

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 12th, 2008

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 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
Bill Schnarr		X

Associate Members Present: Bonnie Bell, Frank Eggert

Minutes of February 13th meeting were approved with one correction. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** 300 to 400 attended the Vulture Festival Children's Fair. Overall festival accounting is still underway. Rich sent thank-you letters to the Center for Birds of Prey and to school administrator Frank Vogel. The traditional post-festival organizer's dinner will be scheduled soon. Bob requested an additional thank-you letter to Gateway for supplying student volunteers.

The Nature Club is again requesting that we co-sponsor Bird Quest at the \$100 level. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes, Approved AIF.) Rich will try to organize a Wenonah team to visit Maple Ridge that day.

The March 22nd work party won't include a roadside cleanup, since Clean Communities money has not been released yet. Bob wants to move stone at Synnott's Pond. Also, mulch needs to be applied at Jefferson and Buttonwood where trees were removed.

Frank wishes to order 100, 4 ft. white pine seedlings for \$85. (Motion: Birkland, Second: Bush, Approved AIF.) They will probably not arrive in time for the work party. Frank also wondered how to take accumulated silt out of Synnott's. Bob will bring equipment to the work party to try to help.

The 210 North Jefferson trail debris situation reported last month has been largely resolved.

The April 19th Spring Hike will take the same route as the Kids' Hike, to be discussed.

Stephanie Berenato wants WEC participation in the proposed Founder's Day event during the 2nd week of June. Suggested topic for 15-minute talk: "What was Wenonah like before Wenonah?" Reaction generally positive. Frank suggested a focus on Comey's Lake to highlight our present-day needs there.

Kids' Hike school visit will occur on March 27th at 2:00, 15 minutes per class. School board meeting is April 15th. After discussion, the hike route will be Hayes Ave. to Wenonah Lake. May have to shuttle participants back to Hayes Ave. at the end.

- **Capital Projects (Bob Bevilacqua):** First payment was made for Sonar duckweed treatment. There is no schedule yet. Bob received a \$3500 sounding estimate from Vargo. It is not a direct equivalent to Princeton Hydro's quote, since Vargo is not measuring sediment. Phil Kaeflerle contacted the County to see if they can help.
- **Council/Legal (Rich Dilks):** On Maple Ridge, the County is waiting for Deptford's council to act. Joan Tracy says that a resolution could be approved by April 7th. Green Acres funding might be available, but nothing is certain. Chuck wants a physical meeting of the preservation committee next.
- **Education (Mary Ellen Bush):** To enhance hikes, could purchase supplies like laminated animal cards or a "critter kit." Could borrow an arrowhead collection. Bob feels it is time to take hikes "to the next level."
- **Liaison (Scott Barnes):** Regarding town water usage, Wenonah is under its usage cap now. The Wenonah Meadows development would add 2.5 million gallons per year, pushing us over the limit. The State is refusing to approve Wenonah Meadows permits until the water issue is resolved. Very likely, Wenonah will have to interconnect with New Jersey American Water, either directly at Wenonah Lake or indirectly through the Deptford Municipal Utility Authority underneath Woodbury-Glassboro Road.

Mayor Capaldi is informally proposing to build a house at the end of East Cherry where we currently have a trail access point. This trail access is occurring over private property that the mayor has inherited from Mr. Furey. East Cherry does not extend all the way to the conservation area. It is critical to check that the East Willow access to Comey's Lake is over public land, since the East Pine access is private and could be revoked at any time.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Three bridges on Break Back Run Trail have needed attention; one has already been rehabilitated. Trail rails need to be added to Monongahela Brook Trail just east of Marion. The "Mantua Creek Extension" trail will be next.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:51 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland)