

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2019

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the at the Jack C. Sheppard 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: Kate Sporer.

The minutes of the July. meeting were approved
(Motion: Kreck Second: M. Ceravolo, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review.

Graffiti on trail and cleanup. Maria had reported finding spray paint graffiti on trees and the Monongahela Branch tunnel on the trail leading to the trestle on the west side of the rr tracks. Scott C. had reported the graffiti incident to police and also purchased paint, rollers, trays and brushes so the graffiti could be covered over. On Sat. Aug. 10, WEC members Scott B., Scott C. Maria, Sharon & Rich painted over the graffiti with a light brown latex paint. Scott C. reported that as of the tonight, there was no additional graffiti at the site. Scott C. said he would store the unused paint and materials at his house.

Near Term Projects.

Purchase of weed whacker and other items. Scott C. discussed the options of gas vs. battery models. He recommended going with the battery operated model, saying the gas engines require more maintenance and can be troublesome. Scott C. said we should opt for a commercial level weed whacker rather than the consumer models sold by Home Depot or Lowes. He favored Stihl as a top of the line manufacturer. Scott went to a Stihl dealership to inspect the models. He said he would have liked to have rented one but no local dealers offer rental on those models. Scott said the product is durable and the battery also can operate a chain saw and pole saw. The whacker comes with a string and mower attachment. There is a 7 day return policy for a full refund. The standard battery can run for 30 min. or more. Using a variable speed control could save power as well. Scott C. said the whacker, battery and charger would come to about \$600. A spare battery would cost an additional \$180 for the standard model and \$230 for a high capacity model. The 14" bar chain saw would cost \$340 without battery. The 8'-12' pole saw with an 8" bar would cost about \$500. Scott Barnes also recommended we purchase ear and eye safety equipment and safety vests. Rich said he had checked our budget and reported we had been approved for the \$7,500 we requested and that there is a balance of unspent funds of \$2,225 which could be used for any equipment purchases. It was decided to go ahead and purchase the battery weed whacker, two high capacity batteries, the chain saw and safety items. The full cost is expected to be in the \$1200+ range.

(Motion: Kreck Second: M. Ream, AIF)

Sharon inquired who among the WEC member is experienced using a chain saw. Dave said he is comfortable and had used one often. Scott C. said there are safety precautions and techniques that need to be followed using a chain saw. It was suggested Dave could do a training session for other members. Dave and Scott C. said they would go ahead and purchase the equipment now and be able to test it within the 7 day return period. Dave said he would make sure we had the Borough tax ID to exempt us from the sales tax.

Trail Maintenance.

Dave reported that on Sat. Aug. 10 he, John Forren and Tommy Lombardo cleared a large down tree on the Eldridge Trail and 5 down trees on Break Back Run Trail. Dave said they left a step over log in place by the RR tracks as a barrier to off road vehicles.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave said there is a serious erosion problem at the small bridge near W. Cherry St. He said he and Bob Bevilacqua are looking into how to repair the area. Dave said the tree in the creek at Clay Hill is still there but not blocking significant water flow. He said he plans to cut the reachable branches in the near future. Dave said parts of MCT(including the island) need trail brushing due to the heavy vegetation growth.

Break Back Run. Sharon reported a tree had fallen on the new boardwalk, damaging a board. She said Bill and Pat had repaired it. Sharon said BBR Trail is in reasonably good shape for now. The erosion and flow of sediments into the conservation area from the property on N. Jefferson continues.

Eldridge Trail. Julie noted there are water and erosion problems with the small bridge and steps near the Tea House. The areas at the bridge base are eroding out. Dave suggested putting crushed stone (the same size as was put on the trails) could help there. He said he had some extra stone and could take it down to the bridge to fill in there.

School Trail. Scott Barnes reported parts of this short trail are quite overgrown, particularly the section near Maple St. He said the abundance of poison ivy there make maintenance difficult.

Dilks Pond Trail. The trail is quite overgrown in sections and it was suggested a neighbor might be willing to help maintain a section of it. It was also noted the lower section near the well is much more muddy than it used to be and that should be addressed. Scott B. noted a down tree section is obstructing part of the trail as well.

Monongahela Brook Trail. Dave noted there is erosion in a section of the trail from runoff coming from a property above the trail. We will need to do a repair there and should alert the home owner to the problem.

Tail Markers. Maria reported she walked the entire trail system and placed an additional 19 trail marker discs at appropriate areas. She said now all 50 of the markers we purchased have been used. She said there were at least 8 to 10 additional locations where they could be placed.

She suggested we purchase additional discs. She said the original 50 discs cost \$355 (plus a one-time \$75 art fee). Discs are \$7 apiece. It was suggested we purchase 20 discs so we would have replacements available. Maria said she would look into pricing and report back. She said she had been calling the disc marked trails the Ring of Green. She plans to have a friend who is unfamiliar with the trail walk them to test how well the markers guide one through.

Poster Shelters. Julie suggested we could install additional poster shelters with trail maps at appropriate trail heads. It was suggested Mantua Creek Trail at Mantua Ave. would be a good location. Julie said Dave Coates had additional printed maps we could use.

Possibly rabid raccoon. Julie noted a possibly rabid raccoon was seen near the former beaver dam.

Photo Contest. Julie reported that to date there have been no entries. Julie noted she placed fliers at the lake, the pool, Hawk's, the library, borough hall and even the Tea House. She plans

to send reminders to area school art teachers on 8/15. The contest is scheduled to end on 9/15. Julie said one possibility to consider would be to extend the entry deadline into Oct.

Trail Guide. Julie said the new revised trail guide will be sent to Bellia's on Mon. 8/19. Julie will bring a proof from the printer to the next meeting. It was noted that once the printer has the file, ordering copies in various quantities can be done at any time.

Farmers' Market info table. Scott B. announced the Woman's Club has invited organizations, including the WEC, to have information tables at the Farmers' Market in Wenonah Park on Aug. 29 from 3 to 7. for a Civic Day themed event. Julie said she could do that and would bring a table, trail guides and beaver materials. Scott C. said he might be able to help out.

Newsletter. Scott B. said the fall newsletter deadline is coming up later this month. He said he will mention the Firefly Festival and promote the fall work party, photo contest, the Sept. Tea House meeting, and the Mad Hatter's Tree Party.

Bee Hotels. It was mentioned we could have a bee hotel craft at the fall festival. One problem is the hotels should be put out in spring, not fall. Having a model and demo for the festival is also a possibility. Having a bee hotel workshop in spring was also suggested. We would need to secure a supply of bamboo with the right diameter.

Comey's Lake/Dilks Pond duckweed/algae control. Rich reported the installment invoices from Princeton Hydro were received this past week and forwarded to the Borough. He said he noticed some algae on Dilks Pond recently but the recent rains have flushed it out. He said if significant late season algae does form on the ponds he will contact PH

Light Rail. Scott Barnes noted the state has appropriated 2 million dollars for engineering work on the proposed Camden-Glassboro light rail project.

ANJEC letter. Rich reported the WEC had received a letter from ANJEC that was sent to EC's concerning a letter by the Food Council lobby on local and state efforts to phase out plastic & paper bags and polystyrene. The ANJEC letter said the Food Council letter was misleading in several particulars. ANJEC urged the EC's to support state and local efforts to ban plastic bags and polystyrene.

Wenonah Park paver. Rich noted Bob Bevilacqua had told him the American Legion's memorial paver project in Wenonah Park is offering double sized 8"x8" laser engraved bricks to organizations for \$175. They would have up to 6 lines of text. Rich said he thought this would be a fitting way for the WEC to demonstrate its commitment to community projects and also increase people's awareness of the WEC and its mission. The funds to purchase the brick would not come from our public budget but could be taken from the FWT account or by contributions from WEC members. The WEC was generally supportive of the proposal. The WEC would need to decide what text would go on the brick. One suggestion was:

"Wenonah Environmental Comm.
Friends of Wenonah Trails
Preserving the beauty of our trails."

It was asked if images could also be engraved i.e. a heron, which appears on our logo. Rich said he would check with Bob about that.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: \$6.00 trail guide sales

Expenses: none

Current balance: \$10,171.52

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:52 PM. (Motion: M Ceravolo; Second: Ream, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.