

Minutes of Special Meeting 2/21/2020

Mitchell Stern, Bob Schindler, Debra Dewing Borough Hall

Bob Schindler unable to attend 3/03/2020 Lakes Management Advisory Committee meeting due to annual conference. Today's meeting to garner Bob's input for 2020 planning. Next year, will change first calendar committee meeting to second Tuesday in March, when Bob will not have conference conflict.

Birchwood Lake: Plan in place for 2020

- Summer treatments to be applied to water lilies. These will help raise undesired material in preparation of autumn surface hydroraking
- Expect 1 week hydroraking with 2 machines autumn 2020 to continue to clear emerging/surface islands
- No permits necessary to implement this plan. Future ridding lake of subsurface and near-bottom debris will, under current interpretation, require dredging permit

Hydroraking: State Permitting Update and Clarification

- Person changed at DEP which led to change of interpretation; law has not changed
- Few municipal/public water bodies treat and manage as does Mountain Lakes; permitting process change affects primarily private communities
- Only ways around dredging permit according to changed interpretation are:
 - Clean within 50-foot arc of inlet streams
 - Hydrorake only surface material, e.g., surface islands of Birchwood Lake
 - Use hand tools for material below the surface
 - Harvesting
 - Use of rotor machine between surface and bottom
 - Used at Lake Hopatcong
 - A poor option because of fragmentation, which likely contributed to Lake Hopatcong's toxic algae blooms summer 2019

Grunden's Pond: A 2021 project

- Likely a 2021 project per Mitchell Stern
- When permitting the project, we should request that engineers add dredging or related permit to allow for cleaning up the shoreline and bottom. Not clear whether hand tools, borough crew/machinery or hydroraking will be best suited

Wildwood Lake

- Significant portion of upper-end inlet (Boulevard end) area would benefit from cleaning from land and via hydroraking

2020 All-lakes Drawdown

- Allowed by state from September 15 with refill to begin by December 1
- Solitude will reserve hydroraking equipment to begin the day after Labor Day where needed and allowed, prior to drawdown
- Mitch may arrange to rent track hoe for a week to enable DPW to handle land-based clean up

Next Steps

- Bob Schindler to, in early March, **map** areas of lakes which:
 - Are within 50-foot arc of inlet streams
 - Need cleaning which can be achieved via borough land equipment
- Present to residents via newsblast Solitude's **living shoreline planning service**. Wes Allen to provide details at committee 3/03/2020 meeting
- Communicate to residents via newsblast plan for **2020 lakes drawdown**
- Place East side of Cove on hold pending further understanding of erosion and solution. ADA compliancy laws likely to make limited public use difficult to achieve. Paths to water at Cove Park not ADA-compliant

Additional Information

- We do not own the water; state owns the water of our lakes and canal. Beach trespassing is within our control. Once a swimmer enters the water, we no longer have jurisdiction
- **Target lake level of Mountain and Wildwood now deemed to be 4995 feet above sea level**
 - DPW now managing to this level. So far, no resident complaints per Mitch
 - History
 - Level of 4997 established 5-10 years ago in consultation with residents of both lakes
 - Then-DPW Head Mark Prusina evidently did not use this mark but, rather, eye-balled spot on Steve Shaw's property and managed to that
 - DPW and Mitch want a fixed mark/number. Complaints from Mountain Lake residents of high water led to lowering to 4995 which seems to be effective
- Solitude pursuing additional testing and lab options
 - Send some employees to biology Florida training
 - Pool-type test strips ok for +/- direction outcome. Too vague for further detail
 - Lab in NJ (Green ?) may be available for toxicity testing with same short (2-ish day) turnaround time as state lab which is not available to us and at cost of several hundred dollars per sample. Solitude pursuing costs