

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018

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
Dave Coates	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)	X	
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present: Bob Bevilacqua.

Public Guests Present: Don Sparks, Steve Carr, Tracy Carr.

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

Public Guests. Dave K. introduced Steve and Tracy Carr who bought the (former Simpson) house on S. Stockton overlooking Comey's Lake. Steve currently serves on the Hammonton Environmental Commission and Tracy is a teacher at Wenonah School in the gifted and talented program. It was mentioned that the fountain at Comey's Lake was originally installed a number of years ago to aerate and move water, and to combat duckweed and algae on the lake. It was also mentioned the previous owner of the home donated the power for the fountain. Since we began chemically treating the lake by contracting with Princeton Hydro, the fountain has been mainly aesthetic. It was not installed last season but stored on the bank. The fountain was on a timer and ran for 6 hrs. a day when last used. Bob indicated it needed to be secured when installed to keep it from spinning. Steve Carr reported he has put the fountain in the lake, tethering it to the dock and a tree. It appeared the Carrs may also be willing to power the fountain.

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

WEC Bird Quest Team May 5. Scott reported the WEC BQ team had a successful morning birding Tall Pines and the Wenonah Conservation Area, finding a total of 57 bird species. Rich noted there were 6 persons on our team. He also said the Ceravolo BQ team birded Wenonah and Tall Pines doing a carbon free day, biking rather than driving between birding stops. They noted 87 species.

Near Term Projects.

Toolshed at W. Cherry St. Dave K. said Ken of Public Works will lay the crushed stone foundation for the shed in May. Dave said Scott Conway has offered to help him install the shed and they will be able to do so shortly after the foundation is installed.

Trail Maintenance.

Tea House. Julie reported she and Pat will empty the trash at the tea house on Fri. Further they will continue to empty the trash on a regular basis. Julie also said they will see if they can

remove the futon. Otherwise, additional volunteers can remove it on Clean Communities Day, the following Sat. (5/12). It would be dragged to the pumping station and then put out for bulk pick up on May 22.

Hanisey's Landing. Sharon reported that Bill and Pat Donnelly cleared the tree from the dock and found the dock had been essentially destroyed by the impact of the tree. They removed the dock a short distance from the creek. The remnants should now be removed by truck. Sharon advised we not replace the dock as it has the potential for liability issues. Dave K. agreed and it was the consensus of the WEC to not have any replacement structure. It was pointed out that kayaks can still be launched from the site. Our launch signs will remain in place.

Mantua Creek Trail- Scott said Frank Gramenzi (sp.?) recently donated a considerable amount of used lumber. Bob transported the lumber to the island behind Mullens and the lumber can be used for bridge and boardwalk repair. Bob also recently replaced the small foot bridge just west of the island section. The boards are mostly 8 ft. 2x8's and 2x6's. Dave K. said he and Scott Conway plan to rebuild the longer boardwalk on the island and upgrade the shorter one. Dave also said he and Scott C. will rebuild the boardwalk on the trail section near Mantua Ave. and extend it 20 ft. Dave said he is able to get sign posts from Ken (used in the downtown project). They would then be cut into 2 ft. sections. Dave said these projects will be done in time for the 4th of July trail walk. Dave said the sink holes on MCT have been filled in.

Break Back Run Trail. Dave said he has not heard from Tyler Demaise about the start date for his Eagle project. He will contact him. Sharon said she wants to know so we can coordinate the work we'll be doing on BBR Tr. Dave said he will also check with the borough about plans to fix the erosion in the ravine on N. Jefferson Ave.

Wenonah Lake. The side trail behind public Works still needs to be cleared.

Dilks Pond. Sharon said the trail is fine. Questions were raised about the taking down of trees between the trail and Maple St. near the new well. Julie said many of the trees taken down were dear tulip trees. This is a Public Works project and Dave will check on the plans. He said part of the DEP permit for the well requires the Borough plant state specified tree species and do restoration and landscaping.

Garden Trail. It was noted the Borough's cutting and uprighting the tree stump as well as Bob's work and the installed stone marker have all improved the area.

Camels Back Loop. Rich noted he checked the native plantings he and Sharon put in there last Sept. He said 5 of the 7 shrubs put in are doing well but two apparently did not survive. Rich also checked the wildflowers planted on the stream bank. He could only find one slender iris. He said he would check back since it is still early in the growing season. Rich said a large sink hole has opened up behind the new bulkhead Bob installed last year along the path from E. Elm St. The water must have undermined it from below.

Clean Communities Sat. May 12. Scott said we plan to participate and he will send out an email to our supporters to take part. It is not clear what activities we will take part in but may use the opportunity to remove the futon from the tea house.

WEC Highway Cleanup June 9., 9AM. Rich said the application for the WEC cleanup along Glassboro Rd. has been filed with the Glo. Co. Improvement Auth. We will use the equipment of the Friends of Tall Pines which Rich has. Scott will send an email for volunteers.

Fourth of July Hike. The Mantua Creek Trail was chosen as the route for the 4th of July hike. The hike will begin at the terminus of S. Jackson Ave.(by Scott Conway's) and enter the trail at Clay Hill. The route will proceed east toward the rr tracks.

Borough newsletter. Scott noted the summer newsletter deadline is next Tues. He will mention our June 9 cleanup, the annual WEC picnic, the Firefly Festival at Tall Pines (7.21), the new trail markers and other trail improvements.

Maria stated (by email) she will be putting up new trail markers as needed.

Mapping project & new web site. Scott said to send him additional photos for the mapping project. He said he'll be working on the new web site over the summer.

Sustainable Jersey. Sharon reported the SJ group has met and Gary Odenbrett (STC) attended. Sharon said we are 30 points short of the needed 150 and Gary may be able to provide some qualifying points. Sharon said she now has access to the Sustainable Jersey web site. Dave K. said we may also qualify for points with the downtown improvement project and he and Sharon can check into this. Sharon said certification could make the town eligible for grants such as the one received by the fire company several years ago. The reapplication is due by June 3 with the final plan being submitted in Nov.

Planning Board. Scott said the only activity was an application for a lot subdivision on E. Pine St. A back lot is being divided between two neighbors and no structures would be built.

WEC Frank Eggert Student Environmental Awards. Rich reminded the WEC that in June we give this award to two graduating Wenonah School 6th grade students. It consists of a \$100 check, a certificate, letter, trail guide and various other nature trail or field guides. The WEC voted to continue the awards this year. Rich will contact the school offering the awards and requesting the school designate the awardees. Graduation is the third week of June.

(Motion: Kreck, Second: Ream, AIF)

Bob brought in several items 1. Notebooks of WEC minutes from 2001 to 2008. Scott said we have electronic copies of the minutes from 2004 onwards, but agreed to take possession of the minutes for 2001-4. 2. A botanical press. Julie said she could use that in her work and Bob gave it to her. 3. Bob's vulture costume from the vulture festival. He gave it to Rich.

Poison Ivy. Sharon said we should put a photo of poison ivy and some warning information to the public in the kiosk at the lake. She will work with Julie to do this.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Deposits: \$50.00 donation by Emily Johnson.

Expenses: none.

Current balance: \$12,567.01.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:41 PM. (Motion: Kreck; Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.