

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

May 11, 2022

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 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 (via teleconference)	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Julia Horn (via teleconference)	X	
Dave Coates	X	
Julie Ream (V. Chair.)	X	

Associate Members Present: None.

Public Guest .None.

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

(Motion: Ream, Second: Coates, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Girl Scout nature walk and Tea House plantings.4/23. Rich said the event began with a nature walk on the Eldridge Trail to the Tea House, led by Rich and Julie. 8 scouts as well as scout leaders and some parents participated. At the Tea House the scouts planted 20 ostrich ferns at the base of the amphitheater near the Tea House and a yellowroot shrub and 2 Christmas ferns near the rail fence. The ostrich ferns were donated by Julie. The other plants were purchased at Triple Oaks for \$61.97. The scout troop funded the full purchase of the plants. It was a very successful event. Julie took photos for Julia to post on our Facebook page.

Bird Quest. Scott B. reported Bird Quest was a success despite the rain and windy conditions. He said 94 people had registered to participate. The weather did reduce the ability of the WEC team to bird. Lloyd Shaw cancelled the 7AM Tall Pines walk. Later Rich and Scott B. took a short walk on the Eldridge Trail but the rain and wind made it hard to see or hear the birds. The winning team this year was Sharon, Bill and Danny Ceravolo, who identified 87 species. Congrstulations Ceravolos! Scott B. said the lunch time gathering at Wheelabrator drew about 40 people.

Near Term Projects

Trail Maintenance

Eldridge Trail. Julie said the Tea House, and the new plantings there, looked good. She also weeded out some garlic mustard at Chuck's memorial. Scott C. said the puncheons beyond the first bridge are working well and can be removed as an agenda item. He also said the crushed stone in that area was holding up fine. Scott C. noted there was some black marker graffiti on the 2nd bridge. Scott C. also said there was some gravel left at the trail head. He said Dave K. told him the Borough removed what it could. We can either leave the gravel at the Eldridge

trailhead or move it in buckets to the Garden Trail. The Borough has moved some gravel to the Garden Trail already so we can apply it to muddy spots there. Scott C. also noted the little fence around the Stewart Estate plaque makes it look like a grave and suggested perhaps we should remove it. Scott B. said it was likely placed there by a neighbor and we should check with the neighbor before removing it.

Bog Walk. Scott C. noted he repaired a puncheon west of S. Marion near the Bog Walk. It had a sheet of decking on it that was starting to break. He replaced that with two 2 x 6 boards. Scott C. also said he needs to see how well he can stand and move around in the water at the Bog walk before beginning repairs. He said we will need to close the trail at the Bog Walk during repairs, directing people to the Garden Trail at that time. Scott C. said therefore our first actions would be to repair the small bridges on the Garden Trail. He said he needs 2 x 8 boards for that and thinks we may need to purchase some. We will also need to spread gravel on muddy spots on the trail.

Glen Trail. Rich reported that on May 1, Sharon organized the planting of the 8 shrubs on the exposed portion of the Glen Trail at the Ledu property. She and Rich had purchased the shrubs from Triple Oaks and Platt's for a total cost of \$247.97. The shrubs were 2 inkberry, 2 winterberry, a high bush blueberry, a sweet pepperbush, a red chokeberry and a fothergilla. Volunteers planted, mulched and watered the shrubs. Mr. Ledu ran a hose through his back fence for our use. Sharon has set up a watering schedule for dry weather periods. In the fall the WEC will plant a number of trees along this section as well. It was noted the bench on the Glen Trail needs a new seating plank and needs to be reinstalled on the trail.

Mantua Creek Trail. Scott C. said a tree has uplifted and loosened a section of a boardwalk and surrounding soil. He took out some gravel to stabilize the base. Scott C. also said the gravel laid down near the little bridge near the Mullens property seems to have fixed the mud problem and the bridge will not need to be extended. He also noted that at Clay Hill the beaver continues to gnaw the lower bench but at a reduced level for now. Scott C. also noted the steep trail near the long boardwalk over the marsh upstream from Clay Hill is showing erosion and that putting in steps there is likely necessary. He also noted that some sections of board walk near the Mantua Ave. entrance are wobbly and need fixing.

Break Back Run Trail. Scott B. said he has been in touch with Dave Kreck and the Borough is taking steps to control the erosion at N. Jefferson. He said the Borough is constructing a berm at the driveway to prevent water flowing to the eroding gully and will remove the "hump" in the sidewalk that interferes with water flow. He said the Borough has received a grant to repave a section of Jefferson Ave. Dave C. said there is a steep section on the BBRT near a large dead tree where the installation of steps would be helpful.

Clean Communities Day, Sat., May 14. Scott B. said he would get out an email to volunteers and we can do a Facebook post to promote attendance. It is not certain what we will be doing that morning but we will bring equipment for a trash cleanup. It was also suggested we could remove large items such as the recliner near Wenonah Lake and a section of a basketball hoop near the trestle.

Newsletter items due 5/15. Scott B. said we need to include the route of the 4th of July Hike (actually on July 3). We decided to go from S. West Ave. through the tornado damage area, up the Glen Trail to highlight our plantings, then on to Clay Hill. It was also agreed we would mention some of our recent projects such as the beaver presentation, the girl scout hike and the Gateway service project.

Frank Eggert Memorial Student Awards. It was agreed we would give the awards as in past years to 2 graduating Wenonah students. The awards will be \$100 each. Rich will inform the school and make up the presentation certificates and packets. Graduation will be on June 17 at Gateway H.S.

Gateway Service Day, June 3. Sharon reported by email that she had spoken with Bob about the students doing the service project at Camels Back Run Loop. Bob said he wants students to trim bushes, mulch the trail and carry out debris. He said the Borough will deliver 3 loads of mulch to the site. Suzanne McAnaly said there would be 12 students and the project will be from 8:30 to 11:30. We will need to provide at least 3 wheelbarrows, clippers, loppers and trash bags. Sharon also said the Sustainable Jersey application has been submitted.

Annual WEC June picnic. June 8 at Wenonah Lake. Dave Coates has offered to do the grilling this year. Details will be coordinated later.

Dropbox account. Scott B. recommended the WEC open a Dropbox account for online storage of materials. He said the Friends of Tall Pines recently opened one as well. The "personal" account offers 2 terabytes of storage at \$120 per year. We would all share a single password. The account would be limited to commission members. Julie noted we should organize the folders for easy and logical access to materials. Scott B. said he would do that. (Motion: Ream, Second: Dilks, AIF)

Borough event permit issues. It was noted a local yoga studio was holding sessions in the conservation area and charging a fee. It was agreed that Scott B. would inform the Borough of this. It was also noted the Cherry Hill runners group has not yet applied for a permit for their possible Sept. event. It was agreed it is up to the Borough to enunciate a permit policy for when permits are required. This is compounded by the vagueness of the Borough ordinance on this matter. It was agreed that all parties should be treated fairly and equally and rules should be consistent for all.

Wenonah Park Restoration. It was noted that numerous tree plantings have taken place in the Park and the restoration process seems to be going well.

Beaver presentation. Julie noted she and Rich will do the beaver program for Gateway AP seniors on We. June 1. It will take place on the Eldridge Trail and include a visit to the small beaver dam near Marion Ave. Hours are 9 to 11. Dave C. said he will attend and take photos.

Duckweed/Algae control for Comey's Lake & Dilks Pond. Rich noted we have received the second invoices for Comey's Lake and Dilks Pond. He has forwarded them to Karen for processing. We will receive 2 additional invoices for each lake. Both lakes are looking good.

WEC reusable shopping/tote bags. Dave suggested the WEC might have reusable shopping bags made up to sell as a fundraiser at events like the Farmers Market, 4th of July and Fall Fair. Dave will look into designs and costs.

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

Expenses	\$100.00 Bird Quest sponsorship
	\$247.97 shrubs for Glen Trail
	\$61.97 plants for Girl Scout Tea House plantings
Total	\$409.94

Deposits **\$61.97** donation from Girl Scout troop for Tea House plantings..

Current Balance: \$6,816.12

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:54 PM.
(Motion: Ream, Second Coates: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.