

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 12, 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: Bob Bevilacqua.

Public Guest Present: Tim Huhn.

The minutes of the Jan. 2020 meeting were approved as amended.
(Motion: Ream, Second: Conway AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review.

Dave confirmed he will again accept the position of Vice Chairman. Dave also introduced visitor, Tim Huhn. Tim recently purchased the house on the Lentz property and enjoys using our trails. He owns a property management company.

Five Mile Hike, Jan. 26. The hike was very well attended with 72 participants.

Moonlight Hike, Feb.8. It was estimated that approximately 100 persons took part, the highest attendance ever for this event. It was noted that many of the participants were from out of town and came as a result of promotion on social media and mention on the South Jersey Trail blog. Sharon noted that with large numbers such as these it would be a good idea for the hikers to be broken up into groups with a WEC person leading each group. Julie suggested we could develop a basic set of talking points to use on the walks. It was also noted that in future we should include info on trail difficulty, hazards and conditions so that people unfamiliar with trails such as BBR Trail would be aware of the challenges.

Near Term Projects.

Debris Removal from Trails. Dave said he now has information where most of the debris is, primarily at Hennisey's Landing and Break Back Run Trail. Dave said he talked to the chief of police about community service participants, but was told they are often available only at very short notice. Sharon said she has spoken to Scoutmaster Max Pozza and reported he and the scouts are eager to help out once it stays light a bit later in the early evening. The debris needs to be brought to the nearest street for Borough pickup.

Poster Shelters. Julie said the shelters are ready to go and that Bob has cut the 8' signposts for them. We now need to mark the exact locations. The question arose whether we need to check buried utility lines first. Dave said he would look into this. The 8' post would be sunk 2' into the ground. The locations are: MCT entrance on Mantua Ave., Maple St. trailhead for BBR Trail, west side of S. Marion on the Monongahela Brook Trail and the Lenape Trail access trail to Comey's Lake Trail. It was suggested possibly putting the 5th shelter at Hayes Ave. at the BBR trailhead. It was noted the connecting route between BBR Trail there and MCT is confusing to

hikers not familiar with the area. It was suggested using 1 or 2 signs on Hayes Ave. and Mantua Ave. could guide hikers between the trails. The circular trail markers could also be used.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake fountain. Scott B. reported he located Chuck's data on the Comey's Lake dam and dock as well as the technical info on the fountain. It was purchased in 2009 with a 15 year life expectancy. The manufacturer also recommended returning the fountain periodically to them for maintenance. We have not done that. It was agreed we would not attempt to remove the fountain at this time.. Bob recommended that with the mild winter now more than half over, we could just let the fountain remain in the lake with the power off until spring. He felt there was little chance of damage occurring. Bob also pointed out that removing and reinstalling the fountain is a difficult job since the concrete weights must be places just right to keep the fountain stable.

Tea House. Scott C. reported he had done a quick repair to the leaking section of roof at the Tea House. He said that resulted in a 75% improvement but did not completely stop the leaking. He then got some roofing shingles from Dave and did a more substantial repair to the area. He reported that the section has now remained dry through several rains.

Eldridge Trail boardwalk. Julie reported a limb had fallen and broken one of the boards. She and Pat were able to replace the board and effect repair.

Indian Trail. Julie noted a section of Indian Trail near the intersection with the Eldridge Trail has become very muddy. She recommended we reroute that section to nearby higher ground. The alternative would be to place puncheons there.

Bog walk. Dave and Bob will assess what improvements to the bog walk are needed.

Mantua Creek Trail. The bulkheads of the bridge near W. Cherry St. still need back fill. It was agreed that would be on the agenda for the Spring Work Party in late March. Dave said his neighbor has some fill dirt we can use. Scott C. noted that the south side of the bulkhead is losing fill due to erosion at the bottom of the structure. He recommended we address that problem to stabilize the bulkhead. Bob said he has access to hardened cement bags that could be placed there to help seal the bottom of the bulkhead from eroding. Sharon said she would contact our youth volunteers for the Spring Work Party.

Clay Hill. Dave noted the needed improvements there would be an excellent Eagle Scout project. The bench needs to be replaced and the bulkheads and support rails replaced or strengthened. Sharon noted the scout needs to come up with his own detailed plan but that we can offer advice on projects. Scout Zack Solem may undertake an eagle project this year.

MCT Island. It was noted there is a wet, muddy spot in a hollow on the trail just south of the island (where the large oak was uprooted several years ago). It was suggested a short boardwalk or puncheons could be used there. The wet spot is about 16' across.

Break Back Run Trail. The boardwalk project near N. Jackson is nearing completion and Bill plans to continue work there in the near future. Scott C. reported he has covered up the blue graffiti on the trees on BBR Trail. There is an illegal boardwalk that has been built into the conservation area from the property at 735 Leslie Ave. in Deptford. It was noted there is a new owner of the property. Dave said he would consult with the Borough as to how to proceed.

Motorcycle activity. Scott C. noted there has been motorcycle activity on the RR tracks south of town and on the trail from S. West Ave. that parallels the tracks. The cycles have gone as far south as the area with the fallen tree south of Monongahela branch. They then ride strait up or down the RR embankment. Scot said he blocked the embankment trail with branches but someone has cleared them out again.

Newsletter. Scott B. noted submissions are due for the spring newsletter. He plans to mention the Spring Work Party, Bird Quest, our recent winter hikes, the new trail guide and a reflection on Chuck and his many contributions.

American Legion Yearbook. Bob mentioned the Legion plans to put together an annual Guide & Yearbook of all Wenonah organizations and invited the WEC to take part. Bob also talked

about the 4th of July dedication of the new memorials and memorial pavers in the park. The legion also plans a beer garden in the park at this year's 4th celebrations.

Memorial for Chuck. The WEC discussed ways we could honor Chuck's memory. A bench at the Tea House or Comey's Lake was suggested. It was noted there is a stone bench already at Comey's lake. Perhaps that could be engraved in place with fitting text. Bob said he would look into that with his cemetery connections. The planting of a small grove of trees at Comey's Lake was also suggested. No definite decisions were made and the WEC members would continue to think about suitable ideas. Dave noted he and Bob visited Chuck last month and gave him the card signed by all WEC members. They said Chuck was most appreciative.

Bob noted there was a large beaver dam visible from Bank Bridge Rd.

Overhanging tree. Scott C. noted a dead tree is overhanging a section of the MCT island boardwalk and asked if we should consider trimming it. Dave said the tree seems to be stable at this time and cutting it back could prove difficult.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since last meeting.

Deposits: \$12.00 trail guide sales.
 \$100.00 donation

Total deposits: \$112.00

Expenses \$368.15 to Julie Ream for trail guide printing and photo contest prize.

Current balance: \$8,130.35

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:48 PM.
(Motion: Ream, Second: Kreck, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.