

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 9th, 2008

Corrected as per February 13th, 2008 meeting

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: Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman

Minutes of December 12th, 2007 meeting were approved with one correction. (Motion: Barnes, Second: Bevilacqua)

REORGANIZATION

- **Officers:** Rich Dilks as Chair, Bob Bevilacqua as Vice-Chair, Scott Barnes as Secretary and Planning Board Representative.
- **Time and day of meetings:** Second Wednesday of month at 7:30 PM (unchanged).
- All reorganization matters approved on a voice vote. (Motion: Barnes, Second: Bevilacqua)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Rich thanked Bob for his term as Chairman. The Moonlight Hike is being rescheduled for January 20th, same time, same route. The Five Mile Hike will be held on February 9th at 1 PM.

The East Coast Vulture Festival (ECVF) will feature a new T-shirt this year. A ceremony to award the first Vulturefest Environmental Education (VEE) Grant to Pat Harmon will be held at the school on Tuesday, January 15th starting about 2 or 3 PM. Rich has spoken to the new school principal, Frank Vogel. Mr. Vogel is supportive of both WEC and ECVF.

Rich had a complaint from the resident at 107 North Lincoln regarding the vulture roost in her backyard trees.

- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** The proposed Maple Ridge developments (94 homes in Deptford and 29 homes in Manuta) have not yet received final approvals. There would be significant traffic effects in town: all of the Deptford-side access roads go to Bark Bridge Road. Wenonah cannot unilaterally make Marion Avenue one-way.

In view of the real estate market downturn, Chuck has initiated discussions on converting the property to a County park. He has spoken with Kenny Atkinson of the County's Green Acres program. The property is now owned by a Washington, DC-based investment company. The value of the land only is \$3.408 million.

The former Jonas Superfund site is near Maple Ridge. Its 19 acres would be a possible addition to the park site.

Chuck proposes that the Borough purchase an easement for Block 79.02, Lot 8 near Woods of Wenonah to cover a portion of the Woods of Wenonah access trail. The owners would pay for the survey and engineering fees; they would receive a tax abatement in return. Land is 6252 sq. ft. and is valued at \$4,000. Council must approve.

Chuck toured Comey's Lake with John Forren (of New York EPA) and Phil Kaeferle to highlight the silt challenges we face there. Chuck and Dave will be collecting depth data soon. Bob feels that the lake is a part of the town's history and cannot be left alone. Restoring and maintaining it will be far more complex than at Synnott's Pond.

- **Vice-Chairman's Report:** On January 25th at 3:30 PM, Vicky McCall wants us to lead a Tiger Scout hike from the school.

Friends of Wenonah Trails account now has \$11,740.42. Recent contributions include: \$100 from the Home & School Association, \$100 from Gail and Greg Shast, \$500 from Bob Pritchard, \$500 from County Adopt-a-Road, and \$1,500 from the Lake Association's Haunted Trail activity.

Bob delivered the annual progress report to Council. He emphasized the Comey's Lake challenge.

- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** The park needed a replacement tree near the bandstand. He planted an Autumn Glory Maple on New Year's Day. It was donated by Ruth Ross.

Work parties are needed at Synnott's to dig out silt by hand. March 22nd (Spring Work Party) is a possibility.

Chuck reported that the stream below the Synnott's dam is eroded. Also, the Mantua Avenue silt trap needs to be cleaned out by Public Works.

- **Planning Board (Scott Barnes):** Wenonah Meadows is grinding along. The Borough's overall water allocation seems to be the current roadblock to getting required permits.
- **Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** With the upcoming February, 2009 transition to digital broadcast television, a lot of old electronics could be thrown out. WEC should inform residents of their "e-Waste" recycling options.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:42 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland)