

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting  
Minutes  
September 14, 2022

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 6:35 P. M. in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Tea House.

<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:** Bob Bevilacqua.

**Public Guests:** none.

The minutes of the August 2022 meeting were approved as corrected.  
(Motion: Ream, Second: Coates, AIF)

## **Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes**

### **Review**

**Wenonah Lake Kids' Hike. Aug. 18.** Sharon reported the hike around the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail, conducted by her and Rich, went very well. There were eight attendees, two adults and six young persons. Sharon had distributed a scavenger hunt activity sheet to the kids, who then enthusiastically sought out various natural items along the trail. At the conclusion of the hike, everyone was treated to frozen treats by Mike Mix.

### **Trail Maintenance**

**Bog Walk.** The Bog Walk is finished and open! Scott B. and the rest of the WEC congratulated Scott C. and Bob for a great job. Julie said she has some Bog Walk photos that she will put on a board for display at public events. Scott C. said there was still some lumber at the site that needs to be gathered up and moved. He said the split telephone poles that formed the walk way of the old bog walk have been cut into shorter sections. Some have been placed on the trail side hill on the Marion St (east) side of the Bog Walk and can remain there. There are also telephone pole sections on the RR (west) side of the Bog Walk. Scott suggested some of those can also be used on the east trail section. Scott said there was also sections of 3 x 10 and 6 x 8 boards piled west of the Bog Walk that he plans to repurpose them for rebuilding the bridges on the Garden Trail. He said moving the lumber could be a task for the Fall Work Party. Scott C. also said some of the metal sign posts anchoring the old bog walk could not be removed and remain in place. As a safety precaution, they have been capped with a PVC covering, which was painted black, to avoid a serious injury should someone fall there. Julie suggested a Bog Walk interpretive sign could be placed at the west approach to the Bog Walk. She showed a reproduction of a turn of the century hand colored post card showing the old Green's Lake dam and carriage road. She suggested this image and appropriate text about the former lake and the Bog Walk could be used for the sign.

**Camels Back Run “fort”.** Scott B. noted a “fort” construction near Camels Back Run downstream from the Tea House. It is constructed of found logs and branches. There was no evidence of any trees being cut. Julie said it was done by some elementary school aged kids. Scott B. recommended to it be removed so as not to encourage further activity there.

**Tree clearings on trails.** Dave reported there was a tree down on Break Back Run Trail near the Maple St. entrance. Scott C. said he would take care of clearing it, as well as clearing a small down tree near the Tea House. Scott C. reported he has cleared a large tree on the trail near the trestle and another on Mantua Creek Trail.

**Wenonah Lake Loop Trail.** Julie noted the trail was in good shape and so far this season there has been little new beaver activity. She will continue to monitor that as we move into fall. Scott C. said the foot bridge north of the lake still needs to be extended.

**Boy Scout Island.** Scott C. reported there is a new party spot, about half way out the trail to the old party spot. He said it didn't seem to have been heavily used but there were about a dozen landscaping blocks that formed a fire pit. He suggested he could bring them out to the main trail then have volunteers take them out of the conservation area

**Clay Hill.** Scott C. noted the shrub on the bottom section of the terrace next to the walkway is simply missing. It is unclear whether it was removed or was washed away during a flooding of the area.

**Glen Trail tree plantings.** Rich reported that Gary Odenbrett contacted him saying he had two trees (a tulip tree and a sycamore) that were removed from the park and are now in containers. He suggested they could be used in our fall planting project and further suggested we arrange to move them by truck to the Glen Trail trailhead area. The question arose as to what was the size and weight of the containerized trees, since that would clearly impact our ability to move and plant them. It was decided we would need to inspect the trees before we can make any decision on them. Sharon said she will contact Gary to arrange to meet and inspect the trees, possible on Friday. Rich said he would like to come along as well.

**Marion Ave. conservation area sign.** The old sign is now missing. It likely fell or was pulled from the post and is now gone. Julie has contacted Sign Boy about a replacement sign. Sign Boy recommended we get a ½ inch thick sign. The former sign was 1 inch but the holes of that one had to be beveled to fit the couplings. That would be unnecessary with a ½ inch sign. The cost of the ½ inch sign would be \$275. It was decided we would purchase just the one sign for now and monitor how well it holds up, rather than ordering multiple sign replacements.

(Motion: Ream, Second: Conway, AIF)

**Conservation neighbors letter.** The final draft of the letter was approved. It was decided that it would be too time consuming to do personal deliveries and that sending the letter by mail would be best. Scott B. said there were 93 properties that border the conservation area and he has a list of the addresses taken from the tax records. Julie said she would be willing to stuff envelopes. It was suggested the Borough might be able to assist us in printing the mailing labels. Julie said she would contact Karen to inquire.

**Public education efforts.** It was generally agreed that having public speakers come in to talk to town residents about environmental issues and homeowner best practices is beyond the practical resources of the WEC. It was agreed we would continue to get information out to residents using mailings, emails, website articles, Facebook posts and the town newsletter. Julia has begun to list monthly topics, starting with a short article on water conservation measures for lawns and gardens. Julie suggested a future article on ticks, entitled “Tick Talks”. Julie also mentioned she is a member of a beaver forum and would like to share their Facebook posts on our page.

**Wenonah Farmers Market.** Julie said she will be having a table at the market on 9/14 with t-shirts for sale. Dave said he can help with that. Julie also plans to have a table at the 9/29 market, the last market of the season.

**Harvest Festival Sat 10/15, 11 AM-4PM.** It was agreed the WEC will have a table at the fair. Scott B. will register us with the Home and School Wenonah.

**Mad Hatter's Tree Party.** The nature club event is scheduled for Sunday, Oct 23 from 1 to 3 PM on the Eldridge Trail and at the Tea House. Member of the WEC will meet to clean and spruce up the Tea House area closer to the time of the event. Several WEC member will take part in the Tree Party as well.

**Sustainable Jersey Recertification.** Sharon reported the Green Team has resubmitted its application for recertification. It has attempted to answer all the concerns and requests for further details from Sustainable Jersey. The submissions contain 200 points although only 150 are needed for recertification . Sharon said she expects to hear back from SJ by early Oct.

**GCL public meeting.** Scott noted there will be a Wenonah public meeting on the proposed GCL light rail project on Thurs. Oct. 13 at Wenonah School with DRPA officials. Scott B. will attend for the WEC.

**Rain barrel equipment.** Julie noted a bag with rain barrel equipment was left at her door addressed to Pat. It is likely that it is actually for Dave Kreck, who is doing a rain barrel workshop. Scott C. said he would take the bag, put in our shed and tell Dave K.

**WEC 2022 budget.** Rich said he spoke with Karen about the \$659.56 shortfall in the WEC 2022 budget and transferred that amount from the FWT account to Borough to cover all our obligations. With the receipt of the final Princeton Hydro invoices, our budget balance is now 0.

**Friends of Wenonah Trails.** Rich reported the Friends of Wenonah Trail account at Wells Fargo Bank is now updated to accept checks made out to "Wenonah Environmental Commission". The cost to us was \$102 in trade name registration fees that the bank required us to do.

### **Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since the August 2022 meeting.**

#### **Expenses**

\$288.00 to the Corner Press for t-shirts (two orders).

\$659.65 to the Borough to meet our budget obligations.

\$102.00 Trade name registration fees to the county to update the FWT account.

\$83.21 The Scott C. for Bog Walk materials.

\$40.07 to Scott C. for Bog Walk materials

\$1172.93 total expenses.

#### **Deposits**

\$380.00 Clean Communities mini-grant.

\$141.00 WEC t-shirt/trail guide sales.

\$521.00 total deposits

**Current Balance: \$5,433.51**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:47 PM. (in the dark)

(Motion: Ceravolo, Second Ream: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.