

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Bob Bevilacqua called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 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	
Rich Dilks (V. Chair)	X	
Scott Barnes (Sec. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Scott Birkland	X	
Mary Ellen Bush	X	
Dave Kreck		X
Bill Schnarr		X

Associate Members Present: Bonnie Bell, Brian Hayes, Paula Hayes

Public Guest Present: Margie MacWilliams

Minutes of April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting were approved with two corrections. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland)

### BUSINESS

- **Public Comments:** Margie MacWilliams circulated a petition to put herself and Chuck Woodrow on the ballot for State Assembly seats under the Green Party.
- **Chairman's Report:** Comey's Lake fish for combating duckweed have been delivered and put in.

The Lions' deadline for the July 4<sup>th</sup> printed program has already passed. Bob had them list a hike starting at East Pine Street, then proceeding over the Eldridge Trail to the Teahouse.

The school program with Ms. Christine was scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>, but has been postponed to Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be holding a work party at Wenonah Lake. WEC is to procure a tree to be planted that day in memory of Bradley Caraker. Exact location is unknown. Rich suggested an oak.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Bob will have a WEC table at the Ice Cream Social.

At Synnott's, Dave has submitted a completion report to the Department of Environmental Protection. Additional bushes and some grasses have been planted. The amount of silt collecting at the Woodbury-Glassboro Road outfall is dramatic, since it has never been contained in one place before.

For Kids' Hike, 50 to 60 students are expected. Volunteers should arrive at 8:30 AM. Brian suggested making laminated plant signs for use in future years.

**Education (Rich Dilks):** About 15 people came to the first Spring Hike.

Rich recently ran into Mike Hogan, a well-known Southern NJ nature photographer, on our trails.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Rich will lead a Gloucester County Nature Club (GCNC) field trip over Wenonah trails starting at 10 AM. Rich wants volunteers to drive attendees from the Teahouse back to Wenonah Lake at the end.

Rich will organize a table for the Garden Fair on June 2<sup>nd</sup>; volunteers are needed.

Some highlights from the recent VultureFest planning dinner: there is a desire to move to two venues at different times of day. The afternoon program would be more family-oriented with direct vulture contact. Efforts are underway to partner with the International Center for Birds of Prey to bring their captive vultures to the event. Final profit was \$2016.55.

There is a proposal, already approved by the GCNC Executive Committee, to initiate an educational grant program using VultureFest profits. \$1000 will be set aside for the first year, with \$500 allocated to Wenonah and \$500 allocated to other public and private schools in the County. An individual grant can be up to \$500. A subcommittee of 5 persons will be organized to manage the program: Rich, two from WEC, and two from GCNC. One person each from WEC and GCNC should have an educational background. Solicitations would go out in September. With no one expressing objections, WEC approved this proposal (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes).

- **Liaison (Scott Birkland):** On Clean Communities Day, the Scouts cleaned the railroad tracks down to the Trestle.

Storm sewer markers are 80% done; progress is being slowed by rainy weather. 20 markers have been lost already to vandalism; others are peeling off.

Brian reported that BirdQuest had an attendance of 200. The winning team saw 99 species. On May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, GCNC will hold a plant sale at the EIRC building.

- **Trail Maintenance (Bob Bevilacqua):** The order of 100 trees was received. Frank planted 75 mostly at Synnott's, while Bob planted 25 at Comey's Lake.

Trail map revisions are ready to be discussed at the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:26 PM (Motion: Dilks, Second: Birkland)