need to be cleared on the trail near the E. Willow St entrance. Don Sparks noted the stone and cement run off channel near the steps at the E. Willow St. entrance is blocked near the bottom and suggested it could be cleared. He said he could do some work on that himself.

Trail Watch Assignments. Scott suggested our trail watch assignments, that were designated last year, should be revised and updated. Maria will send out the trail assignment made last year as a basis for the revisions. Tentatively, Maria said she will continue to do Wenonah Lake and Camel's Back Loop. Rich and Sharon will continue with Break Back Run Trail. Julie will do Eldridge Tr., Comey's Lake and Indian Tr. Dave Kreck, Dave Coates and Scott will divide up Mantua Creek Trail. Scott said that the School Trail and Dilks Pond Trail were not assigned. Maria volunteered to do the Dilks Pond Tr.

Tyler DeMaise Eagle scout project. Dave Kreck noted (by email) that Tyler is waiting for feedback from scout leaders on his project.

WEC shed. Dave Kreck reported the shed has been purchased but not yet installed at S. Garfield. A stone foundation needs to be constructed before installation.

Bird Quest 2018. Scott noted the GCNC will soon approach us to again sponsor BQ with a \$100 donation as in past years. Rich noted that not only have we been a sponsor of the event for many years but we also form a WEC BQ team that birds in the conservation area and at Tall Pines. Rich proposed we authorize the \$100 donation.

(Motion: Dilks, Second: M. Ceravolo, AIF)

Wenonah Newsletter. Scott noted the deadline for articles is 2/15. He said he will submit a brief article promoting the Spring Work party on March 17 and perhaps mention some of our recent projects.

Spring Work Party March 17. Scott said we should try to identify areas where work is needed. Bob said that while he will be working on the Eldridge Trail bridge repair, there will still be work to be done there at the work party. Also the Garden Trail and Stone Pool Garden will need a cleanup and tree holes there can be filled at the work party. There may also be work needed on Mantua Creek Trail.

Stone Pool Garden Sign. Bob reported the engraved stone replacement sign for the Stone Pool Garden is done and he presented it for inspection at the Woman's Club meeting this past Monday. He said the engraver donated his services.

WEC Volunteer T-Shirts. Maria brought the 20 WEC T-shirts (4 M, 8 L & 8XL) that were authorized at the last meeting. Shirts were given out to WEC members present. The shirts are dark green with the conservation area logo in gray on the front and "VOLUNTEER Wenonah Environmental Commission" on the back. Scott also brought the old WEC hat that was made

some years ago for our Kids' Hike event. We will consider the possibility of having new hats made.

Aluminum Trail Markers. Maria also brought the 50 aluminum circular trail markers authorized at the last meeting. They are silver with a black directional arrow and text. Maria said she can get aluminum nails locally for affixing them to trees without harm. It was agreed we should use them sparingly at places, such as forks, where the direction of the trail is not clear. Also in some places that lack trees, the markers would need to be mounted on posts. They should also be placed high enough to be out of easy reach for vandals.

Poster Shelter. Maria also brought the poster shelter we recently purchased. Dave Coates said he could print up a trail map for it. Julie suggested having it printed on paper and having it laminated. The map would be mounted behind Plexiglas. It was also suggested that other timely materials could be displayed in the poster shelter. It was suggested a good place to locate the poster shelter was at the Eldridge Trail head near E. Pine St. It was also agreed the installed shelter should be at eye level. Bob said he could get Julie an 8' piece of highway sign post for the shelter.

Sustainable Jersey. Maria reported for Sharon that the Green Team needs to continue to earn points to achieve certification. Some potential projects to do so are working with the Shade Tree Commission, a Bag It project, a town Rx collection box and rabies vaccine flier.

Duckweed/Algae Control at Comey's Lake & Dilks Pond. Rich reported that Princeton Hydro has sent us the contract proposals for 2018. PH is also offering a two year contract for 2018-19 for Comey's Lake with the 2018 price locked in for both years. The cost for Dilks Pond will be \$1830 and the cost for Comey's lake will be \$3100 plus \$150 for a two year DEP permit. Total cost for 2018 would be \$5080, a \$115 increase over the 2017 cost. Rich noted the duckweed/algae controls have been successful in past years and recommended we accept the contract proposals, including the two year contract for Comey's Lake.
(Motion: Dilks, Second: Barnes, AIF)

Mention in the Beaver Defender. Rich noted the Beaver defender (newsletter of the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge) had a short article praising the WEC for its pro wildlife policies regarding our beavers.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Changes. Rich and Bob reported that he and Rich met with Wells Fargo to have Bob and Chuck Forsman taken off the account. They also updated the account's paperwork and formal address to 1.S.West Ave. At present Rich is the only person with account access. Rich suggested two additional current WEC members be added as backups. Scott agreed to be added and it was suggested that Dave Kreck be the other .Rich will contact Dave K. with the suggestion he be added as a backup.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Expenses: none

Deposits: \$5,000.00 Sparks donation
\$6.00 Trail Guide sales

Current balance: \$13,584.81.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:31 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: Coates, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.