

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2018

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:35 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the 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:** none.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as amended:  
(Motion: S.Ceravolo, Second: M. Ceravolo, AIF)

## **Remarks by Dave Kreck by email, reported by Scott Barnes..**

- 1. WEC Shed.** Dave said Public Works has been busy and he has been on vacation so work on the shed has been delayed. He hopes to get things moving in the next few weeks and get the foundation laid. Also we will need to layout the nursery area in the borough enclosure so that it does not interfere with borough operations there.
- 2. Mantua Creek Trail Island boardwalk.** Dave said the narrow boardwalk there needs to be rebuilt and this could possibly be a scout project. Bob said it was important the job be done right. The boardwalk should be widened and held securely in place with metal signposts. It was noted a woman fell on the narrow boardwalk there on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July hike (but was not injured). Bob said we should extend the new construction from the bridge at the west end of the island. The borough has metal sign posts they can cut for us. Bob suggested this could be the focus of the Fall Work Party.
- 3. 206 N Jefferson Ave.** Dave said the borough will complete the driveway apron there and control the gully erosion at the site before our August meeting.

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

### **Review**

**Frank Eggert Memorial Student Environmental Awards.** Scott Barnes reported he presented the awards to this year's recipients, Victoria Morrison and Logan Sheehan, at the Wenonah School graduation ceremony on June 20. Everything went well.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.** Scott B. said the WEC's first time participation in the parade went very well and he thanked all the members who worked to make this a success. He said we were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the organization/float category. The prize was \$250. Scott also noted Mayor Dominy had taken a good photo of us in the parade. Scott said he would share it with the group.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July hike.** Scott B. reported the hike, which started at 4PM at 104 S. Jackson (by Scott Conway's home) was well attended. Rich counted 28 human participants and 1 canine. The route followed MCT upstream to the railroad embankment and hikers exited the conservation area at S. West Ave.

**Beaver Activity.** No recent beaver activity was noted.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Break Back Run Trail.** Sharon noted that scout Tyler DeMaise and father Chris Demaise have begun installing new sections of boardwalk on BBRT near the W. Elm & N. Jackson entrance. She said Tyler has asked for the exact route for the access trail he will blaze on from N. Jefferson Ave. near Buttonwood. Sharon said she will get in touch with him. She also noted the best route for the access trail had a downed tree that will need to be moved. Bob said he had cut about 30 metal stakes for the project and could do more if needed.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Scott Conway reported sections of boardwalk near the Mantua Ave. entrance have been repaired by him and Dave K., and extended over additional areas that tend to get muddy after rains. Scott C. reported he has installed a small bridge on the S. Jackson access trail with materials left from the MCT boardwalk repairs. Maria brought up the concerns that were expressed to her by a neighbor that the owner of the former Lentz property on W. Willow St. may be planning to remove woods and add a swimming pool and other structures on areas of the property adjacent to the conservation lands along MCT. A portion of the Cedar St. access trail is on his propriety. Scot B. said that nothing has come before the Planning Board to date. Scott C. said he has checked the tax map to try to determine exactly where the boundary of that property and public lands is located. Sharon asked if there was a way for the WEC to be notified if any changes that effect conservation lands occur. Scott C. said we should remain vigilant so that no areas on public lands are touched.

**Monongahela Brook Trail.** Dave C. reported the MBT is blocked by a fallen portion of a tree on the east side of Marion Ave. The remainder of the tree is up the slope from the trail. It is unclear if the still standing portion of the tree is on private or conservation land. The fallen portion has apparently been partially cut up. Sharon said Bill could go out and clear the part that is blocking the trail.

**Monongahela Loop Trail.** Dave K. reported (by email) sections of this trail need trimming.

**Garden Trail.** Dave K also said in his email that the grassy areas near the stone pool need trimming or mowing. He said he is inquiring whether Public Works can assist with this.

### **Near Term Projects.**

**ANJEC request for plastic bag ban resolution.** Rich spoke about an email from ANJEC requesting environmental commission pass a resolution favoring a state wide ban on retail micro thin single use plastic bags and forward that resolution to Gov. Murphy. Legislation (A.3267/S.2600) has passed the legislature and been sent to the Gov. It imposes a 5 cent fee on plastic bags (1 cent to retailer, 4 cents to the state) but does not ban the bags. This legislation will also prevent local initiatives to ban bags in future. ANJEC and other environmental groups oppose this plan and advocate for a total ban instead. The point of the resolutions is to urge Gov. Murphy to support the ban rather than the current legislation. After a brief discussion the WEC voted a resolution based on the ANJEC text. Rich will adapt the text and send the resolution to the Governor.

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

**Firefly Festival.** Scott B. noted the GCNC Firefly Festival at Tall Pines will take place on July 21 beginning at 8PM. A number of WEC members are volunteering at the festival.

**Sustainable Jersey.** Sharon reported the reapplication has been filed and she has received an email response from Sustainable Jersey. She said we submitted 170 points (with only 150 actually needed for certification), but she was unsure how many items SJ are accepting. SJ has asked for revisions in 14 submissions. It is not clear if these are major or minor. Sharon said a decision on our application should be made known by October.

**Duckweed.** Rich reported he checked the conditions at both ponds. Dilks Pond was in good shape but there was some algae and some still relatively small areas of duckweed at Comey's Lake. He then alerted Scott Churm at PH of the circumstances. PH replied they would take

action. Rich noted Princeton Hydro had sent us their second of four set of invoices in June. They are processed by the borough and paid from our budget.

**Interpretive sign at Wenonah Lake.** Rich brought the replacement laminated sign for the vandalized sign at Wenonah Lake. It had been made several years ago when other two interpretive signs needed to be replaced. Currently, the sign and bottom part of the frame are missing at Wenonah Lake. Scott C. said he and Julie have been discussing what materials would be the most vandal resistant. Ideas suggested at tonight's meeting included acrylic signage, decoupage, shrinking the sign to fit in a poster shelter, or on the four sided of an upright 4x4 post. Replacing the sign with a QR code sign was also suggested. It was agreed that if we do replace the sign, the design of the pedestal should be improved to make future replacements easier.

**Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.**

Deposits: \$330.00 Clean Communities

\$500.00 GCIA grant for highway cleanup

**Total      \$830.00**

Expenses: \$229.58 to Maria Ceravolo as reimbursement for materials purchased.

\$174.94 to Dave Kreck as reimbursement for materials purchased.

\$100.00 Environmental student award for Victoria Morrison.

\$100.00 Environmental student award for Logan Sheehan.

\$16.95 to Rich Dilks for nature guided for student awards.

\$288.24 to Dave Kreck as reimbursement for materials purchased.

**Total      \$909.71**

**Current balance: \$12,218.08**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:48 PM. (Motion: M. Ceravolo; Second: Coates, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.