

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 9th, 2008

Bob Bevilacqua called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 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: Bonnie Bell, Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman

Public Guests Present: Mike Feeney, Glen Green, Chris Newman

Minutes of the March 12th meeting were approved. (Motion: Forsman, Second: Bevilacqua)

BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Glen Green):** Mr. Green, a resident of Pine Acres in Deptford, presented physical and photographic evidence of a recent clam die-off along the Mantua Creek upstream of the Turnpike. State government has not shown interest in testing the water for possible contaminants. Bob will reach out to Suzanne McCarthy of the South Jersey Land and Water Trust. Mr. Green also noted a leak and structural degradation under the Mantua Avenue bridge. Dave believes it is a broken drain pipe or cable conduit, and that it poses no undue threat to the bridge.
- **Vice-Chairman's Report:** Spring Hike will be on April 19th. Frank said he has repaired the 2nd bridge north of Hayes Avenue and is working on the 3rd bridge behind White's. Kids' Hike contest judging and booklet production are now underway.

A work party will be held Tuesday, April 15th, 6 PM at Synott's to begin removing an island. This event is probably the first of a series!

At Comey's Lake, Princeton Hydro is monitoring the weather to determine the proper time for the Sonar chemical application. It is too cold right now.

- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** Negotiations with the Deptford Municipal Utilities Authority have begun to allow Wenonah to purchase water indirectly from New Jersey American Water. In addition to allowing Wenonah Meadows to go forward, the interconnect would provide a backup in case one of Wenonah's wells experiences a failure. On a related note, Wenonah is still in the running to receive a water conservation awareness pilot grant from the State; decision will be known this month.

Chuck feels the Camelback Run crossing north of the Teahouse has become a hazard and needs steps. Also, a fallen tree in the area needs to be cut back.

- **Education (Mary Ellen Bush):** Mary Ellen reported on the Kids' Hike introductory presentation at the school. She feels the children are much more aware of the environment than in the past.
- **Public Comment (Chris Newman):** Mr. Newman described his use of rain barrels to collect irrigation water from his home's gutters. He obtained the barrels from Eagle Peak Containers in Seattle for \$24 plus \$27 shipping each.
- **Liaison (Scott Barnes):** Mayor Capaldi's proposed house (see March) will not be built during his mayoral tenure.

John Schad, the Combined Planning Board chair, is moving out of town and will be resigning within several months.

Scott noted that pink survey flags are tied to bushes and trees along the Mantua Creek both upstream and downstream of the Trestle. This seems to be a wetlands mark-out, but who would be doing the marking? Dave has contacts in Deptford and will check.

- **Council/Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Regarding Maple Ridge, John Flynn of the State's Green Acres Program is anxious to get the project done. He will be visiting the site personally. He has a connection to the area, since his brother once lived here in town.

A bald eagle was recently spotted on the property. If a "bald eagle foraging area" were to be declared, any development would be forced to incorporate a larger buffer zone around the creek.

Deptford is still positive on the project, but their council has not passed a resolution of support yet.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:52 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes)