

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

June 14, 2023

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:45 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	
Dan McCue	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 May 2023 meeting were approved as standing.

(Motion: Coates, Second: McCue, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review:

Stone Pool Garden tree planting. On May 16, Julie & Pat Ream and Rich purchased a flowering dogwood at Triple Oaks to plant as a memorial for Jaime Fallon at the stone Pool Garden. The cost was donated by Jaime's family. Scott C. had cleared and prepared the site and dug the hole. At 5 PM on May 16, the tree was planted by the WEC and members of Jaime's family. It was noted that a watering schedule would need to be worked out for dry weather spells.

Clean Communities Day, May 20. Scott B. noted he, Scott C. Dave & Dan removed the trash and furniture from the party spot on Boy Scout Island. Scott B. reported that as of last Fri. the site was still clean. Also Rich did a trash pickup on the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail.

5 mile survey on 5/21. The Wenonah Lake trails and Break Back Run Trail were the subject of the survey that day. It was noted there was a tree blockage on the trail on the east side of the lake. It was later cleared by Scott C. and Dave. Scott B. said the area around the north end of the lake was passable but should be monitored for future problems. He also noted there are several small bridges on the west lake section of the trail that need repair or replacement. On BBRT, Scott B. said that there is a 15ft.section of loose boards that should be replaced south of Elm St.. He said that Julie informed him that Pat (who installed the upgraded BBRT boardwalks a couple of years ago) has a plan for dealing with this section. Scott B. said he would update the survey spreads sheet with the data gained on the 5/21 trail inspection.

Scott B. and Rich Attend the Deptford EC meeting, May 18. Scott B. said the Deptford EC had invited Rich and Scott B. to their May 18 meeting to discuss Tall Pines State Preserve and the WEC respectively. The meeting was basically to establish communications between the DEC, WEC and Friends of Tall Pines in the hope that this could lead to cooperation and joint projects in future. The meeting was very cordial and productive.

Trail Maintenance

Wenonah Lake. In response to Mary Newcomb's (Wenonah Native Plant Garden Club) concerns about the short wooded trail at the north end of the lake's enclosed area, Scott C. and Rich inspected the trail. They there was a good mix of native plants, shrubs and trees. No problems with invasive species were noted. The trail has two bridges over wet areas. The one on the west end is larger and in good condition. A large metal drum is in the wet area there. The smaller bridge on the east end is walkable but in need of an upgrade. The only problem was where large limbs had fallen on the ruins of the old bath house and damaged the fence there. Clearing that area could be done fairly easily with proper equipment. Any repairs to the fence would be a Borough responsibility.

Eldridge Trail. Scott B. noted there is a large amount of poison ivy growing on tree trunks at the raised boardwalk. It needs to be trimmed back.

Web site redesign. Scott B. said he will be working on the redesign and that the new design will focus on the trail system. The section on the trail is the one most visited by users currently.

South Jersey Trails blog. The blog had rated the Wenonah trails as #3 in rank for South Jersey. The author has contacted Scott B. and plans to publish a state wide guide to New Jersey hiking trails. Wenonah will be included in the new book.

Independence Day Hike. The hike is scheduled for Sun., July 2 at 11 AM and will begin at the Eldridge Trail trailhead, and end at the Garden Trail at Clinton Ave. This would highlight the new Bog Walk and the work being done on the Garden Trail and at the stone pool.

July WEC meeting. Scott. B noted that since he will be absent due to travel plans, Vice Chairperson Julie will chair the meeting.

Wenonah Lake improvements. Dave reported that the planned improvements to the lake area, the upgraded restrooms, playground and landscaping will be put off until fall, after swimming season.

Game camera. Rich noted that Scott. C. had removed the game camera from the area just below the old dam for Green's Lake. Rich has the camera now. He said the wireless antenna is missing so no photos could be uploaded remotely. The camera does have an empty but working SD card. It runs on 8 AA batteries.

Donations. Rich reported the following on the donations received by the WEC in memory of Jaime Fallon: There were 16 mail in check donations for a total of \$2,025 and 21 PayPal donations for a total of \$2,013.28. The 37 donations totaled \$4,038.28. Donations were received between April 24 and May 30.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since the May 2023 meeting.

Deposits

\$4,038.28- Total donations in memory of Jaime Fallon (4/24- 5/30).

Expenses

\$19.09 to Rich Dilks for purchase of pocket nature guides for WEC student awards
\$200.00 (two \$100 checks) to the two WEC student awards recipients

Total Expenses

\$219,09.

Current Balance: \$10,172.40

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:14 PM.

(Motion: Coates, Second McCue: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.