

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2015

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

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Maria Ceravolo	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair)	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck		X
Tommy Lombardo	X	
Julie Ream	X	

**Associate Members Present:** Chuck Forsman, Sharon Ceravolo.

**Public Guests Present:** None.

Minutes of the February 11 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ream AIF)

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

**Rip Rap Stone Purchase.** Scott noted that Dave and Ken Trovarelli of Public Works have priced out the rip rap. but have not had a chance to pick it up due to the snow. The WEC will purchase 10 tons for future projects. The stone will be stored on Public Works grounds.

### **Near Term Projects.**

**Spring Work Party.** Scott noted the work party is scheduled for Saturday March 14, but rain is predicted for the day. Scott will decide based on late weather forecasts whether the work party will be rescheduled. The rescheduled date is Sat. March 28. Areas of focus for the work party were discussed:

**Capaldi Property on E. Cherry St.** Bob noted that we could cut and remove fallen logs and that some of them could be placed as steps and to retard erosion. He said any activity at the site for the work party would be limited to this. He also said any fill dirt for erosion control would require a backhoe. Chuck said he has been in contact with the Capaldi's and that Cheryl Capaldi (property owner of record) would be willing to give us written permission to make improvements at the site. Chuck presented a draft of that agreement. Chuck also noted that new houses in the neighborhood have increased water runoff. The purpose of this project would be to provide an additional safe access point to conservation lands. The hope was expressed that some of the property there might be added to conservation lands with Stewart Estate funding.

**Tea House Area.** Bob suggested logs and limbs in Camels Back Run, just up stream from the tea house need to be removed. Also that limbs close to the tea house should be pruned and leaves need to be removed from the roof.

**Hanisey's Landing.** Rich reported there is a large White Pine fallen at Hanisey's Landing blocking access to Mantua Creek.

**Tree Recovery Campaign.** Scott reported Gary Odenbrett of the STC had forwarded the TRC's application for free tree seedlings to the WEC. The STC found the seedlings were not suitable for their purposes. The application deadline is 3/15/15. The WEC decided not to participate this year due to the low survival rate of the many small bare root seedlings we have planted in the

past. Instead, it was suggested we could purchase more mature trees from local sources or by mail order as needed. Bob noted the area near the Synnott's Pond dam site, where heavy equipment had been brought in, should be replanted with trees and shrubs. Scott will inform Gary the WEC will not be participating in the TRC this year.

**NJ Recreational Trails Grant.** Filing deadline is 4/30/15 for this year. Scott noted that Dave said our previous RTG is still open (due to monies allotted to Maple Ridge after settlement) This could possibly interfere with a new application. Further it was agreed that we would need time to put together a well thought out proposal for any future application and that would not be practical this year. Maria said we need time to assess our needs and determine what projects would be good candidates for a RTG. Sharon suggested a good grant project would be raised boardwalks over wetland areas such as the Mantua Creek island and the Monongahela bog walk area. Sharon also noted there is a need for small raised boardwalks on Break Back Run Trail south of W. Elm St. The present unraised boards present a safety issue under icy or muddy conditions.

### **Student Projects.**

**Maddie Kreck** is continuing work on the Young Persons' Guide.

**Hope Viviani** has volunteered for 8 hours of volunteer service as a school project. She has offered to do trash pick up and it was also decided to invite her to the spring work party.

### **Long Term Projects.**

**Synnott's Pond.** Bob noted there has been no activity since the last meeting but work remains, including laying stone and sand bagging the bend in the stream by the north bridge.

**Clay Hill.** Bulkhead repair is needed. Dave will continue to monitor and report.

**Bog Walk.** Bob is looking into getting appropriate lumber for needed repairs there.

**Trail Conditions Survey.** Bob and Rich handed in their trail surveys. Bob (Corney's Lake area trails), Rich (Break Back Run, Wenonah Lake area trails).

**Invasive Species Removal Project with G.C Nature Club.** The project is set for May 16. The GCNC proposed the activity to mark its 65th anniversary. The GCNC will provide volunteers and it is hoped that watershed ambassador Joe Traum and volunteers will also participate. The WEC discussed what species and areas to focus on. Four possibilities are: 1. Wisteria at Eldridge Trail entrance area, 2. Wisteria in the tea house vicinity, 3. English Ivy on trees on Mantua Creek Trail, 4. English Ivy on trees behind Leslie field.

**Duckweed/algae control at Corney's Lake & Dilks Pond.** Rich reported Princeton Hydro has sent us proposals for both lakes for 2015. Dilks Pond will cost \$1780 (a \$10 increase over 2014) and Corney's Lake will cost \$2985 (no increase from 2014). A \$150 DEP permit will also be needed for Dilks Pond. Since past results have been positive, the WEC agreed to contract with Princeton Hydro for both lakes again this year. Rich will be liaison with Princeton Hydro. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Lombardo. AIF)

Chuck noted that Corney's lake continues to shrink in size due to sedimentation.

**Corney's Lake Fountain.** Bob said he would install the fountain once the weather turns mild. He also noted that with the Simpsons' moving, new arrangement will need to be made for the power to run the fountain.

**Frank Eggert Memorial.** Several suggestions had previously been made: renaming the student awards (approved 3/15), naming a trail for Frank and planting a tree. Maria suggested we enter a float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade as a tribute. Sharon offered use of a trailer for this. Maria also suggested dedicating the trail and planting the tree as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. Scott announced that American Legion Commander, John Forren, has invited the WEC to jointly

create a trail head garden and sign in Frank's memory. After discussion, the WEC concluded that it would be interested in a joint memorial project but that a bronze plaque mounted on a boulder would be more suitable than a garden that would require ongoing maintenance and care. Bob will convey our response to the Am. Legion.

Bob noted in his trail survey that there were several small trees down near Comey's Lake and a larger hanging tree near the dam that need to be cleared, and that leaves need to be removed from the tea house roof.

Rich reported the Friends of Wenonah Trails balance is \$8812.76. Deposit:\$3 (guide sale) and Expenditure \$100 (for Bird Quest sponsorship).

Scott said the Planning Board approved a variance for Ryan Koenig (owner of the former Lentz property)for a 1,120 sq. ft. garage with the stipulation that car restoration work could not be done there. Scott also said there is no new information on the light rail line.

Tommy noted that the WEC Activities Calendar had a minor error. Our September meeting will be on 9/9 not 9/10.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:48 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Lombardo, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.