

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 6:33 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Comey's Lake Teahouse.

<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 Member Present: Bonnie Bell

Public Guest Present: Glen Green

Minutes of the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland, AIF)

## BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Checks were finally issued to the Student Environmental Award winners on 8/21; the school was uncooperative in providing Social Security Numbers needed to issue savings bonds.

Friends of Wenonah Trails (FWT) has a balance of \$8,451.79 (the amount given last month was incorrect). FWT now has its own Employer Identification Number, in response to objections from the Borough's auditors.

The fourth Sonar chemical treatment of Comey's Lake was done on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The final appearance of the lake is still not good after all of the treatments.

WEC's borough budget account has \$2,810.08. After discussion, it was agreed to try to get the first two Princeton Hydro payments (for Sonar treatment) reimbursed by the Borough to FWT.

Rich has responded in writing to the Shade Tree Commission's request that WEC remove trees in the park. Basically, nothing in the ordinances suggests that we are responsible for park trees or park maintenance in general. Prior tree payments by Bill Schramm were more of a good-will gesture to work around budget limitations.

The status of Synnott's Pond island demolition was discussed. There was no strong sense that special work parties need to be scheduled.

WEC will once again help with the Lake Association's Haunted Trail. It's on October 18<sup>th</sup> this year.

The Vulturefest Environmental Education Grant Committee has met to discuss how grants will be awarded this year. Total VultureFest funds are at least \$2,580, including a \$2,030 profit from the 2008 festival. The plan is to award \$1,000 in grants without the

automatic set-aside for Wenonah as was done last year. The application deadline has been delayed until January 15<sup>th</sup> to allow design of better promotional materials. As the co-sponsor of Vulture Fest, the WEC agrees to the grant proposal. (Motion: Barnes, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

Dave Kreck has again reminded Atlantic City Electric of the wires that must be removed from the conservation area near West Cedar. The company plans to do the work once leaves have fallen.

On Maple Ridge, there will be no Green Acres application this year. Phil Kaeferle found certain grant details to be different than what John Flynn told us. First, the grant is partially a loan that must be repaid. Second, although the County would normally provide matching funds for our application, they have declined to do so in this case. Also (unrelated to Green Acres) the County's appraisal of the property is still not done!

Rich performed his annual inspection of the purple loosestrife infestation in the Mantua Creek marsh on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The beetles released in 2005 are not significantly decreasing the biomass of plants this year. Rich will contact the State for advice before next spring. It is possible that tidal action during the wintertime is flooding the plant roots, where the beetles hibernate.

- **Public Comment (Glen Green):** Mr. Green offered his expertise to possibly set up kayak races on Mantua Creek. He feels spring is the best time to do them, since the creek level drops to almost un-navigable levels over the summer.
- **Liaison (Scott Barnes):** The Planning Board meeting in July featured a lengthy hearing on an application to allow Diana Salomone's property at 500 E. Mantua Ave. to be rented for private parties. The application was denied on a 2-5 vote. In addition to significant opposition from citizens at the hearing, there were concerns that this type of variance applies to the property in perpetuity, no matter who owns it.

The Planning Board has proposed revisions to the Land Use Ordinance regarding Accessory Structures. These revisions limit the number, footprint, and height of such structures. The protracted construction of a very large pole barn on East Buttonwood prompted these revisions.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:29 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland, AIF)