

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting
Minutes
February 14, 2024

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 PM 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
Shane Walsh	X	

Associate Members Present: none

Public Guest: Matt Wood

The minutes of the January 2024 meeting were approved as corrected.
(Motion: McCue, Second: Horn, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Moonlight Hike (21st annual) Fri. Jan. 26. Scott reported that it was a very foggy night. There were 10-12 participants, including young people and dogs. The trails were a bit muddy in places but still passable and the hike was a successful one.

Newsletter. Scott said the deadline for the spring newsletter was Feb. 13. He said he included a promotion of our spring work party (March 23), The GCNC Bird Quest (May 4), a reminder that dumping is not permitted on conservation lands and a tribute to Scott Conway.

Trail Maintenance

Tea House/ Eldridge Trail/ Comey's Lake Loop. Dan reported the area around the Tea House was a bit muddy from recent rains but there were no serious problems on the trails.

Monongahela Loop Trail. Generally good condition, no major problems

Monongahela Brook Trail. Generally good condition, no major problems.

Glen Trail. Scott suggested the graffiti on the bench can be painted over rather than sanded down. Scott also said vegetation along the trail needs to be cut back and that this should be done before the poison ivy leaves out.

Mantua Creek Trail. There are a couple of sink holes that need attention. One is at Clay Hill near the bulkhead and there is a recurring sink hole on MCT close to the creek near W. Cherry St. Both will need to be filled.

Wenonah Lake. Julia reported that the north and west sections of the lake loop trail are wet and a bit muddy in places but are still passable. Bridges and puncheons on the west side of the lake will need to be upgraded or replaced at some point.

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. Unspent funds will revert to the Borough. Scott said he will be engaging Sign Boy to create two Conservation Area signs at \$325 each (total \$650.) as replacements for the 2 aging signs at Maple St and W. Mantua Ave . There are no plans to spend any additional funds from the 2023 budget.

Educational signs project. Julia reported that she has received a quote from Fossil that the three proposed signs would cost a total of \$3300. They would measure 24”H x 30” L.

Five Mile Hike, Feb. 24 at 1:00 PM. Scott said the trails are in basically good shape for this popular hike.

Educational articles. Julia said she plans to post an article in Feb. on the environmental problems associated with the run off from salt used on roads and other surfaces during snow/ice storms.

Green Team. Julia said the Wenonah Green Team is certified through 2025. She and Scott both emphasized the need to continue to photograph and document projects to assure they are added to the GT’s application for recertification.

Web site redesign. Scott said he is working on the web site design and will be using some design elements also being used on the GCNC’s web site redesign. He said the new WEC website will be simple and direct with a focus on the trail system and maps. The trails section is the most visited part of the current web site.

New WEC member. Wenonah resident Matt Wood had been invited to the meeting as a possible candidate to fill, the vacant 7th seat on the WEC. Matt said he has been a town resident for 6 years, has 3 children and works as a software engineer. He express an interest in Wenonah’s conservation area, our trail system and our mission. Chairman Barnes asked Matt if he is willing to serve on the WEC and Matt replied he was. With Matt’s acceptance, the WEC is now back to its full complement of 7 members. Welcome aboard Matt!

Scott Conway memorial sign dedication. Rich said that Scott Conway’s friend, Laurie, has informed him she plans to come from her home in California for the sign dedication ceremony when it is scheduled. The plans of Scott’ Conway’s family members are not yet known. The WEC plans to keep the dedication low key and simple and will inform Scott’s family when it is scheduled. Rich suggested we might do a tree planting in Scott’s memory as well, possibly at the stone pool garden. That could be a part of the ceremony if it is scheduled for spring or fall. Rich said he would take care of selecting and purchasing an appropriate tree.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since the January 2024 meeting.

Deposits

\$ 56.00 Trail Guide sales at the municipal building.

 \$40.00 check donation in memory of Scott Conway

\$96.00 total deposits

Expenses

None.

Current Balance: \$14,114.42

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:06 PM.

(Motion: Horn, Second McCue: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Rich Dilks, Sec.