

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting

Minutes

August 14, 2024

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 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: Luca Wood, Emi Wood.

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

(Motion: Wood, Second: McCue, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Near Term Projects

Fall Newsletter. Scott said the WEC article this time will consist of a calendar of events, including the Mad Hatter's Tree Party and the fall work party.

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

Trail Maintenance.

Cedar Ave. RR foot crossing. Matt reported that Mayor Doheny had texted him to report the foot path over the RR tracks at Cedar Ave. has been blocked by a fallen tree, limbs and debris. Matt inspected the site and recommended we form a work party to clear the path and to deal with several other tasks at other locations as well.

Break Back Run Trail. Matt also reported the Maple Street entrance to the trail is overgrown with poison ivy to the extent that it is not currently possible to enter the trail there without coming in contact with the poison ivy. In a general discussion of how much annual vegetation should be removed when brushing a trail, it was agreed that vegetation should be cleared to the extent that hikers can walk unimpeded but that otherwise vegetation generally should be left untouched. Scott said the trails should be wide enough for two people easily to pass each other.

Monongahela Brook Trail. Dave mentioned that he encountered a runner near the Marion Ave. entrance, who was concerned about the about the vegetation encroaching on the trail there.

Glen Trail. Dan mentioned the Glen Trail also is pretty overgrown.

Comey's Lake. Scott noted there is a large limb that needs to be removed from the E. Willow St. access trail.

Mantua Creek Trail. The sink holes that were recently filled remain stable with no visible undercutting to date.

Wenonah Lake. Scott said he plans to check out the trail at the north end of the lake to determine exactly what work needs to be done there.

Stewart Estate plaque. The bronze plaque set in concrete on the north side of Manta Ave. west of Hayes Ave. has been undercut by erosion (or groundhog diggings?) and is now in danger of coming loose and falling down the hill. Dave said he has spoken to Bob about it and said Bob would take a look at it.

Work Party Scheduled. It was agreed that WEC members would meet on Sat. Aug. 17 at 8:30 AM meeting at S. East and Cedar Aves. to clear the path over the RR track. The work party will also tackle limb/brush clearing at the E. Willow St. access trail. The work part will also take a look at the mounting hardware for the 3 educational signs and begin preparing the sites for the signs.

Educational signs. Rich is currently storing the 3 signs. Scott said signs for Wenonah Lake and Comey's Lake will be mounted on the posts from the Joe Berg signs. Of the two posts currently at each site, one will be used to mount the new signs and the other can be cut off at ground level. A 4 x 4 post will have to be installed at the Bog Walk site, anchored in concrete.

GC light rail. Scott reported the proposed light rail will now be operated and maintained by NJ Transit as the agency of record.

ANJEC Environmental Congress. Scott reported the ANJEC Congress will be held this Fri. Sept. 27 at Rowan College of Burlington County. Scott said the Congress will offer workshops on water quality protection, storm water management and invasive species, among other topics. Scott said he plans to attend for the WEC. The fee for non-member commission personnel is \$125. A motion was made to approve the fee for Scott's attendance.
(Motion: Coates, Second: Wood, AIF)

Report of possible snakehead fish in Monongahela Branch. Elaine Goodman had emailed the WEC stating she has seen the invasive snakehead fish species in the Monongahela Branch. It had previously been documented that snakeheads are present in Mantua Creek. It is unclear what steps the WEC could take to control this invasive species.

Donated Ohio Buckeye. Rich noted the small potted tree he is caring for is now looking more healthy and less stressed. It can be planted in an appropriate location in the fall.

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

No account activity.

Current Balance: \$9,797.62

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:12 PM.
(Motion: McCue, Second: Wood: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.