

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2019

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 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	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)	X	
Julie Ream	X	

**Associate Members Present:** Bob Bevilacqua.

**Public Guests Present:** , Watershed Ambassador Jonathan Fernandez, Jon Funk, Girl Scout Troop leader Icka McCabe, Girl Scouts Anna, Erin, Madelene & Elena, additional scout leader/parent.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as amended:

(Motion: Ream Second: M Ceravolo, AIF)

## **Reorganization**

All current officers agreed to continue in their present positions for 2019. The officers are: Scott Barnes, Chairman; Dave Kreck, Vice Chairman; Rich Dilks, Recording Secretary; Scott Barnes, Planning Board Rep. This was confirmed by a motion of the Commission.

(Motion: Kreck Second: Ream, AIF)

Chairman Barnes also noted there was a vacancy on the Commission. There was a discussion about inviting Scott Conway to fill the vacancy but Chairman Barnes suggested that be deferred until Scott Conway would have an opportunity to meet with the Commission on that question.

**Green Team named Volunteers of the Year.** Congratulations to WEC member Sharon and the other members of Wenonah's Green Team for achieving Sustainable Jersey certification for the Borough and being recognized as Volunteers of the Year.

## **Public Guests.**

**Girl Scout Troop 64430 offers to perform Silver Award Service Project.** Leader Icka McCabe proposed the Troop could take on one or more projects in the conservation area. The projects would need to be chosen and confirmed by June 2019 and completed by Sept. Sharon suggested they take on installing the bee hotels and that promoting the hotels in the community would be an aspect of that. Maria suggested the troop could do a multi-element enhancement of the Camel's Back Loop Trail. This could include plantings of native wildflowers and shrubs, trail maintenance, bridge repair and other activities. The suggestion was agreed to. The Scouts would make a plan for the area that would include maintaining it on an ongoing basis beyond the end of the project in Sept. The Scouts would do fundraising and document the plan, hours and materials used. Watershed Ambassador Jonathan Fernandez said he would be available to assist the Scouts as needed.

**Watershed Ambassador Jonathan Fernandez.** Jonathan said he would like to move forward on a rain barrel project in Wenonah, and has a contact in Phila. who can supply the barrels, but needs a way to transport them. Sharon said she has a trailer that could be used. Sharon also

invited Jonathan to a meeting of the Green Team on 1/15/19 to discuss details of the rain barrel project. Dave said the project would fulfill a requirement of the Borough's storm water permit and would need to be announced in newspapers as a part of that process. Jonathan also invited the WEC to take part in the South Jersey Watershed Cleanup action the week of April 7, 2019. He said numerous groups would take part and we could choose our cleanup site. It was noted our trails and Tall Pines are in fairly good shape regarding trash, although the area west of Wenonah Lake has significant litter. It was also noted areas like the Del. River beach at Westville are in serious need of a cleanup. Dave suggested we defer any decision on a cleanup to a future meeting.

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

### **Review.**

**Mantua Creek diesel spill.** Dave Kreck he believes the DEP cleanup of the diesel spill has been concluded. He noted that on a recent walk out to the Boy Scout Island area (which was hard hit by the spill) he saw evidence of extensive recent beaver activity.

### **Near Term Projects.**

**Tool Shed.** Dave said the Borough will be putting a stone pad in the lot. We will first need to clean the area up and get stone laid for the shed foundation. He hopes he and Scott Conway can then assemble the shed in the next couple of months.

**Sign Projects.** Julie reported she is ready to send the Tea House sign off for printing, but first must get the file from Dave Coates. Julie said she can order a base for the sign from the same firm. It will affix to a 4x4 and be secured by bolts. Julie believes the sign and design are significantly vandal resistant. For the 3 slightly larger Joe Berg signs, if we like the look of the Tea House sign, we can use the same material here. For these signs the exiting bases can still be used. Julie also suggested that if we want to alter or enhance any of the text, photos or design of these signs, we can do so.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Puncheons.** Maria reported she plans to install 10 new puncheons this coming week, 5 in the Bog Walk area and 5 on the Wenonah Lake Loop Tr. They will be in place for the 5 mile hike on Jan. 26.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Dave said wet and muddy areas still plague the trail. He suggests we lay down ¼ in. crushed stone in muddy sections not wet enough to need puncheons. He said 400-500 feet of MCT are muddy enough that this could help. The stone could be purchased and delivered to several areas with access to the trail, when we're ready to use it. A work party (or several) would need to be scheduled. Dave said he and Scott Conway managed to build an additional 40 ft. of the island boardwalk, despite the rainy weather, but more remain to be done. Also crushed stone could be used on the island where the trail is a bit higher and drier. He said the sink holes on MCT are stable for now.

**Comey's Lake.** Scott Barnes, using the extendable handled net removed trash from the shores of Comey's Lake where accessible.

**Eldridge Trail.** Julie noted there are wet spots on the trail by the small foot bridge and puncheons are needed there and other locations.

**Indian Trail.** Julie noted the trail was rerouted to slightly higher ground in some wet sections but other wet sections are still to be dealt with.

**Break Back Run Trail.** Sharon has given Dave a materials list and is ready to work with Pat Donnally's assistance on the most severe problems on the trail, beginning with the step puncheons. It was agreed the quickest way to get the materials purchased was for Bob to do so. He can get a tax exempt certificate and a military discount, then be reimbursed by the Borough.

**Wenonah Lake Loop.** Maria noted there are signs of ATV use and she has been leaving some small logs on the trail as barriers. The trail behind Public Works is still blocked by a fallen tree and overgrown vegetation.

**School Trail.** Last month Rich had shared an email indicating a neighbor near Maple St. was dumping leaves on the trail. Rich said there are several piles right in the trail but people can walk around them. It was noted that this sort of dumping is happening at several places and is a clear violation of the law. Maria suggested we have the police deal with future violations. Sharon suggested we have a notice put on the Borough website about this. Dave said we could also have info included in the newsletter and on the Borough calendar. Sending out another mailing of the conservation areas neighbors letter was discussed.

**Five Mile Hike Jan. 26.** It was agreed that when Scott sends out the notice about the hike, he emphasize trails will be muddy in sections. We may also need to make some detours, depending on weather and conditions.

**Moonlight Hike Feb. 17.** It was decided to delay choosing a route until our next meeting on 2/12 when current trail conditions can be assessed.

**WEC Photo Contest.** Julie said she has copies of the rules for the PPA and Delaware River basin Commission photo contests, which we can use as a basis for our event. Julie will confer with Deb Mix. It was decided to not have separate categories (i.e. youth, adult) but to keep things simple. WEC members cannot enter the contest. It was suggested we announce the contest then allow a 3 month period for submissions. The contest could be announced in the newsletter with instructions to go to our web site for rules and details. We will need a photo release form, which could be downloaded from our web site with a hyperlink. We will need to decide if we offer a prize, and if so, what. This all could be timed for winners to be chosen and photos displayed for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Duckweed.** Maria noted there is still some duckweed growth at Comey's Lake. Rich said this is likely due to the mild winter weather thus far. Generally the duckweed dies off in winter. Rich said we can keep an eye on it and deal with it when treatments begin in the spring.

**Open space inventory.** Dave has confirmed that on the state ROSI none of the parcels in the conservation area have deed restrictions or encumbrances as a result of the Green Acres grant for Tall Pines. Scott noted the 2000 ordinance needs updating and will continue to look into this.

**2019 Budget Request.** Rich has submitted the WEC budget request for \$7500 to the Borough. Dave said all but about \$50 of our 2018 budget has been spent.

**No crosswalk at trail on S. Marion.** In response to a suggestion about a crosswalk on S. Marion at the Monongahela Brook Trail crossing, Dave said it would be unwise because it would give hikers a false sense of security at that crossing, where vehicles turn a sharp blind corner, often at excessive speeds.

**ANJEC Membership.** Rich noted ANJEC has again sent us a membership application, one year for \$350. It was decided to again decline as the benefits of membership are nor commensurate with the cost for our EC.

**Trail Guide.** Rich reported we have 68 trail guides left. 1000 were originally printed on 2007. He said we completed revisions to the map and text in early 2016 (Julie has the files), and after a careful review should move to get the revised guide printed later this year.

Scot noted that former WEC member Brian Hayes has expressed an interest in getting involved in WEC activities. Scott & Rich will add him to our email groups.

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

Deposits: \$3.00 trail guide sale.

Expenses: none.

**Current balance: \$11,609.13**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:07 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.