Borough of Mountain Lakes

Lakes Management Advisory Committee Meeting

August 5, 2014

**Present**

Chair: Susan Ferguson

Members: Cook, Dewing, Kuehm, Mesicek, Wexler

Manager: Robert Tovo

Council Liaison: Not present

Allied Biological: Chris Doyle

Environmental Commission: Not present

Student Member: Not present

Opened at 7:32

**Chair**

* July minutes approved
* Discussed Student Member opening
* Moved to the Manager’s Report

**Manager’s** **Report**

* Discussion of follow-up with waterfront resident near Midvale Boat Dock regarding the lake water level
* Discussion of early stage of project to enhance beach facilities at Island and Birchwood Lakes
* Little change in beaver activity in Birchwood Lake. Two trappers arranged for mid-December trapping season
* Manager will check operation of one aerator in Birchwood Lake. All others now operating according to recommended schedule provided by Allied Biological
* Cove Park refurbishment to include installation of river rock in lieu of plants along curbing. Robust plants to be added in open spaces, shortly after Labor Day

**Allied Biological**

* Overall, excellent summer. Plant density down, algae levels similar to past years
* Wildwood Lake alum treatment scheduled for next week
* Mountain Lake water clarity outstanding again this year. Currently, greater than 10 feet. As such, no alum treatment planned
* Sunset Lake lilies reaching nuisance density in the open water in spite of 2013 sonar treatment. Next week, plan to treat with topical herbicide to trim back
* Discussion of bass weed in Crystal Lake at Birchwood end. Noted that bass weed is an outstanding fish habitat, one of the best native plants for fish in the northeast US. Recommendation to leave undisturbed this summer and revisit aesthetics next summer
* Discussion of additional recent and planned treatments
* Allied Biological will identify and map invasive emergents. Public monitoring and reporting welcomed. First section of Yearend Report provides a valuable resource for resident identification
* Discussion of consistently low dissolved oxygen levels in Birchwood Lake. Ongoing reasons largely unclear

**New Business**

* Discussion of possibility of changing February meeting to be at the discretion of Borough Manager rather than regularly scheduled
* Discussion about replanting Borough owned buffer zone along the waterfront property on the right side of Cove Park facing the lake. Noted preliminary discussion by Council of environmental and public use considerations
* Follow-up discussion of plans to enhance quality and quantity of boat racks at Midvale Dock
* Follow-up discussion of feasibility of boat racks for access to Crystal Lake
* Discussion of fresh water jellyfish, noting that likely time to appear is late August. Only a single species exists and its presence is a sign of good water quality

Adjourned 8:20 PM

Next meeting September 2, 2014