

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2012

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:33 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah 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	
Bill Klaus		X
Dave Kreck	X	
Tommy Lombardo (Mayor)	X	
Chris Newman		X

Public Guest Present: Heather MacGregor

Minutes of the July 11 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** The organization Food & Water Watch wishes us to sign an open letter to Governor Christie supporting a bill to ban importation of fracking waste into the state. On a voice vote, it was agreed to have the WEC sign onto this letter. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Lombardo, AIF)

The Comey's Lake dam is holding its own. The fountain has been restarted. Dave will apply for a lake lowering permit for this winter.

- **Public Guest (Heather MacGregor):** Ms. MacGregor spoke about maintenance requirements for the Wenonah Library Rain Garden. It is important to learn the difference between plants and weeds. Watering will be required each week until plants are established. Maintenance should not be turned over to a landscaping company.

Recommended plants include: phlox, perennial black-eyed susan, asters (need mesh protection from rabbits). Watch for and remove: asiatic bittersweet and white snakeroot. New layer of hardwood mulch should be added in fall. Plants should be labeled, in addition to the large sign being put in by the South Jersey Land & Water Trust.

- **Chairman's Report (cont'd):** Dave will check about the potential erosion issue near the newly-installed Comey's Lake pump station near Lenape Trail. (See *July minutes*.)

Rich made his annual survey of Purple Loosestrife in the Mantua Creek Marsh. There has been more than a 50% reduction in biomass since last year. The beetles finally seem to be making a significant difference.

On the Recreational Trails Grant: Dave will submit the DEP permit application this month.

On Maple Ridge preservation: the affordable housing issue is still the main sticking point. The Audubon Wildlife Society has offered to donate \$10,000 with some conditions.

The Clay Hill anti-erosion matting seems to be holding its own.

- **Planning Board (Scott Barnes):** Ken Asroff, owner of the deli building, applied to convert the currently-unused second floor from general office use to a theatrical school. Since this change in use did not significantly change the original conditions of approval for the building, the board decided to approve this new use.
- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** Dave has been working on a parking plan for the center of town with funding from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. The final report will be sent out soon.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:47 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck, AIF)