

Borough of Mountain Lakes
Lakes Management Advisory Committee
Minutes of July 2, 2019 Meeting

Borough Manager: Stern

Committee Chair: D Dewing

Council Liaison: Happer

Solitude Lake Management representative: Schindler

Members: Amin, Ferguson, Grodofsky (minutes), Kuehm, Mesicek

7:30 p.m.

June minutes (submitted by Andy Hilton) approved with minor amendments.

Chairperson Update:

- After the spring clean-up was cancelled, Debra spoke with Mayor Barnett to discuss borough council goals for the student volunteers. It was determined that the main goals will be to provide the students with exposure to public administration and promote the students to share their thoughts and ideas with the committee
- We will meet with the students to explain goals and responsibilities for the next year
- Potential student candidate from the swim team will be offered an unofficial role on the committee.

Borough Manager Update:

- Birchwood Lake: construction largely completed with finishing touches end of summer

- Island Beach: new facilities discussion to begin at Borough Council meeting 7/08
- Sunset Lake: less obtrusive, lower cost new dam design being discussed. Loan approved
- Grunden's Pond: dam to be corrected; tree recently removed
- Recommendation was made to provide borough residents with a seasonal weekly e-blast to give updates and reminders of best practices for lake recreation and maintenance. Alpesh Amin and Susan Ferguson will work on the first e-blast and will look at old formats to come up with ideas for the new template.

Solitude:

- Lake Hopatcong issue
 - o Extremely high density of blue/green algae described as 180,000 cells per milliliter. (Note: Solitude lab does not accurately measure above 40,000 cells per milliliter.) Phosphorous levels highest in twenty years. Rain has cleansed watersheds in this highly developed area, flushing into the lake. High air temperatures worsening the situation. The lake that receives the direct outflow from Lake Hopatcong has not been affected
 - o There is no direct link to the algae in our lakes and we are rarely even at 1,000 cells per milliliter
 - o The main difference between our two situations is that Lake Hopatcong only has a (limited) monitoring program with no action plan. Through Solitude, we have a monitoring program and an action plan in place and issues are addressed promptly as they arise.
- Birchwood will be treated for waterlily growth.
 - o Solitude will complete this treatment with a fanboat, but they are not overly concerned about the current new growth.
 - o Timing may be an issue in order to not affect the Rec season, but the productivity of the process will be much higher due to the work that was already completed last fall.
 - o It was also noted that hydraraking will promote the growth of waterlilies southward; such new growth is, however, easily managed.

- Mountain Lake: A question was proposed about drawing down the lake at increased levels, possibly 3 or 4 feet, so that lakefront homeowners can clean their own property. Bob Schindler said it would be great because the ground would dry out and would be easier to clean. Feasibility to be considered prior to 2020 (presidential election) drawdown year. May link to need to lower Grunden's Pond more than usual for dam work.
- Bob noted that Solitude's website is a good education resource for plant lists to determine what is good/not good to plant at the edge of the lake
- Birchwood water quality
 - o Carefully monitoring dissolved oxygen levels due to high temperatures
- Sunset Lake
 - o Waterlilies have popped up and need to be treated
 - o Signs of swamp loosestrife- not invasive but does encroach and is creeping up to properties
- Wildwood Lake
 - o Naiad level was high and was treated. Solitude will continue to monitor
- Canal
 - o It was suggested that growth on the sides of the canal be trimmed so it does not get out of control
- Olive Pond: Applying bacteria every month. Olive and Shadow lakes are best candidates for bacteria treatment because they have been hydroraked. Same benefit may be achieved in some of Mountain Lake's small coves.
- Crane bridge construction
 - o Question was asked whether the water was being pumped through- answer is unknown as this is a county job. Mitch will talk to the county about possibly clearing the area below the bridge