

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

September 12th, 2007

Corrected as per October 10th, 2007 Meeting

Bob Bevilacqua called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 6:30 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Comey's Lake Teahouse.

<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, Chuck Forsman

Minutes of August 8th, 2007 meeting were approved. (Motion: Dilks, Second: Eggert)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** The South Jersey Land and Water Trust is offering a stream assessment class on September 29th. Cost is \$10. Bob is planning to go.

For our November 3rd work party, we will do a Woodbury-Glassboro Road cleanup. We might be able to get \$300 from the county Clean Communities program.

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions recently printed a short VultureFest article written by Bob.

Trail map proofs will be ready for next month. The plan is to have printing completed for 2008. Cost will be \$500 for layout plus very roughly \$1 per copy. There was general agreement to print 1000 maps this time; more can always be printed in the future.

Members should come prepared to discuss the 2008 calendar next month.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** There is a tree down on the West Willow St. access trail near Marge Lentz. Removing it will be a big job.

Frank has repaired water bars on the West Cherry St. tributary. He also rebuilt an access trail to Marion Avenue.

Frank's future plans are to install two benches at Synnott's Pond and to work on the Teahouse access trail (to Lenape Trail) with Bob.

- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** The Oak Valley open space purchase mentioned several months ago has been finalized. Again, we need to reach out to the Deptford Environmental Commission.

The Gloucester County Soil Conservation District is sponsoring a digital photo contest about local environmental subjects. The deadline is November 19th.

Frank requested that a reminder be placed in the next town newsletter regarding fishing trash and debris. A lot of these types of items were found at Dilks' Pond recently.

- **Education (Rich Dilks):** WEC received a large postcard from the Hinckley, Ohio buzzard festival.

Rich conducted a purple loosestrife survey in early August. There was little change from last year. Leaf damage from beetles seems to be less prevalent. The timeframe for beetle results is 3 to 5 years. There is no reason to think the beetles have failed at this point.

The Vulturefest Environment Education (VEE) Grant process continues to move forward. The Vulturefest website has been updated and letters have been sent to all K-6 principals in the county. A positive response was reported from a Pitman principal already.

The WEC presentation to the Historical Society has been delayed until spring, perhaps just after the next Vulturefest. The Home and School Association wants us to do hikes in the spring for an after-school program.

- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Synnott's trails need to be widened. Bob Pritchard has offered us \$500 to eliminate the trees hanging over the pond.

At Comey's Lake, the fish seem to be doing well. The chemical Sonar is still the ultimate solution to the duckweed issue. Overhanging trees could be trimmed here, too. Also, Chuck feels a real bridge needs to be installed at the Camelback Run falls.

A general discussion about duckweed funding ensued at this point. The general consensus was that an ongoing maintenance fund for the Conservation Lands is needed. We should not focus our fundraising too narrowly on duckweed; there are worthy projects all around town.

MEETING ADJOURNED