

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2015

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act 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	
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

Public Guests Present: , Dave Coates, Laurie Forsman

Minutes of the October 14 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevelacqua, Second: Ceravolo AIF)

Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes.

Review.

Wenonah fall festival 10/24. Scott reported we had a successful information table and thanked WEC member who helped out. We sold \$21 in trail guides and promoted the Mad Hatter's Tree Party. Many people appreciated seeing Maria's memorial float display for Frank. We also had signup sheets for our email list and for the fall work party.

Mad Hatters Tree Party. 10/25. Scott reported the event was a great success with approximately 250 persons participating. Scott noted \$151 was raised in donations to the nature club and by sales of the WEC trail guides. It is unsure how those funds will be divided between the two organizations as the precise number of trail guides sold is currently unclear. Scott thanked Dave Coates for his excellent photos of the event. Scott also said the professional video of the event should be completed by late winter and that a showing could be arranged at the community center.

Fall Work Party. Scot said the work party was a very successful one. We broke up into two teams. One including Scott, Rich, Julie, Dave Coates, Trish Duer, Sam Duer, Dan Cooper and Carl & Dave Ream, with one chain saw and many hand tools, cleared the entire Monongahela Loop Trail. The team then went to inspect the area around the Garden Trail bridge. It was discovered the reason for the flooding of the trail there was that a small stream had been diverted. Washout under the south end of the bridge and a large fallen tree blocking the trail were also noted. The second team worked on the Mantua Creek Trail island. Bob and Tommy have repaired and replaced the planks on the bridge at the east end of the island. Bob said there were just a few more minor things he needed to do there. Dave and John Mullens worked at securing the boardwalk and anchoring it with metal sign posts to prevent the frequent washing out and displacement of the boardwalk in storms.

Trail Status Reports

Comey's Lake Loop / Tea House. Bob reported the tea house roof is repaired except for the damage to the SW corner. It will be very difficult to access this area due to swampy conditions and large fallen logs.

Eldridge Trail. Clear

Monongahela Brook Loop. Cleared by the 11/7 work party.

Monongahela Brook Trail: stump. Leave the stump for now. People can walk around it.

Indian Trail. Julie reported a large step over tree needs cutting.

Garden Trail / Stone Pool Garden There are 4 problems here: the trail flooded by a diverted stream, a large fallen tree just south of the bridge, washout under the south footing of the bridge and the need to lower the water level in the stone pool.

Mantua Creek Trail. Three large step over trees need to be cut.

Breakback Run Trail. A large fallen climb over tree behind the Shultes property near W. Elm needs to be cut.

Fallen trees behind 204 E. Pine St. Homeowner, Tim McGuire, has contacted the WEC for permission to cut the trunks of several large fallen trees from the 6/23/15 storm on conservation land behind his property. There is no public trail access to this area. Tim's intentions are to cut the trunks and then right the upended stumps back into the ground. He said he would do this at his own expense. Bob and Rich had visited the site and talked to Tim. Bob recommended the WEC grant permission. A motion to approve the request was passed. (Motion: Barnes, Second: Dilks, AIF)

Short Term Projects

Clean Communities Day. 11/14. The WEC will participate and hopes to address some of the problems noted above at the Garden Trail.

Maria reported she encountered two teenage boy who were making "bush forts" on Boy Scout Island.

Cub Scout Hike. Paul Ricci requested the WEC lead a cub/tiger scout hike on 11/21. Rich and Julie will respond and coordinate.

Tool Purchase. It was decided we would hold off for now. Scott noted the pull saws that were used at the nature club Alcyon Park project would be very useful.

2016 Activities Calendar. Rich completed the 2016 activities calendar and has submitted it to the Borough.

Turkey Trot Run 11/27. Jenn Pizi has requested the WEC man an information table at the Presbyterian Church for the T.T.Run and Drumstick Walk for charity. There would be no fundraising. The run/walk will benefit the Memorial Presbyterian Church and a children's charity. Scott, Rich and Bob will man the table.

Trail Sign Project. Scott announced the Women's Club has awarded us \$500 for this project. The project will consist of 1. a large one-sided kiosk with a cedar shingle roof that will display our trail map and additional changing material and 2. Several smaller metal "you are here" map signs for several trail heads. Julie indicated that teacher Matt Emmett and his students at Gateway may be able to take our recommendations, draw up plans and build the kiosk as well as produce the smaller signs. She noted Gateway has recently received increased funding for student projects. We will need to develop specifics about design elements we want (size, materials, roof, lock, etc.) and a schedule. We decided the Wenonah Lake trail head would be the best site. It was decided to invite Mr. Emmett to the site to get a sense of what would work best. Dave Coated suggested that Gateway could take on the project of updating our trail map. Julie said that QR codes should be included on the kiosk map. There is currently no digital copy of our trail map. The firm (Minuteman Press) that produced it in 2000 and 2008 is now out of business.

Scott said he felt some of our trails could benefit from adding color coded trail blazes. Chuck said he felt we should be careful not to overdo the signage.

Bob said he will be bringing a two man saw to the 11/14 work party and that he also has tong log carriers.

Borough Newsletter. Scott said he would include the topics of the settlement at Maple Ridge, the moonlight and 5 mile hikes, and a request for volunteers in our article.

Maria reported she has recently completed training for certification as a member of the Shade Tree Commission. She mentioned the champion tree program and suggested we could involve residents in a local champion tree program. She also mentioned the iTree software that is a tree management tool and that it can measure tree canopies in a community or natural area. With it, Wenonah could produce a tree map.

Maple Ridge. Rich and Chuck reported that Maple Ridge went to settlement on 11/5/15 and is now state owned public land under NJ Parks & Forestry. Rich said time will be needed to get the park ready for people and that the dedication ceremony may not be until March 2016. Rich thanks the WEC and particularly Chuck for beginning the preservation effort and seeing it through to a successful conclusion. The future preservation of the Jonas and Randolph properties was also mentioned.

Chuck related an episode in the 1970's when young people were playing paintball in the conservation area, the WEC tried to stop it but both the young people and their parents refused to cooperate. Finally a player was injured during play and then the parents put a stop to it.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

\$102 in trail guide sales was deposited.

There were no expenses.

Current balance: \$9780.26

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:58 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ceravolo AIF)
Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.