

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2014

Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:35 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Community Center.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair)		X
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Bill Klaus	X	
Dave Kreck	X	
Tommy Lombardo (Mayor)	X	
Chris Newman		X

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert.

Public Guests Present: None

Minutes of the February 12 meeting were approved. (Motion: Lombardo, Second: Kreck, AIF)

Swearing In of Officer

Mayor Tommy Lombardo was sworn in to a new three year term by Chairman Barnes.

BUSINESS

Chairman's Report:

Activities for the **March 15 Spring Work Party** were discussed. We will meet at Eldridge Trail at 9:00 A.M. Frank reported that he dug out the small stream bed again on the Eldridge Trail and feels that raising the foot bridge will not, be necessary. Dave suggested placing the remaining coir logs on the stream bank near the bridge will help stabilize the sediments and indicated we still have erosion matting, should it be needed. Tommy noted there were slate slabs (formerly used as sidewalks) available at the RR crossing at Willow St. The Borough could transport them to the Eldridge Trail for use on the trail. Frank noted the erosion bars at the entrance slope on Eldridge Trail need to be replaced. Tommy will see that 4 or 5 of our stored 4x4's will be brought for that purpose.

There will be a WEC led Girl Scout hike at the Eldridge Trail on Sunday, April 6 at 9:00 A.M. 12 to 16 scouts will participate (4th & 6th graders). The focus will be tree identification. Rich, Tommy and Maddie Kreck will lead the walk.

On Feb. 27 the WEC requested an additional \$2,600 from Borough Council for the 2014 budget to cover the duckweed treatment of Comey's Lake and the Camels Back Run restoration. The original budget request in Dec. 2013 was \$5,000. It is likely we will have a formal response from Council by May.

It was agreed we would contract now with Princeton-Hydro for the Duckweed control of Dilks Pond for \$1770 using the encumbered funds from the 2013 budget. Contracting for Comey's Lake will be contingent on funding approval from Council. (Motion: Kreck, Second Klaus, AIF)

Frank noted the small stone pool on the Garden Trail has an algae problem and possibly other problems that need attention.

The WEC voted to again be a sponsor of the GCNC Bird Quest and to donate \$100. (Motion: Dilks, Second: Kreck, AIF) Rich stated we will again form a WEC Bird Quest team and seek participants from Wenonah School and the community. Rich, Scott, Frank and Bill participate.

Student Projects: No date is set as yet for Daniel Ceravolo's project to lay stone at the Camel Back Run foot bridge. Maddie Kreck is making progress on her Young Person's Guide to The Conservation Area. Rich has agreed to assist with tree and plant identifications as needed.

Scott is in the early stages of setting up the WEC FaceBook page. He is looking for current photos to post showing our activities.

It was noted Clean Communities Day is Sat. May 10. The WEC hopes to p[articipate.

Dave and Bob plan to meet and investigate the proposal for extending the bulkhead at Clay Hill.

The WEC is waiting to hear from Watershed Ambassador, Jess Aubrey, on the scheduling of an invasive species control project this spring. It will likely focus on wisteria.

Frank reported that last week he, Tommy and Pete Zepko cleared log obstructions for Mantua Creek near the Mullins property. Frank wants to schedule an evening work party when the weather warms to clear additional logs further downstream.

Frank reported he has had no recent update from Jack Lerner on his eagle project to improve the kayak launch at Hennisey's Landing.

Rich reported he expected to be contacted by Greenland Nursery-Fairmont Park in late April-May for a visit to select Pinxterflower shrubs for the fall seed donation.

Other Business

Rich reported the 50 bare root seedlings from the NJ Tree Recovery Program we requested through the STC will be picked up by Gary Odenbrett on April 4. They will need to be planted within a week of delivery.

Frank made the request the WEC purchase 150 conifer seedlings (White Pine, Canadian Hemlock & Scotch Pine) for \$133 for use as screening borders along trails and conservation land boundaries. (Motion: Lombardo, Second: Kreck, AIF)

Rich reported that the Friends of Wenonah Park met on Feb. 20. They are forming a committee of local builders, including Bob Bevilacqua, to investigate designs, materials and cost for the proposed park gazebo.

Frank has been researching the creation of a connecting trail from the Wenonah Conservation Area to the Tall Pines Preserve and believes it is feasible. The trail would follow Mantua Creek upstream from the RR trestle. Frank feels it could be done as an eagle scout project. It was noted that once the park is established, approval of park officials and the private land owners would need to be secured.

Tommy reported that the Wenonah Garden Tour will be held June 14, sponsored by the Women's Club. Anyone who would like to volunteer his/her garden for the tour can contact the Women's Club.

Dave noted that the Borough will undertake improvements at Langstons Field. Also the Borough will be replacing the 60 year old and antiquated well at Dilks Pond. The project should take about a year.

Scott reported no recent actions were taken by the Planning Board.

Rich reported Tall Pines is not yet under contract with Green Acres but should be in the very near future. A park dedication and opening this spring is still possible. Rich also noted the Friends of Tall Pines are considering an offer from the SJL&WT to have the Friends operate as part of the land trust.

Tommy noted there will be a town meeting on 3/20 on the light rail line. The sole topic will be whether Wenonah wishes to have a stop and walk in station in town.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:35 PM. (Motion: Lombardo, Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes Respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.