

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 13th, 2008

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah 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, Chuck Forsman

Public Guests Present: Councilman Carl Hausman, Councilman Phil Kaferle

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

BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Phil Kaferle):** Mr. Kaferle summarized the current Maple Ridge political situation. Mantua is interested in funding a park on their portion of the property, partly through a dedicated Open Space Tax. Deptford appears to be uninterested in pursuing a park on their portion of the property.

Mr. Kaferle raised the possibility of Wenonah applying for Green Acres funding to further Maple Ridge preservation, even though none of the land is within the borough's boundary. Alternatively, the borough could apply for assistance with the Comey's Lake dredging project. In either case, Borough Council wants the WEC's input quickly, since the application deadline is September 30th.

Chuck stated that funding the Maple Ridge project without this Green Acres money could be very difficult. Property appraisals will be done within the next two weeks. Most likely, the Preservation Committee will have to raise \$1.5 million that is not covered by other government funding sources. He has spoken with John Flynn of the Green Acres Program, who expressed an interest in meeting directly with the WEC.

Bob estimated the cost of Comey's Lake dredging at \$500,000 due to the lake's steep slopes, equipment access issues, and restoration. He prefers making the application for Comey's Lake restoration instead of Maple Ridge.

Scott Barnes expressed concern about the health of the Comey's Lake dam. Would dredging efforts be nullified by a possible future dam failure? Chuck explained that while the original dam is over 100 years old, the leveling dam was restored in 1995. The lake would survive if only the leveling dam remained intact.

Rich wants to move forward with the John Flynn meeting as soon as possible.

- **Chairman's Report:** A dead tree on conservation lands poses a hazard to the property at 212 E. Pine St. The town is unwilling to handle this tree due to its size. Chuck felt it would set a bad precedent for WEC to fund the removal of this tree. If it falls, the town's JIF insurance will cover damages. The WEC should make a point of offering volunteer assistance to the property owner if any damage should occur.

Don Benedik of the County Health Department contacted the WEC inquiring about an ordinance restricting phosphorus fertilizers. There is no such borough ordinance.

The fourth chemical treatment of Comey's Lake occurred today. This dose of Sonar was made at an increased concentration of 60 parts per billion. There is also a watermeal (sheen) issue on the lake; Sonar is ineffective against this plant, but a new chemical treatment will be available next year.

Friends of Wenonah Trails has a balance of \$9,501.71.

- **Education (Mary Ellen Bush):** Mary Ellen received a catalog of educational materials that might be helpful during future hikes. Due to the length of this meeting, she will bring it up at a future meeting.
- **Other Comments (Bonnie Bell):** The center circle of Wenonah Park needs landscaping help; Bonnie wondered who is responsible for this area. There seems to be no clear leader, although interested organizations step forward from time to time. Perhaps Rollie Malfitano could help as part of his bulb planting project.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:55 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland)