

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

July 11<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: Chuck Forsman

Public Guests Present: Colleen Moran, Barb Cammelmeyer

Minutes of June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes)

### BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Connor Moran was one of the WEC 6<sup>th</sup> grade scholarship winners. Bob presented the award and a check to his mother.

In the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, Barb Finocchiaro and Lauren Mullen made the float that prominently featured our trail system. Last year, they made the vulture float from which we obtained the head.

Hannah and Rose Malfitano, youngsters who have attended many WEC hikes, are now helping to stock Synnott's Pond with fish they catch elsewhere.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 11 Gateway students spent 1-1/2 hours spreading mulch at Synnott's Pond.

A new draft of the trail map will be prepared for next month. Scott presented some comments; Rich had previously circulated comments also.

Bob has partially cut the access trail from the Teahouse to Lenape Trail. This trail is being created to assist the police in combating vandalism. Yet more Teahouse graffiti has been deposited in recent weeks.

Recent news reports suggest that the Westville Environmental Commission is being disbanded by their council due to lack of participation.

- **Education (Rich Dilks):** The July 4<sup>th</sup> public hike was well-attended and successful.

Two more Natural Places Guides have been sold.

Rich is coordinating the Historical Society September program. It will have two themes:

natural history and Vulture Festival history. Rich will start work around the end of August. Bob will help.

Mary Ellen asked if there is any risk that the vultures could suddenly move out of town. Rich felt that the deer population is driving the increased vulture population. The vultures seem to appreciate our older homes both for their chimneys and their poor attic insulation. For comparison, the Hinkley, Ohio roost dates back over 200 years.

Chuck raised the idea of making a DVD about the vultures. Requests are coming in for us to make vulture presentations, including one from Eastern Pennsylvania.

The children and teachers at Wenonah Elementary School sent "scratch art" thank-you notes. They will be displayed at next year's festival.

The first meeting of the Vulture Festival grant committee was held earlier this month.

- **Trail Maintenance (Bob Bevilacqua):** Frank wants to hold a work party on Tuesday at 6:30 PM at Dilks' Pond.

Scott raised the idea of erecting a short fence along Dilks' Pond Trail to clearly delineate our land from the railroad's. Perhaps Frank can obtain some recycled materials for the job.

- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Chuck reiterated the need for Comey's Lake work. Bob said the necessary permits will take years to obtain.

Chuck said he has been involved with WEC and its predecessor organization since 1972. The last 7 years have been the busiest out of that time.

- **Other Comments (Scott Barnes):** An April newspaper article stated that the County was providing funding to buy 7 acres of land in Oak Valley (Deptford Twp.) for a park. If this land is adjacent to Wenonah Lake, there could be opportunities for things such as common trails.

We should move our Comey's Lake outdoor meeting to September as we discussed last year. The printed town calendar is incorrect. This proposition was agreed-to by all present.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:29 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes)