

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

July 13, 2022

Vice Chairman Julie Ream called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 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 Coates	X	
Julie Ream (V. Chair.)	X	

Associate Members Present: None.

Public Guest:. None.

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

(Motion: Conway, Second: Coates, AIF)

Vice Chairperson's Report- Julie Ream

Mowing of conservation area behind 204 E. Pine St. Rich indicated a neighbor of the 204 E. Pine property made a complaint to the WEC last fall that the resident of 204 E. Pine was mowing a large section of conservation land behind his and neighbors' property. Dave Kreck was able to document on an aerial image the boundaries of the various homeowners' properties and of the conservation area. The matter was not resolved at that time. The complainant contacted Rich again in July 2022 and stated the mowing was continuing. The complainant provided the WEC with two videos. One video showed the person mowing but did not clearly show whether the mowing was on public or private land. The second video showed the extent of where the mowing has taken place, verifying that the mowed area was not just behind 204 E. Pine but on conservation land behind several properties, right up to the rise overlooking the Eldridge Trail. It was agreed that this was an inappropriate and unauthorized mowing on conservation land in violation of Ordinance NO 2016-6. Rich said there was no evidence the mower was knowingly violating the ordinance but could have simply initiated the mowing with the mistaken notion he was helping maintain the area. It was decided Rich would draft a letter to the mower and, explain that the public conservation lands are required by law to be kept in a natural vegetative state. The letter will make the assumption that the mower was simply unaware of the ordinance, and indicate the mowing of public lands should cease. The mower will be invited to discuss the matter with the WEC if he wishes and would be welcome to attend our meeting if he chooses. If the mower complies, we will take no further action.

Conservation area neighbors letter. The WEC briefly reviewed the letter, recently updated by Sharon. Several minor changes to the text were suggested, but it was decided to table a thorough review of the letter until the full commission could meet and discuss it. It was noted Scott B. has a database of all properties that adjoined the conservation area from when we did a similar mailing several years ago. It was also noted that we would like some wording in the ordinance strengthened, i.e. addressing unauthorized trails or mowing. Julie said when she had

approached Karen Sweeney, Karen was not enthusiastic about the amending process. Dave suggested we could use signage to educate the public about rules for conservation area use.

WEC T-shirts. Julie reported she spoke with Giovanni Postorivo of the Corner Press. He said there were 2 styles of t-shirts available; a fabric blend for \$12 per shirt and a v-neck cotton at \$10 per shirt. The \$12 shirt was considered softer and better quality. The price is for single color printing. It was suggested we order 12 fabric blend shirts for now with a mix of Sm, Med, & Lg sizes. The total cost would be \$144. We would pick a different color from the volunteer shirts. The front of the shirt would be the logo, the same as the volunteer shirts but the back text would be "A Friend of Wenonah Trails". Julie said the order would take 7-10 days and that Corner Press would save the screen for future pre-orders. It was decided to sell the shirts for \$15.00.

(Motion: Dilks, Second: Conway, AIF)

3 Interpretive signs (Wen. Lake, Dilks Pond, Comey's Lake) Julie suggested a new design for the content could have two panels (l & r). One would have information on the Mantua Creek Watershed, that the conservation lands are a part of. The other panel would have information on elements of the particular site of each sign. Julie also suggested that the signs contain a land acknowledgement of the Lenni Lenape people, whose land the conservation area once was. Julie said the challenge was to research and create the text and graphics for the signs.

Review

Trail Survey, June 18. Julie noted the trail survey, begun in March was completed on June 18. The survey is on Google Docs. The June data was added in green.

Fourth of July Hike. July 3. It was noted the hike from S. West Ave. to Clay Hill was well attended with about 25 participants. The walk included a side trip to the site of our restoration plantings on the Glen Trail. There were a number of families with young children participating.

Wenonah School graduation WEC student awards. Scott B. presented awards at the graduation ceremony on June 17. The awardees were Micah Frost and Lucas Baylor. The award to each student consisted of a check for \$100 and additional nature oriented materials.

Trail Maintenance

Comey's Lake Loop. Julie noted a gully has washed out again at the Lenape Trail entrance. She said we would need to fill that with larger stones. A dedicated run off channel or water bars might be a longer term solution.

Indian Trail. Julie noted the area at the street entrance needs some clipping back and mulching.

Glen Trail and the planting project. Scott noted he had repaired and reinstalled the Glen Trail bench. Rich reported that Sharon had talked with Gary Odenbrett about the tree plantings on the Glen Trail. It is likely that we will receive funds from the Wenonah Planting Fund for the trees and that Gary will assist us working through Exley's to locate and purchase appropriate trees. Gary had asked for a list of the tree species we want. Rich presented a list of species and said he would send it to Gary. Rich said he had also spoken with Bill Exley about our project.

Break Back Run Trail. Scott C reported that some of the WEC gravel had been used by the Borough to create a berm on N. Jefferson to control runoff from going into the erosion gully. The Borough plans to put in curbing at that site as part of a N. Jefferson St upgrade. Scott C. said we should be should ask to get the gravel back when the project is done, or ask the Borough to provide WEC with replacement gravel if WEC needs more gravel before the N Jefferson project is done. WEC currently has some spare gravel.

Wenonah Lake. Julie noted new beaver activity.

Mantua Creek Trail. Steps are needed on the slope north of the Willow St. boardwalk.

Bog Walk. Scott C. said that last year we originally planned to widen 9 of the 12 sections of the Bogwalk from 20" to 28" by laying new decking on the existing pylons. The 9 sections are over water. The 3 western sections are over land and marsh, and were previously upgraded by Bob. The original cost of the project was estimated to cost \$2,100, which was raised by a donation campaign.

Scott C has consulted with Bob on the current state of the Bog walk and they concluded that a new plan was needed, which would entail additional scope of work and therefore an increase in cost. The old support structure has deteriorated and will need to be replaced. An entirely new structure will need to be built. It will be higher, level, and wider than the old Walk. As such, all 12 sections of the walk will now be replaced.

Workers will be able to use the old Walk to stand on while building the new one. The old Walk will then be demolished and as much as possible of it be removed.

Scott said Bob had talked to Ed Anyzek, who gave WEC permission to use his property as a materials drop site, at the top of the hill just west of the bogwalk. The Borough can move the materials onto the Anyzek property, then WEC volunteers will just slide the materials down the slope to the work site.

WEC had purchased much of the needed Bogwalk materials in 2021. Scott C said to meet the updated project scope, we now need to purchase additional 3x10's, 3x6's, and 4x4's for about \$1100 and the needed bolts and fasteners for \$800. That brings the additional costs for the Bogwalk project to \$1900. Scott said the 3x lumber can only be purchased from Diamond M, which will charge \$100 for delivery. Scott said the \$800 cost for fasteners was a retail price (Home Depot price). He said Fazzio's in Glassboro has a wide assortment of bolts, nuts and fasteners at discounted prices and we may be able to save money going there.

Scott C. then made a suggestion that we take this opportunity to purchase additional 3x10, 3x6, and 4x4 lumber for other future projects, many of which will require similar 10' replacement sections for deteriorating phone pole bridges. Examples of such future projects are the MCT island boardwalk, the Garden Trail and Wenonah Lake. He said it would be better to purchase these items now and have them on hand at the storage shed than to make additional piecemeal purchases as each new project is initiated, and WEC will save on delivery costs as well. He proposed buying additional lumber that would total approximately \$2100. Total for the additional Bogwalk materials and additional spare lumber is \$4000. It was noted we have funds in our budget as well as in the FWT account that could go for this purchase. A motion was made to proceed and was approved. Scott said he plans to place the order tomorrow.

(Motion: Coates, Second: Horn, AIF)

Wenonah Lake Walk. Rich reported he and Sharon will schedule the walk sometime between Aug. 16 and 19, after the swim classes end for the day. We expect the walk participants to be children under 12. Sharon hopes to develop some activities, such as a scavenger hunt as part of the walk.

E-bikes. Scott Conway he is concerned that e-bikes on our trail could become a problem in future. It was noted that Borough ordinances ban motorized vehicles, but legal status of e-bikes is unclear.

Clean Communities grant. Rich reported he has signed the voucher for May 14 CC Day. We will receive \$380.

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

Expenses

\$200.00 Wenonah School WEC student awards.

~~\$16.95~~-pocket guides for Wenonah School WEC student awards.

\$216.95 total expenses

Deposits

\$6.00 trail guide sales.

Current Balance: \$6,605.17

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:11 PM.
(Motion: Coates, Second Conway: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.