

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019

Vice Chairman Dave Kreck called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:35 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, at the conclusion of the WEC's annual Volunteer Appreciation Night at the Jack C. Sheppard Sr. 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: Bob Bevilacqua, Luke Solem.

(Note: Luke Solem and Michael Matalavage, in abstentia, were designated WEC Associate Members at this meeting.)

Public Guests Present: Rebecca Kreck.

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

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

Holiday Lights Bike Ride. Rebecca Kreck addressed the commission announcing a holiday lights evening bike ride will take place in Wenonah as part of the Bike Gloucester County program. It will be a slow ride and a family friendly event. The ride will take place on Monday, Dec. 23 at 6:30 P.M. with cyclists gathering at Wenonah Park. The event will encourage fitness, health and environmental awareness. Rebecca said the ride is being promoted on the Gloucester County and Wenonah, Our Town Facebook pages. She expects 30-40 people to take part.

Vice Chairman's Report- Dave Kreck

Review.

Wenonah Park paver purchase. Rich reported the order form has been sent into the American Legion. Bob, on behalf of the Legion, thanked the WEC for the brick purchase. He said for now unengraved bricks have been placed in the memorial area. When the engraved bricks are received, they will be permanently installed in place of the temporary bricks. Bob said the orders will go to the engraver in Jan. and the engraved bricks should be received by April-May.

Near Term Projects.

Sycamore Tree Planting at Dilks Pond. Rich reported that Gary Odenbrett has offered a 6 ft. potted American sycamore for planting at Dilks Pond near the corner of N. Jefferson Ave and Maple St. The area is currently absent of trees and vegetation. Gary said he was able to get a number of sycamores from Scott's Nursery and has put a couple in Wenonah Park as well. He said he could have the Borough dig the hole and he would see to the planting. The WEC enthusiastically agreed to the offer. Dave said some restoration of the area is required due to the disturbance of the area by the new well construction. The 2015 microburst also destroyed several trees in that area. The WEC said it would be interested in having a second tree planted in that area by Gary if possible. Rich said he would get back to Gary with our acceptance of his offer and would inquire about a second tree.

Thank You Cards/Invitations. Dave suggested that next year we could send out thank you cards with invitations to the Volunteers Appreciation Night, both as a gesture of thanks for our volunteers and to increase attendance at the event. The cards could have a photo of the conservation area (i.e. a photo contest winner photo).

Debris Removal from Trails. Dave said that old wood and debris have been accumulating along several trail, such as Mantua Creek Trail and BBR Trail, as a result of a number of trail improvement projects. He said the first step would be to inventory where the debris is and what it consist of. Usable wood could be taken and stored in or near our shed. Unwanted debris would be transported to the nearest street for the Borough to pick up. Dave said he had spoken to Chief of Police White about the use of Community Service Volunteers. He said he got the impression that scheduling the CSV's might be difficult as availability might be on short notice. Sharon noted this might be a good project for the Boy Scouts to get involved with. She said she would reach out to Scoutmaster Max Pozza. Sharon said she is willing to inventory the debris and to be WEC liaison with the scouts. Luke Solem said there were a number of younger scouts that could be helpful in trail debris disposal.

Eagle Scout Projects. Sharon noted that Matt O'Laughlin will be turning 18 this month and will at that point have aged out of being eligible to do his Eagle Project. Sharon then received a message from Matt at the meeting in which he said he will not be able to do his eagle project on BBR Trail. It was noted that there are a number of potential Eagle Scout projects available in the conservation area, but we would need more lead time and closer cooperation with the scout troop and leaders to avoid projects that are proposed but then fail to be completed. It was agreed to invite Scoutmaster Pozza to our meeting to discuss closer cooperation. Luke Solem said he has a younger brother that may be interested in doing an Eagle project in the conservation area.

Sign Projects. Julie noted we should take our time on the remaining sign replacements and look into redesigning them and determining exactly what content we want on them as well at details of materials and construction. She also suggested we look for a partner organization to help bear the cost. She thought raising \$1,000 would be a good goal. The Woman's Club was mentioned as a possibility.

Poster shelters. It was noted we are purchasing 5 additional poster shelters and still need to finalize where they will be installed. Julie said we will need five 8 ft. sign posts to mount them. Bob said he will see that he will see that we get them and have then cut to 8 ft. lengths.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake/Tea House. Julie noted some of the paint on the Tea House steps is chipping off due to wear. She noted no other problems.

Eldridge Trail. Julie said we still need puncheons in the muddy area near the little bridge.

Monongahela Brook Trail. Dave said the next big trail improvement project in the spring will be upgrading the bog walk. Constructed about 20 years ago, and resurfaced just a couple of years ago, it is listing a bit at an angle. Also the water level is higher now and the walk should be raised or the water level lowered.

Garden Trail. Sharon noted one of the small RR tie bridges is in need of shoring up.

Mantua Creek Trail. The bulkheads at the little bridge still need more fill. There is a broken 8 ft. board on the island boardwalk that needs to be replaced. Bob said he would get a replacement board. The repair should be made before the 5 mile hike in late Jan. Scott C. said he needs metal sign posts cut to 18" to stake boardwalk sections. Dave said he would take care of getting them. Scott C. also said that the steps and other infrastructure at Clay Hill are showing signs of wear and that we need to do improvements there to prevent further deterioration and erosion.

Break Back Run Trail. Sharon said some work remains on Pat and Bill's boardwalk and now that Matt O'Laughlin's Eagle project is cancelled, we need to look for someone else to step forward. Also, Sharon said we need to put time frames on volunteer projects help make sure they can be accomplished.

Dilks Pond Trail. Sharon said the section along the railroad needs to be trimmed.

Camel's Back Loop. Bob said the small northeast bridge over the storm drain channel need shoring up. Also he said the channel continues to down cut and bulkheads will be needed for that bridge as well.

Hanisey's Landing. There is some debris there to be removed.

New Trail Guide Printing. Julie reported that she told Bellia that since we have not received the quote for the offset printing to go ahead with the 300 we had ordered. Bellia then provide the quote of the offset print job. The cost would be \$950 for 1500 copies (0.63 per guide). The cost for the conventional printing of 300 copies would \$369.15 (\$1.23 per guide). It was agreed to print the 300 for \$369.15. Julie will inform Bellia. She said the turnaround time is about 5 days.

Former Lentz Property Sold. Scott C. noted the former Lentz property on W. Willow St. has sold again. Dave noted the Borough will soon pave the dead end of W. Willow St. there. It was suggested the new owner be apprised of the access trail that comes off W. Willow St near the property. It was also noted that a section of the W. Cedar St. trail crosses the property.

2020 WEC Budget Request. Rich noted the Borough has sent us the form for requesting our 2020 budget amount. After discussion, the WEC agreed to again request \$7,500 as we did in 2019. Rich will forward the request to the Borough. Rich also noted that we currently have a budget balance for 2019 of \$363.94. Rich said he can submit a request for reimbursement to Maria for the trail markers and poster shelters as soon as he gets a receipt, and can pay the balance not covered by the 2019 budget out of the FWT account.

Duckweed/Algae Control. Dave noted he knew a firm that could perform the duckweed/algae control but that the work would have to be subbed out. Rich expressed the hope that the billing confusion with Princeton Hydro that occurred last spring would not occur again, and that he was satisfied with the effectiveness of their performance.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: \$24.00 trail guide sales.
 \$425.00 Clean Communities grant
Total Deposits: \$449.00

Expenses: \$28.05 to Scott C. for lag bolts.

Current balance: \$9,342.71

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:39 PM.
(Motion: S. Ceravolo, Second: Ream, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.