

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2015

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:38 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Community Center.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Maria Ceravolo	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair)	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck	X	
Tommy Lombardo	X	

Associate Members Present: Julie Ream, Sharon Ceravolo

Public Guests Present: John Mullens, Maddie Kreck.

Minutes of the December 10 meeting were approved. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

Reorganization and Selection of Officers.

All currently serving officers consented to continue in their positions for 2015- Chairman and Planning Board Rep.: Scott Barnes, Vice Chairman: Bob Bevilacqua and Recording Secretary: Rich Dilks. Officers were confirmed by a motion of the Commission. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Lombardo, AIF)

The WEC meeting schedule was also approved. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes.

Trail Maintenance

Scott spoke to the Commission concerning Trail Master Frank Eggert's serious illness. He reported Frank remains at Virtua in the ICU and the prognosis is not optimistic. Tommy said he had visited Frank earlier in the day. Many people present praised Frank's many decades of service to the community, the WEC and the conservation area. He has worked with skill, dedication and remarkable energy to maintain our trail system. Scott said we now need to reassign trail responsibilities to other members. Bob agreed to be coordinator for trail maintenance. Dave suggested a system where individual WEC members would assume responsibility for monitoring, making small repairs and reporting concerns for specific trails. It was agreed this was a logical approach. Dave will bring a trail map to the Feb. meeting and trail assignments will be formally done then. These assignments will also serve for the trail condition survey planned for later this year.

Commission Membership Changes.

Scott reported Chris Newman has resigned from the WEC. With the consent of the Commission Scott invited Assoc. Member Julie Ream to serve as a full Commission Member. Julie consented to serve. Welcome aboard, Julie.

Near-Term Projects

Borough Reorganization and WEC Annual Report. Scott reported he gave the oral report to council on WEC 2014 activities at Borough Reorganization on 1/7/15. Scott also submitted a written report to the borough. In addition, three WEC members, Scott, Bob & Maria, were administered the oath of office by the mayor at Reorganization.

5 Mile Hike. Scott confirmed the annual 5 mile hike will be held on Sat. Jan. 31 at 1:00 P.M. and will begin at the railroad pedestrian bridge near Wenonah School. Scott will publicize the event on Face Book and with emails.

Moonlight Hike. Scott reported the Moonlight Hike, scheduled for Jan. 3 was cancelled due to rain. The Commission looked at several possible reschedule dates from Feb. through May but concluded none were feasible this year.

Girl Scout 50 Hour Service Project. Maria reported the Girl Scout leaders have not gotten back to her and no action has been take. Maria offered to undertake with friends the clean up on the Garden Trail that was originally suggested for the Girl Scouts.

Student Projects. Maddie Kreck repoted she has completed gathering the photographic materials for the *Young Person's Guide to the Conservation Area*. There include photos of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and animal tracks. Rich will meet with Maddie later this week to assist with some plant identifications.

Long Term Projects.

Synnott's Pond area. Bob reported much has been accomplished. The dam ruin has been demolished, gabions have been placed and the arch bridge is now again in position over the stream and accessible. Bob said he still has to place one step at the bridge and that additional work on the bulkhead there and additional rip rap are still needed. Costs for this to date of \$3,359.62 have been submitted to the Borough. Bob also indicated additional sand bags are still needed near the footbridge at the north end if the site to control bank erosion. He hopes the Boy Scouts can assist with this. Bob said he plans to do work there this coming Sunday with the assistance of Dave and possibly Kyle Brite. Maria noted the small bridge over the channel from Rt 553 may need to be fixed if erosion continues to undermine the banks.

Clay Hill. Dave reported the area is fairly stable for now but there is a small bulkhead repair needed at it's up stream terminus. Dave said he will try to take care of that.

Green's Lake Bog Walk. Bob noted several planks need replacing. He will look into purchasing the appropriate 2.5 inch thick pressure treated lumber once he has completed the project at Synnott's Pond. Tommy will assist Bob in transporting the lumber once it is purchased.

Trail Condition Survey. Scott said we will undertake this later this year and members will be assigned specific trails to survey.

It was also noted there is a trial rail that needs repair near the site of a fallen tree near the Mullens property and a small section of boardwalk on the MCT island that needs to be repositioned and anchored. Dave said he would try to take care of that.

Gloucester County Nature Club Service Project. Scott announced the GCNC has offered to work with the WEC on an invasive species control project later this year as part of its 65th anniversary celebration. The WEC will choose the area and species for the project. The event will likely be in late spring or early summer. Rich suggested removing English Ivy from trees, pulling Garlic Mustard or removing Wisteria or Oriental Bittersweet were possible projects.

DEP Conserve Wildlife Grants. Dave investigated this and concluded they would not be practical for us. There is little time until this year's filing deadline. They are matching grants for \$1,000 to \$3,000, which would go to a 501c3 with which we would have to partner.

GIS map of Wenonah Trails. Dave said his firm has committed to doing the GIS trail map this year. Dave said he and his surveyor can make a line map with GIS points at every bend or turn

on the trail. This can then be overlain on an aerial map. Dave said his firm is also assisting the Shade Tree Commission and the Borough with the GIS technology.

Duckweed Control. Rich said Princeton Hydro will contact us in late winter with estimates for Comey's Lake and Dilks Pond for 2015. Julie noted that the absence of duckweed frozen on Comey's Lake made the ice this winter much smoother for skating.

Boy Scout Projects. It was generally agreed that a closer relationship with the Boy Scouts and their leaders would help in getting scout participation in conservation area projects.

Planning Board. Scott reported there was no Planning Board activity.

ANJEC Application. Scott informed the Commission we have received an application to rejoin ANJEC for 2015 for \$290. After brief discussion, it was agreed that cost is not justified by the benefits and we will decline again for this year.

Maple Ridge. Rich reported the remediation of the contaminated area is proceeding and settlement will take place at its completion. No precise timeframe is available.

Dave offered to fill the vacant position of Commission liaison to Council and for legal matters.

Maria noted some neighbors near the E. Cherry St. entrance to the conservation area, near S. Princeton Ave. were inquiring if we could fill a gully there for easier access. It was noted this area is private land belonging to former mayor Capaldi. Any work done there or access granted would need the approval of the land owner.

(Addendum To The Minutes.)

The current balance in the FWT account is \$8,909.76. This reflects the deposit of \$310 from Clean Communities funds and no expenditures.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:17 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Lombardo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.