

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2018

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:36 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	
Dave Coates	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)		X
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present: none

Public Guests Present: Pat Ream, Scott Conway

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

Reorganization

Scott announced that long time WEC member Bob Bevilacqua has stepped down from the Commission and Associate Member Dave Coates has agreed to serve on the Commission. Welcome Dave C.

Selection of Officers. The officers for 2018 will be Chairman: Scott Barnes, Vice Chairman: Dave Kreck, Secretary: Rich Dilks, Planning Board Rep.: Scott Barnes. The officers were affirmed by formal motion.

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

Date and Time Meeting Schedule. Our 2018 meeting schedule was affirmed by formal motion.
(Motion: Ream, Second: M. Ceravolo, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Moonlight Hike-Dec. 30. Scott reported the night was cold and clear, and light snow was on the ground. Approximately 10 people took part, including a couple that came from West Deptford. The route was along the Eldridge and Comey's Lake Trails and ended at the tea house.

Sparks Donation. Scott announced he had been contacted by Don Sparks Jr. who informed him that the Sparks Family (Don Sparks Jr, David Sparks & Elizabeth Sparks) are making a \$5,000 donation to the WEC in honor of their late parents, Don Sparks Sr. and Joann Sparks. Don Jr. Indicated in his letter, read by Scott, that he, his family and particularly his parents loved the conservation area and he wished this gift be used to protect and enhance Wenonah natural lands. Joann Sparks had also served as a WEC member in past years. The donation was made in the form of two checks of \$2,500 each, made out to the Friends of Wenonah Trails. Scott said he believed the donation to a public commission would be tax deductible. He will send a thank you/acknowledgment to the Sparks for tax purposes. It was also suggested the WEC reach out to the Sparks to inquire whether they had any preferences on how the donation should specifically be used.

Beaver Activity.

Julie noted she has seen no recent sign of beavers. It is likely they have been harboring in their lodges or dens during the cold weather. Maria noted that the low area on Boy Scout Island is completely flooded due to beaver activity. She reported seeing a mud dome/lodge there as well. Maria also reported the tarp is still there, partly hidden by vegetation. That and other trash could be cleaned up in the spring.

Near Term Projects.

Trail Maintenance.

Eldridge Trail- repair of first bridge. Scott said we will need to confer with Bob about the nature and schedule for the permanent repair to the bridge foundation.

Hanisey's Landing. Sharon said Bill is intending to do the dock repair when the weather breaks, possibly in March

It was noted that all trails currently are passable and walkable. No new obstacles or issues were reported.

Five Mile Hike-Sat. 1/27. Scott noted the hike will begin at the school bridge at 1 PM as usual. It was advised that members check the trails in advance of the hike to ensure there are no trail problems. Rich noted this event is usually one of our best attended.

Sustainable Jersey Sharon said the SJ Committee will be meeting with Bill Klaus on Jan 16. Sharon hoped she would get an explanation of why the current application was denied and what future steps can be taken.

Gateway Hike Requested. Sharon said Melissa of the SJ Committee has requested the WEC conduct a hike/field trip in the conservation area for Gateway students on May 24 during school hours. The time has not yet been set. The theme will be "the Physics of Beavers". Rich and Julie both volunteered to lead the hike, which should last about 90 minutes.

T-Shirts. Maria reported she was ready for us to decide on ordering the t-shirts. She passed a sheet around to get the sizes for all WEC members. She said the price per shirt would be \$16.34 if we ordered 20 and \$14.95 if we ordered 25. It was noted individuals could order additional shirts at a later date. It was decided we would order 20 shirts (4 M, 8 L & 8XL). Scott asked if the company does hats. Maria said they do and each costs \$20+. We could also have a logo or text on the hats. Scott said he will bring one of the old style hats to the next meeting and we can discuss this. A motion was then made to authorize the purchase of 20 t-shirts for a total of \$326.80 (20 @ \$16.34)

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

Trail markers. Maria presented a generic sample aluminum disc trail marker from Nutron OSM. Ours will have "Wenonah Conservation Area" on the top and inverted on the bottom, and a directional arrow. Maria reported we could order 50 @ \$7.10 each for a cost of \$355, plus a one-time Production fee of \$59 and USP ground shipping of \$15 for a total of \$429. The manufacturer also sells aluminum nails for affixing the markers to trees or posts without harm to the trees, but it was recommended we could purchase them more cheaply locally. It was decided we would purchase 50 so we would have a supply for replacements as needed. Julie noted that Nutron also makes the 13' x 19" poster shelters she had previously brought to our attention. It was suggested they could be used to display trail maps at various trail heads, or provide signage for special projects such as the beaver sign and native plant restorations. It was suggested we could use some of the Sparks donation for this and possibly include a memorial inscription. Dave Coates suggested we could also purchase a hikers/visitors log book for the trails. Scott said we could always approach the Woman's Club with projects as well. It was decided we would purchase one poster shelter at \$49 then determine if we would want to buy more in future. A motion was made to purchase 50 trail markers for \$355, plus a startup fee of \$59, a shipping

cost of \$15 and 1 poster shelter for \$49 for a grand total of \$478. (Motion: M Ceravolo, Second: Ream, AIF)

Wenonah Lake Kiosk. Julie noted she has put a John Dominy photo of one of Wenonah's beavers on display in the kiosk.

Sharon noted there may be occasions where the WEC would need to hire outside businesses to help with major infrastructure. Scott said the Borough can usually assist us where practical.

WEC 2018 Budget. Rich said he has submitted our 2018 budget request of \$6,500 to the Borough.

Unexpected Wildlife Refuge donation. Rich reported the WEC gave a year end \$100 donation to Unexpected Wildlife Refuge in Dec. as instructed in the motion made last meeting.

ANJEC. Rich received an application in the mail for the WEC to rejoin ANJEC. The annual dues would be \$350. The WEC again decided not to join. It was felt ANJEC is a valuable organization but the benefits to the WEC would be minimal for the cost of membership.

Website redesign. Scott said he will continue to work on this during the winter.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Expenses: \$281.72 to Bob Bevilacqua for materials purchased.

\$100.00 donation to Unexpected Wildlife Refuge.

Total \$381.72

Deposits: none.

Current balance: \$8,578.81.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.