

# WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2012

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:36 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Wenonah 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
Bill Klaus		X
Dave Kreck	X	
Tommy Lombardo (Mayor)	X	
Chris Newman		X

Associate Member Present: Frank Eggert

Guests in Attendance: Jack Lerner, Eagle Scout Candidate

Minutes of the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

## BUSINESS

- **Chairman's Report:** Dave Kreck was appointed as acting Secretary (AIF).

November 3<sup>rd</sup> Work Party/Community Cleanup: Bob Bevilacqua reported that 19 bags of trash and 6 bags of recycled materials were picked up along portions of Woodbury-Glassboro Rd. The County took photos which will be posted on the website. WEC Will get \$300 from the County for their participation in a Clean Communities Day Event.

It was reported that the Commission sent the Resolution pursuant to the Safe Playing Fields Act to the local elected officials.

Dave Kreck reported that the Wenonah Lake Fish Salvage was very successful with only a few fish being lost during the collection and relocation process. However, Dave was subsequently contacted by Chris Smith, of Fish and Wildlife, regarding recent revisions to the salvage process that must be incorporated in the future. This new process would involve the low level electroshocking of the lake and subsequent collection of the stunned fish.

Frank Eggert reported that the November 10<sup>th</sup> work party for the Walker Green Eagle Scout Project involving the installation of trails rails and stone along the Mantua Creek Trail was very well attended and organized. The project was still underway and was expected to be completed by November 17<sup>th</sup>. Additional materials, i.e. rails and stone were being stored at the Borough garage. Doug Rose, of Rock Products, Inc. was gracious enough to donate the stone. A discussion proceeded regarding the limits of the project.

It was reported that four (4) Virginia Sweetspire were purchased from Triple Oaks for \$67.96 and were planted at the Garden trail Bridge.

Dave Kreck reported that revised plans in response to NJDEP review comments for the reconstruction of the Eldridge Trail Footbridge and Trail Restoration Project (Recreational Trails Grant) were submitted to the NJDEP and the Permits should be forthcoming.

It was reported that Gary Odenbrett, Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission, proposes the creation of a joint committee to develop ideas for improving Wenonah Park. The WEC offered their participation in an advisory role (possibly with tree labeling) as the Park does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission,.

The WEC was informed by the Shade Tree Commission about a request for the trimming of a number of Conservation Area trees that overhang a resident's property located in the 500 block of Mantua Avenue. The WEC will address this request subsequent to being contacted by the resident.

The current budgets for the WEC's Borough appropriation and the Friends of Wenonah Trails account were read into the record.

A discussion regarding the Tuesday afternoon Elementary School walks took place. The first walk was held on November 13<sup>th</sup> along the Glen Trail. Highlights included examining the beaver damaged trees and discussions about the beavers and the various environmental effects resulting from their activities. Additional ideas for the upcoming walks were contemplated and included the planting of landscaping improvements at the Lenape Pump Station, the identification of trees based upon seed and leaf droppings, combining Art and Nature, and a Christmas Bird Count.

The subject of the recently built Beaver Dam and its detrimental impact to the Mantua Trail was discussed, i.e. approximately 200 Linear Feet of Trail has been cut-off. After entertaining a number of alternatives, the Commission decided that the best course of action would be that the dam should be carefully removed and the area be subsequently monitored with the hope that the beaver relocate their operation upstream, thus eliminating any adverse impacts to the trail system. A work party was scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>

The issue regarding the inflow of water into Synnotts Pond was investigated by Rich and Bob. It was found that the natural spring flows cease to flow approximately one block north of Elm Street. The Commission recognized that this is an act of Mother Nature and elected not to take action at this time.

It was reported that the Synnotts Pond water levels are back to normal after some repairs were performed upon the sluice boards. However, it was noted that the Synnotts Pond Trail entrance is in need of some maintenance and plant replacement.

It was reported that a meeting with the various municipalities involved in the Maple Ridge Project was scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> to review potential solutions to Deptford Township's affordable housing unit obligation that is tied in with the approved residential subdivision. The outlook is positive.

The new Trail installation along Woodbury-Glassboro Road is temporarily on hold.

While the Clay Hill erosion problem seems to be improving, the Shawnee Drive erosion problem remains an issue, with the continuing deposit of silt at the toe of the slope. However, it was reported that the gabion baskets that were installed by the Commission appear to be effective.

Due to mixed opinions by Commission Members, the WEC elected not to sign onto an anti-fracking related letter that opposes legislature supporting government subsidies for the development of natural gas powered vehicles.

A number of trails rails have been donated to the Commission and are presently being stored at the Borough garage. Frank Eggert recommended that a number of the existing rails along the Monongahela Brook Trail are in need of replacement.

**Eagle Scout Projects:** Jack Lerner approached the Commission with a request for ideas for an Eagle Scout Project. Jack proposed the possibility of constructing shelters for the existing bus stops. Commission Members proposed the following alternative ideas for projects:

1. Improvements to the Hanisey's Landing Canoe/Kayak Launch Site
2. The re-inspection and re-labeling of the Borough-wide Storm Drains
3. The installation of a wetlands informational sign at the site of the Eldridge Trail Footbridge Reconstruction Project, as required by the NJDEP Wetland General Permit #17. *Frank Eggert commented that this project is not substantial enough to qualify as an Eagle Scout Project on its own.*

With great pleasure, the Commission unanimously voted to present Chuck Forsman with a plaque in recognition of his many years of work and dedication to the Wenonah Environmental Commission.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:52 PM. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck, AIF)