

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2019

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 6:32 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Tea House amphitheater in the Wenonah Conservation Area. (Note: Due to an absence of a quorum, only 3 members being present and a 4<sup>th</sup> not arriving until the close of the meeting, the WEC was not officially convened and no official business was conducted. However, current projects were reviewed and discussed).

<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:** Michael Matalavage.

The minutes of the August. meeting were informally approved.

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

### **Review.**

**Civic Day at Wenonah Farmers' Market.** Rich reported that Julie conducted the info table for the WEC. She used the opportunity to promote the Photo Contest. Rich said the event was well attended and the info table was well received.

### **Near Term Projects.**

**Weed whacker purchase.** Scott B. reported that Dave said in an email to the WEC that the weed whacker and chain saw were both performing very well. He said he had cut a number of trees away from the trail and had cleared overgrown vegetation on the Mantua Creek Trail, Glenn Trail, Garden Trail, Eldridge Trail and Monongahela Trail. Dave said he hopes to also clear trees and brush on Break Back Run Trail before his scheduled surgery on Oct.1. Rich shared an email from Scott Conway stating that when he purchased the weed whacker, he found the mowing head accessory was not currently being sold by Stihl. He further said that after he had used the whacker with the string head, he found it was very effective cutting through vegetation and that we may not need the mowing head at all. Scott C. also reported he has not yet purchased the safety equipment (goggles, vest & ear protection).

### **Signs.**

**Poster shelters.** It was agreed that two additional poster shelters should be purchased.

**Beaver dam sign.** Scott B. said he had been contacted by an Eldridge Trail neighbor, Angel Viviani, who requested the beaver dam sign at the Eldridge Trail first bridge be removed since the beaver dam no longer exists there. Scott said we would confer with Bob on this.

**Tool donation.** Dave reported in his email that Kathy Schools donated tools to the WEC. They are now in the tool shed.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Dave's email report informed us that Bob and his son-in-law have repaired the bridge where the sink hole had developed at the W. Cherry St. access trail. The bridge has been extended and 24 ft. of wooden bulkhead has been installed. A work party would be needed to back fill the hole and a source of fill dirt located. Dave also reported plans are underway to reopen the trail extension from W. Cherry to MCT. Bob has cleared the trail but a bridge over the ravine will need to be built.

**Break Back Run.** Sharon reported that Pat and Bill have one final section of the boardwalk near N. Jackson to complete. She also said Matt O'Laughlin, who was considering doing an Eagle project on BBRT, has not contacted her lately and the Eagle project remains in doubt.

**Camel's Back Run Loop.** It was noted the trail there is overgrown and needs to be cut back, and also wood chips need to be laid on the trail. The small bridge over the ravine is precarious and needs to be repaired. It could be considered a safety hazard at present. It was suggested this area could be targeted for the Fall Work Party (Nov.2), then Gateway student Mike Matalavage offered to get his track team or Gateway service clubs to volunteer to spread the wood chips. He said this activity would be better to schedule on a Sunday than a Saturday, so as not to interfere with sports activities. Scott said he will get in touch with Dave and Bob and hopes a date can be worked out.

**Photo Contest.** Scott announced there are now two entries. He said the deadline (9/15) was this coming Sunday and asked whether we should extend that at least for a short period. It was generally agreed we should extend the date at least to 9/30 in the hopes that with school back in session, if any of the teachers can promote the contest, we may get a few more entries. Sharon suggested an alternate activity at some point might be to have an enrichment cluster on photography at the school taught by Deb Mix or Dave Coates.

**New Trail Guide.** Julie had previously reported the file is now at the printers (Bellia) and we are waiting for the proof.

**Wenonah Park paver.** Rich reported he had an update on our options. He said the 8" x 8" brick give us 6 lines of text with 20 characters per line. If we choose one of the offered images, the text would be reduced to 3 lines of 20 characters each. Rich showed the images on the order form and suggested the deciduous tree would be the best fit for us. A butterfly image was also suggested. Rich said he preferred the brick with an image to one with text only because the image catches people's eyes. Rich gave suggested text that fit the character space:

*WENONAH ENVIR. COMM.  
PRETECTING THE  
BEAUTY OF OUR TRAILS.*

He said he didn't like using the odd abbreviation "Envir.", but anything longer would exceed the 20 characters for the line. It was decided to hold off on any final choice until absent WEC members could give input.

**Wenonah Fall Festival.** Scott B. noted the festival will be on Sat Oct. 26, although we have not yet received any formal notice from the organizers. It was decided the bee hotel craft should not be done at a fall event. Sharon suggested that possibly the Green Team could do a spring workshop on the hotels.

**Mad Hatter's Tree Party.** Scott reminded us the tree party on Eldridge Trail is scheduled for Sunday Oct. 27. He said the GCNC will soon send out information to volunteers.

**WEC 2020 Activities Calendar.** Scott B. said it was time to put the calendar together and asked Rich to do so. Rich said he would compile a draft and make sure we submit the calendar to the Borough in a timely manner. One undecided issue was whether we should reschedule the 4<sup>th</sup> of July hike to another day, and if so, to what date.

**T-shirts sales.** Sharon brought up the idea of offering our t-shirts for sale for kids and families as a fundraiser, and said they could also be given as prizes. The shirts would be a good for public relations.

**Tail Markers.** Maria gave a report on the cost of purchasing additional disk trail markers and poster shelters. She said buying 20 would not be cost effective. 50 markers would cost \$410. 100 markers would be \$515. That would double the number for only \$100 more. There would also be a \$35 set up fee. and additional shipping costs. The poster shelters are \$64.90 for one and \$129 for two. There would be a \$35 shipping cost. Any final decision on these purchases will be put off until absent WEC members give input.

**Comey's Lake/Dilks Pond duckweed/algae control.** Rich noted both ponds are in good shape. All vouchers from PH have been submitted to the Borough except the final invoice for Dilks Pond. Rich said he had contacted PH about the possibility of poisonous cyanobacteria occurring in Wenonah. He was assured by PH there was no evidence for it in our ponds.

**Wenonah Cemetery Nature Hunt.** Rich said Nora Taylor of the Wenonah Historical Society had asked him and the WEC to create nature scavenger hunt form, modeled on one from Laurel Hill Cemetery, for the WHS Cemetery Walk on Oct. 12. Rich showed the document he developed which has young people looking for animals and identifying tree at the cemetery. He said he would offer the nature hunt at the WHS welcome table on 10/5 and could sell our new trail guide there as well. Rich said he will speak to Nora about any prizes for the nature hunt participants, such as a free trail guide or a bag of trail mix.

**Planning Board.** Scott Barnes noted there was a variance granted to a property on N. Jackson for a fence. Scott also noted the Borough is considering an ordinance regulating solar panels in Wenonah. He took exception to one section that limited the electricity produced to no more than .0025Kw per square foot of living space. Scott said this does not take into account that more efficient solar panels could be developed in future. The ordinance will have its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on 9/26.

**WEC 2019 Budget.** Rich reported that with the submission of Scott Conway's equipment purchases of \$1130.78, we now have a balance of \$1094.22 available for other projects.

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

Deposits: \$5.00 trail guide sales

Expenses: \$94.77 Scott Conway for paint and supplies.  
\$350.64 Sharon for BBR Trail materials  
\$558.94 Julie for Tea House sign, photo contest.

Total: **\$1004.35**

**Current balance: \$9,172.17**

MEETING INFORMALLY ADJOURNED at 7:52 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.