

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

June 12, 2024

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:36 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the at the Wenonah Lake picnic pavilion at the conclusion of the WEC annual picnic.

<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: Bob Bevilacqua.

Public Guests: none.

The minutes of the May 2024 meeting were approved as standing.

(Motion: Wood, Second: Walsh, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

Clean Communities Day and trail survey, May 11. Scott reported the WEC did a trash clean up on the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail. Scott remarked that there was very little trash on the trails. The cleanup was followed by a short trail survey by Scott and Shane.

Trail Survey on May 11.

1. North head of Wenonah Lake- There is a new debris dam that should be cleared.
2. Bridges on the west side of Wenonah Lake need repair or replacement. The worst is the bridge closest to Maple St. which has a fallen tree on it.
3. Muddy spot where the Mantua Creek Trail and Monongahela Brook Trail meet.
4. Monongahela Brook Trail- new muddy spot near the former Cornell house.
5. Mantua Creek Trail on west side of the RR racks. A muddy spot where a fallen tree crosses the trail (Tree was left in place to discourage dirt bike riders). (noted by Dan).

Dilks Pond Trail. June 1 work party. Shane and Matt worked on the trail, removing some fallen trees, weed whacking the trail and removing English ivy from trees in the area.

Glen Trail work party on June 6. Shane and Matt cut back vegetation and cleared the trail.

Eldridge Trail issues- Bob Bevilacqua. Bob reported that the repairing of the sloping trail section just off the Pine St. entrance is nearly complete. Bob added and graded crushed stone on that section of trail He said he still needs to put some additional stone down on the trail. He also said he needs to purchase more stone to reimburse the Borough for the stone used for this project. Bob also noted a problem with the 1st bridge over the Monongahela Branch. The bridge is constructed with two iron beams that have 2 x 6 boards bolted to them and decking planks in top of that. He said that water has gotten into the bridge and is rotting the 2 x 6 boards. Bob

said he has consulted with Dave Kreck about a repair strategy. The bolts and 2 x 6 boards will need to be removed and replaced. Bob hoped that Public Works can assist us this project and that we will also need some 2 x 8 boards. Bob also noted that he and John Forren have been repairing the two bridges in Howard Park at Wenonah Lake.

Frank Eggert Memorial Student Awards, June 11. Scott reported that he presented the \$100 awards to two graduating students at the graduation ceremony on June 11. The awardees were Miles Brown and Lucian Lomanno.

Summer trimming schedule. Shane suggested we can schedule Saturday morning work parties to trim back the summer vegetation on the trails. Sections of the Mantua Creek Trail and the Garden Trail are priorities.

Chain saw storage. Scott reported that he currently has the two chain saws, batteries and charger. We had decided earlier that they should not be stored in the shed. The weed trimmer is in the shed.

Puncheon workshop. Scott suggested that possibly Dan and Maria Ceravolo might be persuaded to do a puncheon workshop to familiarize WEC members and volunteers with the construction and installation of puncheons. It was suggested that John House would also be a good person to teach at the workshop.

Scott Conway memorial tree planting. Rich has suggested the tree planting and also recommended the tree be planted in the Stone Pool Garden area. Rich said he would cover the cost of the tree.. We would not plant the tree in the heat of summer, but would wait for Sept.- Oct.. The tree planting might be scheduled for the same time as the dedication of the memorial sign if that is practical.

Trail Maintenance

Garden Trail. In need of summer trimming. The bench has been hit with graffiti and needs to be repainted.

Mantua Creek Trail. One of the wooded steps at the Mantua Ave. entrance has come loose and needs to be reinstalled. The sink holes seem to be stable for now.

Bench art project. Matt suggested one way to discourage graffiti on the benches would be to have a community art project to decorate the benches. We would need to find an arts organization to partner with on this project.

South Jersey Firefly Festival. This Glo. Co Nature Club event at Tall, Pines is scheduled for Saturday, June 29 at 8 PM. Several WEC members will be taking part.

Independence Day Hike. The hike is scheduled for Saturday, July 6 at 11 AM. The hike will begin at the Eldridge Trail head on Pine Street and will follow the Eldridge Trail/Comey's Lake Trail Loop.

Monthly education articles. Julia said the June article encourages young people to seek outdoor activities in nature, including a nature scavenger hunt.

Website. Scott is looking for a "hero" photo for the new website.

Volunteer list. Julia said she can update the volunteer list spreadsheet. Notices for work parties and projects can be posted on the website and sent out in emails.

Sign Project. Julia reported the 3 signs from Fossil should be shipped to us in mid-July. Julia also displayed a sample of the sign acrylic. The balance due on the signs is \$1555. Once the signs have been installed, we can schedule a dedication ceremony for Scott Conway's memorial sign at the Bog Walk.

WEC Nature blog. Julia suggested we could create a blog that contains photos and text about trees and other organisms, such as shrubs, wildflowers and wildlife, found in the conservation area.

DropBox renewal. Scott reported that our DropBox account is up for renewal (due 6/25 for \$119.88). Matt suggested that before we renew he would like to check out possible alternatives that might be cheaper or offer more functions. He mentioned NextCloud as a possibility. Matt will research this before we make a decision on DropBox renewal.

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

Deposits

none

Expenses

\$200.00 WEC Student Awards (2 \$100.00 awards).

\$24.41 pocket nature guides for student awardees.

\$224.41 total expenses.

Current Balance: \$10,993.01

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:17 PM.
(Motion: Wood, Second Walsh: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.