

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2018

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:42 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, at the conclusion of the WEC's annual Volunteer Appreciation Night 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, Bob Bevilacqua, Chuck Forsman.

**Public Guests Present:** Don Sparks, Bill Ceravolo, Laurie Forsman.

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

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

### **Review.**

**Mantua Creek diesel spill.** Dave Kreck. gave a summery and update on the spill and cleanup efforts. He said a tank truck overturned on Rt. 55 on Weds. 12/5 near where the highway crosses Mantua Creek north of exit 53. DEP attempted to contain the spill at the site but was unaware of one or more drains, hidden by soil and leaves or beneath the truck. The spilled diesel at the accident site found its way to the drains, which emptied into Mantua Creek. The truck was carrying approx. 7,600 gal. of fuel. After initial cleanup at the accident site, 3,700 gals. were unaccounted for. On Thurs. 12/6 Dave contacted DEP and on Fri. met with DEP and took them to access sites along the creek and shared some photos of pooled fuel in the creek taken by Scott Conway. Several booms were deployed but the fuel continued to flow and the fuel odor was noticeable in the vicinity of the creek. Concerned that remediation efforts were inadequate, Dave contacted DEP again and Mr. Bob VanFossen, Director of the DEP's Bureau of Emerg. Response came, toured the site and conducted a meeting and field survey that took place at the Tall Pines. As a result the cleanup personnel were increased from 6 to 30 and a plan was put in place to continue cleanup operations 7 days a week until DEP determines remediation is sufficient. Dave said the cleanup could take weeks or months as workers using vacuums, pads and additional booms, collect fuel from the water, vegetation and soil. There were concerns that the tides could spread the fuel onto banks and into the mud flats. Dave reported that at one spot upstream from Barnsboro-Blackwood Rd. in Sewell, the equivalent of 12 55gal. barrels of fuel was collected. At least 5 miles of the creek have been effected. Dave said the extent of damage to wildlife is still being assessed and DEP has hired Tri-State Bird Rescue to do a wildlife assessment and rescue. He noted 2 beaver were found dead near Rt. 553 close to Tall Pines.

### **Near Term Projects.**

**Tool Shed.** Due to other pressing matters, it was not possible to make any progress on erecting the shed this past month.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Mantua Creek Trail.** On Sat. 12/1, Dave K., Bob and Scott C. did manage to do some work on the MCT Island boardwalk.

**Eldridge Trail.** Also on 12/1, Bob, John Forren and Tommy Lombardo cut the leaning tree that was in danger of tipping over by the raised boardwalk and threatened to damage it. Julie noted the area where the boardwalk had been pushed up has since subsided.

**Break Back Run Trail.** Sharon presented a detailed report prepared by Pat Connelly on the specs for trail repair on BBR Trail based on National Forest Service standards. It included a materials list, drawings and specs for trail infrastructure. The cost estimate is \$3300. The report identified the old leaning boardwalk section near S. Jackson Ave. as in urgent need of repair with an estimated cost of \$2000. Pat's work can form the basis for standardized and uniform trail repairs for our entire trail system in the future. Sharon noted that Tyler Demaise' Eagle Scout project is no longer operative but that we should write him a letter of commendation for the work he did perform on BBR Trail. Dave noted the low area of the trail near Maple St. is flooding, possibly due to leaf packs backing up the small stream there.

**Monongahela Brook Trail.** Maria noted the trail near the bog walk is in bad shape and that 5 puncheons would be needed there. Sharon said she would send Pat's specs for the puncheons to Dave K. Dave said the remaining \$575 in our current budget can be used to purchase the materials for them.

**Camel's Back Loop.** Scott B. said there is a damaged plank in the arched bridge there. Dave K. said he would take a look at it.

**Eldridge Trail.** Maria reported there was some flooding where the coir logs were placed near the little bridge. The water may have channeled a course around the coir logs and the area should be monitored.

**Wenonah Lake /Tea House Signs.** Scott C. has removed the sign at Comey's Lake and now has it. It was suggested we do one sign first with the materials Julie had shown us previously. Dave C. suggested we do the Tea House sign first. It was agreed Julie and Dave C. will select the final layout and font for the sign. We could then approach the Woman's Club for a donation for this and the other three signs. The signs will need a backing board. They also must be mounted either on the existing pedestals or new ones. Dave C. made a motion we finalize design then order the first sign (Tea House). The cost is approx.. \$200.

(Motion: Coates Second: M Ceravolo, AIF)

**WEC Photo Contest.** Julie plans to meet with Deb Mix who can provide us with a paradigm of contest rules based on those of the PPA Photo Contest.

**2019 Budget Request.** The Borough has sent us a form to request our 2019 budget. The 2018 budget was \$6500. Dave K. suggested that with the volume of trail repairs need in the coming year, we increase our request to \$7500. He made a motion to do so.

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

Rich will submit the request to the Borough.

**Bee Hotels and conservation.** Scott Barnes mentioned a video forwarded to him by Elaine Goodman on how Amsterdam has conserved its native bee population by providing hotels of nesting tubes, planting nectar/pollen sources and banning pesticides. He suggested we could install the nesting tubes in appropriate location in the conservation area. Sharon said this could also be a good Sustainable Jersey project and could include other bee conservation activities involving the school and community.

**Wenonah Library Rain Garden.** Dave K. said work is planned this Thurs. on restoring the library rain garden and that students from Wenonah School, will be involved.

**Garden Trail.** Dave reported a trail neighbor has volunteered to mow the grassy areas on the Garden Trail next year.

**Dave Coates to step down.** Dave Coates announced he will be stepping down from the WEC because a photography class he will be teaching on Weds. evenings will make it impossible for him to attend WEC meetings. Dave said he would remain active as a WEC Associate Member. Many thanks to Dave for his service as a WEC member!

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

Deposits:   \$12.00 trail guide sale  
              \$479.00 Clean Communities Grant

Total Deposits: 491.00

Expenses: \$703.73 Work Zone Construction for 80 metal sign post purchased by Bob.

**Current balance: \$11,606.13**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:33 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: Coates, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.