

Meeting Minutes of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee
May 7, 2019
7:34 pm
Mountain Lakes Borough Hall
400 Boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

Borough Manager: Stern
Committee Chair: Dewing
Council Liaison: Happer
Solitude Lake Management representative: Schindler
Members: Amin, Ferguson, Gargano, Grodofsky, Kuehm, Mesicek
Student Liaisons: Not present
Environment Commission Liaison: Rankin

I. Approval of April Minutes

II. Committee Chair

Chairperson term appointment will change from the current three-year rotation to a one-year term, aligning with membership terms. Debra Dewing will chair the committee for the remainder of the calendar year, taking over from Susan Ferguson. Many thanks to Susan for the outstanding work she has done chairing the committee for many years. We are fortunate that Susan will continue serving on the committee; her knowledge, experience and input are of great value to the committee's efforts.

The EPA's proposed dredging permit fee of up to \$15K per lake/per five-year period stated in Section III of the April Minutes of Meeting includes expected charges for engineering, which may constitute the larger part of the fee.

III. Borough Manager Report:

Sunset Lake Dam - Soil testing is underway.

Grunden Pond –

- A pine tree is being removed from the dam. Resulting future absence of soil-disturbing roots may slow down water loss from the lake
- No formal report for the remediation plan of the dam was issued yet. There is no further repair work on the dam being scheduled for this year.

All aerators in Birchwood and Shadow Lakes are turned on.

Beach projects

- Renovation and expansion project at Birchwood Lake is progressing well. Facilities are expected to be usable for Memorial Day albeit not fully completed by then.
- Renovation of facilities at Mountain Lake beach are planned to commence after the Labor Day.

III. Solitude

Overall, our lakes are right now in good shape. Herbicide and algaecide treatments are underway.

- Mountain Lake: In general, systemic spot treatment method with Sonar replacement is more cost effective than treating the whole lake at once. Lush lawns observed
- Cove Pond will need to be treated for curly leaf pondweed. This weed grows fast
- Treatment of new water lilies from neck to southern end of Birchwood Lake, forthcoming.

Hydroraking

New rules announced by EPA at last month's COLA meeting affecting our lakes management efforts are as follows:

- EPA is interpreting hydroraking as dredging. It is to be noted that there is nothing written in current EPA regulations directly addressing hydroraking
- Storm water area for municipal use was extended from 50 ft to 100 ft.

The following actions are considered in response to the new EPA rules:

- Mapping of all storm water inflows into lakes
- Borough may again contact elected state officials
- May have to use beneficial aerobic bacteria means for muck sediment control
- Investigate possible use of lakes bottom-covering blankets to suppress weeds growth.

IV. New Business:

Student led environmental project consisting of clearing shorelines of undesirable organic matter and introducing environmentally beneficial plantings discussed.
Recommended to start with clearing the southern part of Birchwood Lake to support and enhance improvements from borough building renovation.

Meeting adjourned: 9:08 PM

Next Meeting: June 4, 2019