

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 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: Michael Matalavage, Luke Solem, photo contest winner, Strummer Walsh (accompanied by his parents and sister), photo contest winner, Lauren Murphy (accompanied by her mother).

The minutes of the Oct.. meeting were approved as amended.
(Motion: S. Ceravolo, Second: Ream, AIF)

Presentation of prizes to WEC Photo Contest winners.

Julie had invited the photo contest winners to be recognized by the WEC and receive their prizes. Two winners were able to attend. They were Strummer Walsh (accompanied by his parents and sister) and Lauren Murphy (accompanied by her mother). Both received a matted 8 x10 print of his or her photo, a gift certificate to Hawk's Deli and a copy of the new trail guide. Julie photographed the two winners holding their photos. Julie said the photos of the 4 winners who did not attend the meeting will be returned to the Wenonah Library for pick up and their prizes will be forwarded. It was noted Strummer's photo will be forwarded to the Borough for inclusion in the 2020 town calendar. Scott B. said the winning photos will be progressively posted on our Facebook page. The complete list of contest winners is:

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

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review.

Wenonah Fall Festival Oct 26. Scott B. reported we had a successful info table, next to the Friends of Tall Pines table which was staffed by Rich. Due to the enlarged activities at the Festival, our table was in the northeast corner of the park. 18 new trail guides were sold for a total of \$54.00. There was a notice directing people to the library to view the photo contest

winners. Scott B. said in future we should have more materials for display that would be of interest to the public.

Fall Work Party, Nov. 2. We had an excellent turnout of volunteers, including the Girl Scouts and members of the Gateway Honor Society and cross country team. Maria reported that at the Camel's Back Run Loop Trail, volunteers spread all the wood chips on the trail as planned. She said the small bridge over the storm drain channel needs to be stabilized and widened. She also said some puncheons were water soaked and were stacked to dry off but are still able to be used. It was noted there is a "Walking Trail" sign post at the E. Elm St. entrance (installed by Frank Eggert) that might be used at another location. Scott B. reported the volunteers at the W. Cherry St. location hauled (rather wet and heavy) dirt from the area near our shed along the newly completed access trail to the Mantua Creek Trail to back fill the new bulkheads on the small bridge there. The dirt available was able to fill the bulkheads about 2/3 of the way to the top. Dave said additional dirt is available to finish the job. He said a neighbor has dirt we can use and that the best way to get it to the bridge would be to make a temporary new trail from the neighbor's property to the bridge, avoiding a steep incline on the MCT. Dave said the Borough also has dirt for us but it contains asphalt chunks that would need to be removed.

Clean Communities, Nov. 9. Scot B. reported activities consisted of raking leaves in Wenonah park. Rich confirmed we met our goal of 10 volunteers signing up and we will receive a mini grant for our participation.

Near Term Projects.

Trail Markers and poster shelters. Maria reported she has placed the order for 100 metal trail markers and 5 poster shelters as we agreed at the last meeting. She said processing and shipping will take about 3 weeks. The cost will be approximately \$820, which Rich will submit to the Borough for payment from out 2019 budget when the receipts are received. It was suggested we consider locations for the new poster shelters. Julie said once we decide the locations, she can put "You Are Here" indicators on the maps. Suggested locations include the Mantua Ave. trail head of the MCT, BBR trailhead at Maple St. or Hayes Ave., the Indian Trail spur and the Lenape Trail access trail. Julie noted the old trail marker at the Indian Trail spur had rotted and is no longer standing.

Tea House graffiti. Julie noted there is some new but minor graffiti at the Tea House on the upright posts but none on the floor. She said she would paint it over. Scott noted a woman who does not live in the area knows the identity of some of the graffiti vandals. She had contacted the police and was told she would need to file a complaint in person, which was not practical.

Trail Maintenance.

Eldridge Trail. The flooding and muddy conditions where the small stream near the Indian Trail intersection crosses the Eldridge Trail remains a problem. A tree has fallen across the stream causing the diversion of water onto the trail. The tree will need to be cut to clear the obstruction. The stream at the bridge will need to be dug out as well. Julie noted one of the coir logs has broken and should be repositioned.

Break Back Run Trail. Sharon reported Pat and Bill are working on the last section of raised boardwalk near N. Jackson Ave. but will need to purchase additional wood to finish the job. The schedule for Matt O'Laughlin's BBRT Eagle Scout project is uncertain and may not be completed until spring.

Mantua Creek Trail. Scott C. reported he has been using 24" metal sign posts to anchor sections of boardwalk on the section of MCT near Mantua Ave. He said he would need a couple of dozen more to finish the job and would prefer 18" sections as easier to work with. Dave said he would check with Bob about getting or cutting the 18" sections. Dave noted a 6' board on the island boardwalk was broken. Scott C. said he would check it out and replace if a suitable board is available.

Monongahela Brook Trail- The Bog Walk. Julie suggested the Bog Walk should be the next trail section to prioritize for upgrading. The Bog walk and its original supports are about 20 years old. Possible improvements would be to redeck it, widen the walk and raise it higher above the

water. Scott B. suggested some minor dredging in the former lake bed to lower the water level might be done. Dave said he would confer with Bob on these suggestions.

Cinder block donation Scott C. said he spoke with Gene Becker, who offered the cinder blocks. He said the blocks are not quite ready for donation but will be soon. There are about 40 blocks in all. We could store them near the WEC shed. Sharon said they might be used to raise puncheons. Dave suggested they could also be good for slowing erosion in the small stream on MCT.

New Trail Guide. Jolie reported she has not yet received a quote for the offset printing of the guides. She said it would be a more expensive process and we would need to commit to printing 1500 Guides. This process would produce Guides on matte paper more like the old Guides. After discussion, it was decided the 25 Guides printed in Oct. are of acceptable quality even though the paper is thinner and the matte paper a bit glossier. The advantages of these are that we can print fewer at a time for a lesser cost and would not need to raise the \$3 price for the Guides. We decided to go ahead and print 300 copies.

Letter of Appreciation for Volunteers. It was agreed we should send thank you letters of appreciation to the Girl Scouts and gateway students that participated in the Fall Work Party. These letters would also confirm hours of service rendered by the volunteers. Rich agreed to draft the letter and Sharon will send him the names of the Girl Scout and Student volunteers from the work party. It was agreed the letter could be used in future as a template for letters of appreciation as needed.

Rain barrel donation. Julie noted Cindy Mullens has two rain barrels she is willing to donate

Deer killed in fence accident. It was reported that Don Sparks said a deer had gotten over a damaged section of an old chain link fence bordering his property and then impaled itself on the fence attempting to get out. It was suggested we send out a notice urging that these old fences should be maintained or removed.

Wenonah Park paver. Rich reported the order form for the WEC paver has been forwarded to the American Legion.

Wenonah Green Team. Sharon reported that Bill Klaus is no longer a part of the Green Team and that Sharon and Melissa are the only two remaining members. She said there was a suggestion that the GT be folded into the WEC. The WEC decided that our taking on the GT duties would be difficult for us but that we could work with the GT on projects and programs on a case by case basis. It was suggested the GT put out a call for volunteers in the upcoming newsletter. Another suggestion was for the GT to reach out to Gateway high school students for volunteers and members and also to Rowan.

Newsletter. Scott B. said the newsletter deadline is 11/15. He said he would include promotions for the 5 mile hike and the moonlight hike. He will also mention the new Trail Guide, the Tea House graffiti and send out a thank you to all our student and Girl Scout volunteers.

WEC Volunteer Appreciation Night, Dec.11. Scott B. said he will be away and unable to chair the meeting. Dave said he would act as chair and Sharon said she would coordinate the VAN refreshments.

Planning Board. Scott B reported there was little of interest to the WEC at the latest PB meeting, only an issue of a corner lot and a swimming pool installation.

Active Transportation Forum. Scott B. said he is attending the Active Transportation Forum at Rutgers in Camden on Sat and that Rebecca Kreck will be a speaker. Dave said Rebecca has recently purchased a cargo bike. The idea of bike lanes on streets leading to Wenonah School was brought up. Dave said some years ago the Borough received a Safe Streets to School grant but little was actually done with it.

Mantua Creek flowing again. Dave said he noticed in recent months that the creek was not ebbing and flowing with the usual tides and there seemed to be some blockage downstream from Wenonah. He said after our most recent rain storm, that blockage seems to have cleared and the creek is flowing normally again.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: \$54.00 trail guide sales at Fall Festival

\$75.00 trail guide sales at Borough

Total Deposits: \$129.00

Expenses: \$385.41 to Julie for Tea House paint and photo contest costs.

Current balance: \$8,921.76

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:36 PM.

(Motion: Kreck, Second: Ream, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.