

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
October 10, 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: Scott Conway.

Public Guests Present: Matt Lund.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved:
(Motion: Ream Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

Public Guest. Matt Lund reported there is a rotting and damaged plank that needs repair in the arched bridge at Camels Back Loop. Scott Barnes also noted there is continuing erosion behind the bulkheads along the stream. He recommended having dirt delivered to the site so the bulkheads can be back filled. Sharon asked if there were any plantings we could use to stabilize the stream bank. Dave K. said it that would be very difficult since the stream is likely undercutting the bulkheads during heavy rains.. He said a permanent fix will be a challenge until the down cutting of the stream stops and becomes stable. Maria said the stream frequently overflows its banks during heavy rains. She also said the plank bridge over the storm drain channel needs to be improved

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Near Term Projects.

Tool Shed. Dave K. reported there had been no movement on that this past month due to the press of other projects.

Beaver Activity. Julie noted there were two newly gnawed trees on the MCT island. Dave C. reported that Jim Sloan found a beaver on his back deck.

Trail Maintenance.

Tea House Maria reported the two teenaged girls doing community service had, under her supervision, weeded and cleaned up trash at the tea house, doing an excellent job. Sharon noted one girl had completed 4 posters for the Mad Hatter's Tree Party and the other will do an additional 2 posters. Julie brought a sample of the poster material: a lawn sign sized board of corrugated plastic. She said if the posters are of sufficient quality, she will have them laminated for use in future years. Maria noted trail cleanups could be done by using community service participants. It was also noted vegetation along the Eldridge Trail raised boardwalk needed trimming. Maria and Sharon said they would take care of that.

Mantua Creek Trail-Focus of Fall Work Party, Nov.3. Dave reported he, Bob and Dan Ceravolo of the Lions Club have met and agreed to go forward to construct a raised boardwalk on the island on MCT. The Lions have agreed to donate their labor (approx.. 10 volunteers) for the project, which will be the focus of the Nov. 3 Fall Work Party. Dave said materials will be

purchased out of the WEC current budget. He said Bob also plans to add trail rails to a section of trail west of the boardwalk. The new boardwalk will run 160 ft., 16 ft. longer than the current boardwalk. The new boardwalk is expected to remain stable and anchored during flooding and storms. It was also noted that a large amount of lumber and other materials will need to be carried to the site. Sharon said she would contact the Mantua Police to see if any community service participants might be available. Scott said when he promotes the work party to the public, he will suggest people bring wheelbarrows and shovels. It was also suggested that the public volunteers could do projects in other parts of the conservation area that day. Scott Conway noted there is a large amount of lumber, some reusable and some not, scattered along MCT that should be picked up. Much is near Mantua Ave and also some is on the island. This could also be a job for community service participants. Dave K. said the sink hole on MCT is stable for now. If it opens up again, he will re-route the trail in that area. Scott C. reported there are two junk bikes (apparently thrown from the RR tracks) at the trestle, along with considerable trash. Dave said community service participants might be able to be used to haul them out.

Break Back Run Trail. Dave K. said Tyler DeMaise has not been in contact with him lately concerning his Eagle project on BBRT. Some work has been done on the new bridges/boardwalks but there is more to do. Sharon said she will call Tyler to get an update. Sharon said she would like wood chip for the access trail at N. Jefferson. Dave will have the Borough deliver them.

Wenonah Lake. Maria noted there were a couple of wet spots on the loop trail and that a plank should be added to one of the puncheons. She also offered to remove the acrylic and frame from the interpretive sign pedestal, so a replacement sign can be installed.

Wenonah School Trail. Scott B. reported the school had been dumping grass cutting along the trail He notified the school and explained the trail was not school property. The school has agreed to discontinue the dumping and remove the clippings.

Garden Trail /Stone Pool Garden. Dave K. noted the grass and vegetation along that trail was long and needed mowing. He said he would approach a trail neighbor and request he mow the trail.

Hanisey's Landing. Scott B. reported Glen Green had told him there is a dead tree there he considers a hazard, and said should be removed. Scott has not yet gone out to inspect the tree but reminded us that area is owned by the county sewer authority and is not conservation land. They would be the responsible party. Sharon noted the old kayak dock is still down at the landing. It will need to be dismantled and removed. Some of the lumber is salvageable.

Borough 2019 Facility Use Agreement and meeting dates. Scott B. said the Borough has sent him forms for securing use of the Comm. Center and providing meeting dates and events for 2019. Rich offered to complete them, as he has done so in the past, and submit them to the Borough. The deadline is 10/18.

Near Term Projects.

WEC Photo Contest. Julie and Dave C. agreed to discuss the contest and come up with some basic concepts of how it will work, such as should there be age based categories? will the school get involved?, when will it take place, etc.

Wenonah Fall Festival. Oct. 27. It was agreed the WEC will share an info table with the Friends of Tall Pines, as we have done in the past. Rich will reserve a space and provide a 6 ft. table. Dave K. will provide rain barrel, rain garden, storm water literature. Maria will bring the enlarged trail map and Rich will bring trail guides and the old conservation area signs.

Mad Hatter's Tree Party. Scheduled for Sun. Oct 21. The tea house is in good shape from the cleanup and weeding of the community service girls. No work party will be needed. Maria and Sharon will trim vegetation along the raised boardwalk.

Woman's Club Friendship Dinner. Scott B. noted the dinner will be on Mon. 11/12 at Terra Nova and feature the program, "Adventures in Africa". Tickets are \$26.

Sustainable Jersey. Sharon said Bill Kraus has not heard anything back yet on our revised application.

Conservation Easements. Scott reported he has received Chuck's original tax map that he used when working on preserving and inventorying conservation land parcels. He said some areas listed are not actually conservation area lands, i.e. athletic fields. He said the 135 acre size of the conservation area may not be completely accurate. Scott said he also provided a list of easement for the Sustainable Jersey application and plans to continue working towards an accurate inventory of conservation lands and easements,

Tea House sign. Julie said the material for the sign is not yet determined, poss. acrylic or stone. We now have a text for the sign. Julie said she was unable to find a higher resolution image of the low res. historical tea house sign we pulled off the web. She suggested perhaps Dave C. could enhance the image so it could be printable at 8.5 x 11.

Planning Board. Dave K. reported no significant business was conducted.

Wenonah Library rain garden. Dave K. reported the rain garden at the library will need to be removed for repairs to the library to take place and then restored. The library reached out to Dave and Rich. Dave said Mary Cumming of the Certified Gardeners, Wenonah School, and the Lions Club were already involved with this project, and felt that WEC participation was not really needed.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: none.

Expenses: none.

Current balance: \$11,926.77

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:38 PM. (Motion: S. Ceravolo; Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.