

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:47 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Municipal Building.

<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, Tom Murtha

Public Guests Present: Hoffman Family, Pete Speth

Minutes of the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Newman, AIF)

### BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Pete Speth):** Mr. Speth presented a \$500 contribution check and stated it will be annual. He recently caught two kids smoking, digging a trench, and placing metal near Wenonah Lake. Gateway has identified the individuals from his photographs; it is up to the WEC to take action. He suggests that a sign and chain be put up at the main trail entrance. Patrolman Jones is aware of the situation. Rich will take up the matter with the police; he would prefer direct restitution instead of legal action.
- **Public Comment (Spencer Hoffman):** Read a letter thanking WEC for arranging the tree planting that he and his friends took part in.
- **Chairman's Report:** The April 18<sup>th</sup> Spring Hike on Founders' Day was attended by 40 to 50 people.

Frank has expressed concern that the Elm Street pump project has destroyed shrubs planted by WEC. Dave said it is unlikely that Council would pay to replace them.

The Conrail trestle reconstruction project may be connected with the PATCO Gloucester County expansion proposal. The rail line through Wenonah is now the preferred route. A new round of public hearings will be coming.

A rain barrel will be shown at the Garden Fair on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Dave wants to distribute flyers to meet borough stormwater education requirements. Chris wanted to know if the borough can distribute rain barrels to residents.

The WEC 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Environmental Awards will be continued this year, except that the two awards will be checks instead of bonds.

The Fourth of July hike route was discussed. The consensus was to start at East Pine

Street, go around Monongahela Brook Loop, and end at Comey's Lake, possibly demonstrating the new fountain.

Replacing the Monongahela Brook Lower Bridge would require engineering work for the bulkheads. Dave will check whether any State permits would be required. The grant application deadline is in December.

Chuck reported that the Comey's Lake fountain is progressing. A trench has been dug. Next come permits and then donated electrical work. He wants it done by the end of June. Typical life for this device is 15 years.

At Synnott's, Mr. Pritchard is ready to purchase more stone. He wishes to hold off on any work on the dead tree near his property.

- **Capital Projects (Bob Bevilacqua):** Raking out dead leaves at Comey's Lake makes a big difference in the algae and duckweed issues.
- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck)** Dave distributed the State's stormwater education requirements. WEC can help by forming a subcommittee to advise on stormwater-related programs. It was agreed that Dave and Bob will constitute this subcommittee. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Barnes, AIF)
- **Liaison/Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** The Planning Board has tentatively approved an antenna installation by Verizon on the water tower. A large, canopied equipment rack will sit near the base. Dave said that Metro PCS has also expressed interest in the tower. Also: borough newsletter deadline is tomorrow.
- **Public Comment (Pete Speth):** Mr. Speth asked for a Maple Ridge update; not much is happening. He wishes promote a conservation effort in Deptford near Oak Valley, where he believes a PATCO parking lot is planned. He also wishes to know what happened to the trout lilies at Wenonah Lake.
- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Carly Chaapel, a college student and native of Wenonah, has written to the Mantua mayor in support of Maple Ridge preservation. Chuck wants her to write to the Freeholders as well. Promoting preservation to current Maple Ridge visitors is problematic; we can't place signs on private property. However, windshield flyers might work.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** July 4<sup>th</sup> pre-hike brush cutting will start soon.

MEETING ADJOURNED (Motion: Newman, Second: Barnes, AIF)