

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:38 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah Lake Pavilion.

<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

Minutes of the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. (Motion: Birkland, Second: Forsman, AIF)

### BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Councilman Carl Hausman):** Mr. Hausman presented a proposal to hold a Conservation Camp on two or three mornings in mid-August. It must be set up quickly because only one week is left to distribute materials to parents through the school. Several members volunteered their services. Also, the commission voted to be a co-sponsor of the camp. (Motion: Forsman, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)
- **Chairman's Report:** Rich read apology letters from the two youth caught digging foxholes at Wenonah Lake (see May). At a stationhouse meeting involving the police, their parents, and WEC, the youth also agreed to undo the physical damage they caused; this has been completed.

A rotted and collapsed trail marker at North Hayes Avenue has been replaced. However, very recent spray-paint vandalism was noted.

On the Monongahela Brook Lower Bridge replacement project, Bob will get an architect on-site to provide an estimate prior to the next meeting.

Chuck reported that the Comey's Lake fountain is up and running. It delivers 150 gallons per minute and is located 140 feet from the southern end of the lake. It currently runs from 6 AM to 6 PM. Final costs were \$1,537.25 for the fountain and \$452.07 for electrical components. Joe Seville donated his labor to perform the electrical hook-ups.

Rich has compiled the data for the 2009 invasive species mapping project. 21 species of concern were found. Scott Barnes will provide a way to visualize the data.

The NJ Bureau of Biological Pest Control evaluated the Mantua Creek Marsh earlier today to see the effects of the 2005 *Galerucella* beetle release on purple loosestrife plants. Biologist Mark Mayer found larvae and eggs on one loosestrife plant ¼ mile from the release point. He believes that in 1-2 years we will see shorter, more stressed plants. On a side note, he discovered insect damage on the very invasive mile-a-minute

plant; this indicates that a beneficial weevil released elsewhere by the State has made its way here.

- **Capital Projects (Bob Bevilacqua):** Local teachers Harmon and Cramp are retiring this year. Since they have supported WEC activities for many years, we should show our appreciation somehow. After discussion, it was agreed to give them each a \$25 gift certificate to Triple Oaks Nursery.
- **Legal (Chuck Forsman):** The news on Maple Ridge preservation is not good: Kenny Atkinson says that funding for the County's 75% share of the project has been lost. In Mantua Township, the November ballot issue to raise taxes for preserving their portion of the property is now in doubt. The property owners are still interested in selling, however.
- **Liaison/Public Relations (Scott Barnes):** The next public meeting on the PATCO expansion is tomorrow evening in Woodbury. Scott will email relevant links.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** Monongahela Brook Loop needs brushed in preparation for July 4<sup>th</sup>: 3 feet wide and 8 feet high. Bob will take care of it.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:35 PM (Motion: Forsman, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)