

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
September 14th, 2005

Bob Bevilacqua 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>
Bob Bevilacqua (Chair)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair)	X	
Scott Barnes (Sec.)	X	
Bill Schnarr		X
Bill Schramm		X

Associate Members Present: Scott Birkland (*acting as Member*), Mary Ellen Bush, Rich Dilks (*acting as Member*), Frank Eggert

Minutes of August 10th meeting were approved. (Motion: Dilks, Second: Barnes)

BUSINESS

- **Finances:** Friends of Wenonah Trails has \$5310. Brian and Paula Hayes donated \$150, which will bring the total to \$5460.
- **Chairman's Report:** Scott Birkland and Rich Dilks will be sworn in at the next Council meeting; Mayor Capaldi could not attend tonight.

Bob, Chuck, and Frank will present a history of the WEC at the October 14th Historical Society meeting.

Bob and Mary Ellen will lead a Tiger Scout hike this coming Monday at 4 PM.

The 2006 calendar was discussed. Bob to submit event list to the borough office.

- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** Met in June with U. S. Fish & Wildlife. They will do an environmental impact report and help select plant species. We will need to do the relevant permit applications ourselves. Matt Bush and Chuck will be recruited to help with obtaining the permits.
- **Technical (Rich Dilks):** On August 14th, Rich performed a baseline inspection of the Mantua Creek Marsh so the purple loosestrife infestation can be tracked in the future. Loosestrife is spreading upstream as far as Clay Hill and the former Mullens property. This spread is more than expected. On a positive note, the *Galerucella* beetles have already traveled to these locations and have begun to consume leaves.

Rich learned that Wenonah is the only location in New Jersey where shingle oak trees grow naturally. The trees are located along the railroad south of the Cedar Ave. ball field. Dave mentioned that a potential walking trail along the railroad (part of the TEA-21 grant several years ago) was nixed due to these trees. In addition, several other shingle oaks exist as street trees.

Rich conducted a Gloucester County Nature Club hike around Wenonah Lake on August 17th. 15 people – mostly non-residents – got to see our impressive variety of ferns.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Unknown parties removed a few bridge planks along the Eldridge Trail. This vandalism took some effort; the planks were quite firmly nailed down.

Water bars along the Mantua Creek Trail near West Cherry Street are leaking. Monongahela Brook Trail requires some trail rails.

Runoff from the east side of South Marion Avenue needs to be diverted away from the Monongahela Brook Trail. Also, a large, dead overhanging tree nearby should be removed. Frank suggested a work party at 5:45 PM this coming Monday. Scott to publicize.

Joe Carson has full authorization to begin working on the Dilk's Pond Trail.

Frank built an eight-foot bridge along the future Synnott's Pond Trail.

The sign shop in Woodbury Heights is capable of making our replacement Conservation Area signs. There will be 4 at \$125 each, one of which will be paid for by Joann Sparks. The committee approved the expenditure out of the borough account.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25 PM. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Barnes)