

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 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: none

Public Guests Present: Watershed Ambassador Jonathan Fernandez

The minutes of the April. meeting were approved:

(Motion: Ream Second:S. Conway, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review.

WEC Bird Quest team, May 4. Scott B. and Rich reported they had a successful morning. Our 5 member team birded at Tall Pines and on the Wenonah trail from 7AM to 12PM, identifying 56 species of birds. We then attended the gathering at Wheelabrator in Westville. Rich noted that Maria and Sharon also participated in BQ on other teams.

Near Term Projects.

Tool Shed Dave reported he has purchased the wooden base for the shed. He said he hopes to have it in place Fri. or Sat. He also hopes Public Works can then erect the shed the following weekend. If they are unable to do so, Dave said he and Scott Conway will do the installation.

Tea House sign project. Julie said the Tea House sign has been ordered. She also displayed the metal sign base that will fit over a 4x4 post. The part that fits over the post is angled to 45 degrees, so the post will need to be cut at the top to fit. She said the sign will come with holes cut into it for the bolts that fix it to the base. It was suggested a 6' post could be used and sunk 2' into the ground and anchored in cement. Julie said the exact placement of the sign at the Tea House could be decided after final discussions among the WEC members.

Rain Barrel Workshop. Watershed Ambassador Jonathan Fernandez informed the WEC about the workshop, which is being done by the Wenonah Green Team. There will be 20 barrels which are scheduled to be delivered on 5/17. Dave said perhaps they could be stored in the borough pole barn until the workshop. Sharon said she still had to purchase some materials for the barrels and that participants could make a modest donation to offset those costs. Jonathan said it takes about 15-20 minutes to complete a barrel. He also explained techniques for preventing mosquitos' breeding in the barrels. The workshop will be held 11AM to 1PM on June 2 at the community center.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake. Julie reported the plastic bag on the tree near the dock is gone. Bob Bevilacqua also had reported the fountain is now installed and running at Comey's Lake.

Eldridge Trail. Scott B. reported the trail is in generally good condition.

Indian Trail. Julie said the trail needs to be brushed and mulch laid down on the area near the street of Indian Trail. She also said the trail needs to be slightly relocated in the muddy section near Eldridge Trail.

Monongahela Brook Trail. Scott B. noted there is a discharge pipe that runs largely underground from the house at the top of the slope to the stream. This was also pointed out by Glen Green in an email with a photo. It is unclear what is being discharged. Maria pointed out a section of the trail nearby is on private property. It was also noted the area near the bog walk continues to have problems with muddy and wet areas.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave said MCT is generally good condition and even the low areas were walkable after the recent heavy rains due to our trail improvements of the boardwalk and crushed stone. He said there is a small sink hole near the small bridge he still has to fill. Scott Conway said the left over lumber (about 30') is available for use on other trails.

Break Back Run Trail. Sharon said Bill and Pat have cleared the large fallen tree on the trail near S. Jackson Ave. and now plan to put in 4x4's on Fri. in advance of installing the puncheons. Sharon said she and Pat have been putting together a plan for the entire BBR trail. Sharon said she expects the cost of needed material to be \$283. Dave said he would get her the borough tax exempt certificate for Home Depot. Sharon said when it comes time to put in the puncheons, she will need additional help. A work party would be possible. Also Dave said perhaps the Boy Scouts could lend a hand and Sharon could contact scoutmaster Max Poza.

Wenonah Lake. Maria noted the north end of the loop trail near the stream is currently passable.

School Trail. It was noted the school janitor was blowing leaves onto the trail. Maria said she would contact the school.

Camels Back Loop The damaged board on the arched bridge has been replaced. It is not clear who did it. The bridge over the storm drain channel is unstable and needs to be firmly anchored in place. Also there is a large tree down on the trail. Maria reported the Girl Scouts have again shown interest in doing a project at CBL. They said they could clean up, mulch and brush the trail, and improve the appearance of the trail. They hope to raise \$250. The Girl Scout project would run from Jan.-Aug. It was agreed we would need to have the fallen tree cut and the small bridge repaired. A work party might be arraigned. Scott also noted a small 16' wide strip of conservation land comes out to Synnott Ave. between the house on the south east corner of Synnott and Elm and the next house south on Synnott Ave. The homeowner of the corner house expressed concern when a tree fell within that strip, leaving a large hole. Public Works has cut the stump end of the tree and placed it back to fill the hole.

Vacating of N. Lincoln Ave. north of W. Elm St. Dave reported the request for vacation is currently on hold by council. The approval of an ordinance would take at least two months (two readings in council). He said the WEC may be asked to submit a letter that we do not object. Should the vacation be approved, the eastern half of the parcel (33' wide) would go to the adjoining homeowner. The western half would remain borough property and could be used as an access trail for BBR in future.

Wenonah Park. Scott said the Friends of Wenonah Park will likely be active only as a temporary organization to deal with outstanding landscaping and maintenance issues. He noted the firm of Leddon Palimeno has offered to draw up a landscaping plan without fee for the southern end of the park. The project is being overseen by councilman Sheppard and Scott said the Borough will welcome public comment and input.

Photo Contest. Julie said she met with John Dominy about the contest. She also asked Scott B. to assist setting the special contest email, photocontest@ on our web site and doing the hyperlink for the release pdf. The announcement will be ready for the 5/15 deadline for the borough newsletter. There will be 7 winning photos in all and Dave Coates can print them out as

8"x10" and they will be matted for display on easels for a month at the library. There will be 2 first place winners and those photos will be included in next year's borough calendar. Julie asked if there were other items we could give to winners. Suggestions included WEC t-shirts, gift certificate to Hawks or Dippy's, and the metal trail signs. The question also arose of an online slide show of all entries. It was suggested perhaps they could be uploaded to Flickr with a link from our web site.

WEC Official Birthday. Julie announced the formal date for the founding of the WEC was Nov.14, 1974.

Clean Communities Day. It is scheduled for Sat. May 11 at 8:30 AM. The WEC will participate, although a number of members have other commitments. Scott B. said councilman Cox was interested in having WEC members pull out Japanese honeysuckle at the south end of the Park.

Borough Newsletter. Julie said she had a photo from the recent work party we could include. Scott plans to include the Firefly Festival flier as well

FireFly Festival. The GCNC's 2nd annual firefly festival will take place at Tall Pines on June 29.

Wenonah Lake projects. Scott B. noted excavations are now underway to address the drainage problems at the lake. Scout Matt O'Laughlin then plans to mulch the playground area as an Eagle Scout project.

4th of July Hike. Scott B. reported there are plans to revive the "Anything That Floats" contest at Wenonah Lake on July 4th. It will be held at 3 PM. It was decided we would hold out 4 PM hike at Wenonah Lake as well since people will already be gathered there.

Trail Guide reprint. Julie said the guide was just about ready to be printed. Minor changes include removing the parking designation for S.Marion at Bark Bridge Rd., eliminating the Public Works short cut trail and repositioning the N. Jefferson access trail to BBR on the map. Julie will send the guide file out to everyone by email for final review. Julie said Bellia will do the work to format the new logo and fit the text to the map.

Walking The Trail photo book. Scott presented a photo book of conservation area photos by Debbie Mix. He said she was asking us if we would be interested in it in any way. She said the printing cost was \$18.00 and was looking to determine a retail price. It was decided that although we appreciate the beauty of the photos, the WEC would not involve itself in the photo book project.

Planning Board. Scott B. reported there were two applications for variances, both in the Woods of Wenonah. One was for a fence along Rt. 553 and the other was for ground based solar panels. Both applications were approved.

Rowan College of South Jersey. Scott B. reported Rowan College at Gloucester has become Rowan College of South Jersey and plans a major expansion, including a medical center, a development center and possible an urgent care facility. Scott reminded us all this development will take place near Monongahela Branch only a mile upstream from Wenonah and we should be alert to any environmental impacts.

Beaver Presentation. Julie announced she and Rich will be doing the beaver presentation for Gateway students again this year. The outdoor presentation will be at Tall Pines this year due to the increase of beaver activity there. The date is June 4th.

Duckweed/Algae Control at Dilks Pond. Rich reported after dealing with much confusion at Princeton Hydro (because of an error in their system, they kept insisting were already under contract for Dilks Pond when we were not), there was a delay in getting the proposal and new contract for Dilks Pond to us. The proposal was finally received on May 6 and the new contract offer on May 8. PH is now offering us a two year contract option for Dilks Pond for \$1830 per year, the same fee we paid in 2018. After discussion, it was agreed we would contract with PH for 2019 but decline the two year offer. This would sync up the Dilks Pond contract expiration with that of Comey's Lake. We will also investigate what other companies would be available for algae/duckweed control. Rich was authorized to pay the \$150 DEP permit fee and sign the Dilks Pond contract for one year.

(Motion: Kreck Second: Conway, AIF)

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: none

Expenses: \$99.47 reimbursement to Dave Kreck for the purchase of lumber for tool shed.

Current balance: \$11,275.78

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:59 PM. (Motion: S. Ceravolo; Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.