

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2017

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:33 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, Heidi Conglton.

Public Guests Present: Bill Ceravolo.

The minutes of the October 11 meeting were approved: (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ream, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Mad Hatter's Tree Party, Oct. 22. Scott reported the event, co-sponsored with the nature club, was very successful with 200 or more persons attending. He said people were impressed with the new raised walkway. Set up and take down for the event were well organized and accomplished quickly. Rich reported \$43 in trail guides were sold.

Wenonah Fall Festival. Scott remarked it was a successful day. The WEC shared a table with the Sustainable Jersey green team and the table was set up next to the Friends of Tall Pines table. The beaver sign was a point of interest to the public. A rain barrel was also on display. Rich reported \$46 in trail guides were sold.

Fall Work Party-Nov. 4. Scott reported the work party was very well attended by WEC members, volunteers and Gateway Honor Society students. Bulkheads along Camel's Back Run and at the north bridge were back filled and mulch was spread along the path and near the bridge. The tasks were accomplished in under an hour and a half. Dave said work still to be done included putting down additional mulch on the loop trail, some work at the bulkhead and shoring up the small foot bridge over the storm drain channel.

Near Term Projects

Repair of collapsed end of Eldridge Trail high bridge. Bob reported he has made repairs that make the bridge safe to reopen. He said the north side had collapsed 2 feet when water from the beaver dam overflow concentrated at that area and eroded the ground out from under the cement foundation. Bob had Brian and Paul from Public Works come down with a backhoe to the site. Bob said he needed a grinder to separate the bridge from the concrete foundation. Then the foundation and bridge were reset in place and anchored with supports. Bob said more work needs to be done to permanently stabilize the bridge and bulkhead. We will need to install 4x4 braces and then create a space for filling with 3" to 4" stones, which would then be covered with cement and wetted down to create a surface that would resist future undercutting by erosion. A work party will need to be organized.

Beaver Activity.

Dave said he has heard reports of a new beaver dam on the Monongahela near the culvert on the Garden Trail, and a new dam on the feeder stream north of Wenonah Lake.

Julie said she has not yet noticed any significant tree/limb cutting by beavers in preparation for winter. It may just be we have had a late and mild autumn.

Replacement sign for the Garden Trail. Bob presented a metal replacement sign with a vinyl surface in full color. It is considerably larger than the original wooden sign. He gave it to Scott to display to the Woman's Club at the upcoming dinner. Bob said he is looking into an engraved stone sign as the final replacement sign. It would be more durable and the cost could be a little as \$150.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake/Tea House. The area is in good shape.

Eldridge Trail. In generally good shape. See above for high bridge repairs.

Indian Trail. The trail is currently clear.

Monongahela Loop Trail. The upper trail is clear and walkable. The lower loop is impassable due to beaver activity.

Monongahela Brook Trail. A downed tree was cleared by Pat Donnelly.

Garden Trail. Julie noted the holes from fallen trees could be a hazard now that the leaves are filling them. Dave said they should be filled with dirt and will look into having fill dirt delivered by the Borough.

Glen Trail. There are also some holes that need filling.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave reported he has filled two sink holes that opened up at Clay Hill. He also said there are a couple of step over trees down. He suggested leaving them to discourage ATV and dirt bike users. Dave also said the recent Eagle Scout trail rail project near W. Cherry St. is holding up very well.

Wenonah Lake. Heidi noted the tree fallen and arching high above the old RR bed trail has now dropped lower. It is still high enough for people to pass under.

Break Back Run Trail. The erosion gully that is depositing silt and sand in the conservation area ravine near the Shulties property seems to be on the private lot of the house on N Jefferson near Buttonwood St. Dave will look into the situation.

Break Back Run Eagle Scout Project-Tyler DeMaise. It was agreed the eagle project would consist of: 1. replacing some trail rails, 2. constructing two bridges over seepy areas, 3. installing steps in a steep ravine and 4. blazing an access trail from N. Jefferson, near Buttonwood (near the Stewart plaque). Tyler has recently given a presentation on his project to the scouts and come up with a materials list. Bob & Dave plan to inspect the list and suggest changes, if needed. Tyler will also need to be advised on the design and construction of the bridges. Implementation of the project will likely take place after this coming winter.

Hanisey's Landing- Kayak Dock Repair. Bill Ceravolo said he is now available to work on the dock repair. It was agreed cat litter boxes would be installed horizontally under the dock as floats. Bob said there is no need to move the dock but it must be raised up to do the repairs. The lower section can only be raised to an acute angle because it is bolted to the upper section. It will take manpower to raise the dock then secure it to make the repairs. We are hoping to have the assistance of the boy scouts for this. Bob and Bill will inspect the site, then a work party would have to be organized.

Tool Shed. Dave has been looking at models and prices for tool sheds for the S. Garfield Borough yard site. He said models range from a "plastic box with a door" to more elaborate

designs. Prices were noted from \$500 to \$1700. Dave will forward some of the Home Depot designs to us to inspect. Julie suggested we could then put out a tool wish list for donations.

2017 WEC Budget. Scott asked Rich what the balance of our 2017 budget was. Rich was unsure and will get a printout from Karen and inform the Commission.

Sustainable Jersey. Sharon said SJ shared the info table with the WEC at the Fall Festival and should get points for that. She said she still does not know why our application was rejected. Sharon also said she has been having trouble getting a hold of Bill Klaus, who has been spearheading the application. She said the green team needs to find out how to now proceed.

Trail Markers. Sharon said we should move on getting small trail makers installed on the trails. She said she has run into people who were unsure which trail to take at forks and some who were essentially lost. Maria (who was absent this evening) has been looking into designs and options.

Atlantic City Electric Tree Trimming and Ash Trees. Scott said he attended the Shade Tree Comm. Meeting and was informed Atlantic City Electric is going to begin one of its periodic (every 4 years) tree trimmings around utility wires on its rights of way in Wenonah. Some residents have already been given door hanger notices Scott also said that ACE's policy is to proactively remove all Ash trees on its rights of way to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. This invasive insect has not yet been reported south of Burlington County, but is likely coming to Glo. Co. It was not clear what the options were for Ash street trees in Wenonah. Scott also reported the Borough's electrical grid is being updated with more sophisticated circuit breakers to reduce the areas effected by outages.

Borough Council notes. Scott noted the Borough Council voted for the "opt out for now" option on the light rail station. This means the current EIS will include Wenonah but it does not obligate the town to accept a station.

Clean Communities. The WEC will participate in Clean Communities Day, Sat Nov. 11. Sign in is at 8:30 and we are asked to bring rakes labeled with the owner's name (and leaf blowers, if available).

2018 WEC Activities Calendar. Rich put together the WEC 2018 Activities calendar and forwarded a copy to the Borough. Additional copies were made available at the meeting.

Quail. Heidi inquired about having quail released in Wenonah to suppress ticks. Rich noted that quail, whose population has crashed in recent decades, have been noted at Tall Pines.

Mantua Ave. Project. Dave reported the Mantua Ave. project is going to get underway very soon this fall and winter. The completion date is scheduled for 3/1/18. He also noted the bike lanes on Mantua Ave. were done by the County. Mantua Ave. is County Rt. 632.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Deposits: \$43.00 trail guide sales MHTP.
\$46.00 trail guide sales at Fall Festival.

Total deposits: \$89.00

Expenses: \$147.00 To Sharon Ceravolo for native plants for Camel's Back Loop.

Current balance: \$8,587.17.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:29 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.