

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 8th, 2009

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:37 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
Chris Newman	X	

Associate Members Present: Bonnie Bell, Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman

Public Guest Present: Glen Green

Minutes of the February 11th meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland, AIF)

Minutes of the March 11th meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Glen Green):** Mr. Green is organizing a Mantua Creek Canoe/Kayak Race on Sunday, June 14th. The race starts and ends near the Route 45 bridge. He wishes to have two volunteers from WEC to assist with the race.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Philadelphia Zoo will be presenting their traveling program, "Beaks and Bills," following the Kids' Hike on May 9th.

Conrail apparently is constructing an access road to the railroad trestle, blocking our trail. Nobody is sure what their timetable or ultimate plans are. Rich will attempt to follow up with an archeological consultant who contacted WEC looking for historical pictures of the bridge.

WEC has been invited to take part in the Ice Cream Social on May 18th. The general sentiment was to decline since we do many other activities at that time of year.

Community service project ideas were solicited for Chris Viviano. Cleaning the Comey's Lake dock and placing stone at Synnott's Pond were suggested. Mr. Viviano already helped remove some of the obsolete chain link fencing along Eldridge Trail during the Spring Work Party on March 21st.

April 18th is Founders' Day. Our Spring Hike that day will have a historical theme. It will start from the Community Center, go down the Garden Trail, visit the Trestle, visit the Glen, and finish at Clay Hill. The next day, Rich is leading a Nature Club wildflower hike starting at Wenonah Lake at 9 AM.

The NJ Audubon Society is requesting a list of local birding and wildlife viewing sites. The Nature Club will be taking care of submitting sites for the whole county.

The Vulturefest wrap-up dinner is scheduled for April 21st at Terra Nova Restaurant. The documentary film "Roost" featuring the festival just missed the top 12 in the international documentary competition in which it was entered.

All trees have arrived for the spring tree planting. This Saturday at 9 AM has been chosen as the planting time. Rich will contact the Hoffman family and Dawn Carson.

Glen Green has reported a large beaver-gnawed tree that may be in danger of falling on Mantua Creek Trail. Rich promised to look into it.

Regarding the Comey's Lake fountain project: the initial electrician quote was \$835, which seems too high. The material cost of the fountain is \$1150 plus a \$125 propeller guard plus shipping. The device and its cable must be retrieved each fall using a boat and replaced the following spring. The motor is sealed, and it's not clear if it is repairable should it break. Council approved the arrangement with the Simpsons; estimated electricity cost is \$250 per year. Acquisition and installation costs should be deducted from Friends of Wenonah Trails.

At Synnott's Pond, Rich will get in contact with Bob Pritchard again regarding his tree maintenance requests. At the opposite end of the pond, Bob Bevilacqua wishes to bring in an excavator when the Elm Street pump station project is complete.

A county-funded landscape architect may be available for borough projects. After discussion, some suggested design projects were: the Stone Pond, the new borough garage, and the park in general.

- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Letters to the Editor may be needed on Maple Ridge; progress has stalled. Scott Barnes suggested setting up a social networking site for the project to try to build some grass-roots support.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:23 PM (Motion: Dilks, Second: Birkland, AIF)