

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

April 13, 2022

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 (via teleconference)	X	
Dave Coates	X	
Julie Ream (V. Chair.)	X	

Associate Members Present: Bob Bevilacqua

Public Guest. Suzanne McAnally

The minutes of the March 2022 meeting were approved as corrected.

(Motion: Ream, Second: Ceravolo, AIF)

Public Guest: Suzanne McAnally, Gateway High School teacher, spoke representing the Gateway Community Service Club. She said the Club is having a service day on Friday, June 3 from 8:30 AM to 11 AM. Students will be from grades 9 through 11. Projects will take place in various communities working with a number of charities and groups. Suzanne offered to have 10-20 students do a service project in the Wenonah conservation area as part of the service day. The WEC said it would need time to determine what specific activities it would want to assign the students. Suzanne said she would need that information the first week of May. It was noted that Gateway has shop classes in its curriculum and that some students with manual skills would be useful. Dave suggested possible projects may be available at Wenonah Lake. Julie suggested the students could move the lumber for the Bog walk to a staging site. Bob mentioned that perhaps the students could do some sand bagging at the small bridge at the former Synnott's Pond. There is an erosion problem there that is undercutting the bridge and a nearby tree.

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

5 Mile Trail Survey. The survey was partially completed on March 20. Julie has posted data on current issues noted do date on the Google Docs spreadsheet. Scott B. said we will finish the survey once Scott C. is available to take part.

Spring work party, March 26. The turnout of volunteers (and wheelbarrows) was very good. Scott B. suggested we could have been better organized in using that man power.

Nevertheless, the goals of the day were accomplished- removing old puncheon wood from a section of Eldridge Trail and laying down crushed stone there, and laying crushed stone on the MCT island trail section.

Near Term Projects

Trail Maintenance

Camels Back Loop. Bob reported that the new bridge, replacing the former arched bridge, is in place and almost complete. He and John Forren had recently set the joyce. The bridge was largely built using our stock piled lumber. Sharon said the area needs to be tidied up in addition to addressing the erosion problem at the little bridge. And perhaps the Gateway students can help. Sharon will meet with Bob on site to see what needs to be done.

Mullica Hill Triathlon group. Julie reported the group held some sort of walk/run recently in the conservation area and had left 3-4 pink painted stones as trail markers. Julie brought one stone to the meeting. The others are now off the trails. Julie said Karen Sweeney has not heard back from the group about the permit request for their Sept. event.

Eldridge Trail. Julie noted that Dave K. told her there were no open permits for the property at the end of Indian Trail, where loose dirt had been washing down the hill into conservation lands. The loose dirt has now has a layer of straw laid over it. She noted the stones put down on the Eldridge Trail on March 26 have held up well in recent rains. It was noted the large loose stone used during the spring work party will now be moved to the Garden Trail and the small stone will be moved to our storage area by the shed.

Glen Trail. The next step is to outline and define the trail at 100 W. Cedar with logs and to try to lay out the number and location of tree and shrub plantings to be done. Rich has compiled a list of possible tree and shrub species. It was agreed that those available would meet at the Glen Trail Fri. at 10 AM to do this. It was also agreed the actual plantings would be done in the fall. Perhaps students or other volunteers and the Trail Maintenance Team could be involved with the plantings. The Glen Trail bench also needs to be repaired..

Clay Hill. Sharon said she has ordered more switch grass and other plants for Clay Hill and has donated the cost for them. In an email Scott C. said new beaver damage to the lower bench has been minimal and suggested we just monitor it for now. He also said the stone laid down at the little bridge by the Mullens property held up well with the rains and we should just monitor it for now.

Break Back Run Trail. Sharon reported the trail is generally in good shape. There is one area near the new boardwalk sections behind N. Jackson Ave. that is not finished. The puncheons need to be raised and the trail widened there. At another section where there is a steep hill and large dead tree, the trail needs to be widened and made easier to scale. It was also noted the Leslie Ave. (Deptford) resident has extended his private boardwalk well to the west of the stream and even constructed a fire pit area. It is likely he has encroached well onto conservation land. The WEC has no plans to challenge this due to the high cost of having a survey done.

Wenonah Lake Loop. Scott B. reported that the trail at the north end of the lake is walkable. He also noted that a large reclining chair has been dumped on the west side of the lake near Maple St.

Trail disc markers. Scott C. noted in an email that some of the discs are coming loose and would need to be renailed.

Trail Maintenance Team. Sharon announced the trail maintenance team is now complete. She said she would also be interested in adding additional younger volunteers to it. The team members are:

Jimmy Ramsay 856 430 0043

Mike Sheehan 856 304 5842

Pat Stafford 609 970 6528

Dan McCue 856 628 7747

Alex Pozza 856 689 6535

Angelo Mancuso 856 430 1306

Larry Bacon 609 932 7960

Ron and Deb Cline 856 981 6055

Jon Barbato 856 229 3766

Chris Demaise 609 273 1334
Tommy Lombardo 609 820 9899

Wenonah Park Restoration. Scott B. noted the GoFundMe has raised is fundraising goal to \$45,000. He said a number of large trees are being planted in the Park this Friday. Sharon indicated that Sarah Harbold may be interested in making a contribution the WEC for plantings and restoration. Scott B. said he spoke at the Wenonah Park Committee about favoring native tree species for the Park and questioned the purchase of an Asiatic pine instead of a native white pine. He was told it was a matter of availability and native pines might be purchased later. It was also noted that Exley's provided the Shade Tree Comm. with undesirable Bradford pears. The STC said it would put them along the RR strip where they would do the least damage. Scott B. also shared the Tree Inventory of Wenonah Park done by Bartlett's Tree Service.

Girl scout nature walk and Tea House plantings, April 23. Rich said 14 scouts will participate. The event starts at 1 PM. At the Eldridge Trail head. The scouts will bring their own trowels. We will supply watering cans, a garden rake, a lawn rake and shovels. Julie will have 20 ostrich ferns wrapped and ready. Rich and Sharon will go to Triple Oaks the Friday afternoon to purchase additional plants.

Sustainable Jersey. Sharon reported the recertification effort is going well. The GT now has 155 points (150 was the goal). Two additional action are required. 1, now completed, was the setting up of a link on the Borough website about the Rx drop box in Mantua Twp. The second will be the creation of a climate change flood map plan. Sharon will be working with Dave Kreck and Rich Black on that. On 5/27 the SJ application will be filed. It could be returned in Aug. for any additional elements to be added, and then resubmitted.

Bird Quest. Scott B. announced that the GCNC Bird Quest will take place on May 7 and that in the past the WEC has been a sponsor with a \$100 contribution. It was agreed we would do so again this year.

(Motion: Coates, Second: Ream, AIF)

Rich noted the WEC will also form a BQ team again and bird at Tall Pines and on the Wenonah Trails. He has prepared a short notice for Scott to send out in an email blast and for Julia to post on Facebook. At Julia's request, Rich will also take photos during BQ for later publicity use

Duckweed/Algae control for Comey's Lake & Dilks Pond. Rich noted we have received the first invoices for Comey's Lake and Dilks Pond. He has forwarded tem to Karen for processing. We will receive 3 additional invoices for each lake.

Archival and historical material. Rich brought in 6 display boards and a box of archival material of WEC projects over the last 30 years that were donated by Bob B. Scott B. also brought archival documents and binders from our file cabinet that go back to the 1960's and the Woodlands Council. The material previously was held by Frank Eggert and Chuck Forsman. The question arose as to how we could store, preserve and archive al this material. One suggestion was to scan and digitize important documents and photos. Julie volunteered to take the display boards and do scans of significant items. Scott B. took possession of the other documents for now. Scott B. suggested the WEC might open a Dropbox account for about \$120 a year. It would give us the ability to store large amounts of data online in a manner easily accessible to all members of the WEC.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since the March 2022 meeting.

Deposits **\$500.00** donation from Mr. Ledu for Glen Trail plantings project.

\$81.00 trail guide sales at munc. bldg..

Total Deposits: \$581.00

Expenses: none

Current Balance: \$7,164.09

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:07 PM.
(Motion: Ceravolo, Second Ream: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.