

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting
Minutes
November 10, 2021

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 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	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Julia Horn	X	
Dave Kreck		X
Julie Ream (V. Chair.)	X	

Associate Members Present: none.

Public Guests Present: none.

The minutes of the October 2021 meeting were approved as amended.
(Motion: Ceravolo, Second: Ream, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Mad Hatter's Tree Party Sun. Oct. 24, 1 -3 PM. Scott B. reported the Glo. Co. Nature Club event, co-sponsored by the WEC, went well with good weather and a steady flow of attendees over the 2 hour period. Scott B., Sharon and Rich acted as interpreters at tree stations along the trail. There was live music performed on dulcimer and harp, and light refreshments at the Tea House. Rich noted we had a new Mad Hatter this year who has theatrical experience at the Broadway Theater.

Fall Work Party Nov. 6. Scott B. said about 10 individuals participated and we accomplished the goals we had set. The length of Mantua Creek Trail that suffered severe tornado damage, from the W. Cedar St access trail to the RR tracks near S. West Ave was widened and cleared of minor debris. "Duck under" trees on the MCT island were cut by chain saw. There was no attempt to deal with large hanging or leaning trees along the trail as a part of the work party, as we are seeking professional assistance to deal with those. The MCT is now completely open and walkable. At the finish of the trail work, Scott B., Scott C, Rich and Mayor Dominy cleared debris from the informal pedestrian RR crossing at W. Cedar St. A large duck under tree was left in place for now, but the crossing was made passable.

Near Term Projects

Meeting with ACE on assistance with hazardous tree removal. Sharon reported she and Scott C. met with Jacob Sneed, Regional Vice President of ACE and members of the ACE tree maintenance crew on Tues. Nov. 9 on MCT below S. West Ave. ACE is willing to assist the WEC and Borough in removing a number of large trees on the tornado damaged section of MCT that are leaning, unstable, or have hanging overhead debris, and could prove a safety hazard. The ACE officials explained that because some of this work will be on Conrail property, Conrail permission and permits need to be obtained. Sharon has contacted the Borough to get the name of the Conrail contact and will then pass that along to ACE. Scott C. noted other permits such as wetland permits may be needed as well. Sharon said that because of this

process that ACE, as a regulated public utility must follow, it will likely be a while before work on the site can begin. There was also the question of what heavy equipment would be needed and how it would be brought in. One element that would simplify the job would be that the large trees and debris would not have to be removed from the site nor ground into wood chips, but could left to lie in place. Mr Sneed said the work would be a donation in kind. Sharon and Scott C. both agreed the donation would be to the Borough as property owner, not to the WEC. Scott C. said the actual property boundary between conservation land and the RR is unclear. He said the slope of the RR embankment would obviously be RR property, but he was unsure how far beyond that the RR property extends. Sharon noted about 150 yards in from the RR embankment on the trail is large tree leaning on another with hanging broken branches overhead. This is the most potentially dangerous section of the trail. The question arose whether we should close the trail there or possible put up warning signs there or at both entrances to the hazardous section of MCT. That raised a further question of whether warning signs could cause us or the Borough liability risks and issues. Scott C. said he would consult with Dave K. on this. Scott C. and Sharon said they did not discuss the blocked Glen Trail with ACE. They felt the Glen Trail was a lower priority at present. Julie noted the logs and debris in the ravine at the Glen Trail may affect the runoff patterns and erosion there. It was also noted that the area by the small bridge just west of the island is now wet and soggy due to changed water flow patterns from the storm debris. Sharon noted the debris in the Monongahela Branch tunnels under the RR should be cleared out as well.

WEC gravel. Scott C. noted the gravel purchased earlier this year by the WEC and recently stored by the Borough at the end of S. Jackson has been removed in its entirety and used by the Borough. Scott C. said he recognized that the Borough had need of the gravel for recent projects, but had taken it all and now there is none left for our use. Scott. C said he would speak with Dave about this.

Beaver Activity. Julie noted there has been beaver activity at Comey's Lake and beaver activity on the Monongahela Branch east of Marion Ave. Scott. C said he has seen what might be a beaver dam just downstream from the trestle.

Trail Maintenance.

Mantua Creek Trail Scott C. said he hopes to make repairs on the boardwalk on the island soon, where some sections have come out of alignment.

Bog Walk. Scott C. said he had purchased all the planks and fasteners for the Bog Walk and that the wood is now stored by our shed. He said under supports for the Bog walk still need to be purchased at a cost of perhaps \$200. He said he wanted to test out how easy or difficult it will be to work in waders at the site, or whether some other approach would be needed. It was suggested the Borough could help us move the lumber to the site when the time comes, or perhaps we could get access through the Aynzek property. It was suggested that with the approach of winter weather that the Bog walk project will likely be delayed until spring.

Clean Communities Day, Nov. 13. Scott B. said CCD will be this Sat. Since no work will be done in the park this year, he said that we could do a trash cleanup on the Wenonah Lake Loop, concentrating on the section near Princeton Blvd. Rich said he would supply the grabbers and has large trash bags.

Newsletter. Scott C. said the Borough newsletter deadline is approaching. Scott will mention the upcoming Moonlight Hike (Jan. 16) and the 5 Mile Hike (Feb. 12).

Volunteer Appreciation Night Dec. 8. It was decided this traditional prelude to our Dec meeting will be held as a low key affair, largely among ourselves. No general invitations will be issued or promoted.

Recovery fund raising activity. Scott B noted there is no new information on the Corner Press t-shirt effort or the McPhail Wenonah Fund. The Wenonah Planting GoFundMe is accepting donation for future planting in the park and town street clear spaces. Scott B. said the Park Committee has held some early meeting online and a meeting open for public input will be held at a later date. Scott. B noted the WEC's fundraising efforts will include a PayPal link to the FWT account as part of the WEC website redesign.

GCL Rail. Scott B. stated there was a possibility of a Wenonah public meeting, live or online, on the GCL in the spring. It was noted that Wenonah has applied to be designated a quiet zone. If approved, this will also entail the installation of crossing gates at RR intersections.

Lenape Trail pumping station. Julie said there was a possibility the sewer pumping station will be moved. It was noted that there may be locations where ground water is seeping into sewer lines. This increases the volume of flow and consequently the cost to Wenonah for sewer service. The Borough is looking into ways to remedy this. It was noted a sewer line runs through the conservation area north of the Tea House.

Trail Guides at Wenonah Library. Rich said Anne Zuber emailed him the Library has sold all 10 of the Trail Guides it had and that he could pick up the proceeds of \$30.00 and give the Library another 10 Trail Guide to sell.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since the October 2021 meeting.

Deposits: \$0.00

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Expenses: \$0.00

Current balance: \$5,041.10

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:32 PM.
(Motion: Ream, Second: Conway, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.