

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

July 10, 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: none.

The minutes of the June 2024 meeting were approved as corrected.

(Motion: McCue, Second: Coates, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Review

South Jersey Firefly Festival. Scott said the Glo. County Nature Club event, co-sponsored by the WEC, and held at Tall Pines on Sat. June 29, 8 to 10 PM, was a great success. 329 persons attended. This year for the first time, the festival was co-sponsored by the State Park Service. Tall Pines Superintendent Andrew Crosby and state staff attended and assisted with the festival. Scott said that state promotion of the event likely helped increase attendance.

Independence Day Hike, Sat. July 6. Scott reported the hike consisted of himself and 1 attendee, Denise Berg. The hike followed the Eldridge Trail/ Comey's Lake Loop. Scott speculated that the hot weather deterred others from taking part.

Near Term Projects

Puncheon construction workshop. Scott said he will be contacting Dan Ceravolo and John House about organizing the workshop.

Trail Maintenance.

Comey's Lake. Scott reported a large tree has recently fallen into the lake very near the dock. Scott said we can cut and remove the branches that are above the water but the tree itself is likely too large for us to move. We would need a boat to access the branches and a chain saw. Matt said he has a winch which could possibly be used to pull out some debris. Scott also noted the Tea House sign has accrued substantial dirt and grime. Scott performed a light cleaning but did not want to do anything that might damage the sign's surface. It was suggested that we ask Julia to contact Fossil (the sign manufacturer) for their recommendations on cleaning the sign. It was also noted that a small geocache was found near the Tea House. After some discussion, it was decided to leave the geocache in place for now. Neither the Borough nor the WEC has a

policy in place concerning geocaches. Matt suggested rules could be developed, put in place and published to help control geocaching activities in future. Scott also said the Tea House is in good shape and currently graffiti free. It was also noted that there was a large limb that needs to be cleared on the E. Willow St. access trail.

Eldridge Trail. Dave noted there was a step over log on the Eldridge Trail, just beyond the boardwalk, which can be cleared with a chain saw. Scott noted that recent heavy rains have caused some new erosion on the sloping steps near the E. Pine St. trail head that Bob had recently regraded with crushed stone. The 1st bridge on the Eldridge Trail also is in need of repair but is still crossable at present. The boards below the decking and bolted to the iron beams have been rotted by water and need to be replaced. The bolts holding the boards to the iron beams will need to be cut. This would require a mechanical bolt cutter, powered by a generator. Matt suggested we could organize a work party in the fall to tackle this.

Mantua Creek Trail. Scott noted there is now a breach in the bulkhead at Clay Hill and some erosion is now present at that location. It was decided to check with Dave Kreck about the best methods for repairing the bulkhead. Scott said the rest of MCT is in good shape.

Hanisey's Landing. Scott reported that the areas around the "kayak launch" signs on Mantua Ave. and Hayes Ave. is being choked by summer vegetation that needs to be trimmed back.

Wenonah Lake Loop Trail. Dan reported there are still muddy spots on the trail at the north head of the lake. There is also a leaf dam in that section that needs to be cleared out.

Website Redesign. Scott said he is continuing to work on the new website. He said he still needs good trail photos, with or without people in the shot.

Fossil sign project. Julia had reported the 3 signs have been delivered to her. The next step will be installing the signs. Two signs will go on existing wooden posts (from the Joe Berg signs) at Wenonah Lake and Comey's Lake. The 3rd sign at the Bog Walk will need a sign post installed. It is unclear how the signs will be mounted on the posts, but we would need to find sign mounts similar to the ones at Clay Hill and the Tea House, where the signs are screwed to the metal backing. It was agreed that we would ask Julia to check with Fossil to see if they sell mounts for the signs. It was agreed that Rich would pick up the signs from Julia and hold on to them until we do the installations. Rich said some of Scott Conway's out of town family will be visiting around July 20 and he will take that opportunity to show them Scott's memorial on the Bog Walk sign.

WEC DropBox account. Scott said we are currently renewing DropBox on a month by month basis. Scott has been looking into possibly switching to NextCloud. Matt had done some research on similar cloud storage companies and noted the costs were similar. After a discussion, it was agreed we would stay with DropBox for now and that Scott will now renew the service for a year. Scott also suggested we get a debit card for our FWT account to make payment for this and other items easier.

Donated Ohio Buckeye. Rich noted that a resident has donated a small potted Ohio Buckeye tree to the WEC. Rich is currently keeping the tree at his house. We can plant the tree in the fall, possibly at Dilks Pond or some other suitable location.

Bank branch closing. Rich reported the Wenonah Branch of Wells Fargo Bank (where our Friends of Wenonah Trails account is held) is closing on Sept. 25, 2024. The next closest Wells Fargo branch office is in south Woodbury on Rt. 45.

Thank you letter received. The WEC received a thoughtful thank you note from 2024 Frank Eggert Memorial Student Award recipient, Miles Brown.

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

Deposits

\$359.61 Clean Communities mini-grant

Expenses

\$1555.00 final payment to Fossil for 3 educational signs

Current Balance: \$9,797.62

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:26 PM.

(Motion: Wood, Second McCue: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.