

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2015

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:35 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: None.

Public Guests Present: Maddie Kreck

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

Maddie Kreck & “A Field Guide to the Wenonah Woods”. Maddie demonstrated to the Commission the final draft of the field guide with both printed copies and an electronic copy on her laptop. Maddie said a few more photos need to be added and the Guide will be complete. She expects that to be next week. The Commission was very favorably impressed with the quality and extensive content of the Guide. It was suggested and agreed that copies of the Guide will be given as part of the student environmental awards in June.

Chairman’s Report: Scott Barnes.

Review

Beaver at Wenonah Lake. Scott and Rich reported that Dr. Peter Speth had contacted them and Bob concerning a beaver that was eating the bark of some adult American beech trees and killing them by girdling. We advised him to contact Sarah Summerville of UWR for advise on protecting the trees. Dr. Speth later reported back to us that Sarah had visited the site with him. She said the beaver was likely a juvenile and recommended painting the lower trunks with mason paint mixed with sand to prevent further damage. Dr. Speth informed us he had promptly done so.

Party Spots Clean up. Rich reported that on 4/28 he cleaned up the trash at the spots on Mantua Creek Trail and Boy Scout Island. As of 5/13/15, the Mantua Creek Trail site remains trash free and the trash at Boy Scout Island was minimal. Rich picked that up on 5/13.

Greens Lake Bog Walk Repair. Bob informed us prior to the meeting that he had replaced 4 boards on the walk. Two boards were purchased for \$104 and two were available free from his job. Bob also said placing a plywood covering on the bog walk could protect the boards from continuing wear and weathering. Bob said he would look into the price of the plywood.

WEC Bird Quest team. Rich reported only he and Scott participated this year, despite sending fliers to the school and WEC supporters. The event was nevertheless a successful one. Our team identified 41 species at Maple Ridge and in the conservation area. Scott won a hybrid American holly as a door prize and offered it to be planted in the conservation area.

Clean Communities Day May 9. Scott reported only 5 people signed up for the WEC, but general attendance was good. Mulch was spread and leaves were raked at the community center and in the park and much was accomplished.

Near-Term Projects.

Invasive Species Removal Project. Initiated as a 65th anniversary service project by the GCNC, the work party is scheduled for Sat. May 16 at 9:00 A.M. Rich reported participants (which will include WEC volunteers, GCNC members and Watershed Ambassador, Joe Traum).will meet at the Community Center. The plan is for the volunteers to break up into several teams, each to work at one of four preselected areas removing wisteria and English ivy from trees, under the direction of a team leader. Trail guides will also be available for those unfamiliar with the area. Scott will print up images of ivy, wisteria and poison ivy foliage to assist with identification.

Trail Condition Survey. Scott reported the survey is not yet complete. Scott (Mantua Creek Trail, east from the island and Monongahela Brook Trail east to Marion Ave.) and Dave (Mantua Creek Trail from Mantua Ave. to the island) will have their sections completed soon. Julie reported there has been serious trail erosion at the Indian Trail trail head area. A berm may be needed there to hold back water flow. Dave believes there is a sewer easement there and will check on that. Julie also reported her identification of the emerald ash borer in Wenonah last year was in error. The insect actually was the six-spotted green tiger beetle, a harmless native species.

Annual Picnic. Scott noted the WEC annual picnic at Wenonah Lake will precede our June meeting on June 10 and begin at 6:30 P.M. Scott will be absent and Bob will chair.

Long-Term Projects.

Synnott's Pond area. Scott noted there is still some work to be done there.

Clay Hill bulkhead. Dave said he plans to take measures there soon. He said the section that is collapsing needs to be realigned and repositioned. Dave also plans to replace a failing trail rail further up the trail.

Stone Pool Garden drainage pipe. Discussion was deferred until Bob will be present.

Comey's Lake (Simpson property). Scott reported that Claudia Simpson has a potential buyer for her property and further discussion of a subdivision or easement is not practical at this time.

E. Cheery St. Trail Entrance. Rich said that Bob wishes to remind us that there is still mulch to be spreads there when anyone has the time. Scott said there is still the possibility of an easement or subdivision there.

Duckweed Control at Comey's Lake & Dilks Pond. Rich reported that we have received our first of three invoices from Princeton Hydro- (\$985.05 due for Comey's Lake and \$587.40 due for Dilks Pond). Dilks Pond was treated on May 8, 2015. Treatment for Comey's Lake has not yet begun. Dave said he may need some information on Princeton Hydro's DEP permit at Dilks Pond in connection with the requirements for the Borough's installing the new well at that site

GIS Map. Dave said due to his company's schedule and the fact that summer foliage can block GPS signals, this project will likely be scheduled for next winter.

Student Environmental Awards. Rich noted it was time to contact Wenonah School concerning the awards. Rich said the awards will now be known as the Frank Eggert Memorial Student Environment Awards. Rich has also redesigned the certificate to reflect this. It was agreed we would again offer two awards of \$75 each.

(Motion: Barnes, Second: Kreck AIF)

Proposed memorials for Frank Eggert.

Plaque. Rich produced a first draft of the plaque text which still must be discussed and agreed to by the Am. Legion and other possibly participating organizations. Scott said we need to be sure that if we place the memorial near the lake parking lot that it is not on conservation lands. Dave said he would investigate where the conservation land boundary is there.

4th of July. There was no discussion of the parade float as Maria and Sharon were not present. The 4th of July trail walk will be at Wenonah Lake and will include the trail that will be named for Frank. It was decided the tree planting would be done at another time, perhaps in fall. It was suggested that mentioning the dedication of the trail in honor of Frank should be mentioned on the 4th of July program, if possible.

Additional Items.

Dave reported the Borough has been awarded a \$900,000 federal grant for improvement of the downtown section or Mantua Ave. Included in the project will be pedestrian bumpouts and improved street lighting. Dave also said council is considering a zoning overlay for the area making the conversion of some older home into office and commercial space possible to increase tax revenue and prevent abandonment should the building no longer be desirable for residential use.

Dave also mentioned that Maple St. will be repaved from N. East Ave. to N. Marion and the Borough is replacing the well at Dilks Pond.

Dave reported several items from the recent planning board meeting:

1. Wenonah Greenhouses will sell 6 of the 7 lot on its block (lots fronting on Clinton and Marion Aves.) for residential development. They will retain the lot, house and one greenhouse on Cedar as a reduced operation.
2. A developer made inquiries about purchasing the Lizzy property for single family home development. When told the land contains Wenonah's COAH units, he apparently did not pursue the idea.
3. The Wenonah Swim Club plans to sell two lots just north of the pool. There are questions of street access, with just a narrow lane currently as the only road to the area.

Rich gave a brief report on Maple Ridge. Settlement is now being delayed because the state has returned the survey to the county, requesting corrections.

Rich reported the FWT account had deposits of \$10 for trail guide sales and \$400 in donations this past month for a current balance of \$9,147.76. There were no expenditures.

Julie said she has some landscaping timbers for use on the trail. She will store them at her house.

Dave mentioned he was speaking with Pat McDevitt of the Monroe EC and Pat was pushing Sustainable Jersey certification. Wenonah was denied certification for the lack of a natural resources index. Scott mentioned there is also a group called Sustainable Cherry Hill, an independent volunteer group. Dave also mentioned the concept of Complete Streets. It is intended to have streets configured to accommodate, motor vehicles, pedestrians, cyclist and public transportation. Dave said the program is applied rather subjectively and not terribly useful for Wenonah. Our street already accommodate these four categories quite well.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:45 PM. (Motion: Ream, Second: Kreck, AIF)
Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.