

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2015

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:41 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		X
Julie Ream		X

**Associate Members Present:** Chuck Forsman.

**Public Guests Present:** Patrick Duncan

Minutes of the March 11 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ceravolo AIF)

**Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes.**

### **Review**

**Rip Rap Stone Purchase.** Bob reported that 120 tons of rip rap stone have been purchased and delivered to the Public Works garage. Some of the stone will be transported for use at the trail entrance on the Capaldi property and some at the Synnott's Pond site. Bob said the cost of the stone was approximately \$180.

**Spring Work Party.** Scott said the Spring Work Party on March 28 was very successful thanks to the good turnout of volunteers and to Bob for arranging the use of heavy equipment. The work party achieved its goals of controlling erosion and creating a usable and attractive trail entrance on the Capaldi property at the eastern terminus of Cherry St. Bob said he had asked Ken Trovarelli of Public Works to deliver wood chip to the site for the path. Scott announced that the Capaldi Family has made a \$400 donation to the WEC in appreciation of the work we did there.

### **Near-Term Projects.**

**Comey's Lake Land Transfer.** Scott reported that Claudia Simpson has offered to donate the portion of her property that includes where the trail exits on to S. Stockton Ave. to the Borough. The section of trail on the Simpson property that runs past the house to Comey's Lake is not included. Scott is looking into the possibility of establishing a formal easement for that section. The Simpson home is currently up for sale and there is at least one current offer to purchase. It was decided to await the outcome of that before perusing the possibility of an easement. Chuck noted that if that trail were ever to be used for heavy equipment access to the lake, the trail would need to be widened by backfilling. There was some discussion that long time use may create a legal precedent for an easement. Pat (an attorney) said the threshold was 25 years but he felt the prospects of getting an easement by this method were unlikely. Bob noted that in addition to the trail on the Simpson property, several sections of our trail system are on private property with the consent and good will of the property owner. Bob also noted the other issue arising with the Simpson property being sold was the arrangement for use of the electric power to run the fountain. Chuck noted mulch was being dumped on the unpaved S. Stockton Ave. and that that was inappropriate

**Trail Condition Survey.** Scott reported Rich (Break Back Run, Wenonah Lake, Dilks Pond) and Julie (Eldridge Trail, Indian Trail) have completed their surveys. Reports from Scott and Dave (Mantua Creek Trail and Monongahela Brook Trail east to Marion Ave.), Julie Monongahela Loop) and Maria (Camel's Back Run/Synnott area) are still in progress. Maria noted the plank bridge over the gully from the storm drain at Synnott's needs to be set more securely. Bob noted sand bagging and bank stabilization at

Synnott's still need to be finished and that would complete the project. He also reported he completed the steps at the arched bridge.

**WEC Bird Quest Team.** Rich announced the WEC will again field a team for the GCNC's Bird Quest on May 2 and has made up a flyer to distribute. This year in addition to inviting participation from students at Wenonah School, we will reach out to all our volunteers with an email accompanied by the team and Bird Quest flyers. Maria offered to forward the flyers to the Boy and Girl Scouts. As in past years, the team would bird in the conservation area and Maple Ridge.

**Invasive Species Removal Project.** Initiated as a 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary service project by the GCNC, the work party is scheduled for Sat. May 16 at 9:00 A.M. Participants will meet at the Community Center. We hope to include WEC volunteers, GCNC members and volunteers with Watershed Ambassador, Joe Traum. Rich will make an announcement at the GCNC meeting and pass a signup sheet. English Ivy and Wisteria at 4 locations were previously chosen as the objects of the removal. Participants should bring clippers and loppers, if possible.

### **Student Projects.**

**Maddie Kreck.** Maddie is waiting to photograph some spring wildflowers later this month to complete the guide. The formal title is "*A Field Guide to the Wenonah Woods*". Rich and Scott have seen some sample pages and are enthusiastic about the quality of the Guide.

**Hope Viviani** has not contacted the WEC about a service project since our last meeting.

**Colleen Core's son** (name not given) has contacted Scott about a service project. It was suggested he could pick up trash. There is an area along the Monongaheal Brook Trail where a large amount of trash has been scattered. He should take before and after photos if he cleans up there. Spreading wood chips at the Capaldi trail entrance was also suggested.

### **Long-Term Projects.**

**Clay Hill.** The bulkhead remains in need of repair at one end.

**Green's Lake Bog Walk.** Bob reported that Sharon had put him in touch with Ackley's Saw Mill to provide the lumber for the repair. Bob has purchase two 10' x10" x2.5" planks of green lumber (no creosote) and will pick them up on Fri. The cost is \$104. Bob hopes the repair can be done in the near future.

**E. Cheery St. Trail Entrance.** Scott brought up the possibility of an easement or purchase of a small section of the Murtha property the trail crosses. He said he would speak to Tom Murtha about this. It was also suggested a purchase could be funded by the Stewart Estate. Chuck noted a property can only be subdivided once to be eligible for Stewart Estate funds.

**Duckweed Control at Comey's Lake & Dilks Pond.** Rich reported that he has signed and returned the contracts with Princeton Hydro and forwarded the \$150 fee for the DEP permit for Dilks Pond. Dilks Pond will cost \$1780 (a \$10 increase over 2014) and Comey's Lake will cost \$2985 (no increase from 2014).

**Stone Pool.** Maria noted the stone pool on the Trail needs cleaning out and that the higher water level is making the areas unattractive with naturally occurring rust from the water covering the area. There is also a run off problem adding water to the area. Rich suggested lowering the water level in the pool a few inches to where it was historically. Bob further suggested drilling a hole and inserting a small drainage pipe as a water leveler. Chuck noted that despite occasional vandalism (such as at the pool a couple of years ago) the tea house has sustained very little damage over the nearly 15 years since it was restored.

### **Proposed memorials for Frank Eggert.**

**Plaque.** Bob has proposed a bronze plaque set in stone. He will look into the cost of the plaque and the stone. Rich agreed to write a draft for the text. Bob reported the American legion is willing to join with us in this project. Bob also noted other organization that Frank was active with, (Wenonah Historical Society, Presbyterian Church, Boy Scouts) could share the cost of the plaque with the WEC and Amer. Legion. A location for the memorial will need to be determined. Chuck confirmed it cannot be in the conservation area due to Stewart Estate restrictions. The entrance to the conservation area near the Wenonah Lake parking lot was suggested as an appropriate location, if practical.

**4th of July.** Maria said she and Sharon would construct the float and provide the trailer for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The WEC 4th of July hike would be at the trail named for Frank near Wenonah Lake. Rich said we would need trail signs or posts to mark the trail. Scott suggested we could also use blazes. Maria offered to contact Dave Ramsey about possibly making the trail markers. A tree planting has also been suggested and the Lions Club will decide about the Home Town Hero designation.

**Historical Records.** Scott reported that he has been given some historical artifacts and papers that Frank had kept. Much of these will go to the WHS. Among the records are documents from the Wenonah's Natural Woodlands Council (predecessor of the WEC).

**Historical Artifacts.** Maria reported that the family of former Wenonah Police Chief Miller is concerned about the preservation of a number of Chief Miller's Wenonah artifacts, including a bell from the Wenonah Military Academy. It was suggested contacting Larry Smith from the WHS. Scott reported there was no planning board activity this past month.

Rich reported the FWT account had one debit of \$150 for the Dilks Pond DEP permit and one deposit of \$75 from trail guide sales for a current balance of \$8,737.76

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:53 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ceravolo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.