

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2010

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:34 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 Members Present: Mary Ellen Bush, Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman  
Public Guests Present: Scott DeMuro, Bob White  
Minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved (Motion: Bevilacqua, AIF)

## BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Scott DeMuro):** Mr. DeMuro is proposing a new Eagle Scout project to build 30 bat houses in trees in the conservation area, but relatively near buildings. A goal is to keep bats away from attics. They will be 1' by 6' with a shingled top. Total cost will be about \$100, which will be covered by fundraising. He plans to execute the project during December and January. Rich will write a letter expressing the WEC's support for the project. Rich also proposed that Scott speak at the Vulture Festival in March.
- **Chairman's Report:** On the "Sustainable New Jersey" project, Bill Klaus is still working toward getting some action items accepted so Wenonah can be officially certified. Energy assessments are underway at the municipal building and school in preparation for a grant application. Rutgers has agreed to hold a rain barrel construction clinic in town; 10 attendees needed at \$45/head including all materials. Planned time is a Saturday morning during early February; perhaps it can be promoted at the Five Mile Hike.

There have been extensive offline discussions regarding newspaper notifications required by the Open Public Meetings Act. The borough will prepare an official notice at no cost to WEC. By a majority voice vote, it was agreed to place such a notice for 2011. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Barnes)

Mantua Creek boardwalk was repaired at a work party on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Frank says there are still leveling problems, and that railroad ties blocking drainage need to be moved.

At the Fall Work Party on November 6<sup>th</sup>, at Synnott's tree debris was moved by volunteers and then chipped by a contractor who happened to be in the area. Some stone was placed in the west branch. Scott Barnes noted that only one non-member showed up despite several email notices. Also, the hastily-scheduled 10/30 work party

may have siphoned off the best volunteers. Dave said the lack of volunteers is a town-wide problem. Bob White feels we need to be frank with the public about who maintains the conservation areas. Mary Ellen suggests we email chairpeople of other organizations. Chuck suggests we revive the "small projects list" that used to exist.

Stone Pool Garden has drainage problems; more fine stone is needed. Doug Rose offered to help. Frank wants to get trees planted fast. Rich will choose species.

At the Elm Street Pump Station, Rich wants to use 2 rhododendrons and 12 arborvitae. They can be picked up at the same time as the Stone Pool plants.

Lake lowering permits are in effect for Wenonah Lake and Comey's Lake now through February 15. Comey's lowering will be completed this weekend. In January, we will need to pay the backhoe operator for his work.

Regarding Maple Ridge: the property owner is likely to file a Green Acres application for direct state purchase of the land. The state may not bite, but still it's a positive sign.

The Mad Hatter's Tree Party was a big success with great turnout.

Regarding Vulture Festival: the Nature Club Exec Committee has agreed to cancel the evening portion of the event for at least one year. The festival's organizing committee will meet in January. Mary Ellen questioned whether non-school groups or the Scouts might be interested in applying for VEE grants, given the lack of interest from schools.

Bob has placed a Stewart Estate plaque in concrete at Comey's Lake. The form is set up for a similar installation on Eldridge Trail.

Tyler DeMuro's proposed Eagle Scout project at Hanisey's Landing will not happen.

- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** The lake management course described in a recent email may be worthwhile, even at \$350. Who can attend?
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Frank has done more work at the Glen Trailhead: woodchips have been spread and ground cover is in place.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:55 PM (Motion: Kreck, Second: Barnes, AIF)