

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 8th, 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: Bonnie Bell, Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman
Minutes of the September 10th meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Dilks, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** The Borough has agreed to reimburse Friends of Wenonah Trails for the Princeton Hydro treatments at Comey's Lake (*see September*). The WEC account is now exhausted.

For the Haunted Trail on October 18th, Bob proposes a "Jaws" theme. Setup will be done in the afternoons starting Monday at 3:30 PM.

For the Fall Work Party on November 1st, we will do mostly Synnott's work, including island demolition.

Atlantic City Electric will remove the remaining electric wires in the conservation area near West Cedar in November. (*See September and July.*)

Scott and Rich attended a Rutgers Cooperative Extension presentation on invasive forest plants. Mapping invasive species in conservation lands was raised as a possibility, and could be started next spring. Scott noted that WEC's role as forest steward includes being aware of deterioration of the forest over time. With more data it will be easier to seek expert advice when needed.

Margie McWilliams on behalf of the Green Party volunteered to participate in WEC clean-up projects. After discussion, it was agreed that it is inappropriate for the WEC to become involved in political party affiliations. Green Party members, if they wish, can contribute as individuals.

- **Council / Legal (Chuck Forsman):** Chuck handed out a summary of the Maple Ridge situation. Grass roots action is needed from Deptford residents to move their side forward. It is time to contact Suzanne McCarthy of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for her advice. There are now over 100 competing land preservation applications in the county due to deteriorating economic conditions. In the case of Maple Ridge, the current owners (IBG) would have to spend \$5.7 million to

continue developing the property. Rich said we should expect no help from Old Pine Farm or the Deptford Environmental Commission. Scott noted that Wenonah should not jeopardize cooperation with Deptford on larger water and sewer issues such as Wenonah Meadows.

- **Capital Projects (Chuck Forsman):** At Comey's Lake, the Simpsons are willing to fund a fountain and the electricity to operate it. This technique has been used successfully in Westville. Spring would be the best time to install it. It should be positioned near the overflow dam, to the right of the dock. The plan was approved on a voice vote (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes, AIF)
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** On the Eldridge Trail, the bridge designated "Spring" has caused trail flooding due to accumulated silt and needs unblocked.

Over the summer, Frank rehabilitated trail rails on the Monongahela Brook Trail. In that area, he made a second attempt to prevent erosion due to runoff from South Marion Avenue. Also, he replaced the center span of a small bridge on the Mantua Creek Trail.

- **Additional Comments (Bob Bevilacqua):** Canada Geese have become a serious threat to the viability of Wenonah Lake as a swimming area. He will do more research into possible control techniques.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:03 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes, AIF)