

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2019

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:45 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the at the Wenonah Lake picnic pavilion at the conclusion of the WEC annual picnic.

<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, Chuck Forsman.

Public Guests Present: Laurie Forsman, Rebecca Kreck, Wendy Conway and additional guests

The minutes of the May. meeting were approved as amended:
(Motion: Conway Second:Kreck, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review.

Clean Communities. Rich reported CC was held on May 11. He and Sharon participated for the WEC and were asked to remove Japanese honeysuckle that was covering and smothering shrubs at the south east end of Wenonah Park. New plantings are planned for that area. Working along with other volunteers, we completed the task. Rich said he expects the Borough to forward a voucher to him soon to submit for the mini-grant. He did not yet know the amount of the grant.

Rain Barrel Workshop. Sharon reported the workshop, sponsored by the Wenonah Green Team, was very successful with 13 rain barrels assembled by participants. The barrels were given to the project free but there was a cost for the spigots and other materials. Participants were charged \$15 to cover the cost of those. Sharon said her own rain barrel is already full due to the frequent rains. She said another rain barrel workshop is planned for the Fall Festival.

Beaver presentation for Gateway seniors. Rich reported the presentation was given by Julie Ream and himself on the morning of June 4 at Tall Pines. The 14 students and 2 teachers arrived by bus at Tall Pines. Julie had prepared signage, posters and display boards for the talk. We took the students on a walk through Tall Pines stopping at 4 stations where Julie and Rich each spoke on topics such and beaver physiology, lifestyle and behaviors, and the beneficial effects beaver can have on stream habitats. The students were also shown the many signs of beaver activity at Tall Pines. The Gateway teachers said they would like us to do the presentation again next year.

Near Term Projects.

Tool Shed Dave reported the tool shed is up and complete. He said he plans to store some tools previously purchased by the WEC there and said that anyone who has extra tools at home the could be used on our trail work can donate then to be stored at the shed. He will install a combination lock then distribute the combination to WEC members.

Tea House and Joe Berg sign projects. Julie has the finished The Tea House and it is ready for installation. Julie, Scott C. and Rich will install the sign in time for the SJLWT Wenonah hike on June 29. The exact location and height of the sign will need to be determined. The possibility

of seeking a donation from the Woman's Club for the Berg signs was discussed. It was noted new officers have recently been chosen for the Club and we would need to explore how they might feel about a donation.

Trail Guide reprint. It was noted that anyone who has suggested changes or corrections for the new trail guide should submit them. We need to have the file reviewed and finalized before we can send it in for printing.

Photo Contest. Scott B. noted the contest officially begins on Sat. June 15. Scott said he is setting up the programming on our web site to receive entries electronically.

Trail Maintenance.

Break Back Run Trail. Sharon reported work on the BBR Trail is proceeding with the construction of the step-up walkways and boardwalks. She said Tommy Lombardo, and Chris DeMaise have joined Pat Donnelly and Bill & Sharon in working on the project. It was suggested that Matt O'Laughlin, who is looking for an Eagle Scout project, may be interested but he and Sharon have not yet discussed this. Sharon also noted there is also a small tree down that needs to be cleared.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave reported in general the trail is in good condition and recent improvements have made MCT much more resilient to withstand the flooding and wet conditions caused by recent heavy rains. He said the trail vegetation needs to be brushed and cut in some areas. Dave also plans to fill the small sinkhole by the small bridge near W. Cherry St.

Wenoah Lake Loop Trail. Maria said she will check the trail for problems and wet or muddy areas as the July 4th hike there approaches. Improvements can be made then if that seems advisable.

Camel's Back Loop. The rotted board on the arched bridge has been repaired but it is uncertain who repaired it. Maria mentioned the possibility of the Girl Scouts doing improvements and plantings on the loop trail and suggested local nurseries may be willing to donate stock.

Adopt-A-Trail proposal. Sharon proposed we promote trail users and members of the public adopt trails and act as monitors. If they see a problem or concern (i.e. downed tree, vandalism, broken infrastructure, wet or flooded area) they could report it to the WEC. They could also agree to pick up litter on the trail they adopt. This could be a good way to get people involved in the trail system without a major commitment and could lead to them becoming volunteers for us. The idea could be promoted on our web page and Facebook, in the town newsletter, by email and at the Fall Festival.

Friends of Wenonah Park. Scott B. noted there are plans to plant several small trees in the south end of Wenonah Park, where some trees and shrubs were recently removed. This would only be the first phase of a more comprehensive landscaping plan for that section of the park.

Firefly Festival. Scott B. noted the GCNC's second annual Gloucester County Firefly Festival will take place at Tall Pines on Sat. June 29. The WEC is a cosponsor and several WEC member will participate as volunteers.

4th of July Parade. After a brief discussion it was decided the WEC will not march in the parade this year.

American Legion monument project and pavers. Bob Bevilacqua announced Wenonah's Arthur J. Holeton American Legion Post 192 will be celebrating its 100th year in 2020 and is embarking on a project to place a stone monument in Wenonah Park honoring Wenonah residents who served in the armed forces during the Gulf War and War on Terrorism. In addition to the monument there will be a reflection bench and memorial pavers. The pavers will be sold for \$100 each as a fundraiser for the project. Bob displayed a sample brick and said it was a clay brick and when the text is embedded on the brick that area turns to glass, which creates a very durable and non-fading text. The deadline for purchasing a brick will be March 2020 and the dedication for the monument will be on July 4, 2020.

Dirt bike riders. Dave noted dirt bike riders have been riding along the railroad tracks through Wenonah and they have attempted to then enter our trail system. The Mantua Police are aware

of the riders but this had been a perennial problem. Perhaps putting signage up would help deter them but we will continue to monitor things for now.

WEC Frank Eggert Memorial Student Environmental Awards. Scott B. will be presenting \$100 awards to two Wenonah 6th graders, Benjamin Cline and Thomas McCabe, at the school graduation ceremony on June 13.

Duckweed/Algae Control at Dilks Pond. Rich reported we have received our first installment invoice from Princeton Hydro for Comey's Lake and he has forwarded it to the Borough for processing. Rich said we have not yet received an invoice for Dilks Pond but that the \$150 check for the DEP permit has been cashed.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: none

Expenses: \$150.00 for DEP permit for Dilks Pond.

\$100.00 Environmental award for Benjamin Cline.

\$100.00 Environmental award for Thomas McCabe.

Total expenses: \$350.00

Curent balance: \$10,925.78

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:24 PM. (Motion: S. Ceravolo; Second: Conway, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.