

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2015

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 6:35 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the tea house pavilion.

<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:** Jake Kreck (canine).

Minutes of the August 12 meeting were approved as amended. (Motion: Ream, Second: Kreck AIF)

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

### **Review**

**August 25 Work Party at Synnott's Pond dam.** Rich reported that at the hour long early evening work party, the gabion cage was refilled with stone and wired shut to discourage future vandalism. In addition the bench top was replaced and logs were removed from the stream.

Julie reported that Bob had cleared some fallen trees at Wenonah Lake inside the fenced grounds at the Lake Association's request, in advance of their doing the Haunted Trail event in Oct. Julie also reported that sections of the Indian Trail spur have been blocked by additional fallen limbs that will need to be cleared.

**Comey's Lake/Dilks Pond Duckweed & Algae.** Rich reported that both ponds are duckweed free but that there is rather severe algae growth on Comey's Lake and algae on Dilks Pond as well. Comey's Lake was last treated by Princeton Hydro on 9/2/15. Rich said the hot weather and lack of rain encouraged the algae growth. He said if the rains expected in the next day or so do not flush the algae, he will contact Princeton Hydro.

### **Near Term Projects**

#### **Trail post storm clean up status.**

**East Cherry St Entrance.** This area is still blocked by several downed trees. Chain saws will be needed for clearing the trail. Dave suggested this as a possible site for the Fall Work Party on 11/7.

**Comey's Lake Loop/Tea House.** Trails are basically clear. Bob had cleared the tea house roof of leaves and debris.

**Eldridge Trail.** Clear.

**Monongahela Loop Trail.** The upper portion of the trail is blocked at several locations by fallen trees and limbs. A chain saw would be needed to clear them. It was suggested the upper trail could be cleared during the Fall Work Party. The lower portion of the loop trail is now very overgrown with vegetation. No attempt to restore it will be made this fall.

**Monongahela Brook Trail.** It was reported the stump blocking the trail below the Cornell home is still there. Julie noted there is also some erosion at the site.

**Garden Trail/Stone pool.** The trail is clear and passable. There is a large toppled tree and resulting hole along the trail and also a large branch balanced on the upended roots. We would need to cart in fill dirt to fill the hole. It was also noted the water level in the pool should be lowered by inserting a notch or leveling pipe.

**Glen Trail.** The trail is passable. An upended tree has created a large hole but for now the hole can be skirted. Dirt will need to be hauled in to fill it.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** The damaged bridge at the east end of the island is a high priority for repair. Some boards have been temporarily placed on the damaged area but a permanent repair is required. Dave will look into this and confer with Bob. He said there is the possibility of using some old boards from the bog walk for this repair. Rich noted there are a couple of large trees down across the trail near the railroad tracks. They can be stepped over but will need to be cut at some point.

**Break Back Run, Wenonah Lake Loop & Eggert Trails.** Clear.

**Dilks Pond.** The trail is clear. There is still debris on the ground that needs to be cleared. Dave stated he wanted to plant white pines as a part of the plantings for the new well construction but the state is insisting on northern red oaks instead.

**Synnott's Pond Trail.** The area is very overgrown this time of year. The small foot bridge at the northeast section should be made more secure.

**Hannisey's Landing.** The road is clear for access to the kayak launch. Julie said she will replace the missing pole on the launch.

**Women's Club Project.** It was suggested that instead of one large trail head sign, that we would prefer several smaller durable metal signs with the trail map and a "you are here" designation for each sign location. The signs would need to be at least three colors to show streets, trails and bodies of water. Dave will check with Kenny at the Borough about how the Borough signage is done. Julie suggested Gateway HS may have facilities and students to take on the project. We will need to locate the electronic trail map file. Bob may have that. We have no cost for the project as yet. Scott will keep Jenny McQuade of the Women's Club informed of our ideas.

**Mad Hatter's Tree Party.** The WEC has agreed to cosponsor the event with the nature club on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 1 to 4 P.M. Rich will contact Chris Newman and invite him to again play the Mad Hatter. If Chris is unable, Erik Mollenhauer will take the roll. Rich noted we hope to have some additional activities such as a hands on tree measuring. Erik intends to write a plan for the event that can be distributed to other organizations and Scott suggested a short video be made. The GCNC is looking into the availability and costs of a professional video.

**Fall Festival on Oct 24.** Dave suggested we have an information table at the festival in Wenonah Park. He said he has literature to bring. Also he will look into putting together a photo display and have a copy of the "Guide to the Wenonah Conservation Area" on display. We will also sell trail maps and have a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the fall Work Party. Other specifics will be discussed at the WEC Oct. meeting.

**Newsletter.** Scott had submitted the WEC article for the Fall Borough Newsletter.

**Purchase of Hand Tools.** At the Aug. meeting, Maria had suggested the WEC purchase tools such as a hand saw for work parties and trail maintenance. Dave suggested a sickle would also be useful. An axe and loppers were also proposed for purchase. Dave said the purchases should be made prior to the Nov. 7th work party. He said he would look into the tools and prices at Home Depot and report at our next meeting.

**Friends of Wenonah Trails account & WEC Budget.** Rich reported there was no activity in the past month for the FWT account and the balance is currently \$9,965.13. Rich also reported that the third installment payment to Princeton Hydro exceeded our WEC budget by \$169. Karen said she will take the funds from Public Works to fill the deficit. Rich also briefly explained the differences between the FWT account and our budget.

**Dave- Report on Borough Projects.** Dave reported the Borough now has the DEP permits for the new well on Maple St. but is still awaiting the flood hazard permit. Dave also noted the Borough is preparing for the resurfacing of Maple St from the RR tracks to N. Marion. Finally, he said the Borough has met with DOT officials about the grant for improvements on Mantua Ave. He said a number of things will need to be done to secure eligibility for the federal funding and that it will likely be 2 years before the project can be sent out to bid.

**ANJEC Membership.** Rich said ANJEC has contacted him about the WEC renewing our membership. The WEC decided to decline, citing the cost and that we get few benefits for the cost of membership.

**Comey' Lake.** Scott reported there has been no recent communication with the new owners of the N. Stockton Ave. home, at Comey's Lake, Joshua and Lauren Hazelton. They have suggested reactivating the man-made stream that runs from the home into the lake. Scott also said he hopes to have a discussion in future about a trail easement or agreement with the new owners.

**Sign-in sheets.** Scott has proposed we make it a practice of having participants on work parties sign in. He said this could be useful in tracking participation, getting new volunteers and for liability purposes.

**Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.** Rich noted there were no expenditure last month.

**Current Balance: \$9,965.13**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:28 PM. (Motion: Ream, Second: Kreck AIF)  
Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.

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