

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2018

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 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: Bob Bevilacqua, Scott Conway

Public Guests Present: Tyler Demaise, Chris Demaise, Don Sparks, Ann Marie Sparks.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as amended:

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

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Near Term Projects.

Tyler Demaise-Break Back Run Trail Eagle Project. Tyler addressed the Commission saying he needed the WEC to formally sign on for the project. Dave Kreck said he would sign for the WEC as he is acting as WEC liaison for the project. Tyler then gave an overview of the trail improvements he proposes: 1. Construct two low bridges over seepy ground (replacing badly deteriorating unraised boardwalks), 2. Two sets of foot hold stairs, 3. Construct a new access trail that would begin at the north side of the Stewart Estate plaque at N. Jefferson Ave. near W. Buttonwood St. He said the project would be accomplished with donated materials and volunteer labor. Dave Kreck and Bob had given Tyler a materials and tools list. Dave and Bob will check and see what materials they can provide. Bob said he can provide sign posts. Tyler said he hopes to begin the project in early to mid-April. He was asked to keep the WEC informed about work dates so WEC volunteers could help out.

Spring Work Party, Sat. March 17. It was decided we would meet at 9 AM at the end of S. Jackson Ave. Dave said there are sink holes at Clay Hill that need to be filled and the level of the whole platform where the bench is needs to be raised. The area was completely flooded during recent heavy rains. There is dirt that was dropped off at S. Jackson that can be hauled to Clay Hill. Sink holes can be lined with silt fence then filled. Dave said there are additional sink holes further down the trail that he will attend to. Dave said the MCT boardwalks need to be more securely anchored too at some point. Bob said there is still work to be done at Camels Back Run and that the Garden Trail and Stone Pool Garden need to be cleaned up prior to the installation of the stone marker. Maria said the wooden sign had been thrown into the pool. Bob will be working on repairs at the Eldridge Trail first bridge on Sat. He said a channel needs to be opened up at the former beaver dam to divert water flow from the repair area. He is installing gabion cages, stone and cement to shore up and protect the area near the bridge abutment. He said he could use some help there and volunteers could be directed there as needed.

Tool Shed. Dave Kreck said Public Works has not had a chance to prepare the foundation stone for the shed due to recent weather and a personnel injury.

Slate and river stones. Dave Kreck said that broken slate pieces and river stones from the Mantua Ave. project are now stored at Public Works. Bob said the river stones could be used for the bridge gabion cages. Maria suggested the slate pieces could be used at the stone Pool Garden where the current surface is quite wet and seepy.

Julie said she found a dead opossum at Comey's lake. There was some confusion that the previously reported dead beaver was actually the opossum.

Trail Maintenance.

Trail Monitoring Assignment Map. Maria presented us with an assignments marked trail map. The assignments are:

- Wenonah Lake trails – **Maria**
- Dilks Pond & School Trails- **Scott**
- Break Back Run Trail- **Sharon & Rich**
- Mantua Creek Trail- From Mantua Ave. to the RR embankment. Included the Glen Trail- **Dave K. & Dave C.**
- Mantua Creek Trail from RR embankment around trestle and the Garden Trail and Monongahela Brook Trail to S. Marion Ave.-**Scott.**
- Monongahela Brook Trail east of S. Marion, Eldridge Trail, Indian Trail spur & Comey's Lake Loop Trail- **Julie**
- Camels Back Loop Trail- **Maria**

It was suggested all trails should be monitored at least once a month.

Directional Trail Markers. Maria reported she has identified 23 areas where the markers can be placed. At each site there is ambiguity as to the direction of the main trail. Maria said the aluminum nails are very soft and a little difficult to use. Also she said markers should be placed high to discourage vandalism.

Puncheons. Maria also noted she identified 7 to 9 locations where puncheons are needed. We should check additional areas for need. Maria said she has the document that catalogues all structures on the trails and will send it out for assessment.

Eldridge Trail. Bridge and bank repairs continue under Bob's direction.

Comey's Lake. Both Julie and Scott Conway & Rich have worked to clear the cement and stone sluiceway near the cement steps at Comey's Lake, removing dirt and roots from the lower section and removing debris. Although the tunnel section is largely blocked with dirt, some water runs through it and heavy rains may help clear it. Scott C. and Rich also noted the old stone foundations from the site of the boat house and dock at the lake's edge.

Monongahela Loop Trail. The most recent beaver activity has been here.

Monongahela Brook Trail. Julie reported she, Pat, her son and Bob removed the fallen tree near the bog walk. There is a need for puncheons near the bog walk as well.

Garden Trail. Tree holes still need to be filled and a general cleanup done before the installation of the new stone marker.

Mantua Creek Trail Julie noted puncheon should be installed at several locations. Scott Conway had noted a tree had been vandalized near the entrance to Boy Scout Island and just south of the Monongahela Br. (and hence in Deptford Twp). The bark and wood on one side had been cut away as if to create a place for a sign. Steel screws had been screwed into the wood. Scott C. said he also found and displayed some red plywood fragments from the sight. It was recommended he remove the screws and we will try to monitor the area. It was also noted there were ATV tracks in that snow in the area. Sharon and Maria said we should keep some step over logs in place to deter ATV's. Scott C. also said he has been picking up trash on Boy Scout Island and that there is an immense amount of trash there and a lot of broken glass at the fire pit area. Julie noted there were two very large tires in the water near the trestle and she will try to remove them.

Wenonah Lake Loop Trail. Maria noted the trail by the north end bridge is low and often wet, and needs fill dirt to raise it. Dirt could possibly be dumped at Princeton Blvd. for easy access. Maria also noted she encountered several young people on the trail with a hatchet.

Wenonah Lake-trail behind Public Works. Debris needs to be cleared away and a couple of logs will need to be cut by chain saw to clear the trail.

Break Back Run Trail. Sharon asked about the erosion problem in the ravine near the Schulties property. Dave said the Borough plans to stabilize the area but hasn't gotten to it yet. He said he would remind the Borough of the problem.

Camel's Back Loop. It was agreed to continue to remove invasives and plant natives, including swamp milkweed at that site.

Hanisey's Landing. Sharon said Bill will be working on the dock repair when the weather improves.

Dilks Pond. Sharon said she will clean up the trash at the lower shore of the pond.

Other Business.

Sustainable Jersey. Sharon reported that a lot of activity with the Shade Tree Commission will be included in the new application and Bill Klaus is working on this. She also said the Wenonah Police already do a semi-annual Rx drop off through the Prosecutors Office.

WEC Hats. Maria said inexpensive trucker hats are available for \$14 each but may not be high quality. Higher quality hat would be in the \$20 to \$34 range.

Poster Shelter. Julie reported the poster shelter and map are installed at the Eldridge Trail head.

Interactive Trail Map. Scott B. brought up the idea of an interactive trail map and GPS for mobile devices similar to the project Don Evans is working on for Tall Pines. Maria said she would look into existing online trail maps of the Wenonah conservation area.

Bird Quest 2018. Rich announced our \$100 sponsorship has been sent to the nature club. Scott B. said it was the first sponsorship received this year.

Ice Cream Social. Rich announced the Home and School of Wenonah invited the WEC to participate. It was agreed we would not participate this year as an independent organization, but some WEC members will be taking part at the Sustainable Jersey table.

Bob brought in some materials used in the former kids' hike, including buttons, crayons and pencils. He also had a large leaf pack kit, which can be used for student stream assessments. These can be used in future activities. Rich will store them for now.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Changes. Scott B. and Dave K. Have been added to the account. Online access has also been set up. Rich now has online access but Scot & Dave are having technical difficulties with the Wells Fargo website.

Rich also noted the \$100 check given for the student environmental award to Lily Kline in June has not been cashed. Maria said she would alert Lily's parents.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Expenses: \$817.80 to Maria Ceravolo as reimbursement for the trail markers, poster shelter and t-shirts.

\$100.00 Bird Quest sponsorship

Deposits: none.

Current balance: \$12,517.01.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:43 PM. (Motion: Kreck; Second: Ream, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.