

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 14th, 2006

Bob Bevilacqua called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:35 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Lake Pavilion.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Bob Bevilacqua (Chair)	X	
Dave Kreck (V. Chair)		X
Scott Barnes (Sec.)	X	
Scott Birkland	X	
Rich Dilks	X	
Bill Schnarr		X
Bill Schramm	X	

Associate Members Present: Bonnie Bell, Mary Ellen Bush, Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman

Public Guests Present: Larry Bacon, Chris Mayer, John Mullens

Minutes of the May 10th meeting were approved. (Motion: Schramm, Second: Bevilacqua)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** For three weeks in May, Bob and Mary Ellen conducted a Home & School after-school program with 12 to 16 children. Absolutely must have two leaders with this size of group. Age range of 1st to 6th grade is too broad. Should limit size to 14 children.

Mary Ellen had several suggestions for next year's education activities: 1: Have some diversity between Boy Scout and Home & School programs. 2: Discuss objectives in advance (fitness, plant-a-tree, animal habitat, trail maintenance). 3: Give paper handouts to parents.

Gateway High School has students available for a service project on Friday morning from 9:00 to 10:30. Bob is planning to have them clean up the log debris near Comey's Lake.

Bob and Frank met with Paul Podgorski, whose property abuts the Glen Trail. Mr. Podgorski promised to clean up the debris on the edge of his property, and to plant seedlings in the fall.

A West Poplar property owner dumped wood chips on conservation land. Chuck suggested a project to identify all property owners adjoining conservation lands, and to write them warning letters.

- **Capital Projects (Bob Bevilacqua):** Received a letter from Jay Barton, who offered the use of crane mats and an excavator for Synnott's Pond. We would need to pay for labor and fuel for the excavator. This will be a significant cost savings for us.

Other Synnott's news: DEP permits have been approved. Soil Conservation District permits are still pending. National Fish & Wildlife grant money has been transferred.

Although digging can take place this fall (probably October) the restoration efforts will have to wait for spring of next year.

- **Technical / Education (Rich Dilks):** On May 23rd, state entomologist Tom Scudder met up with Rich and visited the beetle release area. The results were positive: the second generation is alive and third-generation eggs are present. He also saw a ladybug species that is a beetle predator, indicating the beetles' arrival has not gone unnoticed in the ecosystem. He will try to revisit the marsh in the July or August timeframe.

Rich passed out a draft of his entry for Wenonah in the Gloucester County Nature Club (GCNC) natural areas book. GCNC is holding two field trips in Wenonah: a trail walk being led by Rich on the Mantua Creek Trail on August 3rd, and a field trip to the area on May 19th, 2007.

The fire company will be using the VultureFest logo on their beer mugs this year.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Joe Carson will be restarting work on the Dilk's Pond Trail. Decaying trail markers on the Glen Trail and Mantua Creek Trail were replaced. The Glen Dam is in serious need of repair.
- **Liaison (Scott Birkland):** The Home & School Association presented a \$50 check in recognition of our recent after-school program.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10 PM. (Motion: Barnes, Second: Schramm)