

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

June 8, 2022

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:38 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the at the Wenonah Lake picnic pavilion at the conclusion of the WEC annual picnic.

<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 Coates	X	
Julie Ream (V. Chair.)	X	

Associate Members Present: None.

Public Guest: Bill Ceravolo, Alex Pozza.

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

(Motion: Ream, Second: Horn, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Clean Communities Day, May 14. WEC volunteers removed a basketball hoop from the conservation area near the trestle and a large chair from the woods west of Wenonah Lake. We also did a trail cleanup on the Wenonah Lake Loop. Rich said he has not yet received a voucher from the Borough.

Gateway beaver program Weds. June 1. Julie reported the presentation went well. There were 7 Gateway senior AP students and 1 teacher. The presentation took place at 4 stations with display boards on the Eldridge and Monongahela Brook trails. Julie and Rich were the co-presenters. They pointed out gnawed trees, and tree protection efforts (painted trunks and wire) as well as a recent small beaver dam, now breached. The presentation ended at Comey's Lake, then the students finished by walking the Comey's Lake Loop.

Gateway Service day, June 3. The service project took place at the Camel's Back Loop. 15 students from 9th and 10th grade took part as well as 2 teachers and 1 senior. The students spread mulch from two piles along the loop trail. The also cleared out brush and took it to the curb for pick up. Sharon noted the area looks really good now and that all the bridges, including the new bridge by the dam, are in good shape. Sharon suggested that Gateway might adopt the trail as an ongoing project.

Near Term Projects

Trail Maintenance

Eldridge Trail. Julie reported that Eldridge Trail, Comey's Lake Loop and Indian Trails are in good shape, but that Indian Trail need a little clearing out.

Bog Walk. Scott Conway said he needs to do an assessment of the Bog Walk. He plans to go out in hip waders to see how feasible it will be to work on the Bog Walk while standing and moving in the water. He also said he plans to have a partner with him for safety purposes, in case he gets stuck in the mud or runs into difficulties. Sharon mentioned that she believed Bob and Dave installed a drainage pipe. If so, its location is uncertain and it might be clogged. Scott B. said he recalled several years ago that temporary ditches were dug to lower the water level in the Bog area. Scott C. said the removal of several downed trees a few years ago were also to improve water flow there. Historically, the water level at the Bog walk was considerably lower than it is now. Scott C. said lowering the water level may be necessary to doing the work on the trail. He said an alternate plan would be to relocate the Bog Walk to the south edge of the Bog. Scott C. also said that before we can begin the Bog Walk work, improvements must be made to the Garden Trail. While the Bog Walk work is being done, the trail will be closed and hikers will be re-routed onto the Garden Trail. Scott C. said the small RR tie bridges on the GT will need to be replaced or up graded. Also stone will need to be spread on a muddy spot on the GT. Bill suggested driving a large piece of rebar down into the bog to see how deep it would have to go before reaching hard pan.

Mantua Creek Trail Scott C. said the annual vegetation along the MCT needs to be weed wacked and he plans to go out and do that. It was noted Dave K. also plans to do some weed wacking on MCT. There has been a lot of vegetation growth around our plantings on the Glen Trail as well. That should also be weed wacked or pulled out so it doesn't hide or choke out our shrub plantings there.

Five Mile Trail Survey. Scott B. proposed we complete the trail survey. The first section from Wenonah Lake to the Mullens property was done on March 20. We will pick up there and continue on Sat. June 18 at 9AM. We will meet at the end of W. Cedar St.

Party Spots at Wenonah Lake. Scott C. reported he checked out the 3 dugout party spots. He said the one west of the old RR bed just had a few beer cans. The 2 on the east of the RR bed seem not to have been recently used.

Wenonah School student awards. Rich noted we have not yet received the names of the two students. He will make up the packets when he gets the names. Graduation is on June 17.

Independence Day Hike, Sun July 3 at 11 AM. Scott B. added a rain date of Tues. July 5 at 11AM. Scott noted the recent Lions flier erroneously had the starting time as 3 PM. Sharon said she will check to make sure the correct time is on the 4th of July program.

Wenonah Lake hike. Scott B. said he had been contacted by Erica Walker, Wenonah Lake manager, about the WEC doing a hike for the young people in the Lake's swimming program. Alex Pozza said the hike can be for any age from young children to adults and we could pick the time and date. The Lake has live music on Fridays and doing a hike on a Friday prior to the music could provide a good turnout. Sharon and Rich agreed to work to put this together. We will need to suggest dates to Ms. Walker and determine the age group targeted. If it will be young children, we also need to confirm that sufficient adult leaders and parents will participate. Alex noted that he is starting a web site for a calendar of events of Wenonah organizations and asked us to send him info on our events. Julia said she would do so.

Tri-County Sustainability and new trails grant. Scott B. noted he had received info on the Tri –County Sustainability program (Camden, Gloucester, Burlington).He said he believes they are again offering grants, such as the one we received for Clay Hill, this year. The filing deadline for application is uncertain. Sharon said if we do apply, it would be important to have Wenonah recertified for Sustainable Jersey status. Our application for that has been filed. Sharon said grants could be for \$5,000 or \$10,000, and that she would look into this. If we do apply we would need a project. Suggested was a raised boardwalk on the north end of Wenonah Lake or the Bog Walk project. One drawback for the Bog Walk would be the possibility of requiring wetlands permits.

Wenonah Planting GoFundMe. There is a possibility that funds from the GoFundMe might be available for the WEC to do plantings in the conservation area. If so, we could use then to purchase trees for the planting on the Glen Trail this fall. Rich will go to Exley’s to get a sense of what tree species, tree sizes are available, and the costs for approximately 8 trees. It was noted that Exley’s also could deliver the trees to the site. Using a cart the trees might be transported on the trail or through access from the Ledu property. Sharon said she would check with Sarah Harbold to see what might be available.

GCL referendum. Scot B. noted there will be a non-binding referendum on Wenonah’s Nov. ballot on the GCL light rail project. It will have 2 questions:1. Do you favor the GCL being built? 2. Do you favor a station in Wenonah?

WEC T-shirts. Julia noted some people have been asking about the possibility of WEC T-shirts. Scot B. said that taking orders and dealing with the various sizes can be cumbersome, based on his experience with Bird Quest t-shirts. It was also suggested that orders could go directly to the T-shirt vendor, Corner Press. It was agreed that if we do T-shirts, we would user a different design from the volunteer shirts. It was also suggested that doing hats or tote bags as a fundraiser would be simpler than T-shirts.

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

Expenses **none.**

Deposits **none.**

Current Balance: \$6,816.12

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:39 PM.
(Motion: Ream, Second Horn: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.