

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

August 10, 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 Sr.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: Chris Chaapel.

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

(Motion: Conway, Second: Coates, AIF)

Public Guest.

Chris Chaapel spoke to the WEC regarding 2 issues of environmental concern. Firstly, she raised the harmful effects of spotlights and security lights on nocturnally active insects such as moths and fireflies. She referenced the works of entomologist Doug Tallamy, who has written on the subject. Artificial night illumination interferes with the ability of many moth species to complete their life cycles and reproduce. Since moth larvae are a critical food source for birds, particularly young hatchlings, the decreases in moths from light pollution results in a decrease in song bird populations as well. Chris asked if the WEC can take steps to educate Wenonah residents on the harmful effects of unnecessary outside lights on wildlife. It was suggested we could do a short article for the newsletter and as a pinned Facebook post on the subject that would link to a longer article on our website. Julia suggested we could do a monthly article on this and similar environmental subjects to educate the public about things they can do to protect our environment. It was agreed that we should increase our efforts on environmental education and increase the educational content on the website. Scott C. asked if there is scientific information on what intensities and wave length frequencies of light may be most or least harmful to various insect species. Rich said we can encourage residents to turn off unnecessary outdoor lights and use motion detectors on security lights. Sharon said the Green Team supports and can benefit from these educational efforts. She also mentioned the need for a light ordinance and that the Green Team is advocating for a water conservation ordinance as well. Julie said we should use more educational signage in the conservation area. She also said we can use public gatherings such as the Wenonah Farmers Market to get the word out.

Chris also brought up the topic of the Borough leaf collection. She noted that leaves are a great natural fertilizer and suggested that the Borough could make lightly mulched collected leaves available to residents for their gardens and soil enrichment. It was agreed this was a good subject for an educational article on Facebook and the website. The deadline for the fall newsletter has already past. It was noted we don't really know what the Borough does with all the collected leaves. It is believed that at least some municipalities deliver the leaves to farmers

to use a fertilizer. Chris said she will contact the Borough and report on the possibilities of making leaves available to residents. Dave said an active garden group or club would be a great advantage in promoting environmentally sound garden and lawn practices.

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Mowing of conservation area behind 204 E. Pine St. Rich reported he sent the letter on July 18 by certified mail to Mr. McGuire explaining the conservation area adjacent to his property was to be left in a natural state and that he was to cease mowing that area. Rich also relayed our actions to the neighbor who had bought the mowing to our attention and told her that if the mowing did not cease to contact us. Rich said she has not done so, which seems to indicate that Mr. McGuire is complying with our instructions.

WEC T-shirts. Julie showed us the design of the new t-shirt on her phone. It is dark green with cream color for the graphics and text. It is 100% cotton. Julie will have 12 shirts produced by The Corner Press in Pitman. The cost is \$12 per shirt. The cost for this order is \$144. Julie plans to have a table at the Wenonah Farmers Market to promote and sell the shirts. It was remarked we can have a table at the WFM as often as we like. There is no community organizations day at the WFM this year but there will be a special WFM in Sept. marking the tornado's anniversary. It is possible we could set up online ordering for the shirts using PayPal. It was agreed place additional orders with The Corner Press only as on demand and we will not keep a large inventory.

Mullica Hill Tri Club permit. 9/10. Scott B. said he has passed our input along to the Borough. We are not objecting to the event as it was described to us. The participants will meet and park at Wenonah Lake, walk the trails then gather for lunch in Wenonah Park. Scott C. said he would walk the trail in advance of the event to ensure there are no barriers or problems on the trails.

Trail Maintenance

Garden Trail. Scott noted the 3 small RR tie bridges are in need of upgrading but this will not need to be done prior to the Bog Walk construction.

Glen Trail. Gary Oddenbret is working with Exley's to secure trees for planting here in the fall. He recommended that most trees for this site be small enough to be potted. He also told Rich there are 3 medium size young American sycamores that self-seeded near the Borough garage and has offered them to us. Rich inspected the trees and said they are suitable for our purposes.

Wenonah Lake. Julie said she will shortly go out and paint several trees identified in the trail survey as vulnerable to the beavers.

Bog Walk. Scott C. reported the great bulk of materials needed for the Bog Walk have been purchased and are now stored near the shed. He said he purchased the needed fasteners at Fazzio's for approx. \$200. The same items would have cost about \$600 at Home Depot. Scott C. said only a few more items need to be purchased. Scott C. said he will meet very soon with Bob. Scott.C. said access for getting materials to the site by going through the Anzek property has been arranged and we are nearly ready to proceed to the construction. Scott B. said Jim Ramsey has offered to help. Scott C. said he could use Jim's help sorting the lumber prior to transporting it. Scott. C said the trail closing for construction will likely be quite brief. Scott C. said we now have to find the right volunteers. We don't need a large number since only a few persons can work on the Bog Walk at a time, but we must have volunteers with the skills needed for the job. Scott. C. will discuss this with Bob. Julie noted that John House, who made a sizable contribution to the Bog Walk project, inquired about the delays with the project. Julie explained the tornado caused much of the delay and that the Bog Walk was nearing the construction phase.

Wenonah Lake Children's Hike. Sharon reported we had tentatively set the walk for the period of Aug. 16-19. Sharon said she was not sure of the status of the walk with the Lake Assoc. and said she would reach out to Lake Assoc to confirm the hike was approved and to schedule a specific date and time. Sharon and Rich will conduct the hike.

WEC Dropbox. Scott B. reported that he placed a document on the top level of our Dropbox that contains links to the documents on lower levels, thus making navigating the site much easier. It was suggested we also can store WEC photos on Dropbox but first we must devise a system for arranging and accessing them, i.e. by date/year, trail or subject or person uploading them. The photos would likely not be searchable by Dropbox.

Conservation area neighbors letter. Scott. B reported he has updated the list of addresses for properties bordering the conservation area and placed it on Dropbox. Sharon had updated the letter and added an excerpt from the Borough Code that pertains to prohibited activity. Rich will look the letter over for any additional possible changes. We will need to discuss how to deliver the letter, by mail or personal delivery.

Monthly educational articles. Julia will look into how we can develop monthly articles on environmental education. (See fuller discussion in public guest section).

Sustainable Jersey Recertification. Sharon reported the Green Team application has been returned, with SJ requesting numerous revisions and additional details. For example, the section on Rx medication recycling requires we provide the actual weight of medications collected and recycled. We now have 125 points but need to increase that to 150. The deadline for re-submission is Aug. 28. She said we need to better document our projects and increase our emphasis on educational pieces.

WEC 2022 budget. Rich reported that based on the monies from our budget spent to date and those funds in the budget needed to pay for the final 3 invoices from Princeton Hydro for the pond treatments, we have a budget shortfall of \$659.85. Our 2022 budget is \$8,500.00. We have expenditures paid or pending of \$9,159.85. Rich suggested, and the WEC agreed, we transfer \$659.85 from the Friends of Wenonah Trails account to the Borough to cover our obligations. Rich will speak with Karen Sweeney and make arraignments

Friends of Wenonah Trails. Rich reported the Wells Fargo Bank is now refusing to accept checks made out to "The Wenonah Environmental Commission" because that name is not on the account. The bank had regularly honored those checks in the past. Rich is working with Wells Fargo to add "The Wenonah Environmental Commission" to the account as an ADB (also doing business as). This entails registering the term *The Wenonah Environmental Commission* as a trade name with the County. The fees for that will come to \$102. Rich hopes to have this accomplished next week.

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

Expenses

\$143.09 to Scott C. for Bogwalk materials and Glen Trail bench.

\$197.23 to Scott C. for fasteners for Bog Walk (Fazzio's)

\$59.53 to Scott C. for Bog Walk materials.

\$119.88 to Scott B. for the WEC Dropbox fee.

\$519.73 total expenses

Deposits

none.

Current Balance: \$6,085.44

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:00 PM.
(Motion: Conway, Second Ream: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.