

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2018

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:33 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:** Scott Conway.

**Public Guests Present:** none.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as amended:  
(Motion: Ream, Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

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

### **Review**

**Spring Work Party March 17.** Scott reported the fill dirt at S. Jackson Ave. was transported to Clay Hill and spread to fill some sink holes and build up some eroded areas. Volunteers then moved to the MCT island and realigned a section of the boardwalk, recently dislodged by rains. Volunteers then proceeded to the Eldridge Trail first bridge and assisted Bob with completing the bridge bulwark on the north bank of the Monongahela, by placing rocks and cement. A plank (a repurposed telephone pole section) from the former bridge was buried. Julie & Pat Ream along with Maria and Dan Ceravolo installed two new puncheons on Monongahela Brook Trail.

### **Near Term Projects.**

**Toolshed at W. Cherry St.** The installation is still pending. The borough needs to place a stone foundation first. Scott Conway has offered to assist with the installation.

**Directional arrow trail markers.** Maria reported that all trail markers are still in place. There are a few more locations where they need to be posted. Maria suggested posting an arrow trail marker explanatory sign at the kiosk and it was agreed we do so.

**Bob's email projects update.** Bob reported by email that: 1. The Eldridge Trail first bridge repair is now complete. The rip-rap has been locked in cement. 2. The stone sign has been installed at the stone pool garden. 3. Bob replaced the broken railroad ties on the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge on the garden Trail with 2x8's.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Wenonah Lake.** Maria noted that dirt or mulch needs to be spread on a section of the trail north of the lake, where there has been erosion. The material could be dumped at Princeton Blvd. for easy access to that site. Sharon noted the short trail from Maple St. to the lake parking lot still needs to be cleared.

**Dilks Pond.** Sharon reported she cleaned up the trash that had accumulated at the west end of the pond.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Maria noted there were sections on and near the island where additional puncheons or boardwalk might be installed. A raised boardwalk was a possibility. Maria said the

Lions offered to help with volunteer labor. Scott C. said he could install sideways lag bolts on the boardwalk to stabilize it. It was noted metal highway sign posts should be used to secure the low boardwalk. Julie suggested there might be a Mantua Creek Trail Eagle project in future. Scott B. noted the WEC will likely have to control and trim the summer vegetation along the boardwalk to keep it passable. Sharon reported the fallen tree on the west side of the rr embankment near the trestle has been cut.

**Hanisey's Landing.** Scott B. noted a very large tree had fallen on the kayak launch. The downed tree had been partially sawed (not sure by whom) but left completely covering the launch with limbs extending out into the water. It will be a major effort to clear. Sharon suggested perhaps we should hire a service for this job. Scott B. said we should check with Dave K. about options, and Sharon agreed to do so.

**Break Back Run Trail.** We are awaiting word from Dave K. on Tyler DeMaise' Eagle project.

**Boy Scout Island.** Scott C. reported he had removed large amounts of cans, bottles and trash but there is still a large amount of trash at the site. He also noted new littering on the vicinity of the fire pit party spot.

**Sustainable Jersey.** Sharon reported the SJ group is still trying to schedule a meeting with Bill Klaus. Sharon said she was not optimistic much more progress could be made this year.

**WEC GIS Trail Map Demo.** Scott B. demonstrated the new digital GIS Wenonah conservation area trail map he has been developing. Beginning with Google Earth imaging, he said he used the program Back Country Navigator to create the app. The completed app would be for the WEC as a management tool and also available for hikers and casual users. It will be the centerpiece of our redesigned web site and will be accessible for mobile devices. Scott has developed various data layers such as trails, trail heads, bridges and signs which can be turned on and off. Additional layers will be developed as well. Scott has taken GPS coordinates of the trail system and taken photos of all artifacts and significant locations. These can be integrated into the app and linked to specific corresponding points on the digital trails. The app can also use QR codes to link users with the map.

**Trails linking to Wenonah trails.** Scott B. mentioned the recently walked the trail east of the Monongahela Loop Trail extending into Deptford on the south bluffs of the Monongahela Branch. He said that although it is outside Wenonah, it had the potential to link our trail system to a wider network. Marias also mentioned the Oak Valley trail in Deptford, north of the Wenonah Lake Loop trail. A trail to Tall Pines along Mantua Creek is also a possibility if we could secure the permission of the land owner.

**Web site topic.** Julie suggested we could add a blog of short timely articles to the new web site. Various members of the WEC could contribute. The articles could speak about events, issues, projects and nature topics related to the conservation area.

**Planning Board.** Scott B. said there was nothing to report.

**Firefly Festival.** Scott B. reported the Go. Co. Nature Club is holding the Gloucester County Firefly Festival on the evening of July 21 at Tall Pines. The nature club is asking the WEC to be a cooperating organization and help promote the event. The WEC was supportive of doing so and several members of offered to help out with the event. Rich made a motion that the WEC support and promote the festival.

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

**Beaver walk for Gateway students.** Julie and Rich gave an update on the walk planning. They have designated 4 stations on the Eldridge Trail and are working on the narrative of the presentation. The walk is on May 24.

**Bird Quest. May 5.** Rich noted the WEC will again form a Bird Quest team that will bird the conservation area and Tall Pines. Rich showed the group the flyer for the team. Rich had distributed it to the school and other public places in town. Scott will do an email blast.

**Comey's Lake/Dilks Pond duckweed/algae control.** Rich reported we have received the first of 4 invoices from Princeton Hydro. It has been submitted to the borough for payment from our budget.

**WEC road cleanup.** Rich reported that Jeff Hamilton of Gloucester County Clean Communities called him inquiring if the WEC would be interested in doing highway cleanup. The WEC would in return receive a mini-grant. The WEC agreed to do a cleanup of Glass. Rd on Sat. June 9. Rich said he would make the arrangements and file the mini grant application.

**Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.**

Deposits: none.

Expenses: none.

**Current balance: \$12,517.01.**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:50 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.