

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2018

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Lake picnic pavilion at the conclusion of the WEC annual picnic.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT
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: Lauren Conway.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as amended:

(Motion: Kreck, Second: Ream, AIF)

Report by Dave Kreck.

1. **Mantua Creek Trail improvements.** Dave said Bob and Scott Conway had rebuilt bridges and walkways near the Mullens property. Also the boardwalk on the MCT island needs additional repair and anchoring but this may not be completed by July 4th. Dave said he and Scott C. are working on the boardwalk on the trail section near Mantua Ave. and hope to have that completed by July 4.
2. **WEC shed.** Dave will be arranging with Public Works to have the foundation for the shed laid down. He was hopeful this come happen the week after next.
3. **Break Back Run Trail.** Dave said after speaking with Chris Demaise that Tyler, instead of installing steps at a small steep ravine trail section near N. Jefferson Ave., will replace all the boardwalk sections near N. Jackson Ave. They are currently deteriorating, listing at an inclined angle and could be a hazard when wet and slippery. Dave also said the erosion problem at 206 N. Jefferson will be addressed by the borough this summer.
4. **Municipal improvements.** Dave reported parts of S. Marion and Cedar Aves. will be repaved. Also he noted there have been concerns expressed about glare from the new LED pedestrian lights in Mantua Ave. Dave will meet with a rep from Atlantic City Electric to discuss the problem.

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Clean Communities day-5/12/18. Scott reported WEC members did trash pick up on the railroad tracks from Mantua Ave. north to Maple St., on the School Trail, and along the tracks from Mantua Ave. south nearly to the trestle. Rich reported we will receive a mini grant of \$330.00

WEC Highway Cleanup-6/9/18. Rich reported we had 14 volunteers and cleaned up Glassboro Rd. on both sided from Mantua Ave. to Bark Bridge Rd. and the Tall Pines preserve parking lot. We will receive a mini grant directly from the county GCIA for this.

Beaver Activity. Maria noted she spotted a beaver swimming near the Eldridge Trail. To date the beavers have made no attempt to repair the dam under the high bridge.

Beaver Hike 5/24/18. Rich reported the beaver presentation and walk conducted by himself and Julie on the Eldridge Trail for about a dozen Gateway seniors and 2 teachers went very well. The presentation, poster and display boards could be used for additional presentations in the future.

Kindergarten walk cancelled. A June 11 walk to be conducted by Rich Sharon & Julie for about 30 Wenonah School kindergarteners was cancelled due to rainy weather.

Trail Maintenance.

Eldridge Trail. Julie noted there is considerable poison ivy on sections of the trail, particularly along the raised walkway, hanging from trees and it needs to be cut back.

Garden Trail/Stone pool garden. It was noted the grass and vegetation there is overgrown, as it typically gets in summer. It was suggested a work party should be scheduled to cut it back.

Wenonah Lake. It was noted the trail behind Public Works is thick with poison ivy. Any project to clear and reopen that trail should be held off until fall when the poison ivy dies down. Maria noted grass clippings and yard waste were being dumped on the east side of the lake parking lot. Also the interpretive sign at the north end of the parking lot has been vandalized and the actual sign is missing. Scott brought up Deborah Mix's photos on brushed aluminum, which she demonstrated to the Friends of Tall Pines. She said the WEC could use them as well. They are weather proof but not completely vandal proof. It was suggested they might be used on trail head posts. Bob said using carved stone for signage was affordable and very durable. Rich said he still has the file for the interpretive sign and could have a laminated copy made.

Camel's Back Loop. Maria reported the bulkheads are currently holding up well and said putting down mulch on the trail would be helpful to keep the trail walkable with all the summer vegetative growth.

Near Term Projects.

4th of July parade. Scott said the Lions Club is urging town organizations to enter floats in the parade. The float prizes are fairly substantial. Bob said he could get a trailer. After discussion, it was decided a float was not practical in the present time frame, but the WEC could participate by walking in the parade as a group, wearing our volunteer shirts and holding placards. Each member could make a placard with some message referring to the WEC and the conservation area. Also it was agreed we could promote the 4PM hike and give out about 50 trail guides. Dave Coates volunteered to provide a wagon with perennials that could be given away free.

WEC 4th of July Hike. The hike will begin at 104 S. Jackson, Scott Conway's home, and proceed upstream along Mantua Creek Trail. The end point of the hike will be determined that day. Scott Conway said he would brush the trail in advance of the hike.

GCNC Firefly Festival. Scott noted the nature club is holding the event at Tall Pines the evening of July 21. He said he could put any WEC member who wants to volunteer in touch with event organizer, Kris Mollenhauer.

Proposed kayak race. Scott reported Glen Green contacted him about the WEC sponsoring a race on Mantua Creek. Scott said material Glen provided indicated this would entail considerable requirements and detailed planning. It was agreed this project would be beyond the capacity and mission of the WEC.

Sustainable Jersey. Sharon reported the reapplication has been filed with the assistance of Claire Klaus. Sharon said it included 170 points, 20 more than the 150 needed for certification. She said activities connected with the downtown improvement project, emergency services (with Rich Black) and the Shade Tree Commission contributed to our point total.

Duckweed. Rich reported Princeton Hydro has sent us their second set of invoices and they have been submitted to the borough for payment. It was noted there was some duckweed on Comey's Lake. Rich will inspect the site and if necessary, contact PH.

Frank Eggert Student Awards. Rich noted he sent the letter to Wenonah School announcing this year's award offer on May 10, but has not yet received the names of the two awardees. Graduation is on June 20.

Sharon noted concern that the homeowner at the end of W. Willow (the former Lentz property) is taking down quite a few trees on his property. It was noted the WEC has no power to stop property owner from removing trees on their property. Maria said the Shade Tree Commission, might be able to use the impact on the town tree canopy as leverage. The W. Willow St. property extends into the wooded area, including part of the Cedar Ave. access trail but not as far as MCT itself.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Deposits: \$103.00 trail guide sales.

Expenses: \$372.22 to Bob Bevilacqua as reimbursement for bridge and trail repair materials.

Current balance: \$12,297.79.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:30 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.