

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2013

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:38 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 January 9th meeting were approved. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Barnes, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Donations were received from the Debrecini family (\$50) and the Wenonah Education Association (\$45 from Ice Cream Social).

It was decided to renew ANJEC membership for another year at \$290. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

Regarding the Mantua Creek beaver dam: the leveling device installation was unsuccessful. Two large PVC pipes were unscrewed and stolen from Mantua Creek Island; Mantua Police have turned the matter over to NJ Fish & Wildlife to investigate. In addition, a boat belonging to Unexpected Wildlife Refuge was stolen; Wenonah Police later recovered it in the woods. Because a temporary hole had been cut in the dam, water flow over the dam is substantial. The beaver(s) are currently hibernating and will not make any immediate attempt to repair it. WEC has requested an expense report from the Refuge. Remaining material is probably too bulky to steal but needs to be moved out of the area.

The Five Mile Hike had a good turnout: 19 people and 1 dog.

It was decided to donate \$100 to the Gloucester County Nature Club for BirdQuest. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF) Rich will again field a Wenonah team, hopefully involving some students from the school.

During the Five Mile Hike, an unauthorized memorial plaque was discovered near the Tea House. The plaque honors Randy Solem who died in March of last year. After discussion, it was agreed that the plaque is inappropriate, and that Rich should contact the mother, Deborah Solem, to request removal.

For the Spring Work Party (March 16) it was decided to try removing the large fallen tree trunk from the north channel of Mantua Creek at the island. Ideally, we should get help from Jimmy, the person who built the beaver dam leveling device. He had a "come-

along" device that could potentially winch the tree onto shore. Another possibility is to work again on the eroded canyon near Shawnee Drive.

Frank wants to relocate some boards on Mantua Creek Trail from the trailhead down to a muddy spot closer to Clay Hill. Frank also noted that he found a hemlock maliciously cut down near the Comey Lake dock.

On the Eldridge Trail project: there is a new bridge plan that needs to be priced out. Charlie Price is offering steel "H" beams to us for free. The work will require closing the trail for two weeks to a month. An excavator will be required on-site. We can start anytime. There will be some labor expenses for Bob's equipment operators and crew.

The Borough Newsletter deadline is 2/19. Rich will write a paragraph about spring wildflowers; Scott will write the rest. Other topics include: Eldridge Trail project, BirdQuest, and vandalism.

Food & Water Watch is requesting WEC to sign on to the Coalition to Ban Fracking. After discussion, it was agreed not to insert our organization into national issues.

Friends of Wenonah Trails balance is \$8,823.93.

Regarding Maple Ridge: Deptford Township entities (Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Council) have conditionally approved the subdivision plan. (*See January minutes.*) A 45-day public comment period is now underway.

Frank was able to find millings at the County Garage for use in Jack Lerner's Hanisey's Landing project.

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