

Minutes

Lakes Management Advisory Committee

April 7, 2020 3p.m. Amended COVID-19 teleconference format

Present: Borough Manager Mitchell Stern, Borough Council Liaison Tom Menard, Solitude Lake Management representative Bob Schindler, Committee Chair Debra Oliver Dewing

Borough Manger Update (Mitchell Stern)

- Midvale Dock area debris collected by Jaro Mesicek has been removed by Borough crew
- Borough attorney suggests that Solitude Lake Management draft letter to waterfront residents for his review to describe their Living Shoreline service. Neither Committee nor Borough Manager can directly recommend such services.

Solitude Lake Management Report (Bob Schindler)

- Thankfully, in spite of warmer than usual winter, lakes are experiencing a typical year in terms of growth. Warmer temperatures have not prompted early nuisance algae
- Mountain Lake: First SONAR application applied to milfoil
- Wildwood: Spring ALUM treatment scheduled for next week
- Small ponds: Filamentous algae treatment likely

Living Shoreline Demonstration and Test Site

Purpose

- Test site for Solitude Lake Management to refine plant choices and layout
- Demonstration site to encourage and facilitate waterfront homeowners to create their own Living Shorelines

Site Choice

- First choice: North end of strip of borough land on east side of Cove Park
 - Edge contains accumulated leaf litter, water laps against grass, will over time see erosion here and further along full length of this strip of land
 - Incorporate low plantings (and, possibly, hard substrate) to create sustainable Living Shoreline to stabilize shoreline, filter nutrients, and reduce/eliminate Canada geese activity. Hypothesis is that plantings likely to be sufficient here for erosion control
 - Visible as demonstration site with lawn akin to those of many waterfront homeowners
- South end, adjacent to Cove Park, is possible but less desirable as demonstration and test site
- Second choice: Southeast end of Birchwood Lake. No structural change required but rocky site, as demonstration model, less akin to grassy properties of most waterfront homeowners

Rough Plan

- Three tiers of plants: in water, immediately adjacent to water, further onshore. Selection of 4-6 plants should work and look well
- Minimal maintenance required, to include possible periodic watering first summer
- 20-25 feet along shoreline edge

Next Steps

- Tom Menard and Bob Schindler to further evaluate site 4/08 a.m.
- Bob Schindler to prepare site plan drawing and key points for Tom Menard to discuss with Borough Council during 4/13 (optimally) or 4/27 council meeting. Pending positive council response, approach adjacent homeowner neighbor
- Planting can take place late April through early June, pending plant availability and COVID-19 constraints. If spring 2020 precluded, plan for spring 2021 rather than autumn 2020 since plant availability expected to be challenging in the autumn

Further Opportunities and Considerations

- Solitude Lake Management Living Shorelines webinar 4/29/2020: 1-2 hours displaying shoreline restoration and planting projects undertaken by Solitude. Details to follow
- DEP Wetland Permits: required when disturbance to wetland transition zone, including structural changes. It is observed that most/all private areas do not need erosion control

Prepared by Committee Chair, Debra Oliver Dewing