

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2014

Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Community Center.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT
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, Chuck Forsman

Public Guests Present: None

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

Chairman's Report:

Review

At the March 15 Spring Work Party at Eldridge Trail the WEC placed 4 or the 5 remaining Coir Logs along the small stream and installed erosion bars on the sloping beginning section of Eldridge Trail, packing dirt from the bridge site behind them. The bars will still need to be secured with metal stakes. Subsequent to the work party, Bob replaced the small foot bridge with a raised one. Lumber from the old bridge is still at the site and can be stored and used for other purposes.

The slate slabs are still at the Willow St. RR crossing. Bob will contact Ken at Public Works about moving them to the Eldridge Trail head (by backhoe) for use on the trail

The WEC led Girl Scout hike at the Eldridge Trail on Sunday, April 6 was very successful. 12 scouts along with adult leaders and parents attended. The focus was on tree identification. Rich, Tommy and Maddie Kreck led the walk. Maddie also took photos at the walk.

Scott reported that on Sat. April 5, 50 seedlings (25 Dogwood, 25 Loblolly Pine) from the NJ Tree Recovery Program were distributed and planted by Scott, Rich , Maria, Frank and Chuck in the conservation area.

Current Business

Scott noted the Lake Association has expressed an interest in meeting and working with the WEC and may attend future meetings.

Scott reported that Watershed Ambassador, Jess Aubrey will attend the May meeting and begin planning for the invasive species control project. Scott also noted a student service group at Kingsway HS has contacted him about a project in our conservation area and may be able to assist with Jess' project.

Frank has purchased for the WEC 150 seedlings (50 Hemlock, 50 White Pine, 50 Scotch Pine) and brought them to the meeting. They were divided into 5 bundles of 30 seedlings and distributed to Frank, Tommy, Bob, Rich & Scott for planting on the borders of the conservation area as screenings.

Tommy announced that additional funds the WEC requested at the February 27 Council meeting are in the Borough's budget. The budget will formally be approved on 4/24. (The original WEC budget request was for \$5000. The supplemental request was for \$2600. \$1815 from the 2013 WEC budget has also been encumbered and carried over for 2014.)

On That basis it was decided that Rich could proceed immediately and contract with Princeton Hydro for duckweed control on Comey Lake since the first payment is not due until May when the Borough budget will be in place. Total cost will be \$2985 plus \$150 for the two year DEP permit, (\$3135 in all).

Tommy noted the Comey's Lake fountain should be installed soon. Rich will contact Princeton Hydro first to ensure running the fountain will not interfere with the duckweed control treatments

Bob will begin organizing the restoration project at the former Synnott's Pond. The footbridge north of the old lake bed is being seriously undermined by erosion. A new bulkhead will need to be constructed and the bridge reinforced. Student Daniel Ceravolo's service project will include backfilling the bulkhead. The work at the dam site will require heavy equipment.

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 will participate. Rich will forward a flyer and BQ brochures to Wenonah School inviting students to participate. Bird Quest is May 3.

The WEC decided to participate in Clean Communities Day on May 10.

Frank reported he is doing plantings on N. Jefferson Ave. near our Stewart Estate plague. Several large trees had been removed from that area last year.

Frank also noted that Multiflora Rose and fallen limbs need to be cleared for near the pump station on E. Elm St. Tommy said he would try to take care of that.

Frank also requested a late spring-summer work party to remove logs from Manta Creek.

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

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

Rich reported that Karen Sweeny contacted him about a homeowner's complaint concerning the disrepair of the old chain link fence bordering the conservation along S. Princeton Ave. It was agreed that Rich would report back to Karen that the homeowner would have to determine if the fence is on private or Borough property, and that the WEC has never taken on the responsibility of maintaining or repairing the fence.

Rich reported that two checks were written on the FWT account in the past month: \$100 to the GCNC as a Bird Quest sponsor, \$145 to Frank as reimbursement for the purchase of seedling. \$51 from trail guide sales was deposited.

Other Business

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

At least 3 WEC members (Tommy, Bob & Rich) will participate in the Garden Tour on June 14.

Rich reported that Maple Ridge is very near going under contract with the state. He also noted that the Friends of Tall Pines are entertaining a proposal to operate as a part of the SJL&WT.

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

Scott reported on the Wenonah town meeting on the light rail. He noted it is hoped Wenonah can be designated a Quiet Zone. This will require safety gates at the three RR crossings. Tommy reported the local option question of a walk in station in Wenonah will be decided by the fall.

Scott reported that Regional Rails to Trails Trail Circuit supporters turned in 2,000 petitions to the Del. Valley Regional Planning Commission

Scott noted he will be traveling in China in May and vice Ch. Bob has agreed to chair May's meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:22 PM. (Motion: Lombardo, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

Minutes Respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.