

Minutes

Lakes Management Advisory Committee

July 7, 2020 7:30p.m.

Amended COVID-19 teleconference format

Present:

Committee Chair Debra Oliver Dewing, Alpesh Amin, Ethan Grodofsky, Andy Hilton, Scot Kuehm, Jaro Mesicek, Mike Russo

Borough Manager Mitchell Stern, Borough Council Liaison Tom Menard, Solitude Lake Management representative Bob Schindler

Boy Scout: Yash Samat

Not present: Tina Gargano, Frank Luzzi, Environmental Commission liaison Allison Rankin

Committee Chair Opening (Debra Oliver Dewing)

- Approval of Minutes from June 2 meeting: Scot K & Andy H
- Topics for the meeting:
 - Eagle Scout Project
 - Lake Drawdown
 - Lake Levels
 - New Student Reps for the Committee for 2020-2021 school year
 - Summer 2020 lake stewardship best practices for Friday borough newsblasts. Debra to update 2019 summer series and provide to Mitch new series to begin this upcoming Friday.

Eagle Scout Project-Yash Samat, Presenter

- Yash did an excellent job presenting his Aquatic Habitat Project
- Questions followed:

Height of the structures was discussed particularly with regard to clearance for boaters and swimmers

Funding was discussed, Yash had a number of ideas. Mitch suggested list of items needed be provided to borough before purchasing elsewhere in the hope that some items may be among borough supplies. Debra suggested consideration of Town Club grant
- Committee Discussion after Yash left the call:
 - Committee approved project
 - Debra to call Yash to communicate approval and next steps. Alpesh and Ethan then to be Yash's committee links
 - Bob added to the question about the height and clearance by suggesting that it would be beneficial to have varying heights and depths.
 - Alpesh suggested using flexible pipe instead of PVC

These suggestions will be discussed with Yash.

Student Liaison Discussion

Three Applicants applied to the committee: Yash Samat, Lukas Dequina and Ben Schuckman. After a brief discussion of who to accept it was decided that all three should be allowed to join, but it will be made clear what is expected of them as a member of the committee and that they will be responsible for organizing 1-2 lakes clean-up projects. Per Tom Menard's suggestion, will apply Junior Fire Department model of task-oriented participation of multiple students. History of Lakes Management Committee is one student per year for 15+ years, prior to two students during the last 1-1/2 years.

Debra suggested Tom, as a Member or the Borough Council, speak to the students about our expectations, such as attendance at meeting and to work with the High School regarding projects etc.

Borough Manager Update (Mitchell Stern)

- We are in the home stretch on the Island Beach project; should be completed shortly
- Rain garden planned for Birchwood Lake area; should help with the erosion from Birchwood parking area and wooded slope into Crystal Lake.
- Due to Covid-19 and related issues, the town will not be selling guest passes for now and will keep an eye on capacity issues.
- Drawdown scheduled for some time after Sept 15th. DEP asking for October 1 drawdown to prevent warm-weather fish kill if earlier. We will plan on doing it on time, but will have the flexibility if we need it. We should have dates by next meeting and then notifications will go out.
- Level of Mountain and Wildwood Lakes
 - 499.7 feet above sea level "Manifesto Level" set by then-Borough Manager after significant consultation with residents (2010 or before)
 - Recently 'discovered' history of 499.4 level set in 1990s per DEP authorization when ML dams redone
 - Per Mitch, periodic complaints of high/low water level stopped when level at 499.5
 - Per Scot Kuehm, WW Lake resident committee member who moved to town in 2008, current level of 499.45 seems about right. Scot highlighted challenge of satisfying all lakefront residents since land contours vary greatly within individual lakes and between them. Note: residents of one side of WW Lake may find lake level perfect when other side finds it high/low
 - Borough will proceed to manage to level of 499.4 feet above sea, recognizing need for dynamic managing given uncertain precipitation and summer heat/evaporation season. Measurement tool mounted on inside walls of ML and WW dams. Solitude uses these tools, identifying lake levels in weekly reports
- The issue of residents having their gutters drain directly into the lake was discussed. It is against the DEP rules but the town is not able to enforce the rules.

Solitude Lake Management Report (Bob Schindler)

- Birchwood - Lilies were treated, may need a 2nd spray. Dissolved oxygen level has been good this year.
- Crystal - Bass weed has been treated.
- Sunset - Lilies were treated again. There was work done on the entry area, lily removal etc.
- Grunden's Pond - turbid appearance, but water quality has been good
- Wildwood – Looks good, waiting to do next herbicide treatment. Scot has seen some primrose; Bob will monitor the growth.
- Mountain Lake – Bass weed is getting complaints, but it is not bad for the lake, it's actually good for nutrient remediation. Will be doing an alum treatment for the algae bloom.
- Water temps are higher than normal and may be causing greater bacteria decomposition. The smell people have been experiencing may be its exposure to the air.
- Schedule for Hydro raking; The town engineer is on vacation, will clarify dates when he gets back. Hopefully by Aug. There is no confirmation that another lake got approval without a permit, as has been suggested. Bob was asked to speak to the Engineer to see if the information about the 'volume of water' from the dam permitting processes would be usable data for the Hydro raking project. This would save us on additional engineering fees. Bob said that Solitude will get us a real interpretation of the cost of hydro raking and permit structure. Then do a probing study to prioritize areas and come up with a 5 to 10-year plan. Debra asked if all lakes can be grouped for permits. Since all our bodies of water are connected, can we treat as single body of water for purpose of hydroraking permit?

Living Shoreline Proposal

- Maintenance proposal the 4/2021 Living Shore Line test/demonstration site has been prepared. Tom will be presenting it to Borough Council.