

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2014

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 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	
Maria Ceravolo	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair)	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck	X	
Tommy Lombardo (Mayor)		X
Chris Newman		X

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Julie Ream.

Public Guests Present: Sharon Ceravolo, Pat Duncan.

Minutes of the October 8 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck AIF)

Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes

Fall Harvest Fair- Scott and Rich reported the WEC information table at the Fall Harvest Festival on 10/18 was very successful. We engaged with many community members, sold 10 trail guides and raised \$40 for Maple Ridge.

Fall Work Party on 11/8- Bob said 9 volunteers participated working at the foot bridge at Camels Back Run. 30 sand/cement sand bags were laid along part of the eroding stream bank, stone was laid on other sections and hydraulic cement applied. Also sections of the bulkheads were repaired and supported. Bob also advised that much more work needs to be done at the site.

Rich reported the family that lives at 305 S. Princeton (The Keisels) contacted the WEC about removing two trees in the conservation area very near their property. Rich went out to inspect. Neither tree seemed an imminent safety hazard but one had large limbs overhanging a play set. Rich explained the decision and responsibility for removing trees lies with the Borough, not the WEC. Rich suggested they contact Councilman Kaerle, who chairs the Public Works and Grounds Committee.

Scott attended a Sustainable Jersey "Lead the Change" workshop on 11/10. He spoke with Patrick McDevett of Monroe Twp. Who has organized a Green Team. Scott said the workshop dealt with attracting and managing volunteers. Scott further said the major benefit from a municipality being certified is expanded grant opportunities. It was also noted that when the WEC attempted certification several years ago, we were denied for lack of a ERI. A professionally done ERI would cost \$10,000+. Dave suggested that with his expertise, we might be able to do one ourselves. Bob offered to obtain a sample for study.

Current Business

Scott reminded us that the Borough Clean Communities Day is on Sat. 11/15 at 8:30 A.M. The WEC plans to participate. Scott will send out an email to our volunteers urging them to take part.

Scott also mentioned the Wenonah Newsletter deadline for the Winter edition is due 11/17. Scott will write the WEC article which will include mention of: 1. Volunteer Appreciation Night, 2. The Moonlight Hike, 3. The Feb. 5 Mile Hike, 4. A report with photos of the 11/8 work party.

No representative of the Girl Scout troop looking to do a service project with us was present this evening but Maria reported she has been in touch with the leadership. She has suggested the tree labeling project would work best on the School Trail near Wenonah School. Maria also suggested to them that the scouts could do trail monitoring and trash pickup as part of their required 50 volunteer hrs.

Maddie Kreck was unable to attend this evening but Dave reported her Young Persons' Guide is progressing. It is now at the stage of compilation and layout of photos and text. Rich will assist with species identifications as needed.

Frank said the stone pool on the Garden Trail will need cleaning (best done after the leaves are done falling). He suggested that could be a project for the Girl Scouts. Maria will convey the suggestion. He also noted the water level was higher than in the past and the area around the pool was constantly wet. Dave noted Elaine Goodman was also having flooding problem in the low lying sections of her yard and he believes there has been a general rising of ground water levels in the area. Dave speculated past storm water management policies may be contributing to that.

Scott reminded us that our Dec. 10 meeting will be preceded by the annual Volunteer Appreciation Night which begins at 6:30. Everyone was asked to bring an appetizer dish or desert.

Long Term Projects.

Synnott's Pond area- Bob and Dave plan to meet to determine the best place for repositioning the arched bridge. The possibility of creating a small weir there as part of the restoration was also discussed

Dave noted Clay Hill seems relatively stable. We should continue to monitor it for now.

Bog Walk- Julie noted some boards are deteriorating and need replacing. It was agreed that several sections should be replaced. Frank said the boards are 10 ft. sections of utility poles sawed length wise. He said we would need a source for the poles and a saw mill. Dave suggested other lumber ten ft. long and at least 4 in. thick would work as well. Dave also suggested Frank Vogel (who has a saw mill) might be of assistance and will contact him.

Scott noted our Trail Survey could be conducted in winter-early spring.

Rich reported the Nature club idea of a joint Late Winter Festival with the WEC is now unlikely. The nature club is rethinking the concept and no serious planning is taking place.

Dave announced the county is mandating the Borough adapt an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Dave noted he has been named Flood Plain Administrator and is working with Borough representatives including Drew Sole of the fire company to put the plan together. The plan will deal with storm emergencies, power failures, and downed trees. Dave wishes to include erosions issues in the planning as well. He said there could be increased funding opportunities and hopes an emergency generator for the school could be acquired.

Dave noted a new water well is being installed at Dilks Pond.

Bob reported he and Rich conducted a trail walk at Comey's Lake on 11/9 at the request of the new owners of the Comey mansion, Tony and Jennifer Peezi (sp?). About 20 guests of the Peezi's took part. It was a very enjoyable event.

It was noted that Maria still needs to be sworn in.

Scott reported the Planning Board had one application. A Shawnee Dr. resident applied for approval to construct a pool house. The application was approved.

Dave brought up the proposal of creating a detailed new town and conservation area GIS map. It could be overlaid on an aerial photo, be made interactive, linked to our web site and even used on smart phones. Dave will investigate the possibility of his and his firm pursuing this.

Rich reported we received \$114 from trail guide sales since our Oct. meeting. The funds were deposited into the WEC checking, which has a current balance of \$8,923.35.

Pat Duncan, a new Wenonah resident, introduced himself and expressed a desire to become a WEC volunteer.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:39 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Keck, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.