

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2015

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Jack C. Sheppard Sr. 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: Pat Duncan, John Forren, Eric Spross.

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

Chairman's Report Scott Barnes.

Review

Scott thanked those who organized and helped with the annual picnic in June and also thanked Bob for chairing the June meeting.

Frank Eggert Student Environmental Awards. Scott attended the Wenonah School graduation ceremonies on June 23, which were interrupted by a severe storm and power outage. The ceremonies continued with the assistance of the fire company, which provided emergency power. The two awardees were Catherine Lombardo and Andrew Doubleday. Both received a \$75 cash award, a certificate, field guides and a copy of Maddie Kreck's "Field Guide To The Wenonah Woods".

4th of July. Scott reported it was a very successful day. Maria announced that the parade float she created in honor of Frank won 1st place (\$250). The float was also displayed in the park and at Wenonah Lake for the dedication of the stone memorial. At 4 P.M. the stone memorial to Frank was unveiled. Scott (WEC), John Forren (Am. Legion) and Rich spoke briefly at the dedication and then the assembled crowd of approximately 50 persons, took part in the annual trail walk on the newly named Frank Eggert Trail east of Wenonah Lake.

Near-Term Projects.

Scott focused the near term projects on trail clean up and repair after the severe 6/23 storm. The status of each trail was reported and discussed:

Tea House/ Comey's Lake Loop. Bob reported the tea house was not damaged and the section of trail on the east side of the lake was now clear. Bob noted there is a large hanging limb on the trail north of the dock that is a safety hazard. He has placed caution tape near it. Dave & Scott reported Jack Sheppard has offered Borough assistance for areas that could be liabilities and potential insurance claims. Dave will contact Jack to see if the Borough could assist with hiring professionals to remove the dangerous limbs at Comey' Lake and near the pump station. Bob stated a WEC person should be in attendance if this is done. Bob also reported the new entrance at E. Cherry St remains blocked and access from Cherry St. is limited due to an overhanging limb and wood from fallen trees. Bob recommended work there be delayed there until clear access is available.

Eldridge Trail/Indian Trail. Julie reported Eldridge Trail is now clear. She and her husband had also cleared a passage on Indian Trail that was blocked by a large fallen tree. The trail course was slightly altered there due to the size of the tree. Also Julie moved the trail head entrance at Indian Trail west about 20 ft. due to fallen trees. The trail head remains within the easement.

Monongahela Loop Trail. Not yet assessed.

Monongahela Brook Trail. There is a large stump blocking the trail below the Cornell property and some additional minor blockage nearby. Since the stump came from the Cornell property, we will wait to see if the property owner has it removed from the trail.

Garden Trail/Stone Pool Garden. The trail is clear and walkable but a large tree was uprooted near the garden, creating a hole in the trail. A large limb is also overhanging the top of the stump.

Glen Trail. Trail still blocked by fallen trees and an uprooted tree has created a large hole in the trail.

Mantua Creek Trail. Now largely cleared. However the access trail at W. Cedar is blocked as is an area near the S. West Ave. entrance. The south bridge to the island was hit by a fallen tree and planks were broken. They will need to be replaced.

Break Back Run Trail. Cleared.

Wenonah Lake Loop/Eggert Trail. Cleared.

Hanisey's Landing. Rich reported the kayak launch was not damaged in the storm but that one of the anchor posts has snapped off. There is a fairly substantial blockage of fallen trees on the rd. It was suggested that since this was a sewer utility easement, that the utility might be responsible for clearing it, but there would be no guarantee if or when that might happen.

School Trail. A larger limb is resting on and has damaged the school fence. It is assumed the school will deal with this. There is additional blockage on the northern end of the trail.

Dilks Pond. Many large pines fell on the trail near N. Jefferson. The trail blockage was cleared by Tommy, John Forren and Eric Sproos. At least three large pines remain in the pond.

Synnott's Pond area. Bob reported vandals had pried open one of the gabion cages and removed considerable stones. Some guard rails had also been tossed around and the bench was ripped apart. There was no serious storm damage.

Chain Saws. Dave suggested the WEC purchase one or more chain saws. Bob cautioned that proper maintenance is very important, particularly when several people use the same chain saw. Dave said he would look into models and prices.

Volunteers clearing trails. It was noted that several persons other than WEC members have anonymously cleared areas on the trails. Scott noted Jon Funk and the Bill Klaus family have offered assistance. Dave suggested we announce on our Face Book page that we would appreciate the help of any volunteers in getting the trails cleared and back in shape.

Dilks Pond Tree Removal and Restoration. Eric Sproos volunteered to donate a crane to remove the three large trees in the pond. The Borough would need to agree to close N. Jefferson St. for the operation. Eric said he could provide a crane with a 160 ft. boom. The trees could be lifted and cut, then dumped on the other side of N. Jefferson or loaded into a front end loader and removed. Dave said he would speak to the Borough about the offer. Dave also said as part of the construction of the new well at Dilks Pond, that he required to replace trees lost from the construction in a two for one ratio. The new well will be about 90 feet west of the present one and close to Maple St. The restoration will include planting new pines in the damaged area near N. Jefferson.

Work Party Scheduled. Maria suggested a work party for this weekend. It is scheduled for Sunday, July 12 at 9AM. We will meet at the end of W. Cedar and work there, on the Glen Trail and near the S. West Ave. area.

Dave said the Borough is hoping to get the large capacity county trucks back to clear away additional debris still waiting for collection.

Scott reminded us that brushing the trails and controlling the poison ivy in the walking areas is important this time of year. He noted that was something Frank did on a regular basis. Scott also noted that the records from the 1960's era Woodlands Council indicated that vandalism was their chief concern.

Dave reported that when he inspected the upturned roots of a very large beech tree near Mantua Creek Trail, he saw a piece of piping embedded. He also found a medicine bottle from Dr. Harry A. Stout, Wenonah physician circa 1890's.

Rich reported the duckweed/algae control at Dilks Pond and Comey's Lake by Princeton Hydro is continuing successfully. Dilks Pond was last treated 6/30/15 and Comey's Lake on 7/2/15. The second instalment of invoices from Princeton Hydro were received in June and submitted to the Borough for payment.

Long-Term Projects

Scott noted many of our long term projects can go on hold until we have dealt with the issues from the 6/23 storm.

Trail survey. On hold

Synnott's Pond. Bob, Maria & Danny will work on replacing the stone and repairing the vandalized gabion cage.

Clay Hill bulkhead. On hold.

Stone Pool Garden drainage. On hold.

Comey's Lake land transfer/easement. Scott has been in touch with the new owner, Joshua, who may be willing to discuss an easement for trail access.

E. Cherry St trail entrance. On hold.

Web site. Scott said he created our web site over a decade ago and felt it was time to review and do some updates and technical improvements. Scott also noted the most popular page on the web site is the trail page. Scott also reported the Friends of Wenonah Trails Face Book page has 277 likes.

Maple Ridge. Rich reported that on 7/7/15 state, county and local officials did the final walk through at Maple Ridge and are ready to schedule settlement, likely in August. The officials are now focusing on what needs to be done at Maple Ridge between settlement and the park opening. Items include signage for park rules, barriers to prevent vehicles in the park, clearing limbs from trails, repairing the flow pipe between the upper ponds, removing trash, creating a trail system and installing trail signage. A Sept. opening is the present target date.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account. Rich reported account activity for the past month.

Deposits: Trail guide sales	\$6.00
Donation, Dr. Speth	\$500.00
Clean Comm. Day	\$275.00

Total	\$781.00
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Expenditures:

Student awards	\$150.00
Student field guides	\$14.87
Frank Eggert Trail sign	\$35.00

Total	\$199.87
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Current Balance	\$9,646.13
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MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:35 PM. (Motion: Kreck, Second:Bevilacqua AIF)
Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.