

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2016

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 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	
Sharon Ceravolo	X	
Maria Ceravolo	X	
Bob Bevilacqua	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)	X	
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present: Dave Coates.

Public Guests Present: none.

Minutes of the February 10 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Ream AIF)

Chairman's Report: Scott Barnes.

Near Term Projects

Spring Work Party. Sat., March 19 at 9:00 A.M.

The work party will concentrate on the lower portion of the Monongahela Loop Trail. We will meet at the trail access near Trish Duer's house on Lenape Trail. Bob reported he will have 1"x10"x10' cedar boards for the beaver flume and the installation of the flume will be done at the work party. Bob also will get planks for the construction of a low boardwalk over low, muddy areas of the trail. Any trash along the trail will also be removed.

Trail Maintenance

Scott noted that with the mild weather and the coming of spring, this is a good time of the year for trash removal.

Eldridge Trail. Scott noted there is a lot of water runoff on the slope at the Pine St. entrance but that the boards placed there seem to be holding well.

Indian Trail. Bob reported he cleared the fallen tree and the trail is passable.

Monongahela Brook Trail. Dave noted one of the boards on the bog walk is loose and will need to be repaired. Bob reported the trail is now cleared of fallen trees.

Garden Trail. Our drainage work near the bridge is working and the area is no longer flooding now that the stream channel has been reopened. The water level in the stone pond is also steady. Julie inquired whether the pool could be a breeding place for mosquito. Maria said the water there does flow, making breeding less likely.

Mantua Creek Trail. Dave had previously noted that the section of trail west of Cherry St. is often muddy, particularly since the loss of several trees there last June. Bob proposed we extend the trail rails and crushed stone path into that area. Bob has contacted Ken at Public Works, who will have much of the large mulch stored on the borough lot at Cherry & Garfield cleared. We will then be able to have the crushed stone stored there. We would then create a short access trail to move materials to the MCT. Bob will look into getting the rails. He suggested the Boy Scouts might assist with the project. Bob also noted he cleared two obstructions on the trail. Scott presented photos of the "tarp fort" at the far western end of Boy Scout Island. He said the area also has large amounts of trash strewn about the fort. Scot also noted a number of large

trees near the West Willow St. entrance are covered with English ivy. Scot said he intends to cut the vines at the base to kill the ivy on the trees.

Break Back Run Trail. Bob reported he has completed the new footbridge near the Maple St. trail head.

Wenonah Lake. Bob has cleared the short trail that runs from Maple St. near Public Works to the Lake Loop and Eggert Trails.

Camel's Back Loop Trail. Maria suggested we could plant some native wetland wildflowers in the marshy area of the former pond bottom. Rich agreed it would be a good project. It was also suggested we could slightly raise the water level of the stream.

Trail Sign/Kiosk Project

Julie presented two estimates for the cost of the kiosk. Using pressure treated lumber (PT) \$458.36 and using plastic lumber (PL) \$1715.09. A third possibility would be to use the PL for the uprights and PT for the remainder at approximately \$1200 in cost. The structure could then be painted a single color to blend them together. The PL is far more expensive than the PT and its chief advantage is its extreme durability. Dave Coates remarked that PL can stain and the stain may not be removable. Julie said that PT has a life of from 10 to 20 years and if metal is used with it, the metal has a tendency to corrode. For a price comparison to these estimates, she noted she saw a PT kiosk for sale assembled for \$1800. Our kiosk would be fabricated and delivered but we would do the site preparation and dig the holes. Julie further said that we would need to pay for the cost of the materials prior to the construction of the kiosk. Scott said he expects the Women's Club to donate \$500 but it may be willing to give us more if the project costs exceed that. Additional cost could also be paid out of the FWT account. A motion was made to proceed with the project using only PT wood and to authorize payment for materials out of the FWT account.

(Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

Dave will inform borough council of the progress of the kiosk project. Bob reported Frank's memorial stone was moved and slightly chipped by the borough snow plow during the January storm. The stone will be moved further into the woods and reset. Bob said Ken of Public Works will assist

Julie also presented the full size printed version of the revised map, so we could see how it would look in the kiosk. She said the consensus was that most people wished to include the descriptive and historical text on the kiosk map. Julie also confirmed trail distances will be in miles or fractions of a mile, but trail distances $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or less will be expressed in feet. Julie also reported the text revisions are now complete. Julie noted some of the street names are slightly pixelated from the enlargement, but could be erased and retyped. Sharon suggested the green on the map could be a lighter shade to provide better contrast with the blue bodies of water.

Princeton Hydro-Dilks Pond & Comey's Lake

Rich noted that PH has sent us proposals for duckweed and algae control for both ponds for 2016. Dilks Pond would be for \$1,780 (same cost as last year) and Comey's Lake would be \$2,995 (a \$10 increase from last year). \$150 for a DEP permit for Comey's Lake is also required. The total cost would be \$4,925. The WEC approved contracting with PH again this year and authorized Rich to sign and return the contracts along with the \$150 for the DEP permit

(Motion: Barnes, Second: Kreck, AIF)

Tool Purchase. Bob advised against our buying a WEC chain saw. We will continue to look into hand tools. Dave suggested two sickles would be useful. Dave said he will go the Home Depot' price some tools and report back.

Additional Items

Planning Board. Scott presented a copy of the Borough's Fair Share Housing Plan, which provides for low and moderate income housing if additional land in the borough is developed. He noted the Wenonah Greenhouse block lots are already subdivided, should they be sold for housing.

Clay Hill. Dave noted problems there will shortly need our attention. There have been small fires there and a section of the bulk head has been ripped away. Dave said in repairing the bulk head we should realign it closer to where the bank has now eroded away. He also noted the lower of the two trails across Clay Hill has lost most of its wooden supports. They will need to be replaced or the trail could erode away.

Bird Quest. Rich noted the GCNC Bird Quest is on Sat. May 7. He said he again intends to form a WEC team to bird Tall Pines and the Wenonah conservation area.

Tall Pines cleanup. Rich said the Friends of Tall Pines is now organizing cleanups/litter patrols monthly at Tall Pines. The first cleanup, held 2/28 with two Wenonah Girl Scout troops, was very successful. Rich invited the WEC to participate in a cleanup in July. The WEC accepted. The two hour cleanup will be on Sunday, July, 17 at 8:30 A.M.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account.

Expenses

\$100 to GCNC for Bird Quest sponsorship

Deposits.

none

Current balance: \$9,937.08

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:42 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.