

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
November 9th, 2005

Bob Bevilacqua called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Community Center.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Bob Bevilacqua (Chair)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair)		X
Scott Barnes (Sec.)	X	
Scott Birkland	X	
Rich Dilks	X	
Bill Schnarr		X
Bill Schramm		X

Associate Members Present: Mary Ellen Bush, Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman

Public Guests Present: Bonnie Bell

Minutes of October 12th meeting were approved. (Motion: Dilks, Second: Birkland)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** November 5th work party at Synnott's Pond was a success: 12 volunteers participated plus 2 people from Bob's work. Since March, a total of 32 tons of stone has been moved!

Greg Shast of the Shade Tree Commission (STC) believes WEC is responsible for financing park tree maintenance. Points raised in discussion: WEC is a volunteer organization. No budget money is provided to hire outside contractors such as STC uses. WEC could handle trimming, but not high work. Borough should handle this work directly.

- **Capital Projects (Chuck Forsman):** Regarding Synnott permits: Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will allow us to do the work under a minor stream encroachment, despite the 90+ acre size of the drainage area.

Dave will meet with National Fish and Wildlife representatives in a couple of weeks. They will help provide an environmental impact statement, as well as advice on plant species to use.

Dave has all drawings and tax maps done. Applications will go to DEP next month. Expect approval in 30-60 days. Dredging could begin in late February. Inlet on Woodbury-Glassboro Road needs gabion baskets similar to dam; could begin this before February. Two public hearings are required; not expecting opposition. Curbing is needed along Woodbury-Glassboro since County will not be doing anything; perhaps railroad ties would work.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Don Davis painted poles for Conservation Area signs. Frank has reworked the South Marion drainage ditch. Frank replaced 100 feet of trail rails on the Monongahela Brook Trail. Frank redesigned the South Jackson Avenue

access trail; someone needs to rake the leaves to make the entrance clearly visible. Beaver have been spotted along the Mantua Creek behind Mullens' and upstream of the Trestle.

Chuck suggested that a trail be constructed along the north side of Monongahela Brook. It is within the Conservation Lands. Unlike the rather soggy south side, it is high and dry.

- **Technical (Rich Dilks):** Rich will help compile a plant species list for the Synnott's permit application.
- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** Borough newsletter deadline is tomorrow. Requests were made to publicize: Volunteer Appreciation Night, the Moonlight Walk, conservation signs, and the Synnott work party. Chuck also wanted to revive the dormant species inventory from some years ago. The public should be encouraged to take pictures of unusual species, along with a date, time, and location.
- **Additional Comments (Rich Dilks):** Rich commented on beaver being driven downstream by development. On October 16th, the Nature Club conducted a tour of unusual tree species in town, including the shingle oaks and the park. Rich raised the idea of a permanent tree species sign in the park.

Rich presented an extensive written report on the 68 tree species found in town. Bob suggested that the WEC pursue a DEP grant to convert the document in to a booklet; it might be too late for the 2005 cycle, though.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:23 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes)