

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 11th, 2009

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
Chris Newman	X	

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman, Tom Murtha

Public Guest Present: Beth Hoffman

Minutes of the January 14th meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Beth Hoffman):** Ms. Hoffman wishes to hold an environmental birthday party for 4 to 10 children by having them plant trees in the conservation area. Rich noted the poor survival rate of WEC plantings in recent years, and emphasized that trees need to be looked after for their first year. Shrubs, especially native ones, might be more drought-tolerant than trees. White Pines have been stolen for use as Christmas trees. After discussion, it was agreed that WEC will add trees to its annual order for this activity. The trees will be available in mid to late spring.
- **Chairman's Report:** Chris Newman wishes to have a committee assignment involving trail maintenance.

Atlantic City Electric has at last removed its cables and poles from the conservation area near West Cedar Street. (*See January.*)

The Five Mile Hike last Saturday had 17 participants. Some ravines were difficult to traverse in the snow.

For the Spring Work Party, we will spread stone at Synnott's Pond. Bob also wants to cut cyclone fencing at Comey's Lake if there are enough people. The section near the Eldridge Trail is unquestionable on conservation land. However, the section behind the Sparks property is right on the line; we must consult the property owners first.

The Vulture Festival VEE Grant Committee considered three grant applications, all of them for school butterfly gardens. The committee recommends funding all three for a maximum expenditure of \$1,500 from festival profits. On a voice vote, the WEC approved the committee's recommendation. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Birkland, AIF)

For the spring tree planting, Chris Newman is looking into obtaining 10 free trees from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Rich has offered a free Philadelphia Zoo on Wheels program to Wenonah School students, but has not received a response. Chris suggested bringing the program to the Kids' Hike. Other program possibilities were suggested for that day: Schuylkill Valley Nature Center and Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge.

- **Capital Projects (Bob Bevilacqua):** For the Kids' Hike, Bob wants to set the time schedule and select a trail at the next meeting. It was suggested to end the hike at Wenonah Lake to allow easy access for an outside program provider such as the Philadelphia Zoo.
- **Liaison (Scott Barnes):** The borough newsletter deadline is next week. Chuck suggested a warning against taking plants such as pine trees and holly from the conservation lands.
- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** The proposed fountain at Comey's Lake must go through Council due to potential insurance issues. Certified plumbers and electricians must be used.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** One span must be reset on the Upper (south) Bridge on Mantua Creek Island. Frank has repaired the Clay Hill bulkhead once again. Tree prices from our usual supplier are White Pine at 50 for \$56, and Scotch Pine (not native) at 50 for \$66.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:07 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Barnes, AIF)