

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2014

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:33 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Community Center.

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair)	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Bill Klaus		X
Dave Kreck		X
Tommy Lombardo (Mayor)		X
Chris Newman		X

**Associate Members Present:** Frank Eggert (as voting member for purposes of a quorum), Chuck Forsman.

**Public Guests Present:** John Mullens

Minutes of the July May 9 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Dilks, AIF)

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

### **Review**

Scott noted a large tree top had fallen at the Glen Trail. Frank suggested an evening work party be scheduled to clear it. A chainsaw and wheel barrows would be needed. John Mullens also reported the bench on the Glen Trail has been vandalized with paint.

Scott also noted there is an erosion problem at the Garden Trail bridge. Frank has asked Tommy to fill the eroded area with stream gravel. A work party may need to be scheduled.

### **Current Business**

Frank proposed removing a portion of the rock weir on Mantua Creek at the trestle to make the creek upstream accessible to kayakers/canoers without a portage. As this will lower the water level, Frank will consult with boaters John Mullens and Debby Mix before proceeding.

John Mullens reported a large tree has fallen across Mantua Creek downstream from the trestle. The WEC will investigate whether removal is feasible.

It was decided that the repaired fountain at Comey's Lake will not be installed due to the lateness of the season. It will be stored and installed next spring.

Rich reported that Dilks Pond has remained duckweed and algae free this summer due to successful treatment by Princeton Hydro. He further reported that Comey's lake is over 99.99% duckweed and algae free due to successful treatment by Princeton Hydro. The most recent treatment was on 7/7/14. The second of three installment payments to Princeton Hydro of \$1569.15 is being made this week. The final installment is due in Sept.

Scott reported he has informed the police of the party site encampment off Mantua Creek Trail and stated the trash there needs to be removed and the unauthorized trail closed. Scott said he hopes to work on that project with volunteer Dan Reim.

Bob noted he had seen some several young people parking on Lenape Trail and frequenting the tea house. He said there was no vandalism committed but based on items littered there, Bob suspected they were using drugs at the site. Bob reported this to the police who confronted the youths. No arrests were made but it is hoped that they will now cease to use the tea house for inappropriate behavior.

Scott has agreed to submit the WEC article for the Fall Newsletter. Topics will be: 1. Ongoing concern with vandalism and illegal behavior such as creating the party site, and the need for citizen to inform police of any suspicious behavior they see in the conservation area, 2. The WEC Fall Work Party, 3. The recipients of the 2014 Student Environmental Awards.

### **Student Projects**

Jack Lerner. Frank reported the kayak launch has been painted green as he requested but that the structure is still not buoyant enough at high tide.

Daniel Ceravolo. Bob hopes to schedule a scout work party with Daniel at the Synnott's northwest bridge in Sept. Bob will contact scout leaders to make arrangements

Maddie Kreck. Scott reported that Dave informed him that a first draft of Maddie's young person's guide to the conservation area will be presented at the WEC Sept. meeting.

Bob reported that Dave wishes to check specifications about the concrete fabric with the manufacturer to help determine its suitability for use at Clay Hill. Bob will look into the cost. He said it may be expensive.

Bob indicated restoration work at the former dam area at Synnott's Pond will not take place before Nov.-Dec.

Rich reported he has not been contacted by Greenland Nursery (Fairmount Park) since last fall concerning the authorized seed collection from Pinxter Flower plants. Any collection would take place in autumn.

Frank reported he is doing restoration work and repainting the bridge relic and stone bench at the tea house. He also noted a dying Red Maple nearby is a hazard and should be removed. He also noted someone has planted a small unauthorized garden near the bench.

Scott gave Dave's report to the WEC. Dave indicated there will be road repaving work in the near future on E. Poplar St., W. Poplar St., Synnott Ave. and Mohawk Dr. near the intersection with Rt. 553. Dave also reported the well at Dilks Pond will be replaced in the next several months and the Borough has issued a 1.1 million dollar bond to finance the project.

Scott reported the Planning Board has not met since our last meeting.

Scott indicated the WEC Face Book site is doing well and that he plans to add additional content soon.

Rich reported on Maple Ridge indicating the state will have the land under contract this month and that settlement could be in Oct. Rich also reported the Friends group is still discussing the SJLWT proposal to join the organizations. A Friends vote on that issue is likely at their Sept. meeting.

Rich reported the FWT account has a balance of \$8,785.35 and that there was no account activity in the past month.

Rich reported there has been no meeting of the Friends of Wenonah Park since our last meeting. He noted a new design concept for the gazebo was done locally and a drawing of the design was handed out in the park on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Scott reported the environmental impact study done for the proposed light rail line is not yet ready for public release.

Scott noted the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission has awarded funding in Pa. to the regional trails initiative.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:20 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Forsman, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.