

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2020

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 P. M. in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, 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: Luke Solem.

Public Guest Present: Zach Solem.

The minutes of the Dec. 2019 meeting were approved as amended.

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

Reorganization and selection of officers.

Scott B. opened up the floor for nominations for all WEC officers to serve for the calendar year 2020. Julie nominated Dave to continue as vice chairman. Rich nominated Scott B. to continue as chairman. Scott B. nominated Rich to continue as secretary and Julie nominated Scott B. to continue as Planning Board rep. All nominees (excluding Dave who was absent) consenting to serve in their respective offices and no other nominations being made, the nominations were approved by a motion of the Commission.

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

WEC officers for 2020

Scott Barnes- Chairman

Dave Kreck- Vice Chairman

Rich Dilks- Secretary

Scott Barnes- Planning Board Representative

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review.

Sycamore planting at Dilks Pond. Rich noted 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. Rich reported that Gary Odenbrett had agreed to the planting of a second American sycamore at that site at the WEC's request. Rich marked the locations for the trees with stakes and on Dec. 24th, Gary had the trees planted with assistance from the Borough. The trees are 8 to 10 feet high with trunk diameters of about 2 inches. Both trees appear healthy and are a good first step to the restoration of that area.

Donation to the WEC. Scott noted that Wenonah residents Angela Schauble and Mark Bourgeois made a \$100 donation to a civic organization to be designated by Mayor Dominy. The Mayor chose the WEC as the recipient. Rich will send a thank you letter to the donors.

Near Term Projects.

Debris Removal from Trails. Sharon reported that Dave is collecting data on where the debris is located on the trail system. Debris is known to be on Mantua Creek Trail, Break Back Run Trail and Eldridge Trail. Some of the lumber and materials will be salvaged and stored for future use. The remainder will be considered trash and hauled to the nearest street where Dave plans to have the Borough remove it. Sharon is hoping to enlist the Boy Scouts to assist with the debris removal.

Eagle Scout Projects. Sharon said she will be attending an upcoming Boy Scout Troop meeting and will confer with Scoutmaster Max Pozza to facilitate future Eagle scout projects in the conservation area. She said we can provide ideas and indicate areas where improvements are needed but the scouts need to come up with a creative and comprehensive plan for, their projects. We also need to make sure a reasonable time line is included. It was noted that one area that could be a potential Eagle project was Clay Hill.

Poster Shelters. Julie reported that Bob has cut 5 8ft. lengths of metal sign posts for mounting the 5 recently purchased poster shelters. After a discussion, the locations of 4 of the poster shelters were determined: 1. Mantua Creek Trail head at Mantua Ave., 2. Break Back Run Trail head at Maple St., 3. at Lenape Trail trail head for access trail to Comey's Lake Trail, 4. Monongahela Brook Trail at Marion Ave, west side of street. The 5th poster shelter will be held in reserve.

Joe Berg Sign Project. Julie noted installing or repairing the bases for these signs could be part of an Eagle Scout Project. Julie also said we should reevaluate the content and text for the signs. Scott B. inquired whether the Women's Club might be agreeable to donate to this project. Julie said she would make inquiries.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake-fountain.. Scott B. noted the Comey's lake fountain was still running in Dec. and we should communicate to the Carr's that there is no need to run the fountain in winter and they should shut it off. Scott. B. said that Bob had indicated that we could just leave the fountain in the lake over the winter. Scott B. said he is unsure whether the fountain could be damaged by cold and ice if left in place. We may need to locate the owner's manual or contact the manufacturer to have that question answered. The fountain was originally installed in 2009. Further, Scott B. was unsure how the fountain is anchored and what procedures need to be followed to remove it. It is believed the Borough installed it this past year. Scott. B. will check with Bob on these matters.

Comey's Lake-Tea House. Scott C. reported a corner of the tea House roof is leaking and in need of repair. It is the section that was damaged during the micro-burst and later repaired by Bob in 2015. Scott C. said the plywood area (as seen from below) that would need to be replaced measures about 16" x 16". The shingle area on the roof above measuring about 4' x 3' would also need to be repaired. Scott B. will confer with Bob on this. Scott C. said he is willing to do the repairs. It was agreed he will meet with Julie and Sharon on Fri. 1/10 at 9:30 A.M. at the Tea House to evaluate the damage, then determine what repair materials would need to be purchased.

Running Groups. Maria reported that one or more of the running clubs that use Wenonah's trail have been lax about removing the temporary streamers the use to mark the course. She said the groups are welcome to use our trails but need to be informed they are required to remove any streamers or items promptly and are not permitted to use spray paint or make permanent markings. It was decided that through contacts we would compile a list of local running clubs and then send them a letter outlining their responsibilities when using our trails.

Clay Hill. Scott C. said Clay Hill is in need of attention to prevent the deterioration of the infrastructure there. He said the bulkheads and boards shoring up the steps are deteriorating

and sliding out of position. He noted there are signs of rot on the bench. Scott C. said addressing these issues now can prevent having to do major repairs in future.

Dilks Pond Trail. Maria reported that the neighbor adjoining the trail has been maintaining the trail and has cleared the obstacles there.

Eldridge Trail. Maria said puncheons should be purchased for use in the low wet section of the trail and that a board there is broken and in need of repair. She said that 4 puncheons would be needed. Maria was authorized to make the necessary purchases.

Break Back Run Trail. A walkway apparently built by a Pine Acres resident on the far side of the stream valley has recently been extended into the conservation area and reaches almost to BBR Trail. A boardwalk had been built across the stream valley, crossing Break Back Run several years ago. At that time the boardwalk stopped at the property line of the Pine Acres (Deptford Twp.) resident and the WEC was told it had no jurisdiction there. This addition is clearly extended into Wenonah's conservation area without permission. It was the decision of the WEC that steps need to be taken to have the extension removed. It was agreed the first step is to consult with Dave and look into having the Borough take appropriate action.

New Trail Guide Julie announced the new trail guide has been printed and brought the guides to the meeting. She said approximately 300-325 guides were printed. Several WEC members took copies to have on hand for people to purchase. The price remains at \$3. Rich said he will take 25 copies to the Municipal Bldg. for sale to the public. He said he would also contact Anne Zuber at the Wenonah Library to inquire if the library is willing to be a "vendor" for the guides. It was noted that Bob's address was still on the website as the contact address for purchasing a trail Guide. Scott B. said that will be removed. Julie said she has the files for the completed and formatted guide from the printer. They are "In Design" program files. It was noted that the new guide can also be put on the WEC website, possibly as a display map or pdf. Rich will take charge of the printed guides.

Logo. Scott B. requested a copy of the newest version of our logo. Julie had made an elongated one for use as a letterhead and she said she would forward that to Scott.

South Jersey Trails blog. It was noted that this blog recently did a very positive review of our trails.

5 Mile Hike. The hike will be held on Sat. Jan. 25 at 1 P.M., starting at the RR foot bridge near the school. A number of WEC members said they plan to take part.

Moonlight Hike. This hike is scheduled for Sat. Feb. 8 at 8 P.M. The route will be the Eldridge Trail to the Tea House. It was noted the Borough calendar listed the hike twice, once on Feb 8 and again on Feb 16. Scott B. will post and send out notices indicating the correct date and location.

Duckweed in January. Scott B. noted he saw a patch of duckweed on Comey's Lake. Duckweed should be dormant this time of year. This is likely a result of the mild temperatures so far this winter.

Kiosk. Julie said she is redoing the side bar at the Wenonah Lake kiosk. She asked for any recent photos of WEC activities such as work parties, hikes, etc.

Card for Chuck Forsman. Julie noted Chuck is now in assisted living and suggested we send him a Thinking of You card. She made a card using the photo contest winner's photo. The card was signed by all present.

Cinder blocks. Scott C. noted Gene Becker's donated cinder blocks are still awaiting collection. He suggested perhaps Dave could have the Borough pick them up for us and take them to our storage area.

Beaver activity. Scott C. also noted he saw recent beaver activity (gnawings on two trees) on Boy Scout Island, near the fire pit area.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: none.

Expenses: \$281.73 to Bob B. for MCT bulkhead and Cherry St Access materials.

\$502.56 to Maria C. for trail markers and poster shelters.*

\$171.92 to Pat Donnelly for BBR TR. materials.

Total expenses: \$956.21

Current balance: \$8,386.50

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:53 PM.
(Motion: Ream, Second: S. Ceravolo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.

*Total cost for the trail markers and poster shelters was \$866.50. \$363.94 of that was billed to the WEC 2019 budget, the remainder paid from the FWT account.