

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting
Minutes
September 13, 2023

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 6:32 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	
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 August 2023 meeting were approved as corrected.
(Motion: Coates, Second: Conway, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review:

Comey's Lake fountain. Scott B. reported he had been in touch with Matt & Jaime Grandowicz (owners of the home overlooking Comey's Lake). He said they are now running the fountain from 8 AM to 6 PM daily. Scott B. also said the circuit breaker for the fountain had been tripped in August, then reset. It is not clear whether the circuit breaker is located in the house or is accessible from outside. Rich said he was told by Brian of Public Works that the Borough had replaced the fountain's motor a couple of years ago.

Trail Maintenance

Tea House. Scott C. was pleased to report that the Tea House has remained graffiti free since he removed the chalk writing in Aug. The Tea House trash can had also been emptied. It is unclear who did that. Scott C. said he had also cleared a large tree that had fallen on the path near the amphitheater.

Break Back Run. Scott C. said a large dead tree had fallen in a ravine on BBR Trail behind Rich's house. He cleared the section that was on the trail. Scott C. also said the upper section of the tree had broken and fallen in to a leaning position on trees on the other side of the ravine. He removed a bottom section of the leaning tree, but will not cut it any further. Scott C. explained that if the leaning tree section is shortened, it will cause the tree to settle in a more upright and unstable position.

Monongahela Loop Trail. Scott C. said a large tree had been reported fallen on the MLT just upstream from the intersection with the Eldridge Trail and that part of it had fallen into the stream, parallel to the beaver dam. Scott C. cleared the section that blocked the trail.

Eldridge Trail. Scott C. noted we had received a report that one of the decking boards on the raised boardwalk was damaged. When he inspected it, it found it broken and replaced it. Scott C. said the underside of the broken board had rot and fungus on it. He said that other decking sections were also showing rot on their undersides. The boardwalk was constructed with

pressure treated wood in 2017 and should not be having rot issues this soon after construction. Scott C. advised that we monitor the boardwalk for future problems. He also said that he did not know where the boardwalk lumber was purchased. but noted that Lowes and Home Depot use different methods of pressure treating wood, and that the wood from Home Depot is more resistant to rot when there is ground contact.

Mantua Creek Trail. Scott C. reported a tree had very recently fallen on MCT just upstream from Clay Hill. He cleared the tree from the trail and also rescued a sapling that had been bent over by the fallen tree. Scott C. also reported the upper bench at Clay Hill had been vandalized. A couple of small designs had been cut into the front of the bench's back. Scott C. reported that during the recent heavy rains, the flood waters at Clay Hill came up to the top of the lower bench.

Break Back Run Trail. Scott C. reported the blue tarp visible from the trail near the north end of Jackson Ave. was covering a trailer belonging to the last house on N. Jackson. There is no "fort" at that location.

General maintenance. Scott C. said he had walked most of the trail system recently (excluding the Wenonah Lake area) brushing the trail summer vegetation with clippers. He said the bridges and puncheons were in generally good shape. He also said the water was draining well along low sections of the trails and was not causing problems. Dave mentioned that the Wenonah Lake Loop and Eggert Trails were also in generally good shape.

West Cherry St. access trail. Scott C. reported the plywood ramp on this trail, near the WEC shed, is falling apart and the trail's utility is now questionable.

School Trail. Scott C. said that a construction trailer with Fla. tags has been parked on the trail just in from the Maple St. entrance. He said it had been there for at least 3 week. Scott C reported this to the Mantua Police.

Wenonah Harvest Festival., Sat. Oct. 21, 11 AM to 5 PM. It was agreed that the WEC would have an information table at the Festival in Wenonah Park. Items will include trail maps, t-shirts and beaver posters. Dave, Scott C and Scott B. will man the table. Rich will register the WEC table with Wenonah Home and School, requesting table space next to the table for the Friends of Tall Pines.

Mad Hatter's Tree Party, Sun. Oct 29 at 1 PM. The WEC will make sure that the Eldridge Trail and Tea House area in good shape for the event. Scott C. said he could weed wack the amphitheater about a week before the Party. Scott B. noted the nature club is still looking for a Mad Hatter.

Fall Work Party, Sat. Nov. 4. Scott C. suggested one activity would be to move materials to areas where we have projects planned, such as ravine #6 on the BBR Trail or the west side of Wenonah Lake. The WEC will make specific plans for the work party at our Oct. meeting.

Borough requests 2024 meeting schedule. The Facilities Use Agreement, listing meeting dates and times, and the Organization Info sheet will be completed by Rich. He will also make up the 2024 WEC Activities Calendar and provide the Borough with a copy so that the events can be included in the Borough calendar.

Sign projects. Julie indicated she will be unable to attend future meetings. Julie also has some sign materials that she will send to Julia and Dave. She also has some beaver materials that she will be putting on DropBox.

New member search. The WEC is looking for a new member to replace Julie. It was suggested that we could put out a public notice, but it was agreed that for now, we would rather seek a new member informally, encouraging people to attend meetings and work parties.

Comey's Lake. Scott C. noted that the algae bloom that occurred on the lake in August is now much reduced. Continued treatments by Princeton Hydro, recent rains and the action of the fountain have all helped to mitigate the algae. The southern portion of the lake is essentially algae free and the algae is also now less prevalent in the northern section of the lake.

Thank you letter. Rich read a thank you letter the WEC had received from Maya Sanchez, one of this year's Frank Eggert Environmental Student Award recipients.

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

Deposits

None.

Expenses

\$119.88- WEC DropBox account renewal.

Current Balance: \$10,512.52

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:35 PM.
(Motion: Conway, Second Coates: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.