

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2016

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 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:** Chuck Forsman, Dave Coates.

**Public Guests Present:** none.

Minutes of the April 13 meeting were approved. (Motion: S. Ceravolo Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

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

### **Review**

**WEC Attendance at council meeting 4/28.** Scott reported he and Bob attended council on 4/28 and expressed our concerns over the felling of the tree and trail blockage on the Glen Trail by the homeowner at 2 W. Cedar. Conducting any survey of the property line there would be up to the Borough. The WEC also expressed the need for a clear Borough policy concerning trees or limbs falling from conservation lands onto private property. It was also expressed that the maximum \$200 fine currently in the Borough Code was outdated. An increase to \$2,000 was suggested. The WEC is currently awaiting a response from mayor and council.

**Bird Quest.** Rich reported the WEC team at Bird Quest had a very successful morning. Participants were Rich, Scott, Sharon, Dominec Lanciano, Mellany Alio, Glen Green and son Justin. Birding at Tall Pines and on Wenonah trails, the team spotted 66 species- a team record.

### **Near-Term Projects**

#### **Beaver Activity.**

**Eldridge Trail.** Julie noted some intermittent flooding on both sides of the small 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge. She said some stepping stones can be placed there to make the trail passable. Bob noted the wood for the beaver flume at the 1<sup>st</sup> bridge is now at Pine St. It is white pine (heavier than the cedar) and was donated by the saw mill.

**Monongahela Loop Trail.** The beaver flume installed on 3/19 is too high in the dam to lower water levels to the point the trail would be walkable. Bob plans to install a 2<sup>nd</sup> flume at this dam. It is planned to install the flume at the Clean Communities work party on Sat. May 14. Julie noted some additional trees need wire wrapping.

**Wenonah Lake.** Sharon noted little new beaver activity. The trail is not presently affected

#### **Trail Maintenance**

**Comey's Lake/tea house.** Bob reported he cleared the trail behind the tea house but stepping stones are needed to cross Camels Back Run since the stream has widened there. Bob also noted there is a water flow problem in the wet area behind the tea house and also trash to be picked up there. This can also be address at the May 14 work party.

**Eldridge Trail.** It was noted there are a couple of loose boards on the small 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge.

**Monongahela Brook Trail** One of the boards on the bog walk is loose. Bob proposed covering the bog walk with plywood to preserve it and steady the walk. He estimates we would need to cover about 100 feet in length. Bob will get an estimate for the cost.

**Glen Trail.** Dave noted there is a loose plank on the footbridge there. A replacement plank would need to be 12 feet long and 3in. thick.

**Mantua Creek Trail.** Dave reported he has replaced a rail at Clay Hill. He also said that he and neighbor, Ed, hope to do repairs to the bulk head there. The extension of trail rails through the intermittently very muddy section of the trail near W. Cherry remains a long term project. It was noted a tree was down on MCT between the Glen Trail and the RR tracks.

**Break Back Run Trail.** Sharon reported the new footbridge near Maple St. is still silting up and should be raised.

**Camel's Back Loop Trail.** The small bridge nearest Glassboro Rd. has collapsed. Previously, Maria stated she plans to retrieve some long planks near the stream and make a low boardwalk on the soggy northern section of the trail and look into replacing the foot bridge

**Planks.** Dave noted the planks he requested from the Wenonah resident have not been cut. He suggested he would make a list of the number and sizes we would need and Bob could get a cost estimate from the saw mill in Tabernacle

#### **Trail Sign/Kiosk Project**

Scott noted he has reported the full cost to date of the kiosk project (\$700) to the Woman's Club. He has not yet been informed whether they will pay for the full cost. Julie confirmed the Kiosk will be completed by next week and the installation will take place in the latter part of May, during the week of 5/23-5/27. Dave Coates has printed high quality, enlarged print outs of the new map. Copies were distributed to be proof read for any minor errors. Dave said Public Works will pick up the kiosk at 9:00 A.M. on the appointed day. Bob said we should meet at the lake on the Sat. 5/14 work party to determine and measure the exact site for the kiosk and clear any brush, if needed. Julie said she would be going to Gateway to check on the kiosk and the plaques. There will be two plaques: one for the Woman's Club as project funder and one for Gateway as builder. Julie also showed the proposed engraving to the top of the Kiosk. The motif is inspired by our conservation area signs. Holes for the kiosk will need to be dug to a depth of 4 feet. Dave will see if the Borough or the well drilling company can assist with that.

**Newsletter.** Scott said he will include an announcement of our 4<sup>th</sup> of July hike. It will be at Wenonah Lake and include a kiosk dedication ceremony. He will also include a photo of the beaver flume and a short description. He will also mention the recent planting at Maple St in April of shrubs donated from Platt's as a joint WEC/STC project.

**Student Environmental Awards.** The WEC agreed to again offer the awards to two graduating 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Wenonah School. Rich will contact the school and make up the award certificates and packets. It was also agreed the cash award would be increased to \$100.

(Motion: Kreck Second: Bevilacqua AIF)

#### **Other Items**

Sharon suggested we should post signs at trail heads and else ware with the new fine amount when that is approved.

Sharon also brought up Maria's idea for WEC or Wenonah Trails t-shirts, both for our use and for sale. Dave said the One Night of Song & Dance event does an annual t-shirt. Julie suggested we could sell them at the fall harvest festival.

Dave reported the downtown Wenonah Street Scape project is moving forward. It will include pedestrian street lighting (acorn lamps), crossing bump out and brick crossways. This federally funded project is not expected to get under way before the summer of 2017.

Dave also reported the repaving (and temporary closing ) of Maple St. will begin on May 23. Conrail also plans to upgrade the RR crossing at Maple St. Dave also said the new well project is progressing well, with the well head and well screen about to be installed.

Dave also suggested we send out a notice to conservation area adjacent residents informing them of the Borough policy and revised ordinance, once that is in place. Chuck also suggested this would be a good opportunity to revive the Town Watch program.

Rich reported the dedication ceremony for Tall Pines State Preserve is now set for June 20. He also noted the Friends of Tall Pines will soon open up for members and volunteers and debut a new web site.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:37 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Rich Dilks, Sec.