

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2013

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 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 April 10th meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Lombardo, AIF)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Jim Chandler & Pam Armstrong:** The residents are concerned with the recent duckweed infiltration and low water level at Dilks Pond. (They own half of the pond; the borough owns the other half.) Several weeks ago, Tommy cleared the pond outflow pipe; the water level decreased to the level of the pipe, or a little less than 10 feet (Chuck said it was 18 feet deep in 2000.) Bob suggested dragging out the trees or adding copper sulfate (but this chemical harms fish). Can the Fire Company do hose training on the pond as they did in the past? Dave wondered if underground springs are not supplying as much water as they used to, or if shallow landscaping wells are depleting aquifers. Rich will ask Princeton Hydro for a quote on chemical methods of duckweed control.

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Bob said the Comey's Lake fountain is broken and will be removed on Saturday for closer inspection.

The new bridge is in place on Eldridge Trail, but more trail work remains to be done: trail rails, gravel, and possibly something to address Shawnee Drive erosion. Bob said the low areas need 3/4" stone, not gravel. Bill said the Gateway football team could move stone as a community service project before the end of June. It was agreed to try to set up the Gateway group for June 8th.

There has been no new beaver activity on Mantua Creek.

It was agreed to continue the Student Environmental Awards this year: two \$75 cash awards to graduating 6th graders.

WEC will not participate in the Ice Cream Social this year; we have nothing to present.

We will participate in Clean Communities Day on 5/11; Scott will send a promotional email.

A borough newsletter article is due on 5/16. Scott will include the July 4th hike, Maple Ridge, and some Eldridge Trail bridge photos.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Two trail signs at Wenonah Lake were found to have been chopped down, much like the vandalism in the southern end of the borough last year. Frank will replace them.

Broken boards were observed on the Mantua Creek Trail "Cedar" bridge near the Lentz property. Frank has replaced them.

Kids are disrupting the construction netting at Clay Hill between the trail and the creek. Dave will look into other options.

- **Mayor (Tommy Lombardo):** There will be a Library Open House on Saturday, 5/18. Annuals will be planted on that day between 11 and 1; contact Anne Zuber if interested in helping.

Barry Lozuke of West Cedar Street complained that a limb from a conservation-area tree broke his fence and is threatening his house. Rich will investigate, but said that in past cases WEC's role is mainly to give permission for the homeowner to take care of the situation themselves.

- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** Bark Bridge Road will be repaved this summer at Wenonah's expense (a 49-1/2 foot right-of-way).
- **Planning Board (Scott Barnes):** The board has approved a site plan for two new residential lots at the end of North Stockton Avenue. (*See September 2012 WEC minutes.*) The board has also granted a variance for a homeowner who lives across from the water tower on East Buttonwood to erect fencing material in his front yard to combat erosion and runoff from the street.

MEETING ADJOURNED. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Barnes, AIF)