

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting
Minutes
November 8, 2023

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 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: Cody Demaria

The minutes of the October 2023 meeting were approved as standing.
(Motion: McCue, Second: Coates, AIF)

Public Guest Remarks

Cody Demaria stated he recently moved to the area from the Bronx and was seeking to get involved with local community groups, such as the WEC. Chairman Barnes gave Cody an overview of the WEC, its mission and projects. Cody was invited to take part in the Clean Communities event on 11/11 as a WEC volunteer and also invited to attend the next meeting of the Friends of Tall Pines on 11/14.

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Wenonah Fall Festival, Oct. 21. Rich reported that the WEC info table at the festival was well received. Dave hosted the table, which was adjacent to the Friends of Tall Pines table, hosted by Rich. Attendance was down a bit at the festival due to cool and windy weather but the event was a good opportunity for the WEC to interact with the public and promote its projects. \$52.00 was raised from Trail Guide sales and donations.

Mad Hatters Tree Party, Oct. 29. Rich, Scott B. and Dave, all of whom participated in the event, said this annual event by the GCNC was successful. Attendance was down somewhat from previous years but attendees were enthusiastic. A good number families with young people attended. The WEC had brushed the Eldridge and Comey's Lake Trails and spruced up the area around the Tea House for the event.

WEC Fall Work Party, Nov. 4. Scott B. said he had conferred with Scott C. to organize the activity. The task was to fill a large hole from an uprooted large tree near the first bridge, below Pine St. at the edge of the Eldridge Trail. The hole was a safety hazard and would cause erosion on the trail itself. Scott B. said he ordered a load of fill dirt from the Borough to be moved by wheelbarrows from Pine St. to the hole. It turned out the amount of fill dirt was insufficient to fully fill in the hole. Bob B. then delivered some old cinder blocks and cement slabs to help fill the hole. The volunteers were able to prevent further trail erosion at the hole and removed the caution tape at the site. Scott B. noted there is an erosion problem on the trail

section from Pine St. to the bridge but that a final remedy would be dependent on the Borough controlling the storm runoff from Pine St.

Near-Term Projects.

Trail Maintenance

Tea House. This area is in good shape, having been cleaned up for the MHTP. There have been no recent incidents of graffiti.

Mantua Creek Trail. Scott B. said he had conferred with Scott C. about the muddy area near the small bridge just west of the Mullens property. One solution would be to lay more stone on the trail there. Scott C. had told Scott B. that extending the bridge would be the best long term solution at that site.

Break Back Run Trail. Scott B. said that Scott C. had cut the fallen tree at ravine #5. A pending project for BBR Trail is the extension of the boardwalk on the trail section south of W. Elm St.

Wenonah Lake- Eggert Trail sign stolen. Scott B. said that Bob B. has replaced and installed the trail sign at his own expense.

School Trail. Scott B. noted there is still construction debris on the School Trail near Maple St. The trailer is no longer parked there. It was suggested volunteers could haul the debris to nearby Public Works with wheelbarrows as part of the Clean Communities activities.

Clean Communities Day, Nov. 11. Scott B. suggested WEC volunteers could do a trash cleanup at Wenonah Lake along Princeton Blvd. and Maple St. Rich said he would provide grabbers and trash bags. Vegetation around the stone bench on Maple St. should also be trimmed back.

2023 budget. It was noted that there is a substantial balance of \$4970 left in our current budget. Scott B. said that Scott C. had expressed an interest in purchasing a larger electric chain saw. Budget monies could also be used to purchase lumber for future projects or materials for trail repair at Pine St. It was also suggested that funds from our current budget could be encumbered to go toward the Princeton Hydro treatments of Comey's Lake in 2024. The estimated cost of the treatment would be a 15% increase over the 2022-23 costs of \$3530. That amount would come to \$4059. Rich will make the request to Karen.

Volunteer Appreciation Night, Dec.13 at 6:30 PM. Scott B. said he would send out an email to get things organized closer the event.

Monthly educational articles. Julia said she is putting together an article centered around Native American History Month (November).

Borough winter newsletter. Scott B. said he would promote our two winter hikes; the Moonlight Hike on Jan 26 and the 5 Mile Hike on Feb.24.

Sign project. Scott B. reported that Julie Ream has uploaded her materials for the sign project to DropBox. Julia said Julie also has some physical materials that she will get to Julia. Once that is done we can begin to move forward on the sign projects.

Aerial Map of Wenonah Trails. Dave said he has an idea for creating a poster size aerial photo map of Wenonah which would highlight an overlay of the trail system. Scott B. said he had data layers that can be used to create the map.

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

Deposits

\$52.00 trail guide sales and donations from the Fall Festival

Expenses

None.

Current Balance: \$10,564.52

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:10 PM.

(Motion: Horn, Second Coates: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.