

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 14th, 2007

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	
Rich Dilks (V. Chair)	X	
Scott Barnes (Sec. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Scott Birkland	X	
Mary Ellen Bush	X	
Dave Kreck		X
Bill Schnarr		X

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Brian Hayes, Paula Hayes

Minutes of January 10th, 2007 meeting were approved. (Motion: Birkland, Second: Barnes)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** In January, Ken Davis sent a \$1000 donation in memory of his brother Ed. Now he is requesting that a memorial marker be placed on a trail. There was discussion on whether to accept the request, return the donation, or do something else. General sentiment was to avoid introducing a cemetery-like atmosphere on the trails. Also, markers may become targets for vandalism, requiring constant upkeep. An alternative solution was proposed, which Bob will present to Ken Davis: a memorial tree would be planted, but no marker would be placed.

A \$315 donation was made in memory of Gary Burger, son of former mayor Burger.

The proposed triathlon will not involve the trails, so it is a non-issue for the WEC.

For the scheduled March 24th Spring Work Party, several tasks need to be completed. Frank has ordered 100 seedlings to be planted all around, but especially at Synnott's Pond. Also, trash pickups can be done along Woodbury-Glassboro Road and around Comey's Lake.

Regarding the proposal to introduce a scholarship award at the school: a committee at the school would make the student selection per WEC's criteria. Bob proposed two awards of \$50 or \$100: one for a boy and one for a girl. The previously discussed summer camp idea can be considered in the future when more stable funding can be assured. The proposal was agreed-to by all. Rich will write the award criteria.

Kids' Hike may be a big affair this year. There are 69 students in first and second grades. Judging will occur at the April 23rd School Board meeting. On March 27th, Bob and Brian will make their presentations to the students. Pictures and poems will be due back by April 20th. The hike will start at East Pine Street, covering part of the Eldridge Loop and the Monongahela Brook Loop, and ending at the Teahouse. For a shorter hike, the end could be moved to the dock at Comey's Lake.

Dave Kreck has finished the Synnott Pond grant paperwork.

A drum was discovered in Mantua Creek near Boy Scout Island. The State has not been responsive on the issue. Bob asked for volunteers to help him remove the drum at 6 PM tomorrow, March 15th.

- **Liaison (Scott Birkland):** Storm drain labeling by the Boy Scouts is already underway. Further work will be done by 20-30 Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts on March 24th.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Harry Schroeder's widow has donated a bench for placement on the trails, along with a memorial plaque. General sentiment was that this donation could not be accepted, for the same reasons that Ken Davis' marker request could not be accepted. There was a suggestion that the donated bench be placed in the park instead.

There is a drainage problem at the north end of Synnott's Pond. Bob indicated that resolving this issue is not an immediate priority.

- **Planning Board (Scott Barnes):** In Deptford Township, 95 housing units were preliminarily approved for half of the former Maple Ridge Golf Course. There is no news on the convenience store development; their plans may have been affected by the opening of the coffee shop.
- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** *New Jersey Monthly* magazine, which helped promote VultureFest, also had a recent statewide ranking of desirable places to live. Wenonah fared rather poorly on this list. One reason may be that the magazine listed Wenonah as having no conservation land. This mistake may be related to a mapping error which Chuck described in the past. Scott will investigate further.
- **Education (Rich Dilks):** VultureFest was another big success. Rich was interviewed on the radio the day after the festival; Scott Barnes has an audio recording. Thank-you letters were sent to Tricia Sloan and the school. A wider partnership with the school is just beginning. A planning dinner similar to last year's is scheduled for April 16th, 6 PM, at Terra Nova Restaurant.

The Wenonah Historical Society is interested in having the WEC provide a review of VultureFest at one of their meetings. Rich hopes to schedule this for September.

A Courier-Post article on March 1st covered Wenonah Conservation Lands and the WEC.

As discussed in November, Rich will extend an invitation to Dr. Emile DeVito of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to visit us when he is in the area next month.

- **Additional Comments (Paula Hayes):** Paula observed pink marker flags near the fire hydrant in the Monongahela Brook vicinity. Nobody was sure of their purpose, but Bob will investigate.
- **Additional Comments (Brian Hayes):** Brian recommended getting conservation easements now for unsold lots on Linden Avenue before any further development occurs.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:42 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes)