

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting  
Minutes  
December 13, 2023

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:42 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the conclusion of the WEC's annual Volunteer Appreciation Night 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	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Julia Horn	X	
Dave Coates	X	

**Associate Members Present:** none.

**Public Guests:** Cody Demaria

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

## **Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes**

**The passing of Wenonah Environmental Commission member Scott Conway.** The WEC reports with great sadness the sudden passing of our fellow Commission member, John Scott Conway. In his time on the Commission, Scott made major contributions to projects such as the Clay Hill restoration and the Greene's Lake Bog Walk. In addition, he spent countless hours on additional trail and infrastructure projects throughout the Wenonah conservation area. His enthusiasm, technical expertise and selfless commitment to the trail system and the WEC's mission contributed substantially to the success of many of our projects. We extend our most sincere condolences to Scott's family. We are honored to have worked with him as a friend and colleague. He will be sorely missed.

### **Review**

**Clean Communities Day, Nov. 11.** Scott B. reported that WEC volunteers removed construction debris and trash dumped at the north end of the School Trail.. Volunteers also performed a trash cleanup along the Wenonah Lake west side trail and near Princeton Blvd.

### **Trail Maintenance**

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Scott B. reported he had walked the trail after the heavy rains that occurred on Sunday. He said Clay Hill had been flooded, as had the Bog Walk on the Monongahela Brook Trail. He said the waters have since receded and the trails are now in good shape.

**Glen Trail.** Scott noted he had cut back encroaching vegetation including at the dam/bench site. He noted some graffiti on the bench and suggested it should be repainted.

**Break Back Run Trail.** Scott B. Scott Conway had been working on the boardwalk at ravine #6 up to the time of his heart attack. Rich noted the boardwalk remains partially completed and that there are boards and cut sign posts along the access trail from his yard to the work site at ravine #6. Rich recommended those materials be retrieved and stored until the work on the boardwalk can be completed.

**Recent purchases by Scott Conway.** In the latter part of November, Scott Conway had made a number of purchases on behalf of the WEC of lumber, various fasteners, a cut saw, chain saw and weed whacker equipment and a new 20" bar chain saw. Scott C. had communicated to Scott B. and Rich that the total expenditures came to \$2498.07. Scott C. also forwarded to Scott B. and Rich copies of 3 Home Depot receipts and 2 receipts from Foulk Lawn & Equipment for these expenses. On Nov. 28 Rich submitted these expenses to the Borough for reimbursement to Scott C. from the WEC budget. The 20" chain saw remains with the dealer since at the time of purchase, Nov.21, there was a safety recall and the dealer was awaiting the replacement part.

**Conservation Area signs.** Scott B. suggested that since a substantial balance still remains in our 2023 budget, this would be an opportune time to purchase 2 new conservation area signs to replace current signs that will degrade due to weathering and age. The cost is approximately \$500. Scott B. will check with Sign Boy about doing the signs.

Motion: Coates, Second: McCue, AIF)

**Moon Light Hike. Fri. Jan. 26 at 8:00 PM.** It was decided that the hike route will be the Eldridge Trail/Comey's Lake Trail loop. Participants will gather at the E. Pine St. trail head.

**Green Team.** Julia noted the Green Team has requested we and other organizations gather and forward 2023 project and event documentation and photos. Scott B. said he is gathering what info he has for the WEC.

**Monthly educational articles.** Julia reported she had posted our most recent article on Native American Heritage Month (November).

**Sign projects.** Julia reported she has now received the materials from Julie Ream and will begin to work on designs. Possible sign projects include a Bog Walk sign, a watershed sign and the 3 Joe Berg signs.

**Possible conservation area memorial for Scott Conway.** Scott B. noted he received an inquiry from Scott Conway's daughter Lauren about the possibility of a memorial to Scott Conway in the conservation area. Suggestions were made to do a stone marker or perhaps to include a memorial section on the proposed Bog Walk historical sign. The WEC will continue discussions on this matter

**Finding new WEC members.** Scott said Mayor Doheny has been on the lookout for new possible members for the WEC. Julia also said she knew of someone who may be interested.

**Proposed Borough tree ordinance.** Scot B. said that Dave Kreck had mentioned the Borough is moving toward adopting a new ordinance that will regulate tree removal and plantings on private property.

**Wenonah Lake.** Dave C. said the renovation at the Lake Park will begin soon. The Lake Park will be closed to the public until sometime in Feb. 2024.

**Aerial Map of Wenonah Trails.** Scott B. has sent Dave C the overlay maps. 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.

**2024 WEC budget.** Rich said the Borough has sent him the form for the WEC to request its 2024 budget. After discussion, the WEC voted to make a request for \$7,500.00, one thousand dollars less than we requested in 2023.

(Motion: Coates, Second: Horn, AIF)

**Scott Conway memorial contributions.** The family of Scott Conway has asked that memorial contributions for Scott be made to the WEC, Friends of Wenonah Trails account. All contributions are to be electronic through PayPal. There may be slight discrepancies between the amounts reported by PayPal and the amounts actually deposited. This is due to the way fees may be handled in PayPal transactions. Rich will be tracking the PayPal donation amounts and will reconcile them, when needed, with bank deposit records at the end of the donation period before formally adding them to the current report for FWT account activities.

### **Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since the November 2023 meeting.**

#### **Deposits**

None, other than memorial contributions for which the FWT balance will be adjusted at the end of the donation period. (see above item).

#### **Expenses**

None.

**Current Balance: \$10,564.52**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:26 PM.

(Motion: Horn, Second McCue: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.