

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
August 10, 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, Chuck Forsman

Public Guests Present: Don Miller

Minutes of the July 13 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: M. Ceravolo, AIF)

Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes.

Review

Revised Conservation Ordinance Adopted. Scott reported Borough Council unanimously adopted the revised ordinance on the second reading on July 28. The next step is for council and the WEC to publicize it. Scott said the full ordinance was rather lengthy. Sharon suggested a summary of the key elements could be made and posted in the town kiosk. Scott suggested it should also be in the newsletter.. Maria informed us the Shade Tree Comm. Is also looking to increase penalties under its jurisdiction to \$2,000.

Near-Term Projects

WEC Kiosk & Trail Signs. Scott noted Julie will update us at the next meeting on the dedication plaques and gift cards.

Beaver Activity. Bob reported he has installed a new flume, a large pipe, at the Eldridge Trail bridge dam. He said despite some minor blockages that must be periodically cleared, the pipe is flowing well and the level of the pond has dropped noticeably. The pipe will need to be monitored. Dave Coates said on a recent walk he found the trail dry. Bob said he has seen the beavers. He also noted the vertical 2x4 used as a water level marker has been gnawed to a point by the beavers and may need to be replaced by a metal one. The water level at the upstream dam was reported to be fairly low. That section of the trail now has heavy undergrowth and is little used in summer.

Trail Maintenance.

Eldridge Trail. Maria noted the homeowner at the Pine St. trail entrance is cutting bamboo and piling it so that, at times, it blocks the trail entrance. Bob said he would talk to Wayne. (homeowner) about this.

Monongahela Brook Trail. Bob reported he has covered the bog walk with a plywood surface. It covers about 110 feet. The plywood cost \$150. Bob said the plywood should age a few weeks and darken, then should be painted an appropriate color, with a latex paint containing grit to improve traction. Sharon offered to do the painting.

Garden Trail. It was noted the garden area is quite overgrown near the bench at present. The water level in the stone pool is fairly low. Maria offered to do some cleanup at the site.

Glen Trail. A board on the bridge near the Glen Trail has been reported loose. Bob said he would check it.

Mantua Creek Trail. The muddy area near Cherry St remains a problem, the bulkhead at Clay Hill needs repair and Scott will continue to work on the English ivy at the Willow St access trail.

Wenonah Lake. Rich & Sharon reported two muddy areas on the loop trail near the north head of the lake. Bob said he has some flat boards that could be used in those sections. It was also noted Dave Kreck picked up three RR ties, donated by a resident.

Camels Back Loop. Maria noted the loop is little used and very overgrown this time of the year.

Work Party Scheduled. Bob suggested a work party to address the overgrowth on the Garden Trail, Camels Back Loop and the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail muddy sections. We will meet on Tues. Aug. 23 at 6:00 P.M. at the Garden Trail.

Newsletter. Scott said the fall newsletter articles are due. He said he plans to mention: 1. The new conservation area ordinance, 2. Include a photo of the new WEC Kiosk at Wenonah Lake, 3. Publicize the Sept. WEC tea house meeting, 4. The Mad Hatter's Tree Party (Sun. Oct. 23), 5. The Fall Work Party (Nov. 5) and 6. Post a link to Erik Mollenhauer's radio interview .

Duckweed/Algae Control. Rich reported Dilks Pond & Comey's Lake were last treated on July 26. Comey's Lake in the last few days has acquired a substantial algae coating. Rich contacted Scott Churm on Fri' Aug.5 and is awaiting further action from Princeton Hydro.

Homeowner's at Comey's Lake. Scott said he hopes to have a discussion with the homeowners (Hazeltons) about their wish to start up the artificial stream, and also to discuss a possible easement on the property.

Possible Donation from Wenonah Lions Club. Maria reported the Wenonah Lions Club is considering a donation to the WEC and we would need to come up with a proposed project. The amount could be quite substantial and the project could include a combined workforce of WEC & Lions members. Possible projects suggested were:

Mantua Creek Trail: Bulkhead repair at Clay Hill and a low raised boardwalk or trail rails for the muddy stretch near W. Cherry. That trail improvement could run about 300 feet. Bob and Dave Kreck could estimate costs for materials. The best access would be from the Kreck property. John Van Dine might assist with equipment.

Eldridge Trail. Scott suggested the low area near the third small bridge could have the trail rails extended.

Sharon suggested that Gateway HS and the Key Club might be able to provide some volunteer labor. She said she would make a contact to inquire. Dave Coates suggested a memorial bench if the Lions would want some sort of permanent recognition of the project. Bob noted the stone for the stone benches currently in the conservation area was originally granite curbing in Atlantic City. Scott said he would send out an email to inform the rest of the WEC of the proposal.

Scott reported the Planning Board did not meet this month.

Maria said she has the label maker to make the "You are here" marker for the WEC kiosk map.

Rich noted there will be a cleanup at Tall Pines on Sun. Aug. 21 and a Friends led free public walk on Sun. Oct 16.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Expenditures:

\$308.16 reimbursement to Bob for materials & tool purchases.

\$267.50 John Van Dine for large tree removal on MCT.

Deposits:
\$56.00 from Trail Guide sales.

Current balance: \$9,216.02

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:15 PM. (Motion: S Ceravolo, Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.