

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2016

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 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	
Sharon Ceravolo		X
Maria Ceravolo		X
Bob Bevilacqua	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)		X
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present: Dave Coates.

Public Guests Present: none.

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

Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes.

Review

Frank Eggert Student Awards. Scott reported he presented the awards to Gwendalyn Farina and Marianna Olaya at the Wenonah School 6th grade graduation ceremony on June 21. Each student received a check for \$100, a certificate, letter and assorted nature guides. Scott thanked Rich for making up the packets.

Near-Term Projects

Conservation Ordinance Revision. Scott reported the revised ordinance passed unanimously at first reading at the June 23 council meeting. There must still be a second reading. Scott said the ordinance includes the increased maximum fine of \$2000 and specific language making the dumping of vegetation an offence. Bob noted that once the new ordinance is in place that an educational effort needs to be made to make residents aware of the changes.

Kiosk-Trail Sign Project. Scott reported a successful dedication and hike on the 4th of July. Julie noted The wooden plaque for the Woman's Club will be replaced by an anodyne finished metal one and that the Gateway plaque will also be metal. Julie said we do something to thank the two Gateway teachers and suggested a Lowe's gift card for each. Bob suggested the gift cards be for \$100 each and made the motion we authorize this. Julie will purchase the cards.

(Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Dilks AIF)

Scott said he does not expect the Woman's Club to provide additional funding for the small guide signs. Julie said this part of the project should be fairly inexpensive.

Beaver Activity.

Eldridge Trail. Julie reported the bridge dam had been partially breached over the weekend, but was quickly repaired by the beavers. The beaver flume is again blocked with debris. The water level in "Beaver Lake" is at an all-time high and there is considerable standing water in the low trail section by the third bridge. Julie had put down some small raised boards to keep the trail walkable. She noted she and her husband had seen several beavers. She also noted there has been some gnawing on a large tree overhanging the water by the bridge dam. She suggested we should paint the trunk to protect it, since wrapping with wire would not be effective here. Bob said he has cleaned the flume out several times. He suggested we need to have the in-flow area

moved further back away from the dam. He also suggested we install a corrugated pipe instead of another flume.

Monongahela Loop Trail. Rich reported the level of the pond remains lower than when we installed the flume. The loop trail is not flooded and should be walkable, although it is current overgrown with summer vegetation.

Dave Kreck (by email) reported seeing juvenile beavers near Boy Scout Island in Mantua Creek.

Trail Maintenance

Comey's Lake/tea house. Bob reported he placed two stepping stones in Camel's Back Run on the trail behind the tea house. He also said there was very little trash at the tea house and it looked good.

Eldridge Trail. The flooding in the low area by the third bridge may need additional boardwalks. If the waters of the beaver pond rise much higher, other sections of the trail will be at risk.

Monongahela Brook Trail There is a large tree down and blocking the trail at the east end of the bog walk. Bob will try to take care of it. One of the boards on the bog walk is loose. Bob proposed covering the bog walk with plywood to preserve it and steady the walk. He estimates we would need to cover about 100 feet in length.

Glen Trail. There is a loose plank on the footbridge there. A replacement plank would need to be 12 feet long and 3in. thick. Scott reported he cleaned up trash near the bench but the area is also overgrown.

Garden Trail. Scott reported there is overgrowth at the stone pool garden bench.

Mantua Creek Trail. There is a large tree down on MCT west of the RR tracks. The section near Cherry St. becomes very muddy when it rains. The large trees blown over by the recent storm and blocking the trail have been cleared by Timber Cut Tree Service at our request. The cost was \$267.50.

Other Items

Bob noted resident, Sarah Killpatrick, has offered us some wood. Bob will contact Tommy to assist him and make arrangements to pick it up. .

Tools. Bob reported he and Dave Kreck have purchased a number of hand tools for the WEC. They include a pruner, lopper, pull saw and scythe. They are being stored at Public Works We should have ready access and can contact Ken, if need be, outside of business hours.

Dilks Pond/Comey's Lake Duckweed & Algae Control. Rich reported both bodies of water have no current duckweed or algae problem. He said Princeton Hydro has billed us for the 2nd payment installment. The final installment will be due in Sept.

Interpretive Sign. Bob reported he replaced the interpretive signs at Comey's Lake and Dilks Pond. Rich had a replacement made for the Wenonah Lake sign for when it might need to be replaced in future.

Conservation Area Sign. The sign at Mantua Ave near Camel's Back Run is largely hidden by tree growth that needs to be cut back.

Tall Pines Dedication. Rich gave a report on the Tall Pines State Preserve dedication ceremony on June 20. He said the affair went very well. Scott had videoed the ceremony and it can be viewed on You Tube and the Friends of Tall Pines web site.

Planning Board. Scott said there were no recent actions taken. He said someone announced at council meeting he was interested in purchasing the Wenonah Meadows property. Scott noted the houses near the swim club parking lot were previously approved and are now under construction.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Expenditures:

\$200.00 for student awards

\$14.87 pocket nature guides for student awards

Deposits:

\$230.00 from Clean Communities

Current balance: \$9,733.68

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:16 PM. (Motion: Ream, Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.