

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting  
Minutes  
June 9, 2021

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:33 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the at the Wenonah Lake picnic pavilion at the conclusion of the WEC annual picnic. This was the first in person meeting of the WEC since March 2020.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Sharon Ceravolo	X	
Scott Conway	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Julia Horn	X	
Dave Kreck		X
Julie Ream (V. Chair.)	X	

**Associate Members Present:** Bob Bevilacqua, Dave Coates.

**Public Guest Present:** Carl Ream, Laurie Forsman, Mayor John Dominy, Chris Demaise.

The minutes of the May 2021 meeting were approved as standing.

(Motion: Ream, Second: Ceravolo, AIF)

## **Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes**

### **Review**

**Tree Planting at Dilks Pond.** Mr Ross Beitzel had offered a \$100 donation and requested the WEC plant a tree in the conservation area as a memorial to a deceased colleague. Rich contacted Mr. Beitzel and then purchased a "Jersey Princess" American Holly at Groff's Nursery for planting at Dilks Pond. On May 19 Rich, Sharon and Dan Ceravolo picked up the tree and then planted it at Dilks Pond near the two sycamores planted in Dec 2019. Mr. Beitzel sent us a thank you letter and a donation of \$100. Rich wrote a thank you letter to Mr. Beitzel on behalf of the WEC.

### **Near Term Projects**

**Clay Hill Restoration Project.** Sharon reported that Scott C. had installed 2/3 of the rope railings at Clay Hill. We had purchased 300 ft. of rope and now have used about half of it. Scott C. reported that he and Carl & Dan Ream have removed the fallen tree and accumulated debris in Mantua Creek at Clay Hill. He said considerable debris had to be removed from the water and then was hauled away by the Borough. Once the limbs of the tree were removed, they were able to use a wench to pull the trunk close to the eastern shore of the creek, where it will act as a protection against erosion. Scott C. also said he has installed a retaining wall along the steps but still needs to add a small section to stabilize the area. Scott C. said the sites for both the upper bench and sign need to be determined and that that can be done at the same time. The bench will be set in ground with concrete. The 3<sup>rd</sup> section of rope railing also needs to be installed. Bob said he has located a piece of cedar wood from a local lumber miller that will be used as the seat for the lower bench. Sharon said she was pleased with the efforts of girls from the National Honor Society and with all our volunteers. She said the Lions Club has given us a \$500 donation for the Clay Hill project. Julie reported on the historical sign. She showed two samples, one with the locomotive with the 96 dpi resolution image and the other with a higher resolution that she scanned herself. There was a distinct improvement with the latter. She said the sign is expected to ship from the manufacturer on June 16. Julie said she would need the

text and logos so she can order the 2 plaques. Sharon said she will get those to her. The placement of the plaques has to be determined but that putting one on the RR ties or on the wall near the lower bench might work. Sharon said she has ordered switch grass, which will be planted to stabilize the slope. Rich said he has some native flowers that can be planted as well. Rich noted he still has the winterberry shrub the WEC purchased at Platt's. It was agreed that most of those planting can be postponed until fall, rather than attempting to plant in the heat of summer.

**4th of July Hike.** Scott B. suggested there should be some sort of symbolic or ceremonial elements as part of the Clay Hill dedication at the hike. He said accommodating a large number of people is difficult due to the narrowness of the trail there. A ribbon cutting and sign unveiling were suggested.

**Possible intern to work with the WEC.** Sharon suggested that in future she would be interested in working as a liaison for the WEC with Gateway 2 Careers at Gateway H.S and with scouting groups. She proposed a G2C intern, especially one from Wenonah with an environmental focus, could work with the WEC and that this could become an ongoing program.

**Zach Solem Eagle Scout progress.** Sharon said she wrote a letter to the Scout Council expressing our satisfaction and approval of Zach's Eagle project. She said the Council will meet later this month. Scott C. said Scoutmaster, Max Pozza told him all of Zach's paperwork has been approved. Scott C. also mentioned that the steps installed on BBR Trail as part of the project are holding up well.

#### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Comey Lake.** Julie reported a tree had fallen across the trail but has already been cut and cleared by someone. Scott C. expressed concern that if someone is cutting trees or doing any other trail maintenance, we should know who is doing it, so we can make sure the work is done properly.

**Facebook.** Julia will post a promotion of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July hike on our FB page.

**Web site redesign.** Scott B. said he will be working on the redesign over the summer and the web site will be ready when we do our fundraising campaign in the fall.

**Frank Eggert Memorial Student Environmental Awards.** Scott B. announced he will be giving the awards at Wenonah School graduation on June 14. The awards consist of a \$100 check, letter, certificate, WEC trail map, Audubon guides and a Pocket Nature Guide. The recipients this year are Sadie Torres and Cara Millard.

**Wenonah Farmers Market.** The Wenonah Woman's Club has invited the WEC to have an information table at the Communities Day themed Farmers Market on July 1 from 4 to 7 PM. It was decided to participate. We need a table, and can display our banner. We will promote the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Hike and the Clay Hill project. We will also have trail maps for sale. Rich will contact the Woman's Club to confirm out participation.

**July WEC meeting.** It was decided that as of July we will resume in person meetings at the Community Center.

**Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since the May 2021 meeting.**

**Deposits:**           **\$100.00** Donation from Ross Beitzel for tree planting  
                          **\$500.00** Donation from Lions Club for Clay Hill project.  
                          **\$600.00 total deposits**

**Expenses:**           **\$156.25** to Bob B. for cement for steps near Tea House.  
                          **\$52.24** to Rich for purchase of American Holly tree.  
                          **\$16.95** to Rich for student award Pocket Guides.  
                          **\$200.00** two \$100 student environmental awards.  
                          **\$425.44 total expenses.**

**Current balance: \$4,568.78**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:15 PM.  
(Motion: Ream, Second: Ceravolo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.