

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting
Minutes
October 12, 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 Guests: none.

The minutes of the September 2022 meeting were approved as standing.
(Motion: Ceravolo, Second: Horn, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Public Works activities in conservation. Scott B. noted a recent email from Dave Kreck indicated PW will be undertaking 4 tasks in the conservation area in the near future:

1. Installing a diversion berm at the Pine Street entrance to Eldridge Trail.
2. Backfilling the eroded side slope at Comeys Lake Dam
3. Clearing debris from the Comeys Dam Emergency Overflow
4. Video Inspection of the Dam's primary overflow device and outflow pipe, which we fear may have become partially unobstructed and could be slowly draining the lake as it was noted that the water surface elevation seems to have dropped.

Trail Maintenance

Eldridge Trail & Tea House. Scott B. said that Julie had informed him that she took care of the kids' "fort" near Camels Back Run downstream from the Tea House. She also said that beavers had felled a small tree on the trail but it was not a barrier to foot traffic. Julie said she plans to protect more trees in the area with wire and paint. It was noted that we should do a trail check and spruce up the area around the Tea House and amphitheater prior to the Mad Hatter's Tree Party on Oct. 23. Scott said he would speak with Julie to coordinate.

Glen Trail tree plantings. Sharon and Rich reported they had met with Gary Odenbrett. He has given us two quite large potted trees. One is a large sycamore, currently stored in the park. This tree is very large and heavy equipment would be needed to move it to the planting site. The second tree is a tulip poplar, at his home, somewhat smaller but would also power equipment to be moved. Sharon will contact Public Works to see what assistance they can offer. Rich and Sharon agreed they wished to purchase 6 smaller for a total of 8. On 10/7 they visited Exley's Nursery and spoke to Bob Exley. They decided to buy 3 young eastern white pines, about 4 ft. high. They also found some holly cultivars and a redbud. They inquired if those trees were cultivars of native species. Mr. Exley said he would research this. If they are

native, we would purchase 2 hollies and 1 redbud. Since we have not heard from Exley's on this question, Rich will call them. Planting for the trees from Exley's would be mid to late Nov. We would have the trees delivered. Exley's had offered the use of a cart to transport them to the planting site. We may need to coordinate with Mr. Ledu to use his property as access. Planting the two trees from Gary and digging the holes for the others could be done prior to the planting date. Sharon confirmed the cost of the purchased trees will be covered by the Wenonah Planting fund, which had offered us up to \$1200. The actual cost could be considerable less.

Dilks Pond. Rich reported one of the two sycamores donated by the STC and planted by the Borough in Dec. 2019 has been cut down at the base by a chain saw back in the summer. It is unclear who did this. Sharon will inform Gary about this.

Clay Hill rope theft. The middle of the 3 ropes on the railing at Clay Hill was stolen. Scott C. said there is sufficient rope left on the spool to replace it. He also came up with a better way of securing the ropes to the posts, using pipe straps and screws. He will be upgrading the rope attachments with this method.

School Trail dugout next to Block 21, lot 1. A rather elaborate covered dugout has been built on the School Trail near the Maple St. entrance and quite close to the house at 2 E. Maple St. Dave Kreck provided a tax map overlay that clearly shows the structure is on Borough property. This area where the School Trail runs is a paper street section of N. East Ave. between Elm and Maple Sts. We do not know who constructed the dugout but it is very close to the home at 2 E. Maple St. It was agreed that Rich would write a letter to the homeowner, Marvin Clark, explaining the structure is illegally built on Borough land, and that if a member of the homeowner's household is responsible, the structure should be dismantled and the site restored. If the homeowner is not responsible for the construction, we would ask if he is aware of who did build it. Further actions will be determined by the homeowner's response.

Fall Work Party, Nov.5. Scott B. said we need to plan what activities we will schedule for the day. He said it had been suggested that volunteers could remove some lumber from the Bog Walk construction site, but most of that seems already to have been moved. Planting the two large trees from Gary on the Glen Trail was also suggested, as well as digging the holes for the other 6. Possibly clearing leaves from the School Trail, near Elm St. was also suggested.

Conservation area signs & interpretive signs. Scott B. said Julie had informed him that she was still waiting for a quote from Sign Boy for the S. Marion and other conservation area signs. Julie had also looked into the cost of the 3 interpretive signs. Fossil had given her a quote of \$2837, which included about \$1000 for art work. Julie will look into other vendors as well.

Letter to conservation area neighbors. Rich will add a reference about unauthorized structures to the text. Scott B. said the Borough can print up the mailing labels (approx. 90) based on the addresses we provide. Scott. B will inquire whether the Borough will cover the printing costs for the letter.

Public education efforts. Julia said she will be posting monthly articles on Facebook concerning environmental practices for homeowners. The upcoming article will be on fall leaf raking, collection and leaf mulching for gardens.

Harvest Festival Sat 10/15, 11 AM-4PM. It was agreed the WEC will have a table at the fair.. Scott B and Julie will work the information table. We will have a sign-up sheet and trail guides and sell WEC t-shirts for \$15 and the 1910 Green's Pond postcard reproductions for \$5 each. Sharon suggested in future, we could do other historic postcard reproductions if we find cards that relate to the conservation area.

Gateway Adopt A Trail. Sharon said she will follow up with Melissa Eckstein about the Gateway group adopting the Camel's Back Loop Trail area.

Mad Hatter's Tree Party. Oct 23 from 1 to 3 PM on the Eldridge Trail and at the Tea House. Members 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 Wenonah and the Green Team have been recertified with 175 points accepted (150 were required). Wenonah may now be eligible for additional grant opportunities. Sharon said the Green Team will meet on Oct. 25. Sharon said she is interested in transitioning the GT leadership to new members. Julia and Scott B will attend.

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

Plants for Clay Hill. Sharon noted she recently purchased several plants at Bowman's Hill WR for Clay hill, including some sedges.

Bog Walk Posts. Julia noted our recent post on Facebook on the new Bog Walk had 10,000 views and 200+ likes.

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

Expenses

\$20.47 to Scott C. for bolts.

\$360.00 to The Corner Press for WEC t-shirts.

\$168.00 to The Corner Press for WEC t-shirts

\$548.47 total expenses.

Deposits

\$270.00 T-shirt and Trail Guide sales at Wenonah Farmers Market.

\$270.00 T-shirt and Trail Guide sales at Wenonah Farmers Market.

\$540.00 total deposits

Current Balance: \$5,425.04

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:31 PM.

(Motion: Coates, Second Ceravolo: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.