

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2018

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Act at the Jack C. Sheppard Sr. Community Center.

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: none.

Public Guests Present: none.

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

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Firefly Festival. Scott reported the nature club's Firefly Festival at Tall Pines, postponed from July 21 to the rain date of July 22, was a very successful event. Attendance was at approximately 200 and comments shared by attendees afterward were positive and enthusiastic. Scott said the County has agreed to co-sponsor the event next year. The WEC is also a co-sponsor and WEC members acted at festival volunteers: Scot was a trail guide, Rich manned an info station, Dave C. did the painting with light photo activity and Bob assisted with the parking crew.

Near Term Projects.

Beaver Activity. No recent beaver activity was noted in the conservation area. Julie noted the water was high in the upstream area near Boy Scout Island and that beavers seem to continue to be active there.

Trail Maintenance.

Eldridge Trail. Dave C. reported a tree down on the ET between the Monongahela Brook Trail intersection and the raised boardwalk. The tree is a step over and the WEC should be able to clear it. Dave C. offered to help and Julie said she and Pat will try to get out there with their chain saw.

Break Back Run Trail. No additional work has been done to date on Tyler DeMaise's Eagle project on BBRT. One puncheon has been installed on a seepy trail section near the end of N Jackson Ave..

Mantua Creek Trail. Bob continues to work on rebuilding and improving the boardwalk on the MCT island. He had recently rebuilt the west bridge to the island and its approach. Last Sunday he purchased additional pressure treated lumber for the boardwalk. The new boardwalk will be wider and held in place with metal sign posts and rebar.

Monongahela Brook Trail. The fallen limb trail blockage at Marion Ave. has been cleared.

Garden Trail. It was noted the Garden Trail and stone pool garden area need mowing and weeding.

Wenonah Lake Loop Trail. Maria reported there were a large number of small limbs and sticks down on the trail, likely from the storm last Saturday. She also noted three small step over trees on the trail, but left them in place to discourage bikers.

Near Term Projects.

Email from Garry Odenbrett. Gary forwarded an email to the WEC from a resident concerned a tree service had entered conservation lands at W. Cedar to access work on the W. Willow (Lentz) property. Much of the W. Cedar access trail is on private property, which limits any jurisdiction the WEC would have. (Just after the 8/8/18 meeting the above resident sent a 2nd email to the WEC, indicating she had spoken with a representative of the tree service who allayed her concerns and confirmed the access trail is on the “Lentz” property.)

Wenonah Lake Interpretive Sign. Julie said she and Scott Conway had discussed using a more vandal resistant material for the sign such as fiberglass, meal or vinyl and acrylic. A redesign of the sign pedestal would also be advisable. It was suggested perhaps Deb Mix’s technique of engraving color images on metal might be used. The cost is uncertain and currently Deb has to send her work to Germany for production. Julie said she will continue to investigate design, materials and costs for the sign replacement.

Plastic Bag Ban Resolution. Rich reported pursuant to last month’s WEC resolution supporting the banning of single use micro thin plastic bags, he created a written resolution based on the suggested text from ANJEC and forwarded to Gov. Murphy’s office. We are not yet aware of any decision by the governor on the plastic bag fee bill passed by the legislature or the bag ban proposal.

Haunted Trail Scott noted the Lake Association is again sponsoring a Haunted Trail on Oct 20, and is inviting civic organizations to take part. Rich noted the WEC had taken past 10-12 years ago and that Bob was largely responsible for building and operating our station on the trail. He also noted this would involve commitment and organization from us if we wished to participate. The general view was we do not have the volunteers at this time to take part.

Sustainable Jersey. There was no news to report (Sharon is on vacation) other than Bill Klaus is working with Dave Kreck and others to prepare the resubmitted application by the 9/30/18 deadline.

Duckweed. Rich reported he has received the 3rd of the 4 installment vouchers form Princeton Hydro (the 4th is due in Sept.) for Comey’s Lake and Dilks Pond. The vouchers have been submitted to the Borough for payment. Rich said both ponds look good for now and that Scott Churm responded promptly to our concerns last month. It was also noted the homeowners at S. Stockton are running the fountain at their own expense. This helps disperse any algae or duckweed and aerates the water.

Anonymous Contribution. Rich reported the WEC recently received contribution of \$200. The money was given to Karen Sweeney who passed it along to us.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: \$250.00 4th of July parade prize.

\$12.00 Trail guide sales.

\$200.00 Anonymous donation.

Total \$462.00

Expenses: \$198.33 Lowes for boardwalk lumber

\$386.70 Reimbursement to Bob Bevilacqua for bridge and boardwalk materials.

Total \$585.03

Current balance: \$12,095.05

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:12 PM. (Motion: M. Ceravolo; Second: Ream, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.