

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
April 10, 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.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
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: Bob Bevilacqua

Public Guests Present: Steve Cain, Michael Matalavage.

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

Public Guests.

Steve Cain complimented the WEC for its work maintaining the trail system in Wenonah.

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review.

The Spring Work Party, March 16. Scott Barnes reported the work party was very successful. Teams has spread crushed stone on muddy trail sections at several locations in the conservation area. Scott noted that at one site on the Mantua Creek Trail, a team encountered a group from the Outdoor Club of S. J, who thanked us for our efforts.

Near Term Projects.

Tool Shed. Scott Conway reported that in seeking the online assembly instructions for the shed, he and Rich discovered the shed must be assembled on a solid surface, not on a crushed stone foundation. Scott C. said he had spoken to Dave and the plan now is to install a plywood base that will be attached to the 4x4 foundation structure and then supported and braced.

Tea House sign project. Julie showed the Commission a full sized color print of the sign. There is a small caption under the photo acknowledging the Wenonah Historical Society for the photo. It was generally agreed the WEC logo at the bottom of the sign should be enlarged. Julie said she had been in touch with Elaine Goodman , the designer of the logo, and received her permission to make any changed we wish. Julie also had a version of the logo in a rectangle that resembled the actual conservation area signs. Scott B. suggested our website address could be included on the bottom of the sign. Julie said there have been some additional costs for the sign, \$96 for the art work, \$99 for shipping and \$100 for the sign base, to which the sign will be bolted. She said the total cost would be \$511. Julie offered to donate those cost that exceeded the original cost estimate. Sharon, Bob and Rich all replied that additional cost are typically incurred in projects such as this and that the WEC should be responsible for the full cost and can easily afford to do so. It was also mentioned we could put up a second sign with the ordinance explaining the penalty for vandalism, if needed.

Joe Berg signs. It was agreed that we should "live with" the Tea House sign first and evaluate it before ordering on the three Berg sign replacements. We can use the existing bases and have

the signs constructed with the 1/8" thick version of the material used for the Tea House sign. The signs would be glued to the base with adhesive and then secured with screws. Julie said we should think about the content for the signs and said we could use them to point out specific things in the conservation area. She said the sign cost would be \$150 plus \$25 shipping. Maria suggested we could approach other civic groups for donations for the signs. Scott C. said we should try to find out how the sign material ages and holds up to the elements. There should be some info on that from the manufacturer and also we could locate and inspect similar signs that have been in place for several years.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake. Scott B. said Steven Carr, owner of the home on Comey's Lake, had contacted him inquiring about how to install the fountain. Bob said in the past it was taken to the desired location using a small boat then anchored by 4 cinderblocks, on lines in each of the 4 directions. Bob said, otherwise the fountain will spin and draw in the power line. Bob said he will talk to Tommy Lombardo and John Forren about helping with this. Julie reported the garbage bag on the wire tree beaver guard is still there at the Comey's Lake fishing spot. It was recommended to leave it for now and monitor the situation. It was also suggested the homeowner could keep a watch for trash accumulation at this spot.

Mantua Creek Trail. Scott C. reported Dave has extended the Island board walk to the stones. Scott said he will be working on the outer boardwalk. Dave has filled in the MCT sinkholes and they seem stable so far. Scott also reported the small bridge near W. Cherry will need attention and the erosion problem must be addressed there. Scott C. said there is about 30 ft. of old board walk from MCT that can be used for the Eldridge Trail or the Bog Walk.

Break Back Run Trail. Sharon said a top priority is repairing the boardwalk sections near N. Jackson Ave. They are a safety hazard. She said a work party is needed to tackle this. She also said much of the materials and equipment in the original plans were too heavy or not available. We need to scale back to lighter materials. Sharon said she will be working on a plan for this.

Wenonah Lake. Maria noted the north end of the loop trail near the stream has become a problem with the higher water levels in Wenonah Lake.. The trail there is frequently flooded or muddy. She said we could place puncheons there parallel to the old trail . The puncheons would let the water flow under them. She said she has 4 puncheons available. The small bridge there may also need to be replaced. Scott B. reported the floating dock on the west shore of the lake has been retrieved.

Camels Back Loop Maria reported the Girl Scout troop will not be able to do the suggested project since their window to earn the service award has timed out.

Photo Contest. Julie presented a draft announcement & rules for the contest and said she will run it past our judges (John Dominy, Deb Mix and Dave Coates) for comments. It should be ready for submission to the Borough newsletter on May 15. Julie asked if she could have her own email box on the WEC website to handle photo contest traffic. Scott B. said he can arrange this. Julie said she is basing our rules on the "old" simplified P.P.A. contest rules. Julie said it was suggested we could have a reception/exhibit of the winners at the Community Center and a month long exhibit at the library. A display at the school for young winner was also a possibility. A display at the Fall Festival is also possible. A slideshow of all entries could be posted on our web site. Winners' photos could also be featured on the Borough calendar. Photographers would be responsible for framing or could use matted 8x10 prints. Award categories were discussed. One concept was 3 prizes each for under 18, over 18 and Judges' Choice. Another suggestion was to eliminate the adult category and focus on a young persons' contest with two categories: up to 12 and 13 to 18. Unresolved questions were: whether we charge an entry fee and what do we use as prizes for the winners. Featuring the winning photos in the Borough calendar or a gift card to Hawks were suggested.

Ice Cream Social. Scott B. said the WEC has been invited to take part in the Ice Cream Social again this year, and that each table should feature a craft or activity. Maria said she would be attending and could promote the photo contest there. Sharon suggested making bee hotels with

bamboo sections placed in bird houses or cans. It was suggested that craft should be held for us to do at the Fall Festival. It was decided the WEC would not have a table at the ICS this year.

Wenonah Park. Scott reported there was public controversy at a recent council meeting about the Borough removing some trees and shrubs at the south end of Wenonah Park. He said resulting discussions among the Shade Tree Commission, the mayor and Councilpersons Cox and Barbato indicate a desire to seek improvements in Park maintenance and plantings. Also the revival of a Friends of Wenonah Park organization was contemplated. Such things as an updated tree map, new tree and shrub plantings and the control of invasives would be goals. Scott said members of the WEC could become a part of this effort.

Sustainable Jersey Green Team. Sharon reported the GT is planning a rain barrel workshop, possibly on June 2. They are working with Watershed Ambassador Jonathan Fernandez on this project. The barrels are being donated but the GT must purchase the PVC materials. The cost is to be determined. Sharon said a \$2,000 grant application that could have helped with this was denied.

Tall Pines. Sharon remarked on the unleashed dogs and dog waste problem at Tall Pines. She suggested the idea of volunteer park rangers to help enforce the rules there. Rich said he could bring up the suggestion at the next Friends meeting and at the next stakeholders' meeting with the state and county.

Trail Guide reprint. Julie checked with Bellia and Staples about printing costs. The art work fee is \$80 per hour. 50 maps would cost \$82.60 and 100 maps would cost \$150.41. The guides could be printed on 11x17 paper and the shop would do one trifold. That means the second fold to make the guide pocket size would have to be done manually by us. Once we have the completed file we could have small printings done as needed rather than one very large printing.

WEC Bird Quest Team. Rich announced the WEC will again field a BQ team birding the conservation area and Tall Pines for the GCNC Bird Quest event on May 4. He has placed fliers at Wenonah School, the Borough Hall, the library and post office. Scot B. will promote the team in and email blast and on social media.

Duckweed/Algae Control at Comey's Lake and Dilks Pond. Rich reported that last year we signed a 2 year contract for Comey's Lake with the same cost for both years (\$3,100 per year). No additional action is needed at present. When no proposal was received for Dilks Pond, Rich contacted Princeton Hydro. Scott Churm said PH had mistakenly assumed Dilks Pond was under contract. Scott Churm said he would have a proposal drawn up for Dilks Pond and sent to us. He also said we would need to pay the \$150 fee for the 2 year DEP permit. It was agreed that we would continue to contract for duckweed control at Dilks Pond with PH this year as long as costs were in line with those of previous years. The 2018 cost was \$1830.
(Motion: S. Ceravolo Second: Ream, AIF)

Scott C. asked if there were some way to bundle or combine the two contracts to avoid situations like this. Rich said he would inquire about that with Princeton Hydro.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: \$69.00 trail guide sales.

Expenses: \$145.83 reimbursement to Maria Ceravolo for the purchase of steel stakes.

Current balance: \$11,375.25

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:05 PM. (Motion: Ream; Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.