

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2014

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Community Center. The meeting had been preceded by the annual WEC Volunteers Appreciation Night.

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

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Julie Ream, Chuck Frozman.

Public Guests Present: Sharon Ceravolo, Laurie Forsman, Carl Ream, Kyle Bright.

Minutes of the November 12 meeting were approved. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

Review: Scott Barnes

Scott reported the WEC participation in Clean Communities Day on 11/15/14 was a success. Work was done at the Camels Back north foot bridge repairing the bulkheads and laying stone and cement/sandbags to control stream erosion. Rich reported the WEC will receive \$310 in Clean Communities day funds for the day.

Near-Term Projects

Scott reported that several WEC members (Scott, Bob, Chris & Maria) need to be sworn in for new terms. The administering of the oaths of office will be done by the mayor at Borough Reorganization on 1/7/15. Scott will inform Karen at the Borough. (Scott is unable to attend that meeting and will be sworn in at a later date).

Scott stated he will write the WEC year-end report for presentation at Borough Reorganization and Bob will give the oral presentation.

2015 Budget Request. Scott recalled that our budget request for 2014 was \$7600, which included \$4500 for the Synnott's Pond site restoration. Our current budget balance is \$4998.25. Scott will request that Karen encumber that amount for anticipated cost for the Synnott's Pond project in 2015. Rich stated the cost of duckweed treatments at Dilks Pond and Comey's lake will be approximately \$4700 in 2015. It was decided to request \$5000 for the 2015 WEC budget.

(Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

The 2015 WEC Calendar of Events was approved and will be submitted to the Borough on 12/11.

The Moon Light Hike. The hike is scheduled for Sat. Jan. 3 at 8:00 P.M. The route will be the Wenonah Lake Loop Trail and the meeting place will be at the lake parking lot.

Maria reported she has been in touch with the Girl Scouts but no activities have yet been scheduled. Frank suggested the scouts could rake sections of Monongahela Brook Trail where heavy leaf accumulations occur. He also suggested that, now that the leaves are

down, the scouts could clean debris out of the Stone Pool. Maria will forward those suggestions to scout leaders.

Dave reported Maddie was unable to come tonight due to academic duties but will use the winter school break to concentrate on the Young Persons' Guide to the Conservation Area project.

Long-Term Projects.

Synnott's Pond. Bob reported that the bulkheads for the arched bridge are now in place and that one gabion cage at the bulkhead is also in place. Three more gabion cages need to be installed there. Bob said the next stage will be placing fill in the eroded areas near the dam. Sections of the dam ruin will be demolished. He and Dave indicated a diversion pipe for the stream would need to be used during this process. Heavy equipment will need to be used and the ground must be dry enough to support the weight. Bob hopes to do work there this weekend (12/13/14).

Clay Hill. Dave reported Clay Hill is fairly stable and the erosion matting on the upper slope has proven very effective. He also noted a small section of bulkhead is in need of repair and will attempt to effect repairs there himself.

Green's Lake Bog Walk Repair. Frank reported that Frank Vogel will not be able to saw the planks for us. However Frank has located a saw mill (near Camp Roosevelt) that will. He has also located some Red Cedar wood that will be suitable for the planks needed for the bog walk repair.

Scott indicated planning for the trail maintenance survey will take place early in 2015.

GIS Trail Mapping Project. Dave is enthusiastic that he and volunteers from his firm can create a GIS Conservation Area trail map with point files taken along all the trails. The map could then be overlaid on an aerial image and be made interactive with linked photos.

Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan. Dave reported he is continuing to work with other Borough officials on the plan. He is proposing the plan contain provisions dealing with erosion and with hazardous materials being transported through the Borough by railroad. Dave also suggested the Borough include a program to deal with trees on conservation land close to private property which may pose a potential safety hazard to persons or property. He said a major advantage of the plan would be to make getting funding easier when an emergency occurs. The completed plan would be forwarded to the county and finally to FEMA for approval.

Bob reported that John Mullens informed him a large tree had fallen across Mantua Creek Trail near his house. Bob promptly cleared the obstruction from the trail with his chain saw. He said some trail rails there need repair.

Bob also announced the American Legion is holding dinner dance at Valley Caterers on Sat. Feb. 7, 2015. The cost is \$25 per person. The Legion is inviting all volunteer groups to attend. Bob is Legion chairman for the event.

Scott reported there were no planning board actions this past month.

Scott and Rich gave a brief update on Maple Ridge. They stated settlement will be delayed until mitigation of the contaminated site is complete in early 2015 and that progress is being made.

Dave stated he has heard an unsubstantiated rumor that a bear has been sighted at Maple Ridge!

Rich reported the current balance in the FWT account is \$8,599.76. The only account activity in the past month was the reimbursement of \$323.59 to Bob for lumber and materials purchased for Synnott's Pond bridge repairs.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.