

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting  
Minutes  
May 8, 2024

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 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	
Matt Wood		X

**Associate Members Present:** none

**Public Guests:** Alex Pozza

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

## **Public Comments- Alex Pozza: trail improvements inside John & Kathy Howard Park at Wenonah Lake.**

Alex said Lake Assoc. is pursuing trail improvements on the short trail in the northern section of the Howard Park. It plans to remove a dead tree blocking part of the trail. The Assoc. has reached out John Foren and the American Legion for volunteers. The Assoc. is also working with Bob Bevilacqua, who is replacing the inclines at the larger bridge. The smaller bridge on the trail needs replacement as well. Alex said the Gateway student Day of Service on June 7 will be at that trail in Howard Park. Alex said the Lake Assoc. and Borough wanted to confirm that the WEC has no objections or concerns with the proposed trail project. The WEC responded that it supports the project and has no objections.

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

### **Review**

**Bird Quest, May 4.** Scott B. reported the Gloucester County Nature Club's Bird Quest event, which he coordinates, was successful. There were approximately 90 participants. The WEC formed a team of Scott, Dave Coates and Domenic Lanciano. The team birded at Tall Pines and on the Wenonah trails and noted 34 bird species.

**April 20, informal work party.** Scott noted that Shane, Matt and he went out and cleared downed trees on Mantua Creek Trail, on the island boardwalk and one on the trail nearby, then checked the trail for other problems, finding none.

### **Trail Maintenance**

**Eldridge Trail.** The first (high) bridge has had some loose planks. The problem is that there is a plywood section between the iron girders and the planks. The plywood layer is now rotting, affecting the stability of the planks. Bob has done some repair at the bridge but a permanent fix

is needed. One suggestion was to put a plywood sheet over the entire plank surface of the bridge. The WEC will need to develop a thoughtful repair plan before taking action.

**Monongahela Brook Trail.** There is an ongoing flooding problem where that trail meets MCT and the Garden Trail.

**Wenonah Lake Loop Trail.** The 3 bridges on the west side of the lake are in need of repair or replacement. There are also muddy spots at the north end of the lake that will need additional puncheons. Scott said we need to work up a comprehensive plan for the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail.

**Chain saw storage.** Scott said he was concerned that storing our chain saws and batteries in the shed will expose the equipment to temperature extremes and he has security concerns. It was suggested that a WEC member take responsibility for storing the saws and batteries. It was noted that Matt (not present) might be willing to store them. If that is impractical, Dave said he also could store them as well.

**Unleashed dogs in the conservation area.** Scott said there had been a complaint about an unleashed dog in the conservation area. Scott said the Borough Code is ambiguous since it does not mention leashes and does not define “dogs running at large”. Scott said regulating dogs in the conservation area by ordinance is a Borough function, and will refer complaints on unleashed dogs to the Borough.

**Gateway Service Day, June 7.** Based on Alex Pozza’s statement at this meeting (see above) the Service Day will be at John and Howard Park at Wenonah Lake. The WEC would not be supervising students on that project.

**Clean Communities Day, Sat May 11 at 8:30 AM.** Scott said the WEC will do a trash pickup on the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail, as we have done in the past. Rich will provide the grabbers. It was suggested a trash pickup could be combined with a hike around the Lake Loop Trail.

**Independence Day Hike, Sat. July 6.** It was agreed the route will again be the Eldridge Trail/Comey’s Lake Loop. Scott noted that the walk in 2021 was to Clay Hill. 2022 was the same route, focusing on the tornado damage, and, 2023 was on the Eldridge Trail.

**Summer Newsletter.** Scott said he would mention the July 6 Independence Day hike, recent work parties (with photos) and the nature club’s upcoming South Jersey Firefly Festival at Tall Pines on June 29.

**Frank Eggert Memorial Student Awards, June 11.** It was agreed the WEC would again offer awards of \$100 each to 2 Wenonah School graduates. Rich will confirm this with the school and make up the packets. Scott will do the presentations.

(Motion: McCue, Second: Coates, AIF)

**June picnic.** Scott reminded the WEC that our June meeting will be preceded by the annual WEC picnic at Wenonah Lake. Dave has agreed to again serve as grill master.

**Educational signs.** Julia was unable to attend the meeting but Rich said Julia reported the full cost for the signs been lowered from \$4661 to \$4352 due to a revised and corrected Quote from Fossil. Rich said he sent in the deposit of \$2797 on April 15. Julia has sent him the Fossil mock ups of all three signs. Rich inquired with Julia about the use of the Greene’s Pond graphic on the Wenonah Lake (indigenous peoples) sign and a minor text correction on the Comey’s Lake (watershed) sign. The layout proofs for all three signs were very attractive and well done.

**Duckweed/Algae control at Comey's Lake.** Rich reported he had signed the contract with Princeton Hydro after last month's meeting. Treatments have begun at Comey's Lake and the we have received the first of 4 invoices from PH.

**Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since the April 2024 meeting.**

**Deposits**

none

**Expenses**

\$2,729.00- to Fossil as deposit for 3 educational signs.

**Current Balance: \$11,217.42**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:34 PM.

(Motion: McCue, Second Coates: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.