

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
January 14th, 2009

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:33 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Community Center.

| <u>ROLL CALL</u> | <u>PRESENT</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Rich Dilks (Chair) | X | |
| Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair) | X | |
| Scott Barnes (Sec. / Planning Bd. Rep.) | X | |
| Scott Birkland | X | |
| Mary Ellen Bush | X | |
| Dave Kreck | X | |

Associate Members Present: Bonnie Bell, Chuck Forsman

Public Guest Present: Phil Kaeferle

Minutes of the December 10th meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Chris Newman is joining WEC tonight as a prospective Member; the mayor is unavailable to swear him in.

Rich presented WEC Junior Associate Member Commendation Awards to Madi Kreck, Olivia Kerns, and Greta Colman for their assistance in removing trash from the trails as well as patrolling the tea house.

Councilman Navins is hoping to be the liaison on Council for the WEC and Shade Tree Commission. He proposed a joint fundraising appeal mailing for both organizations.

The Moonlight Hike scheduled for January 10th was cancelled due to rain. The best alternate dates in February and March conflict with other WEC activities, so we will cancel for the year.

The Spring Work Party on Saturday, March 21st will take place at Synnott's. Donated stones will be placed in the eastern channel and leaf raking will be done.

\$500 has been received for WEC's participation in the November 22nd Clean Communities Day.

The Vulture Festival educational grant program has received two applications to date. The published deadline is tomorrow, but late applications will be considered.

The next meeting of VultureFest volunteers will be on February 4th. Rich is looking into having the Academy of Natural Sciences provide the educational programming this year.

The Philadelphia Zoo offers a Community Conservation Grant of up to \$1500 to "community organizations" (broadly defined). The deadline is very soon, but we should look into it for next year.

The question of our membership in the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) was considered. After discussion, it was decided to join for 2009. (Motion: Barnes, Second: Bush, AIF)

REORGANIZATION

- **Officers:** Rich Dilks as Chair, Bob Bevilacqua as Vice-Chair, Scott Barnes as Secretary and Planning Board Representative. (unchanged).
- **Time and day of meetings:** Second Wednesday of month at 7:30 PM (unchanged).

MORE BUSINESS

- **Capital Projects (Bob Bevilacqua):** Bob has a direct contact at Atlantic City Electric who will attempt to expedite removal of the decommissioned West Cedar electric line. (*See July, September, and October 2008.*)

The residents at Princeton and Pine have requested that WEC remove 30-35 feet of cyclone fence on the Eldridge Trail. Chuck says that this is a remnant of the old Comey's Lake fencing. Dave and Bob will look at the situation further.

- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** Dave has made drawings of the canoe launch area. The Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA) says, unofficially, that anyone can walk over the land. Ownership of the land remains with the borough; GCUA's easement prohibits only the raising of permanent structures.
- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Mantua Mayor Chell will try again this year to get an open space tax approved to fund land acquisition at Maple Ridge.
- **Liaison (Scott Barnes):** The NJ Office of Smart Growth has officially recommended the PATCO commuter rail expansion route "NJ-3" along the existing rail line through Wenonah.

Regarding the calendar idea (*see December*), there are websites such as Lulu.com that will print calendars on-demand, which seems to be a better idea than making a big printing run.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:33 PM