

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2019

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Jack C. Sheppard Sr. Community Center.

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Sharon Ceravolo		X
Scott Conway	X	
Maria Ceravolo	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)	X	
Julie Ream	X	

**Associate Members Present:** none

**Public Guests Present:** Don Sparks, Michael Matalavage, Jeremy Polk.

The minutes of the Feb. meeting were approved as amended:

(Motion: Conway Second:M. Ceravolo, AIF)

## **Public Guests.**

Jeremy Polk addressed the Commission expressing thanks for the return of the sap buckets that had been confiscated. He also said he was reaching out to us to determine if there was any interest on our part in cooperating on a project to produce syrup from sap collected from conservation area maple trees. When asked about how the sap would be boiled down, he replied there was a 40 to 1 ratio of sap to syrup and an outdoor propane burner could be used. Scott Barnes replied that, as was made clear in earlier communications, the Borough Ordinances that govern the conservation area would prohibit tapping trees. Further the WEC does not have the authority to authorize any exceptions to those ordinances. Scott said one would need to go before Council and the Mayor to receive permission to proceed. The Commission further indicated that apart from maintaining the trail system, it is our policy to preserve the conservation area in as natural a state as possible.

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

### **Review.**

**The Moonlight Hike-Feb. 17.** Scott B. and Rich reported about 15 people took part. Threatened rain had held off and the hikers seemed to enjoy the leisurely walk along the Eldridge Trail to the teahouse where light refreshments were offered.

### **Near Term Projects.**

**The Spring Work Party March 16 at 9AM.** The main activity will be to lay stone on muddy sections of several trails. Dave said approximately 8 tons of stone have been delivered to Cherry & Garfield. The Borough will disburse the stone to staging locations at W. Cedar, S. Clinton and S. West Aves. as well. Volunteers will meet at the Community Center at 9AM. And bring wheelbarrows, shovels, metal rakes and gloves. We will then move out to the various trail locations. Maria said she had contacted the Lions but they have other events scheduled for the day and are unlikely to be available to help. Dave said he reached out to the Boy Scouts and is awaiting a reply. Scott B. will post announcements on social media. Dave said he expects Bob Bevilacqua to attend Sat. he said He and Bob had done about 60-70 feet of boardwalk on the MCT island and hope to finish up Sat. Maria said she has 5 puncheons that can be placed at

muddy spots on the Eldridge Trail, Wenonah Lake Loop and the Bog Walk. Dave said we can construct additional puncheons as needed.

**Tool Shed.** Scott C. reported the stone foundation for the shed has been laid. He said he wanted to locate the assembly instructions. He said assembly is likely a one or two man job. The toolshed will be accessed by a combo lock.

**Teahouse sign project.** Julie showed the Commission mock ups of the sign design with and without borders and with different color tones. The WEC heron logo has been incorporated into the sign. It was noted that logo was designed by Elaine Goodman. Julie noted in the past we sometimes used "tea house" and sometimes "teahouse" She said "teahouse" seems more commonly accepted but we need to be consistent. She said after correcting one or two minor typos and a final review by the WEC, she will be ready to order the sign. It was agreed we would wait to evaluate this sign before proceeding with the other three interpretive signs.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Wenonah Lake.** It was noted the water level of the lake is very high and materials around the dam at Maple St. should be cleaned out. Also a floating dock has floated into a small cove on the lake's west shore. Presumably, it will be retrieved as the lake is readied for spring. Maria noted there are some wet spots on the loop trail that need puncheons. Dave said there is a serious problem with surface water and a high water table in the playground area. He is looking at an attempt to drain the area with wick pipes. The Lake Assoc. has announced a fundraising campaign to finance this with a goal of \$1500. Dave said that due to a lack of lifeguards and the drainage problem, there is the possibility the lake may not be open this year.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Dave said he filled the sink holes on the section of trail near W. Cherry.

**Indian Trail.** Julie reported she and Pat had cut the fallen tree on the trail. She also said she will reroute the section of the trail near where it meets the Eldridge Trail to higher ground as the current section is consistently muddy.

**Monongahela Brook Trail.** Julie said puncheons are needed at both ends of the Bog Walk.

**Eldridge Trail.** Puncheons are needed at the muddy spot near the little foot bridge. The bark laid down there is now disintegrating.

**Dilks Pond.** Maria shared an article in the Lions Magazine on reforestation and the value of trees to properties. She suggested we could do something to about planting trees in the area between Dilks Pond and Maple St. Dave said the DEP has said it wants white and red oaks planted. It was agreed to look into the possibility of doing a restoration tree planting at the site. This project can also have a public educational element.

**Camels Back Loop** Maria said she has no update on the potential Girl Scout project there.

**Photo Contest.** Julie said she will have an announcement ready to place in the May newsletter and will include a reminder notice in the Aug. newsletter.

**Open space lots/vacated streets.** Dave mentioned Matt Schulties is requesting the Borough vacate N. Lincoln Ave. north of W. Elm. When this is approved, one half of the 66 ft. wide street will go to the Schulties property and the other half could be added to Rich Dilks' property. Rich said he plans to decline the property, leaving that 33 ft. strip as public land. He said it could be used as an access point for the Break Back Run Trail. Dave said there are still a number of paper streets in the Borough.

**Sharon recuperating.** Maria reported that Sharon continues to recuperate and is doing well. She said Sharon could be released from the rehab facility in about two weeks and will continue to recuperate at home. It will take time but a full recovery is anticipated. We all extend to Sharon our very best wishes.

**Trail Guide reprint.** Julie has the new trail guide map and text. She will send the file out to the rest of the WEC.

**Light Rail.** Scott reported the light rail project is still active. The E.I.S is due to be completed. There is still no funding source for the construction project. A news item said construction could be 6 years away.

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

Deposits: \$0.00

Expenses: \$100.00 Bird Quest sponsorship to the GCNC.  
\$63.05 to Dave Kreck as reimbursement for lumber purchased.

**Current balance: \$11,452.08**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:25 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.