

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting
Minutes
October 11, 2023

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act 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	
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 September 2023 meeting were approved as standing.
(Motion: Coates, Second: McCue, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Trail Maintenance

Eldridge Trail. Scott B. said he walked the Eldridge/ Comey's Lake Trails and found them in generally good shape. The uprooted tree just before the first bridge below Pine St. has created a large hole that will need to be addressed. However, it was suggested that we wait until the erosion issues at Pine St. have been fixed by the Borough. It was agreed that a traffic cone be placed at the hole for the Mad Hatter's Tree Party on Oct. 29. The hole forces the trail to narrow at that spot and could be a hazard. A permanent fix to the hole could be done by installing boards on the hole's far side to hold dirt in place, then filling the hole with dirt or stone.

Tea House. Dave said would check the trash can prior to the MHTP. Also the amphitheater will need to be swept and spruced up prior to the MHTP.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave said he walked the MCT and Monongahela Brook Trail from Mantua Ave. to the Eldridge Trail and found trail conditions generally good. He noted there is a downed dead tree on the MCT. It is step over, not blocking access. It should be cleared but is not a high priority. Dave also noted a muddy area on MCT, near a small bridge just downstream from the island behind the Mullens property. The site will need to be improved by puncheons or laying stone there. Dan also noted the sink holes at the bulkhead at Clay Hill are eroding from below and creating muddy spots on the trail there. Dan also noted there was a significant growth of Japanese knotweed along sections of Mantua Creek. It is an undesirable invasive but very difficult to control.

Break Back Run Trail. Scott B. said he located the downed tree near ravine #5 that was reported by a resident. A large section of the tree trunk is currently leaning on another tree and will be tricky to cut.

Dilks Pond. Rich reported there has been no appreciable duckweed or algae on the pond this year even though the WEC decided not to have Princeton Hydro treat the pond. He said there would be no reason to have the pond treated unless there is recurrence of duckweed or algae in future years.

Fall Festival in Wenonah Park, Sat. Oct.21, 11 AM-5 PM. Rich said we have reserved a space for an information table. It will be adjacent to the Friends of Tall Pines table. Scott B. said he believes the WEC table is stored in the shed and will bring it to the Fair. Rich will bring Trail Guides, a beaver info sign and one of the historic conservation area signs. Dave said he would bring his laptop and have it play the Clay Hill renovation video in a loop.

Mad Hatter's Tree Party, Sunday, Oct. 29, 1 to 3 PM. Scott C. had previously offered to trim along the Eldridge Trail prior to the event. The amphitheater will also need to be swept.

Fall work party, Sat. Nov.4. It was suggested that volunteers could be used to move materials to sites where work is needed, such as the bridge area at ravine #6 on the BBR Trail and west side of Wenonah Lake. The laying of stone was also a possibility. We will also confer with Scott C. about his recommendations for the work party.

Clean Communities Day, Sat., Nov.11. Scott B. said the WEC will participate but we have not yet determined what specific activities we will be engaged in.

WEC 2023 budget. Scott B. noted our current budget likely has a significant unspent balance. We will need to determine what funds should be spent or encumbered for a specific project and carried over to 2024. Rich will get a copy of the current budget from Karen and let the WEC know the exact balance we have to work with.

Materials from Julie. Scott B. said Julie has up loaded much of the materials she has to our DropBox. He said she is still planning to forward info on the sign projects to Julia.

Planning Board. Planning Board rep. Scott B. reported that there have been changes to the Borough's solar panel ordinance. He said the maximum Kw per square foot allowance has been doubled from the original amount and will be doubled again in the near future. He also said the ordinance now permits panels to be installed facing the street.

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

Deposits

None.

Expenses

None.

Current Balance: \$10,512.52

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:13 PM.
(Motion: McCue, Second Coates: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.