

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
January 13th, 2010

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 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 | |
| Chris Newman | X | |

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman

Public Guest Present: Joe Berg

Minutes of the December 9th meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck, AIF)

REORGANIZATION

- Welcome to Tommy Lombardo as a Member. Thanks to Mary Ellen Bush for her term.
- **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).
- (Motion on Officers and Meeting Time: Kreck, Barnes, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Public Comment:** Tom O'Hara of Woodbury Heights is concerned about 300-500 new units of housing proposed for three sites: MAMCO, Bell Telephone, and Woodland Street. The creek near Church Street runs into Queen Lake, so development could affect Wenonah Lake water. Dave mentioned that this drainage actually doesn't occur anymore due to a clogged pipe under the railroad that is unlikely to be fixed. Dave will check with the W-H borough engineer as a precaution. Bob said that any runoff issues would be policed by the county's Soil Conservation District.
- **Chairman's Report:** Joe Berg presented an update on his Eagle Scout sign project. Two signs are proposed: one each for Wenonah Lake and Comey's Lake. The signs will be topped with plexiglass. Each will have information on about 5 species found in the area of the sign.

The Nature Club proposes a joint hike in the fall to promote the new "Trees of Gloucester County" cards. The decks will cost \$5 each, and could be used for events such as the Kids' Hike. A date was not set, but consensus was to hold the hike in early fall so most leaves would still be visible.

On the spring Synnott's Pond project, Karen Sweeney still needs a formal proposal from

Bob in the amount of about \$4,500 to encumber last year's budget. The work will take place around the end of February into early March.

\$300 was received from the borough for our participation in Clean Communities Day on November 21st.

Rich made a presentation to the Woman's Club on January 11th regarding the proposed Stone Pond renovations. The club may contribute once the costs are known.

Bob has Stewart Estate brass plaques dating to as early as 1969 which need to be placed on concrete bases. A work party is needed.

Dave filed the Recreational Trails grant application in December. Decision should be known by early spring.

Dave investigated the Shawnee Drive erosion area. It appears to originate from a borough stormwater easement area. The borough may need to pay for piping, which requires permits. It is too large of a project for the WEC to take on.

On the VultureFest grants, Rich will make a presentation to County school superintendents on Friday. Application deadline is February 23rd.

- **Capital Projects (Bob Bevilacqua):** Eagle Scout project ideas are needed. Two that were discussed: spreading stone on the Mantua Creek Trail wet areas, and improving the Hanisey's Landing canoe launch site.
- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** Borough Newsletter deadline is next week covering events through the end of May.

Twitter and Facebook accounts are being set up now for VultureFest. Once this is complete, similar accounts could be set up for WEC.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Frank requested \$200 for White Pine trees. Dave said that his daughter will plant the 10 Arbor Day trees when the ground is thawed.
- **Council/Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Kenny Atkinson of the County Planning Board sent Chuck a letter regarding Maple Ridge. The governor may not go through with the voter-approved Green Acres bonds for months or years. In any case, the State owes the County a lot of money for existing projects. Other sources suggest the money is there if the political will is there. After discussion, it was agreed to invite the South Jersey Land & Water Trust and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to see the property first-hand.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:59 PM (Motion: Barnes, Second: Lombardo, AIF)