

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
November 8th, 2006

Bob Bevilacqua called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:31 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah 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	
Scott Birkland		X
Mary Ellen Bush	X	
Rich Dilks	X	
Bill Schnarr		X

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman, Brian Hayes, Paula Hayes
Public Guest Present: Greg Shast

Minutes of the October 11th meeting were approved with one correction. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Work party last Saturday at Synnott's was quite successful; thanks go out to the participants.

The 2007 borough budget request will be \$2500. Friends of Wenonah Trails now has \$6500.

- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** Synnott's project is basically complete. When discussing the project, remember to mention the downstream benefits, especially at Comey's Lake.

A spice bush and black willow tree are left over from the plantings. One sycamore has been reserved for the Barton memorial tree. An arch bridge near the dam is planned; hikers currently must traverse the narrow top of the dam structure.

Bob spoke with Larry Haines of the county regarding a washout issue on Woodbury-Glassboro Road near the pond.

The silt trap at Mantua Avenue is clogged; Public Works must clear it.

- **Education (Mary Ellen):** Mary Ellen led a Tiger Scout hike on the Dilks Pond Trail to Wenonah Lake. There was also a hike at Comey's Lake for the Pitman Brownies.

Bob proposed that the WEC give an award each year to a deserving 6th grader. Criteria will be important, since the principal and school board must approve them. Paula felt the award should have an environmental angle, instead of just rewarding the best science student. Another possibility is to set up a summer camp scholarship. In any case, it was

agreed that the award criteria needed further work.

- **Technical (Rich Dilks):** The Gloucester County Nature Club is looking to hold one meeting per year in Wenonah.

Rich and Frank have planted 7 species of ferns on Dilk's Pond Trail.

There will be a Vulture Fest planning meeting on November 15th at 7 PM. The plan to mount a vulture is probably too expensive; taxidermy costs could be over \$1000.

- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** Borough newsletter deadline is Friday. The planned warning about excessive lawn fertilizing (due to duckweed growth at Comey's Lake) will be delayed until March, when people are more attuned to these issues.
- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Koi would be a partial solution for duckweed at Comey's Lake. 20 would be needed at a cost of \$5 each. The fish are sterile and live for 7-10 years. The fish that WEC placed in 1995 are probably gone. The Simpsons are willing to fund them. The best release time is in the early spring.

A fountain-type aeration system would cost \$675. The Simpsons are willing to fund the system as well as the electrical connection to their house.

Again, the Stewart Estate marker on North Jefferson Ave. needs cleaned. Also, a nearby sinkhole needs filled in.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Boy Scouts will be marking storm drains this Saturday in conjunction with the South Jersey Land & Water Trust. Girl Scouts will be doing follow-up publicity a week afterwards.
- **Additional Comments:** Greg Shast described the Mantua Watershed Project of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. One of their concerns is that deer are destroying understory vegetation in preserved woodlands. Dr. Emile DeVito, the Foundation's authority on the subject, might be willing to come and meet with us. The Five-Mile Hike day might be one possibility, although Dr. DeVito is already scheduled to travel here and speak at the Nature Club meeting on the second Thursday in April.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 PM. (Motion: Barnes, Second: Kreck)