

## Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2021 7:30pm Zoom Video Meeting

### **Commission Members Present:**

Mimi Kaplan	Neeke Swart (minutes)
Allison Rankin	Peter Smith
Eric Lee	Student Liaison
Dan Happer	Borough Council Liaison

#### 1. Administration

November Meeting Minutes were approved without corrections.

#### 2. Update Route 46 planting/Beautification Project (Dan)

This project falls within the priority the Borough gives to preserving and protecting the tree canopy. The EC agrees to move the discussion up to the Borough Council. Dan will provide Jackie with a format to present & discuss this project in the Council around February/March. The EC will budget \$500 for the permit fee.

3. Need to formally request reinstatement of EC representative to DPW Committee. Mimi will send email to Mayor Menard.

#### 4. New Planning Board Liaison/EDAC

Nick is stepping down as EC member. This leaves us without representation on the PB. Neeke volunteers to be the next liaison. Chris might be interested in the seat in EDAC.

#### 5. Goals 2022

New in 2022 is the completion of the ERI, which needs to be finished before the renewal of the Masterplan in 2023. Other projects will be continued, like:

- Noise ordinance
- Trees on Route 46 median -

#### 6. Liaison Updates

Student Liaison (Eric)

- MLHS botanical Garden. The MLHS EC has thanked Bednar for providing plants & people using Instagram. Also, a plaque will be designed to thank all that contributed.
- MLHS EC is raising funds for ocean, river & beach cleanup, the removal of plastic waste. They raised about \$112 so far (after school bake sale & online: <https://gofund.me/5a8bfaba>).

Lake Management (Allison)

- The Wildwood Lake Living Shoreline Project is in the information gathering stage.
- SOLitude has presented their annual year-end report (<https://mtnlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2020-Lakes-Year-end-Report.pdf>):
  - It has been a year of extremes
  - The Hydro raking of other lakes then Birchwood was paused, a possible restart was discussed. The Borough Council will budget an initial study into the maintenance of the lakes.
- Sunset Dam. There will be looked into possible additional funding from the new infrastructure bill.

Green team (Mimi)

- Green Team plans to use Earth Day (April 22, 2022) to inform public and entrepreneurs about the upcoming single-use plastic bag ban (May 4, 2022).

#### 5. Any Other Business

- Plastic Straws. There are still businesses in Mountain Lakes that are handing out plastic straws. This should only be done upon request of the customer. One solution is to discuss this with business owners and provide them with helpful table brochures. Another solution is informing the Mountain Lakes inspector.
- Legacy Condos (corner Morris Avenue & Fanny Road). The Stormwater management report is missing. Who is responsible for this report?
- Mimi put together a packet for DPW with all the stormwater management plans that the EC agreed on.
- Thank you, Dan & Nick, for your expertise. It is greatly appreciated!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm, next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday January 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, 7:30pm**