

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 13th, 2008

Rich Dilks 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>
Rich Dilks (Chair)	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (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 January 9th meeting were approved with one correction. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** The Vulture Festival was featured in a Gloucester County Times article today. An organizational meeting was held on February 4th. The Vulturefest Environmental Education (VEE) Grant was awarded to Pat Harmon at the school on January 15th; a thank-you letter was received from the administrator, Mr. Vogel.

The Moonlight Hike was held on a very cold night, but had 13 participants. Bob, Mary Ellen, and Rich held a Tiger Scout hike at Wenonah Lake on January 25th. The Five Mile Hike participants on February 9th included Mrs. Fox, who is 91 years old.

During the Five Mile Hike, landscaping debris from 210 N. Jefferson was discovered on Break Back Run Trail. Before resorting to a police complaint, Rich will contact the homeowner and encourage them to remove the debris. Bob wants to review property lines in the area.

Mike Hogan from South Jersey Land & Water Trust visually assessed the health of Camelback Run from Synnott's to Comey's on January 19th. North of Manuta Avenue is worse than south. The overall score was 6.1, which was just above the minimum threshold for "fair."

Committee assignments are being adjusted slightly: Dave is being added to Capital Projects and Scott Barnes is being added to Liaison for Planning Board.

- **Capital Projects (Bob Bevilacqua):** Princeton Hydro was at Comey's Lake on January 28th to quote on Sonar duckweed treatment (\$2,900) and a depth assessment (\$7,500). Chuck suggested that WEC fund the Sonar treatment on its own for the first year. On a voice vote, Sonar duckweed treatment for 2008 from Princeton Hydro was approved.

Bob wants to keep the ball rolling on Comey's by collecting more data and getting more

estimates for survey work. Dave feels that that Princeton Hydro's estimate for a Phase 1 survey is reasonable. He said that this survey is essential for applying for any sort of grant money. Bob added that uncontaminated sediment could be wasted on site, which would reduce costs. Any sediment analysis might have to be done separately from the Phase 1 survey.

- **Council/Legal (Rich Dilks):** Regarding Maple Ridge, Carl Hausman suggested getting trail grant money through the Federal Highway Administration. Bob noted that we used this program before for the trailhead facility at Wenonah Lake. Deadline is in December.

Chuck asked that Maple Ridge land costs not be discussed publicly, per request of the owner. Prickett Nurseries and nearby Mantua neighbors want to help when the time comes. Churches could be used for publicity. Chuck will meet Freeholder Dammingier again on February 25th.

Rich and Bob went to the Mantua Environmental Commission meeting on Monday; they were supportive. Rich has secured the unanimous support of the Nature Club's Executive Board. He is also maintaining an overall list of supporters. Borough councils in all three municipalities will pass symbolic resolutions of support. The Times' editorial on Monday provided more positive publicity.

- **Liaison (Dave Kreck):** For the next town newsletter, Dave has contributed articles on water conservation and volunteerism. Scott will add another Comey's Lake appeal, Chuck's tips on stream-friendly lawn maintenance, and a list of upcoming events.
- **Education (Mary Ellen Bush):** Mary Ellen wants a budget of \$50 to \$100 for educational materials to enhance kids' hikes.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** At the next meeting, Frank will ask to buy 100 seedlings.

Scott commented on the large amount of trash throughout the Break Back Run area, not just next to the trail. If enough people show for the Spring Work Party, a cleanup could be started then. Some of the larger items like the bed frame have been there quite a long time, and are unlikely to be dislodged easily.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:45 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck)