

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting
Minutes
January 10, 2024

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting 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: Bob Bevilacqua

Public Guest: Shane Walsh

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

Reorganization.

The following WEC members were nominated for the offices listed below.

Chairman: Scott Barnes

Vice Chairman: Julia Horn

Secretary: Rich Dilks.

Planning Board Rep. Scott Barnes

For each position only the one nomination was made and all officers were confirmed by a motion with a unanimous AIF vote.

(Motion: Horn, Second: Coates, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Trail Maintenance

The focus of the trail management discussions was the downed trees and other problems resulting from the January 9 rain storm and accompanying high winds.

Tea House/ Eldridge Trail. Bob B. reported a large tree down and blocking the trail on the Eldridge Trail. Dave also noted a 2nd tree down on the Eldridge Trail and an additional tree down on the west side of the Comey's Lake Loop Trail.

Break Back Run Trail. Dave also reported two trees down on the BBR Trail, one quite large near the intersection with the W. Elm access trail.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave said he would walk the MCT to determine if there are any storm related trail blockages. Scott B. said the sink hole at Clay Hill is an ongoing problem and will need to be addressed. Dan mentioned the muddy spot near the small bridge near the Mullens property. He recommended extending the boards there to remedy the problem.

Wenonah Lake. Julia said she would walk the trail to check for problems and inspect the low section at the north head of the lake.

Bob said he will organize a work party for Sat. Jan. 13 with John Forren to clear the Eldridge, Comey's Lake and Break Back Run Trails. Shane and Dave offered to assist as well.

Bridge repairs. It was noted that volunteer John House has completed the bridge project at ravine #6 on the BBR Trail, that Scott C. and he had been working on in late Nov. John also replaced a small bridge on the BBR Trail near Maple St and repaired the broken boards on the raised boardwalk on the Eldridge Trail. The WEC is very appreciative of John donating his efforts and skills to complete those projects.

WEC 2023 budget. Scott announced that the Borough has agreed to encumber the entire balance remaining in the 2023 budget of \$2,471.93. The Borough has stipulated those fund must be spent by March 2024.

Conservation Area signs. Scott reported he received a quote from Sign Boy for the signs of \$325 each. That is \$50 increase over the cost in 2022.. The WEC decided to order 2 signs to be held as replacements for the 2 aging signs at Maple St and W. Mantua Ave.

Motion: McCue, Second: Horn, AIF)

WEC tools and materials returned from Scott Conways house. Rich reported that Wendy Conway had gathered together all the WEC tools and supplies at Scott's house. Rich picked them up on Dec. 30. The items consisted of:

- a Stihl 14" chain saw
- a Stihl battery charger
- 1 Stihl AP3005 battery
- 1 Stihl AP5005 battery
- 1 coil of weed whacker string
- 1 box of 3 1/2" screws
- 1 box of 2 1/2" screws
- 1 box of 2" screws
- 1 box of 3/8" flat washers

All items were stored in the WEC shed except the batteries and charger. Rich is holding them because storing them at low winter temperatures would drain the batteries. Rich also noted that he collected the tools Scott C. was using at the ravine #6 and some lumber and sign posts left over from the job. All items have been returned to the shed area except 2 large pieces of lumber too large for Rich to transport. They are currently stored in his garage.

New chain saw. Rich noted that Scott C. had bought a 20" chain saw on Nov. 21 at Foulk Lawn Equipment in Wilmington DE but was unable to take possession due to a part recall. Dave offered to contact Foulk to determine the status of the saw and to make arrangements to pick it up.

Moonlight Hike, Fri. Jan. 26 at 8 PM. The hike will begin on the Eldridge Trail head at E. Pine St and continue to the Tea House. Scott will promote the hike with an email and Julia will promote it on Facebook.

Sign projects. Julia reported she has largely completed the text for 3 signs; the Bog Walk sign, the Mantua Creek Watershed sign and the Indigenous History sign. The Bog Walk sign would obviously be placed at the Bog Walk. The other two signs might be able to be placed on the current sign posts from the Joe Berg signs at Wenonah Lake and Comey's Lake. We would need to determine whether those posts are suitable for the new sign or whether we would need to construct others. Julia will be looking into the costs from Fossil for acrylic signs similar to the signs now at the Tea House and Clay Hill. We will also need to get the graphics for the signs

including the map image for the watershed sign and the tinted historic photo of Greene's Pond for the Bog Walk sign. We may be able to do a high resolution scan of the post card reproduction for that.

Conservation area memorial for Scott Conway. The WEC decided to create a memorial space for Scott Conway on the Bog Walk sign. The sign will include the historic Greene's Pond photo with accompanying text and also a photo of Scott with brief text honoring him for his contributions to our trails including the construction of the new Bog Walk.

New WEC member. Wenonah resident Shane Walsh had been invited to the meeting to explore the possibility of his joining the WEC. Shane addressed the WEC and told us a bit about himself. He said he moved to Wenonah in 2015, had received a degree in geography from Rowan and was employed by the DEP dealing with water allocation issues. He said he had been interested in joining the WEC earlier but there had been no open spots at the time. He said he has served on the Shade Tree Commission and was active in the Fire Co Aux. and American Legion. Chairman Scott Barnes asked Shane if he was agreeable to accepting appointment to the WEC and Shane replied in the affirmative. Scott said the swearing of the oath of office could be arranged through the Borough. Welcome aboard Shane!

Scott Conway memorial contributions. Rich gave a report on the donations received in memory of Scott Conway. He said there were 18 donations in all and the total amount received by the WEC was \$3,023.90. 17 of those donations were received through PayPal. The net total of the PayPal donations was \$2,023.9, which was deposited in the Friends of Wenonah Trails account as a lump sum on Jan.4. There was an additional donation by check of \$1,000.00 by Mary Conway on behalf of the Conway family. Thank You letters were sent to all donors. Rich will send a list acknowledging the donors to members of Scott's family.

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

Deposits

\$430.00 Clean Communities grant
\$1,000.00 check donation in memory of Scott Conway
\$2,023.90 PayPal donations in memory of Scott Conway
\$3,453.90 total deposits

Expenses

None.

Current Balance: \$14,018.42

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

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.