

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 Member Present: Bonnie Bell

Public Guests Present: Laurie Christinzio, Kathy Howard, Stephanie Lee, and others

Minutes of October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Dilks)

## BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Kathy Howard):** Kathy presented a \$1500 check to the WEC on behalf of the Lake Association. As mentioned last month, this is a third of the profits from the Haunted Trail. Bob will be repairing the swamp bridge along the trail route. Kathy also announced a town-wide cleanup day on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.
- **Public Comment (Stephanie Lee of Recycle Bank):** Stephanie presented information about Recycle Bank's incentive-based recycling system. Under their system, the amount a household recycles would be measured electronically. The household would then receive reward points redeemable at local businesses in proportion to the weight of materials recycled. This program is used in about 7 New Jersey communities now as well as Wilmington, Delaware.
- **Chairman's Report:** The November 3<sup>rd</sup> road cleanup work party had 10 participants, so the County will pay \$500.

There is still a serious erosion problem near Synnott's Pond due to runoff from Woodbury-Glassboro Road. Bob proposes placing more rip-rap in the stream area. He hopes the freeholders will donate the stone; our volunteers would place it.

The Home & School Learning for Fun program continues with four Monday afternoon programs remaining.

- **Education (Rich Dilks):** Some key decisions were made at the first Vulturefest 2008 organizational meeting, held on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Both daytime and nighttime activities are planned. A reduced-price children's ticket for the night activities will be offered. The International Center for Birds of Prey will likely participate with their live birds as long as \$3,000 can be raised to cover their expenses. The next meeting is scheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There was only one application for the Vulturefest Environmental Education (VEE) Grant: Pat Harmon from Wenonah School. She requested \$400 to construct a wader drying rack for her stream studies program. Rich wants to provide the maximum \$500 anyway. The Gloucester County Nature Club has already approved the award. With no objections expressed, the WEC approves the award as well.

As mentioned last month, Rich has submitted local plant species data to the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve's Plant Stewardship Index website. A total of 320 species of vascular plants were entered. Wenonah has the highest ranking of naturalness and biodiversity of any site submitted to date.

Rich feels it would be useful to have a book of local plant species with photos available to the public.

- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** The Delaware River Port Authority will be holding a series of open houses regarding the possible expansion of the PATCO passenger train system into Gloucester County. One proposed route would use the existing Conrail right-of-way through Wenonah. The closest meeting to Wenonah will be held in Deptford on the evening of November 27<sup>th</sup>.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:20 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes)