

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting  
Minutes  
September 11, 2024

Acting Chairman Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 6:45 P. M. in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Tea House.

<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, Frank Bruzzese, Adrian Reisman

The minutes of the August 2024 meeting were approved as standing.  
(Motion: Wood, Second: McCue, AIF)

## **Acting Chairperson's Report- Rich Dilks**

### **Review**

**Installation of Comey's Lake and Bog Walk educational signs.** Since the last WEC meeting, both signs have been installed. The third sign is yet to be installed at Wenonah Lake. Matt and Dave will check out the 4 x 4 posts at the Wenonah Lake location and prepare the site for the installation.

**August work party, Aug.17.** Matt reported that WEC volunteers cleared the downed tree, cut back vegetation and widened the trail at the Cedar Ave. RR trail crossing. The group then cleared vegetation from the E. Willow St. access trail and then installed the educational sign at Comey's Lake.

### **Trail Maintenance.**

**Comey's Lake.** Matt brought up the Black Willow tree that fell into Comey's Lake by the dock. He said that there is a possibility that since the tree is still alive and its roots are intact, the tree could send out sucker roots in the water and then take hold. He said removing the branches from the tree would be difficult since the tree is partly submerged in water. It was decided the best approach would be to cut the trunk of the tree on land to sever the roots from the portion of the tree in the water. This should prevent the tree from producing any sucker roots. Matt also suggested that we clean off the cement steps on the west bank of the lake. They have become covered in dirt and debris. This action could be included in the Fall Work Party.

**W. Cherry St access trail.** Matt also noted the small bridge on the access trail is in need of repair. The repair could be included in the activities of the Fall Work Party.

**Eldridge Trail.** Water damage to the boards on the 1<sup>st</sup> bridge needs to be repaired. Bob has been looking into repair solutions. We would need to confer with Bob concerning how we can assist the repair and what additional materials may need to be purchased. Bob had previously said he also plans to buy additional stone for the section of the trail off E. Pine St.

**Chain saw.** Matt said he currently has the smaller WEC chain saw and a can of chain lubricating oil. He said the current chain is worn out and needs to be replaced.

**Educational sign project.** The signs at Comey's Lake and the Bog Walk have been installed. We expect to install the 3<sup>rd</sup> sign at Wenonah Lake in the near future. Rich brought up the plans for a dedication ceremony for the memorial sign for Scott Conway at the Bog Walk. He noted a number of out of state folks who knew Scott C. are planning to attend and have asked us for a date. Rich offered the date of Sat. Oct. 5 at 1 PM. The date/time was agreed to by the 5 WEC members present. The event will consist of a memorial tree planting at the Stone Pool Garden, followed by a ceremonial unveiling of the Bog Walk sign and brief remarks. Attendees would meet at the Garden Trail head at S. Clinton Ave and E. Pines St.

**Donated Ohio buckeye tree.** Rich noted this small potted tree can now be planted. It could be planted at Dilks Pond if that site is still suitable.

**WEC 2024 budget.** Rich noted our current budget has a balance of \$3,500 available. The full budget was \$7,500 with \$4,000 of that going for the Comey's Lake treatments. WEC members were encouraged to think about materials and/or tools that we might want to purchase this fall.

**Mad Hatter's Tree Party, Sun. Oct 27.** This annual event with the Gloucester County Nature Club will again take place on the Eldridge Trail and at the Tea House. The WEC will need to do a modest clean up at the Tea House, removing some weeds and debris.

**Fall Work Party. Nov. 2.** We will go over the details of planned activities for the work party at the Oct. WEC meeting.

**Haunted Trail at Wenonah Lake.** Alex Pozza announced the Lake Assoc. will be doing the Haunted Trail at Wenonah Lake on Sat. Oct. 26 from 6 to 9 PM. Alex invited the WEC to participate by manning a station on at the Haunted Trail. He said he would need to know within a week or two whether the WEC will decide to participate.

**Wenonah Lake science class.** Alex Pozza also noted the Lake Assoc. will again be holding it hands on science classes for young people (ages 6-12) at the lake next June 15 through August, usually at 1 to 2 PM. Alex has invited the WEC to participate in one or two of those sessions. One suggestion was to do a guided nature walk at the lake. The WEC held a very successful walk in 2022 as part of that program.

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

**No account activity.**

**Current Balance: \$9,797.62**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:25 PM.  
(Motion: Wood, Second: Coates: AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.