

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2019

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 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: Don Sparks, Matthew O'Laughlin, Asst. Scout Master Bob O'Laughlin.

The minutes of the Sept. meeting were approved as amended.

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

Mathew O'laughlin Eagle Scout Project. Matt O'Laughlin of Troop 50 gave an oral presentation of his proposed project for Break Back Run Trail. He said his project will include widening a very narrow section of the Break Back Run Trail in the northwest section of the Borough and building and replacing damaged wood walkways (puncheons) over boggy areas of the trail. Additionally, his project will include beautifying the entrance to the trail at Hayes Avenue near Lisle Field. Matthew and his team of volunteers will do this by cutting back the overgrowth surrounding the entrance, making it more visible for people to see. On the path itself, they will remove the surface level roots, eliminating a tripping hazard. If desired, they will spread mulch along the trail in that area as well. He said the supporting letter from the WEC will need to be submitted to the BSA Council by Oct. 24. Once approved the project could be carried out over two weekends in Nov. and accomplished by Matt and volunteers including Troop 50 members, friends and family members. Matt said the draft letter from the WEC would need to be amended to include additions to the project at the Hayes Ave. trail head. Rich said he could revise the letter. Sharon and Maria agreed to forward puncheon plans and designs to Matt. It was also suggested that Matt confer with Tyler DeMaise to get any insight Tyler may have on the BBR project based on his earlier project plans there. There was discussion of putting wood chips/mulch on a 100 ft. section of trail near Hayes Ave. The use of crushed stones on another section of trail was discussed and rejected.

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review.

WEC Photo Contest. There were 10 entries in all; 3 in the upper age group and 7 in the younger group. The winners were:

Ages 13-18

1st place: Leah Hummel Goldleaf

2nd place: Aidan Bender A Peaceful Place to Ponder

3rd place: Katelyn Peek Psithurism

Ages 12 and under

1st place: Strummer Walsh Ghost Mushroom

2nd place: Lauren Murphy Serenity

3rd place and Chairman's choice award: Morgan McNally Dewdrops

Julie reported she has printed out 8 x10's of the winners, framed them in black matts, purchased ribbons for each and set them on easels for display at the Wenonah Library. They will remain there for a month. Julie said she sent an email out to all contestants announcing the winners. She also sent the 2 first place photos to Kathy Schools for inclusion in the 2020 borough calendar. Julie said that we can have a sign at our table at the Fall Festival announcing the winners and letting people know the winning photos are on display at the library. Scott B. also indicated we should promote the contest and winners on our Facebook page, the library Facebook page and our website. It was suggested we could invite the winners to the library and present them with the matted copy of their photo and their prize. After discussing the nature of the prizes (cash, t-shirt, etc.) it was decided we would give each winner a Hawks gift card and a copy of the new trail map.

Near Term Projects.

Beaver sign removed. Scott reported Bob has removed the beaver sign at the first bridge on Eldridge Trail.

Tea House graffiti. Scott B., said he had emailed Officer Hayes of the Mantua Police on Sunday after the discovery of the 2nd graffiti attack, but has not yet had a response. Sharon said she would contact Officer Hayes for a follow up. There are indications the 2nd attack may have been done by one of the persons responsible for last year's graffiti but we have no conclusive evidence. Scott C. said it was important to remove the graffiti at the earliest appropriate time. The longer it remains visible, the more it is an invitation for others to vandalize the structure. Julie suggested we have WEC members monitor the Tea House daily for now. Maria said we should use social media to alert people in the community to the problem. The installation of a fake camera on site was also discussed. Julie has purchased the paint and supplies needed to paint over the graffiti and it was agreed WEC members would meet at the Tea House Sat. morning (Oct. 12) to paint over the graffiti.

Trail Maintenance.

Mantua Creek Trail. Scott B. reported the access trail from W. Cherry street has been upgraded by Bob and now connects our shed to the MCT. The bridge with the erosion problem has been expanded and the bulkhead extended. Dirt will need to be used to back fill the bulkhead. This is a task scheduled for the **Fall Work Party** on Nov.2.

Break Back Run. Sharon reported that with the completion of Bill & Pat's boardwalk and Matt O'Laughlin's project, BBR Trail will be in generally good shape.

Eldridge Trail. Julie reported there is some flooding near the Indian Trail sput intersection, where we had previously placed the coir logs in the small stream. She said digging some drainage channels should alleviate this. This could also be taken care of during the **Fall Work Party**.

Camel's Back Run Loop. Mulch/wood chips need to be laid on the trail and vegetation possibly cut back. Last month Michael Matalavage offered to get volunteers from Gateway, the NHS and his cross country team to come out for this. Sharon said she would contact Michael and follow up. Maria reported the Girl Scouts are still willing to give us a hand with the mulching and other work there. We will try to coordinate this for the **Fall Work Party** date of Nov. 2. Scott said that in his public announcement of the Fall Work Party, he will only mention the W. Cherry St. MCT activities.

New Trail Guide. Julie presented us with the final proof from Bellia's. She noted there were a few minor changes that should be made including changing all lettering on the dark green background from black to white, deleting "Loop" from the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail text, and deleting "conservation" from the Hanisey's Landing text. Julie said we should all check to see if

there are any other changes we would want promptly, so she can get the final order to the printer. She said the art work will cost about \$200+. We agreed to print 300 maps for now at \$1.69 per map for a total of \$508.15.

Wenonah Fall Festival. Scott B. reported he has reserved a space for our table, next to the Friends of Tall Pines and the Green Team's tables. The event is Sat. Oct. 26 from 11 to 4. The rain date is Sun. Oct 27. He said Kate Sporer may help staff our table. Julie said Cindy Mullens has some rain barrels to donate. Sharon said the Green Team will be doing a rain barrel workshop as part of the festival but that the newsletter article had an incorrect email for her, complicating registration.

Wenonah Park paver. It was decided we will purchase the 8 x8 brick and include the tree symbol. The text will simply be:

*WENONAH
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION.*

with the text center justified. Rich said he would go ahead and order the brick. The order is due by Dec. 30. The memorial will be dedicated July 4, 2020.

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

WEC 2020 Activities Calendar. Rich has made up the 2020 WEC Activity Calendar and distributed copies to the WEC and the borough.

Tail Markers. Maria reported on the costs of additional trail markers and poster sheds. She said ordering 100 markers would drop the unit price from \$8.10 each to \$5.15 each. It was agreed we would purchase 100 for a total of \$515. Poster sheds are \$64.90 each but if 5 or more are purchased, the unit price drops to \$54.50. We are considering a poster shelter at the Mantua Ave. entrance to MCT and at the Maple St. entrance to BBR Trail. We could add additional locations later. It was decided to go with purchasing 5 poster shelters for a total cost of \$272.50. That would bring the total order for the markers and sheds (plus S&H of \$35) to \$822.50. Maria said the order can be processed in about 3 weeks. It was agreed to pay for these items out of our municipal budget (current balance \$1,094). If this plus any other WEC expenditures exceed the budget balance, Rich said the difference could be paid out of the Friends of Wenonah Trails account.

(Motion: M. Ceravolo, Second: Barnes, AIF)

Wenonah Cemetery Nature Hunt. Rich said 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. He said he has items from the Kids' Hike to use as prizes: Wenonah Ring of Green buttons, small boxes of crayons and WEC pencils. The prizes and copies of the old trail map will be given out to all participants.

Planning Board. Scott B. reported the Board approved the Borough's new solar ordinance. He said that council wanted to get it passed promptly to protect borough trees and can fix any problems with the ordinance at a later date. Scott also said the light rail proposal is moving forward with the E. I. S. to be completed by the end of the year.

The "Circuit". Scott mentioned he will be attending a seminar in Camden on alternative suburban transportation. One of the speakers will be Rebecca Kreck.

Borough Facility Use Agreement. Rich reported the use agreement for our use of the Community Center and our 2020 meeting schedule have been forwarded to the Borough.

Princeton Hydro. Rich said the final invoice for Dilks Pond has been received and forwarded to the Borough. He said the duckweed and algae in both Comey's Lake and Dilks Pond were well controlled this year and no serious outbreaks occurred. Our DEP permit for Dilks Pond will be good for 2020, but we will need a new permit for Comey's Lake. Rich said we can discuss early next year whether we want to stay with P/H or seek out a different firm for 2020. He said he was hopeful the billing confusion we experienced last year would not be a problem in future,.

Fall Clean Communities Day. Scott B. announced CC Day will be on Sat. Nov. 9, beginning at 8:30 AM.

Invasive insects. Scott B. said Councilman Barbato reached out to him for info on the invasive spotted lantern fly. Scott referred him to the state web site on invasive insect pests for info on both the lantern fly and the emerald ash borer. Sharon suggested he could also recommend talking to resident Dean Polk, who is an entomologist.

Offer of used cinder blocks. Scott C. reported that Gene Becker has offered the WEC about 20 used cinder blocks and might have another 20 for us in future. It was agreed that we should check with Dave about possible used for the blocks. We could store them near our shed at W. Cherry St.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: \$6.00 trail guide sales

Expenses: none.

Current balance: \$9,178.17

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:32 PM.
(Motion: Ream, Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.