

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 12th, 2010

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:36 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
Dave Kreck	X	
Tommy Lombardo	X	
Chris Newman	X	

Associate Member Present: Frank Eggert

Minutes of the April 14th meeting were approved. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Lombardo, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Monday, July 5th is the actual Independence Day hike date.

At the Ice Cream Social on May 17th, we will have an Invasive Species Bean-bag Toss for the kids.

Should we continue the Student Environmental Awards exactly as they were awarded last year? After discussion, it was agreed to do so.

Our Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) membership is about to lapse. Should we renew? All were in favor of renewing.

Friends of Maple Ridge (FMR) held its first meeting last evening. One key issue for any potential purchaser of park land is deciding who will be responsible for maintenance. Rich proposes that the WEC take on this job in partnership with FMR. Scott noted that WEC's maintenance efforts are already suffering from a small base of volunteers, and that Maple Ridge may be more vulnerable to vandalism than Wenonah's conservation lands. After discussion, it was decided to assist with the maintenance of Maple Ridge as part of a larger effort. (Motion: Dilks, Second: Kreck, AIF)

The Nature Club wishes to hold a joint tree walk with WEC in the fall. It was decided to hold this walk on Saturday, October 23rd to catch some fall color. There will be tree "stations" with naturalists along one or several hike routes.

Regarding the summer day camp (*see April minutes*), the week of August 9th would be ideal. Exact days and age brackets (if any) will be worked out later.

The Stone Pond project (*see April minutes*) would best be done in the fall timeframe.

- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** The borough's stormwater permit is up to renewal this month. A public outreach activity needs to be planned. One idea is to create new instructions for composting. We could make a presentation and distribute handouts at the Craft Fair. (Normally, we would do this at the Garden Fair, but that event is now held biennially in odd years only.)

Dave met with John Schallor of the Soil Conservation District at 3 Shawnee Drive to discuss the erosion problem. (See *April minutes*.) John's idea to avoid a permit was to install an inlet at the dropoff point, lay pipe in a trench, and cover the top with wood chips. Dave's idea of a stone berm is even less expensive. There was general agreement that the berm idea should be tried first.

Madi Kreck would like to create a rain barrel handout program in town. There was discussion about buying barrels in bulk to reduce shipping costs, how to make them aesthetically pleasing, and whether one of the big box home improvement stores would be willing to help financially. Tom suggested that a similar approach could be tried for compost bins as well.

The borough has bids out for an erosion fix at the end of West Poplar, to be completed this summer.

- **Liaison (Scott Barnes):** The Planning Board approved the installation of new antennae on the water tower by Clearwire. There will be a relatively small equipment cabinet in a fenced area near the base of the tower.
- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** Borough newsletter deadline is next Tuesday. The newsletter is mostly an online-only publication at this point; it is not worth spending a lot of time writing for it.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Frank has been working on the Jackson Street access to the Breakback Run Trail. On the Mantua Creek Trail, the Upper Bridge on the island still has a bulge in one of its joints. Nearby, Frank wishes to raise the boardwalk and move it closer to the historical creek channel (away from the current channel).

The last work party at the upper end of Wenonah Lake was unsuccessful due to lack of participation. After discussion, and to give adequate notice to everyone, it was rescheduled for Saturday, May 22nd at 8 AM, again across from 612 Princeton Avenue in Oak Valley.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:54 PM (Motion: Kreck, Second: Newman, AIF)