

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021

Chairman Scott Barnes called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 P. M. in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act. Due to the restrictions in place to combat covid-19, this meeting was held as a video conference through Jitsi Meet

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Scott Barnes (Chair. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Sharon Ceravolo	X	
Scott Conway	X	
Rich Dilks (Sec.)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair.)		X
Julie Ream	X	

Associate Members Present:

Public Guest Present: Julia Horn, Glen Green

The minutes of the February 2021 meeting were approved as amended.

(Motion: Ream, Second: Conway, AIF)

Chairman's Report- Scott Barnes

Near Term Projects

Clay Hill Restoration Project. Sharon reported Ron Cline was at the Lions Club meeting tonight and will be looking for volunteers for the March 13 work party, which will kick off the Clay Hill construction effort at 9 AM. She said she currently had 6 people lined up and would need a total of 8. Sharon said we need to have enough but not too many people. Pat & Bill will be on site. RR ties will be cut by chainsaw and installed as steps. She said Dave will have the Borough deliver fill dirt. Sharon said she had sent out by email a list of tools and equipment needed and that volunteers will bring them. She said Julie and Rich will work on the historical sign project. Rich said he had a draft text and historical locomotive photo, but needs to get final approval of both by the Wenonah Historical Society. He will reach out to WHS president, Charlie Horan. Sharon noted the sign was not currently in the project budget (although it is required). Julie will get a cost estimate for a sign similar to the Tea House sign. Sharon said we need photos for publicity, including the kick off work party. Scott B. said they will need to be forwarded to Sustainable Jersey. Julie volunteered to take photos at the work party Saturday. It was noted the public needed to be informed that there is construction at Clay Hill on March 13. Julia said she would post a notice on Facebook. Julie said she would make up signs to warn people on the trail. Scott C. noted concerns about two small bridges and a muddy spot near the Clay Hill project site. He said the high traffic of people and materials during the work could stress and degrade the bridges. He proposed that he purchase some planks to overlay and support the bridges during the temporary construction. The cost of the planks would come from the FWT account but we may be able to get reimbursement from the grant. It was agreed for Scott to proceed.

Break Back Run/Wenonah Lake Eagle Scout Project. Sharon reported she got in touch with Zach Solem who informed her he had been working with a neighbor and that the project has been approved by the scout council. Zach said he can install the puncheons at Wenonah Lake and hopes to start dredging silt in the area within two weeks. Scott C. said he had removed some debris near the north head of Wenonah Lake but much needs to be done. He also cautioned that Zach needs to get approval from us for any infrastructure he builds, to make

sure it is consistent with standards. Sharon said we should develop a full set of standards for trail repair for future projects.

Trail Maintenance.

Tea House bridge & bench. Scott C. said the repairs to the footbridge are complete. He also reported that he met with Bob on site about the deteriorating bench supports. Bob also brought supplies and the job is now about half finished. The bench supporting posts have rotted and the back of the bench is askew due to rotting of the support posts as well. He said the repair should be complete in about a week. Scott C. also noted that Bob told him the stone slab used in the bench was formerly curbing in Atlantic City. Julie said John Ricketts had brought down additional material for the muddy spot near the bridge and did a temporary fix at the site. Scott C. said he was ok with unauthorized temporary fixes by volunteers but that any permanent structures need to be approved by and done under our control.

Eldridge Trail. Julie noted that someone has placed sawed disc sections of logs in the muddy section near where the Monongahela Brook Trail intersects the Eldridge Trail. She said that although it is a temporary fix, it has helped. Any work on the trail head water bars will be deferred until after the Borough installs the curbing on Pine St.

Wenonah Lake. Scott C. noted there are 3 muddy dips in the trail on the east side of the lake that need attention. Sharon said a full repair of the north portion of the trail will be a major project.

Bog Walk. Scott C. said the bog walk is also deteriorating. Julie suggested perhaps applying another layer of plywood as a temporary fix. A full repair there will be a major project.

WEC Spring Work Party Sat. March 27. Julie suggested we could do a puncheon building workshop and assemble up to 10 puncheons. Scott C. cautioned that often it is better to build things like that on site so they take into account the specific physical challenges a site contains.

5 Mile Hike trail survey. Julie suggested that prior to the Spring Work party, the WEC do a 5 mile trail walk to assess trail conditions and prioritize trail repairs. It was agreed to do the walk on Sunday March 14, meeting at Wenonah Lake at 10 AM.

E. Mantua Ave. Conservation Area sign. The replacement sign is now up. It was installed by Scott C. and Julie.

Volunteer recruitment. Scott B. reported our new volunteer spreadsheet now has 22 or 23 entries. He said he plans to put their email addresses into Mail Chimp so we can easily send messages to all on the contact list. Scott said he also has an older list of supporters, which he currently used to announce meetings and events. It was agreed that now that we have these new volunteers we should use them, including for tasks at the Spring Work Party. Julia noted there is an online tool called Sign Up Genius which could be useful for this and give people a way to volunteer for specific days and tasks.

WEC Vice Chairperson. Scott B. noted that with Dave Kreck's resignation from the WEC effective 12/31/21 and with Dave unable to regularly attend meeting for the present, that a new Vice Chairperson be named. Scott asked Julie if she would be willing to assume that office. Julie agreed and a motion was approved appointing her to the office.

(Motion: Barnes, Second: Dilks, AIF)

Julia Horn appointed to the WEC. Scott B. noted a vacancy currently exists on the WEC and asked Julia if she would be willing to serve. Julia replied she was willing to serve. Scott B. also noted Julia would need to make arraignments with the Borough to take the oath of office. Scott said he would notify Karen Sweeney of our new member. Welcome Julia!

Fundraising campaign. Scott B. said under the IRS tax code, contributions to the WEC would be tax deductible. He said the Borough may need to set up a specific account to take the contributions. Also he hopes to use PayPal so we can take contributions online. Scott hoped that PayPal could be linked to whatever account we would be required to use. Julia said if we don't have the public fundraising up and running by May, we should wait until fall since summer is not an opportune time to fundraise.

GC light rail. Scott B. said he had received very general answers to the questions about tree removal he has submitted after the publication of the EIS in Feb. He also said the South Jersey Transportation Authority may be providing some funds for an engineering study. It was generally agreed that the WEC should not take a public stance pro or con this project, but would be ready to advise the Borough should issues arise.

Beaver Program. Julie said that Gateway is interested in our again giving the beaver field trip presentation late this spring to Gateway seniors. Sharon said the presentation would be a helpful item for the Green Team for recertification. Rich said the he would again join Julie to do the presentation.

Duckweed/algae treatment at Dilks Pond for 2021. Rich reported he has signed and submitted the two year (2021 &2022) contract for Dilks Pond for the cost of \$1970 each year. He also forwarded the \$150 fee for the two year DEP permit.

Available wood. It was noted that Frank Gramezi of Woodbury Hts. has used wood he is willing to donate. Dave has been in touch with him . Some of the wood is quite long and there is a possibility the Borough can transport it. Also some of the wood has nails. We would need to determine which pieces we would want.

Friends of Wenonah Trails Account Activity since February 2021 meeting.

Deposits: none

Expenses: \$150.00 DEP permit fee for Dilks Pond.
\$332.47 reimbursement to Julie for wire, paint and sign hardware.
\$57.45 Wells Fargo Bank reorder of 100 FWT checks and shipping.

Total: \$540.19

Current balance: \$4,674.01

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:43 PM.
(Motion: Ceravolo, Second: Ream, AIF)

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Rich Dilks, Sec.