

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2017

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 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 Member Present:** John Forren

**Public Guests Present:** Bill Klaus, Jon Funk, Jack Costantino, Stacey Costantino.

The minutes of the Dec. 14 meeting were approved: (Motion: S. Ceravolo, Second: Ream, AIF)

## **Annual Reorganization.**

All Commission officers were confirmed in their present positions for the coming year: Scott Barnes, Chairman; Dave Kreck, Vice Chairman, Rich Dilks, recording secretary.

(Motion: Kreck, Second: Ream, AIF)

The meeting schedule for 2017 was also formally approved.

(Motion: S. Ceravolo, Second: Ream, AIF)

**Sustainable Jersey Proposal.** Former WEC member Bill Klaus addressed the Commission with a proposal to again make an effort for Wenonah to achieve certification for Sustainable Jersey. He said the previous effort he led several years ago led to approximately \$100,000 in grants that funded a new heating system and efficient lighting system for the fire house. He said Gateway student and Wenonah resident, Neil Sheridan will take on the project as an intern and will work with Bill on the project. Bill said we had previously amassed 300 points toward certification but still need 150. Neil would work through May and hopes to finish the project by then. If necessary, another intern could take over after that. Bill said we would also have to form a Green Team to work on the various and elements of certification. Bill said he was willing to oversee and coordinate the certification effort. He also explained that certification is not permanent. We would be required to undergo periodic recertification. The major advantage to certification is access to SJ grant money. The Commission agreed to move forward on this and to contribute and assist Bill in areas where we can.

**Jack Costantino Eagle Scout Project on MCT.** Dave Kreck gave an overview of Jack's proposal to place trail rails and crushed stone on a muddy section of about 150 ft. of MCT near W. Cherry St. The proposal also now calls for a bench to be placed in the conservation area. Scott noted the written proposal Jack will submit to the scout council did not specify details about the stakes securing the rails in the ground. Dave said that pressure treated wooden stakes are sufficient and it was agreed that the proposal would be amended to specify the stakes will be driven 8" into the ground. Maria inquired whether the entire 150' area would need the rail. Dave said the muddy section was continuous for the whole 150' and also said the crushed stone has been used numerous times in the past on trails. Jack said he needed a letter from us as

sponsoring organization for the scout council. Scott agreed to provide this. It was estimated the cost of materials would be approximately \$1,000. Dave advised Jack to seek donations from Lowe's and other suppliers. Sharon said at Lowe's we would need to get a Lowe's credit card and then could receive discounts on purchases and possibly sales tax exemption as well. John Forren said veterans can get a 10% discount (the Am. Legion uses this). It was suggested Bob, as a veteran, might qualify for our receiving this discount. Sharon suggested a materials list needs to be drawn up and submitted. It was also agreed that any purchases for this project and the Lions Club project should be coordinated. Maria asked whether any future materials we may purchase could be stored by the Borough. Dave said he would speak to Ken about this. Jack said his projected installation dates for the project are Sat. March 11 and 18. He said he was confident the scout volunteers could successfully perform the labor. Dave announced the access trail from his property, where the stone would be delivered, to MCT is now open and useable. A motion to formally approve the project was made and passed.

(Motion: Ream, Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

**Lions Club Donation and raised boardwalk.** Dave and Sharon reported they attended the Lion's Club meeting on 12/10 and gave our proposal and a cost estimate for a raised boardwalk over a frequently flooded 300ft section of the Eldridge Trail. Suggestions at the meeting were to seek funding or discounts from Lowe's or other supplies and offering other organization an opportunity to participate in this project. A question was raised about the sufficient height of the boardwalk. Bob's specifications are that it would be at least 1ft above the current trail level.

Lion Jon Funk then addressed to Commission. He said the Lion's Club has approved our proposal. He said the Lions would make a donation of up to \$3,500 to fund materials. He further pledged the Lions would provide 160 volunteer man hours to assist the Commission in installing the boardwalk. It was estimated the installation would be done in two weekends. The Lions also stipulated the boardwalk would be designated by a plaque as a memorial to the late Lion's member, Frank Magin. Dave said we would need to determine if the Stewart Estate Trust has any prohibitions on memorials within parcels preserved with their funding. Jon also said the Lions wanted a state biologist to check the site and confirm the appropriate height of the boardwalk. Julie said she has been in touch with Veronica Van Hof, Dir. of Unexpected Wildlife refuge, a beaver expert, who can assist and advise on the level and other elements of beaver activity management. The USFW agent, Steve Piccolo, who met with us on site in Feb. 2016, could also be contacted. Scott said the topography of the land near the dam limits how high the water in the pond can rise. Dave said he and Mike Sheehan will take a transit and check levels. Julie proposed the large stones and the stepping platforms installed by Mike should be removed prior to the installation and reused elsewhere. Jon said the sourcing of materials will be coordinated with the WEC and he will keep in touch with Dave. Possible suppliers include Lowe's, Home Depot, Glassboro Lumber and Peters Lumber. Julie reminded us that the northern most small bridge in this project (the bridges will need to be raised) is on private property. She said she contacted the property owner and received approval for us to do the work. The target date for the project was set for March. The WEC approved the joint project with the Lion's Club.

(Motion: Kreck, Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

### **Other Near Term Projects**

**Kiosk.** Julie reported the Woman's Club plaque is now mounted and the Gateway plaque will be mounted tomorrow. It was also suggested she put the WEC calendar of events in the kiosk.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Comey's Lake.** It was noted Bob has installed a section of rail fence at the amphitheater. The proposed caution/ historical info sign will be deferred for now.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Dave said he had a load of dirt delivered to S. Jackson Ave. He will use it to fill in holes on MCT and at Clay hill. It was also noted a small section of MCT can be rerouted if the holes continue to loose fill. Also Dave & Bob hope to work on opening an access trail at S.

Garfield by the Public Works yard. Maria said she will add Dave's projects to the trail assessment.

**Monongahela Loop Trail.** Julie reported the low section remains flooded and unusable. She also said the "grand canyon" near Shawnee Dr. seems to have stabilized.

**Wenonah Lake/Eggert Trail.** Maria said ATV use is evident and is degrading the area. She said posting a sign referencing the appropriate borough ordinance can be done to help deter riders or strengthen our case if offenders are caught and prosecuted. Maria also said she would work on clearing the short trail by public works and extend the low boardwalk near the north head of the lake. She also noted someone dumped hay on a section of trail. It has gotten soggy and people are now walking off trail to avoid it. The Eggert Trail sign has been stolen. Rich has a replacement sign. We will need an appropriate post to install it.

It was suggested small arrow signs could be placed or put on posts at places where the trail direction is ambiguous.

**Break Back Run Trail.** Sharon said to open the access trail on N. Jefferson near Buttonwood Ave., we need to determine the boundary of the property owner to assure the trail will be on conservation land.

**School Trail.** Rich reported Wenonah resident Steve Donahue contacted him and asked permission to clear a downed dead tree blocking the path. Rich approved and later confirmed it was done.

### **Hikes**

**5 Mile Hike.** will be held Sat. Jan. 28 at 1 PM. We will advise people of muddy conditions and caution people to wear boots. We need to check the trails, particularly the low section on the Eldridge Trail shortly before the event.

**Moonlight Hike** will be held Sat. Feb.11 at 8 PM on the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail. Rich will provide light refreshments.

**Duckweed/Algae Control on Dilks Pond & Comey's Lake.** Rich reported he has signed and returned the contracts with Princeton Hydro. He paid the \$150 DEP permit fee for Dilks Pond out of the FWT account.

**Budget.** Rich reported he has submitted our budget request of \$6,500 for 2017 to the Borough, requested the balance if the 2016 budget (\$1487.36) be encumbered for MCT repairs and submitted an updated list of WEC Associate members.

Scott reported there were no Planning Board actions.

### **Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.**

Expenses:\$150.00 DEP permit fee for Dilks pond.

Deposits: \$494.04 Clean Communities payment.

Current balance: \$\$9,134.14

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:08 PM. (Motion: Ream, Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.