

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2019

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
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)	X	
Julie Ream	X	

**Associate Members Present:** Scott Conway.

**Public Guests Present:** Michael Matalavage, Lois Matalavage.

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

## **Public Guests.**

Michael Matalavage addressed the Commission. He said he was a Gateway student interested in environmental science and projects, and plans to major in environmental studies in college. He said he is interested in participating in projects the WEC undertakes in the conservation area. Dave took his email and he will be added to our volunteers email list. Dave explained we have scheduled work parties in the spring and fall and numerous other work parties and projects that are often scheduled at short notice that Michael could participate in.

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

**Scott Conway accepts appointment to WEC.** Scott Barnes, noting a vacancy on the Commission due to Dave Coates resignation, invited Associate Member Scott Conway to join the WEC. Scott Conway agreed to serve. Dave said he would contact Karen at the Borough Hall about adding Scott to the Commission and arranging for him to take the oath of office. Welcome aboard, Scott.

## **Review.**

**The Five Mile Hike-Jan. 26.** Scott B. and Rich reported the hike was very well attended with 43 persons and 5 canines participating. The approximately 2 hour hike ended at the tea house where Sharon and Bill Ceravolo provided hot cocoa and cookies to the hikers.

## **Near Term Projects.**

**Moonlight Hike Sun. Feb. 17.** Scott B. said we needed to select a route and then promote the hike, which will take place this coming Sunday. It was decided to do the Eldridge Trail, ending at the tea house. Rich will provide light refreshments.

**Tool Shed.** Dave reported he had the wood for the shed foundation perimeter but needed to get stone for the foundation.

**Stone for MCT.** Dave said he also wants to purchase stone for muddy stretches of Mantua Creek Trail. He said the stone could all be purchased together then delivered to various staging points. He said moving the stone could be a good focus for the spring work party. The island boardwalk construction is a 2-3 man job and additional volunteers could better be used moving the stone. Dave said he would price the stone and then email us for a go ahead.

**Sign Project.** Julie reported she had given the current tea house sign mock up to Debbie Mix for advice on layout and graphic design. Julie also said she would like to incorporate the WEC logo in the sign. Debbie also designed a logo for the WEC, perhaps misunderstanding Julie's request. It was noted we currently have two logos. One, a stylized tree is on the web site and the old trail guide. The other, with a heron and cattail is on the conservation area street signs, kiosk and the t-shirts. Dave and Rich both pointed out we should have one consistent logo for "brand" recognition and clarity. It was generally agreed the heron and cattail logo should be on our new trail guide, website and the tea house sign. Julie further reported Debbie said the tea house replica was not an exact replica. While we are uncertain whether that is accurate, it was decided to alter "exact replica" to "replica" on the sign text. Julie also noted Larry Smith of the Wenonah Historical Society gave her a copy of Chuck Forsman's written rules and regulations for the conservation area. She said that could also be posted as a small sign if desired.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Dave said the sink hole on the section of trail near W. Cherry had appeared again. Dave has filled the hole several times but it keeps washing out from the bottom. He said the hole is a hazard and needs to be addressed. He suggested wedging plywood into the hole to form a base and then putting fill dirt on top. He said there are other sink holes as well and that sections of the trail were flooded today and areas remain muddy for extended periods. Stone is needed on several sections of muddy trail, including a section on the island.

**School Trail.** Scott Barnes reported he raked the dumped leaves from the northern section of the trail.

**Wenonah Lake.** The Lake Association has approached us for advice about flooding and wet conditions on the lawn and playground. Dave said the problem was the water table is very close to the surface there and he said wick pipes could possibly help. He said he and Bob would investigate further.

**Break Back Run Trail.** Julie noted the new access trail on N. Jefferson is not marked and is not obvious to hikers. She suggested we could mark the entrance with a trail post or one of the circular trail markers.

**Indian Trail.** Julie noted there is a tree down on the trail. It can be walked around but she said she and Pat will cut and clear it.

**Bird Quest.** Scott B. noted the GCNC has again requested we co-sponsor Bird Quest with a \$100 donation. Scott noted we have been a co-sponsor for many years and Rich also pointed out we have and will continue to form a Bird Quest team. The request was approved.

(Motion: Kreck Second: Dilks, AIF).

**Newsletter.** Spring newsletter deadline is Feb. 15. Scott B. said he will include a reminder that leaf dumping in the conservation area is illegal, a report on recent and projected trail work, the spring work party and Bird Quest. Dave said a mention of the leaf dumping could be added to the Borough fall leaf collection notice as well.

**Photo Contest.** Julie said we likely will be able to announce the contest in the May newsletter. She said she had been speaking with Anne Zuber about having the photos exhibited in the Wenonah Library. This could be done in the fall for a month, around the time of the Fall Festival. An exhibit in the park could take place the day of the festival. Julie suggested perhaps 15 photos could be exhibited with 5 of those actually receiving awards. The contestants would be responsible for printing and framing their photos for the exhibit. We could also have an online exhibit on our web site. Julie said dates need to be chosen for each element of the event- announcement of contest, rules and prospectus, submission deadline and judging.

**Maple sap tapping in the conservation area.** Dave said he noticed 3 blue bucket hung on trees in the conservation area near the Mullens property. It is presumed someone has decided to tap maple trees for sap without permission. It was decided to remove them.

**Former Lentz property for sale.** Scott Conway noted the former Lentz property on W. Willow is now for sale. This is of concern for us since a section of the W. Cedar access trail crosses that property.

**Spring Work Party Sat. March 16** It was decided to have volunteers meet at the Community Center then sent to appropriate work areas. Dave said the focus for volunteers would be hauling and laying crushed stone on several muddy trail sections of Mantua Creek Trail, while only 2 or 3 persons are needed for the island boardwalk construction. Stone needs to be laid on northern sections of the MCT, the island and on the section that extends south of S. West Ave. Dave said the Borough may be able to flatten the ruts there with heavy equipment. It was noted boards need to be laid on the wet section of the Eldridge Trail by the small spring and bridge. Scott B. will promote the work party in the spring newsletter and with an email blast.

**Trail Guide.** Rich reported we have 65 trail guides left. It was agreed to put our logo and an image of the circular trail marker on the new edition.

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

Deposits: \$6.00 trail guide sale.

Expenses: none.

**Current balance: \$11,615.13**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:27 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.