

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2012

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:33 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	
Bill Klaus		X
Dave Kreck	X	
Tommy Lombardo (Mayor)		X
Chris Newman		X

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman  
Minutes of the November 14 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck, AIF)

## BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Dean Polk):** Mr. Polk – whose property on West Cedar Street adjoins Mantua Creek – believes the historical north channel of the creek was a mosquito breeding ground. He considers the recent increase in water flow due to the beaver dam to be a good thing. He would like WEC's help to pull debris and silt out of the channel. Dave explained that the State is very unlikely to approve any silt removal project. Mr. Polk said he will approach the County's Mosquito Commission for help in designating a health hazard.

Bob said that the rebuilt beaver dam is now porous, even though it wasn't 3 weeks ago when it was first dismantled. As a result, the water level could rise beyond today's level. The WEC considers the current level too high because the trail across Mantua Creek Island could wash out.

Rich did some research on beaver dam mitigation techniques. A device called a Flexible Leveler could lower the water level to the point where the trail is protected, yet water still flows through the north channel.

After discussion, it was decided to hold a work party to try to remove some of the fallen trees in the north channel. It will be held on Saturday, 12/22 starting at 9 AM.

- **Chairman's Report:** During the ongoing series of weekly after-school nature walks, the attendees planted trees and added mulch at the new Lenape Pump Station. There is one more walk scheduled for this coming Tuesday afternoon.

Walker Green's Mantua Creek Trail improvement project (for Eagle Scout) was successfully completed on November 17. There is one ton of finely crushed stone left over for WEC use; it's located at Hayes Avenue.

Dave said there is no word yet on State permit approval for the Eldridge Trail project.

Frank Gramenzi of Woodbury Heights has offered 11 pieces of pressure-treated 6x6's. After discussion, it was agreed to accept the wood. It will be stored at the Borough Garage.

The 2013 borough budget request was discussed. It was decided to ask for \$3,500.

The Gloucester County Nature Club recommends skipping the 2013 edition of the Vulture Festival since there is no longer a nightly roost in Wenonah. After discussion, the WEC concurs. The public should be asked for information on where else vultures might be roosting in the area.

The Maple Ridge preservation project is moving along well. There is a proposed settlement of the COAH (affordable housing) issue involving moving the COAH housing units to a separate lot. Once that is accomplished, it's expected that the State will purchase the land.

Eagle Scout candidate Jack Lerner (*see November minutes*) has settled on making improvements at Hanisey's Landing.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:38 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck, AIF)