

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Corrected as per April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Meeting

Bob Bevilacqua called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:35 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Community Building.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Bob Bevilacqua (Chair)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair)	X	
Scott Barnes (Sec.)	X	
Brian Hayes	X	
Paula Hayes	X	
Bill Schnarr		X
Bill Schramm		X

Associate Members Present: Richard Dilks, Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman

Public Guests Present: John Mullens, Lillian DeMuro, Greg Shast

Minutes of February 9th meeting were approved. (Motion: B. Hayes, Second: P. Hayes)

### PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Greg Shast (Shade Tree Commission-STC):** Four or five trees in Borough Park need pruning; these are WEC's responsibility. WEC can join STC's fall bidding process for tree work. Bob accepted this offer.

Greg also briefly described the proposed Tree Ordinance, an update of the existing 1945 law. It brings STC responsibilities in line with a 1996 state law. It protects individual STC members from liability. Finally, it defines resident responsibilities with respect to town-owned trees.

- **Lillian DeMuro:** Lillian presented a \$100 donation from the Home & School Association.

### BUSINESS

- **Loosestrife Beetle Release:** Richard Dilks inquired as to the payment procedure. Funds will come from Friends of Wenonah Trails. The beetles will be released when ready; there is no fixed date. Dave agreed to be the backup contact person in case Rich is unavailable. Rich is drafting a letter to the Mantua Environmental Commission to explain what we and the State are doing.
- **Finances:** Friends of Wenonah Trails has \$3810.
- **Chairman's Report:** March 5<sup>th</sup> Work Party had 14 adults. 18 tons of stone were moved, but 18 more tons are necessary! Frank wants to move the trail slightly and install bridges after the pond restoration is complete.

Several members attended the March 3<sup>rd</sup> PATCO expansion meeting at Deptford. The general consensus is that no WEC action is warranted at this time.

- **Education (Brian/Paula):** Kids' Hike activities rapidly approaching. Bob and Dave will go to the school on March 31<sup>st</sup> or April 1<sup>st</sup>. Essays and drawings will be collected on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Hike will start at the Eldridge Trail sign on East Pine Street.

Five-Mile Hike last month was considered a success; consensus is to do it again.

- **Capital Projects (Dave):** On Synnott's Pond project, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Federal agency; not same as National Fish & Wildlife) offers up to \$3000 in assistance: \$2500 for plants and seed mix, and permit help (valued at \$500). County will help with siltation problems closer to actual project time.

Fundraising must get underway on web site and in Borough newsletter; Dave to write up blurb. Mr. Pritchard paid for the stone used in the ongoing dam stabilization.

On the Stormwater Management Program, the Borough will ask for a 6-month extension.

- **Liason (Brian):** The Raptor Project returns to Pitman High School on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Natural Lands Trust is sponsoring walks in the Millville Peek Preserve, among other activities. Brian will do write-up on the vultures that have been circling the town lately.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank):** Boards on the Mantua Creek Island need replaced. Poured concrete pads are one possible solution. They are expensive, so perhaps we will put in only a few this year on a trial basis. John Mullens is putting in wild irises to control erosion along the stream banks in the same area.
- **Eagle Scout:** Possible projects for Joe Carson were discussed: 1) New trail on west side of railroad above Buttonwood. 2) New trail along south side of Monongahela Brook from railroad to Mantua Creek. 3) Improving Hanisey's Landing by adding stone and installing steps to Mantua Avenue.
- **Public Relations (Chuck):** State planners are using Wenonah as a model town for South Jersey.

Stewart Estate wants town to designate a Park Director. In addition, we should take photos of conservation plaques and land acquisitions.

Dirt that spilled from Cornell property onto Monongahela Brook Trail will be addressed.

Scott asked about rescheduling the Woodbury-Glassboro Road trash pickup that was canceled due to snow last month. April 16<sup>th</sup> is the new date; meet 9AM at the bank.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:57 PM. (Motion: B. Hayes, Second: P. Hayes)