

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2017

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:** none.

**Public Guests Present:** Bill Ceravolo.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as amended:  
(Motion: Ream, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

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

### **Near Term Projects**

**Storage shed.** The Commission agreed the Palram 6ft x 8ft Skylight Shed was our model of choice. Dave said we would need a pad of crushed stone in a square bounded by 4x4's for the shed to sit on and he would contact Public Works and ask for their assistance in creating that. He also said he would buy a combination padlock. Dave said he would use funds remaining in our 2017 budget and that would exempt us from sales tax. The current budget balance is \$1566.14. Dave will then request the funds remaining after purchase be encumbered for use next year. Dave made a motion to authorize the purchase.

(Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ream, AIF)

**Moonlight Hike.** Scott proposed the hike take place on the Eldridge Trail. That route would highlight the new raised walkway and possibly give participants an opportunity to observe nocturnal beaver activity. Julie offered to provide hot chocolate to participants at the tea house.

### **Beaver Activity.**

Maria reported that the low lying area at the tip of Boy Scout Island is now flooded, likely from beaver activity. She also said the squatter's tarp and other items are now gone from the area. Julie noted that a few random trees are being chewed on the Eldridge Trail but damage is not extensive.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Eldridge Trail- repair of first bridge.** Bob reported the bridge's northern embankment will need to be stabilized by cement bags to prevent future undermining of the foundation. He said he would possible work with Pat on that after Christmas. He also noted that to date there have been no substantial repairs made to the beaver dam under the bridge.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Dave reported there is a substantial tree down on the west side of the RR. He described it as a climb-over, not a step-over. He said he may get John Forren to help him

clear it. Dave also said there are still holes to be filled on the MCT. He also noted the borough's fill dirt pile at S. Jackson is no longer there and new dirt will be needed.

**Garden Trail.** Scott noted he showed the metal garden sign to the Wenonah Woman's Club at the Club's dinner and they were pleased with it. Bob said he wants to have the sign engraved in stone. He has a stone and will look into the engraving costs.

**Break Back Run Trail.** Dave reported he gave Eagle Scout candidate Tyler DeMaise a revised materials list. Bob said he will get Tyler some 6x6's for the steps. Dave said Tyler still has to go before the scout board to get approval and hopes to do the project in April-May of 2018. Sharon suggested the WEC could schedule a work party for the same time as Tyler's project and repair/replace trail rails on BBRT. Dave said we could purchase the trail rail from our budget.

**206 N Jefferson.** Dave reported he and Bob inspected the area. The extensive erosion was caused by street runoff flowing down over the hillside. When a tree was uprooted there, it loosened the soil triggering the erosion. Dave said the Borough will install a concrete apron to stabilize the site and prevent future erosion

**Hanisey's Landing.** Bill Ceravolo reported the kayak dock is too far from the water at low tide and should be moved several feet closer. He said the dock poles will need to be removed and then the dock could be flipped to allow the installation of the new floats. He said moving the dock will require significant man power. Scott said Glen Green contacted him proposing a safety sign be placed at the dock warning paddlers to wear PFD's. The Commission declined the suggestion indicating that it was unnecessary and could create liability issues.

**Camel's Back Run Loop.** Bob reported there is additional bank erosion on Camel's Back Run, just downstream from the newly installed bulkheads. Bob put some stone at the site to slow the erosion.

**Residency requirements.** A question was raised whether one needs to be a Borough resident to serve on the WEC. Dave said he would try to find an answer to this.

**Sustainable Jersey** Sharon said the group will need to meet with Bill Klaus in Jan. to try and determine what needs to be done. The current application has been denied but the reasons are not clear. Sharon said Melissa has interns awaiting assignment.

**T-Shirts.** Maria brought proofs of several t-shirt designs, including using a logo on the front. It was agreed we would also like the word "VOLUNTEER" on the back, even though this increases the price. The cotton shirts would cost approximately \$20-21. Maria said the company can also do hats, which are slightly more expensive than shirts. The hats could be sold as a fundraiser. The proofs also showed shirts in a light color and a dark one. It was suggested a dark forest green would look good, but also that a light color gives better contrast for the text. We will need to decide how many shirts to order. The price is reduced for bulk orders.

**Trail markers.** Maria brought a sample of an aluminum disk trail marker. It could be attached to trees (or a post) with aluminum nails. The cost for 100 is \$475 plus a \$60 art set up fee. We could put text, a logo and or arrow in the disk. It was suggested we could put "Wenonah Conservation Area" on both the top and inverted on the bottom with an arrow in the center. That way a single design marker could be turned to indicate left, right or straight ahead. Manufacturer: Nutron Nameplates, Inc. Maria will see if there is a minimum number we can order. They would only be placed where there is ambiguity which path to take to remain on the main trail. Julie said we could check the trail map to determine the number of places where the markers would be appropriate. Dave said we should order additional markers to use as replacements over time. Julie also suggested we develop an online mapping program for use with smart phones.

**Planning Board report.** Scott reported issues with the 311 N. Jefferson property (Spröss residence). The homeowner was granted a second variance (after the fact) for his front yard

swimming pool and basketball court. His front fence, however, was built on the Borough right of way after the homeowner failed to have a survey done (as promised) before erecting it. The Borough sees this as a possible liability issues and may require the fence be removed. Sharon expressed concern about possible Borough liability form children swimming or boating on Dilks Pond. The Spross property includes a portion of the pond's southern shoreline.

**WEC expiring terms.** Scott noted the terms of himself, Julie and Bob are expiring the end of this year. Julie and Scott agreed to serve another term. Bob said he would like to become an associate member next year if a new Commission member steps forward. Scott said he would look over the current list of assoc. members and make inquires. It was noted that Bob is the longest serving member of the WEC. His work with the WEC goes back to 1992- a quarter of a century.

**WEC 2018 Budget.** Rich said he has received a request from Karen to submit the WEC budget request for 2018. It was decided we would request the same amount as we did last year, \$6,500.

**Unexpected Wildlife Refuge donation.** Julie proposed we make a year-end donation to UWR in light of their assistance to us and their work protecting beavers. The WEC agreed on \$100. Sharon noted UWR was also looking for patrol volunteers during hunting season.  
(Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

**Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.**

Expenses: none.

Deposits:           \$30.00 donation from Ken & Kathy Thomas.  
                          \$ 3.00 trail guide sales.  
                          \$334.32 Clean Communities grant.

Total deposits: \$367.32

**Current balance: \$8,960.53.**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:40 PM. (Motion: Kreck; Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.