

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
October 10<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, Frank Eggert

Public Guests Present: Debbie Austin, Stephanie Berenato

Minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting were approved with one correction. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes)

## BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Debbie Austin):** As previously announced in an e-mail, the Lake Association has designated one-third of the profits from this year's Haunted Trail to WEC. As an organization, they would like to maintain links to all the lakes in town, not just Wenonah Lake. In particular, they would like to help eradicate Comey's Lake duckweed. She also cautioned that proceeds can vary widely year-to-year.

In return, Bob offered to help out with Haunted Trail in the swamp area, perhaps with an alligator theme.

- **Chairman's Report:** The Oak Valley open space purchase (see July minutes) is actually near the Georgetown Apartments, not abutting Wenonah as was suspected.

Bob directly appealed to Council to help cover the \$3500/year expense of chemically treating the Comey's Lake duckweed.

The Stewart Estate performed a spot inspection of their Wenonah land donations recently. Overall, the Estate appears to be satisfied. The Clay Hill rope swing was a negative mark, as was an ivy-covered monument on Lisle Avenue.

Bob spoke to the Lions Club on September 25<sup>th</sup> and gave a general update on our activities.

The Home & School Association wants us to participate in their Learning for Fun program, to be held on 5 consecutive Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. There is a Brownie troop hike scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.

For the Fall Work Party, the County may pay \$300 if we can attract 10 volunteers.

New trail maps will be ready for distribution by Christmas.

- **Education (Rich Dilks):** The Canoe/Kayak trip on Saturday will have challenging tides.

There have been no applications for the Vulturefest Environmental Education (VEE) Grants yet. A Vulturefest organizational meeting is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. It is uncertain whether the International Center for Birds of Prey will be participating in the festival or not.

The Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve has created a Plant Stewardship Index. This index provides a numerical rating of the "nativeness" of plants. Rich will enter data on the Conservation Lands into their free website and retrieve the results.

- **Liaison (Scott Birkland):** Scott asked whether regular contact should be maintained with the Deptford E.C.; Bob feels that his ad-hoc contact with Joan Tracy is adequate.
- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** Sam Calhoun has signed on as a volunteer. Rich agreed to receive WEC e-mails during Scott's upcoming vacation.
- **Planning Board (Scott Barnes):** Chuck Forsman believes that the affordable housing going into Wenonah Meadows may increase the town's legal water allotment. The owner of One Stop Shop was granted preliminary approval to move a trash dumpster to face South West Avenue in his redevelopment plan.

Regarding development at Maple Ridge Golf Course: Wenonah has no official standing to mitigate possible traffic problems on Bark Bridge Road. However, unofficial negotiations with the developer of the Deptford side may be attempted. The Deptford and Mantua sides of the property apparently will have no connection across Mantua Creek.

- **Public Comment (Stephanie Berenato):** Home & School's next Learning Letter will have a theme of "Going Green." She wants pictures from the Vulture Festival, as well as upcoming calendar events and tips for kids, to be submitted by the end of October.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** The Dilks' Pond bench mentioned in last month's minutes is just a plan, not reality. Glen Dam is leaking between its joints. A huge tree across the trail near Marge Lentz's house was removed. At Synnott's Pond, any alterations are stalled until the State can come to inspect our work to date.

A tree near the bandstand in the park must be removed. Frank wants to replace it with an oak. Bob says that \$150 is available from the Ruth Ross donation. He suggests waiting for rain, then he will help pick out the tree.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:31 PM (Motion: Dilks, Second: Bevilacqua)