

Minutes

Lakes Management Advisory Committee

[August 12](#), 2020 7:30p.m. Rescheduled meeting due to Hurricane Isaias. Amended COVID-19 teleconference format

Present: Committee Chair Debra Oliver Dewing, Alpesh Amin, Ethan Grodofsky, Andy Hilton, Scott Kuehm, Jaro Mesicek

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

Student Auxiliary Members: Lukas Dequina, Yash Samat, Ben Schuckman

Not present: Tina Gargano, Frank Luzzi, Mike Russo, Environmental Commission Liaison Allison Rankin

Committee Chair Opening (Debra Oliver Dewing)

- Welcome Student Members
- Approval of Minutes from July 7th meeting: Ethan and Tom 2nd
- Mountain Lake: After treatment, the milky green film that covered the lake is mostly gone. Some still lingering in the Cove and on the edges of the lake. Possible sources are unknown but we speculate that it could be fertilizer or septic overflow that washed into the lake by the rain storms from Hurricane Isaias that passed through town. Bob would like to do another alum treatment to address this and hopefully will act as a preventative measure.
- Bob Schindler has not witnessed a bloom of this intensity, this quickly, in many years. He hypothesizes that it emanated from something specific, a high concentration point-source, possibly even high on the hill. Noted July the hottest month on record in NJ and PA. Notes that blue-green 'algae are naturally occurring cyanobacteria, growth of which is encouraged by: light, elevated water temperature, elevated nutrients. We can control the nutrient load. Immediate treatment worked to reduce/eliminate the green surface film but the nutrients remain. Next, we need to reduce the nutrient load.
- Bob Schindler further described:
 - Overall, water clarity is a good metric for the health of the water
 - Algae cells migrate vertically in the water column. Downward movement, looking for nutrients. Daily cycles
 - Notes, re aeration systems, that underaerating is worse than no aeration at all.
- Mitch agreed to put out a notice stating that we experienced an algae bloom and it was addressed immediately. Remind everyone that this is a natural body of water and things occur in nature. We have to be made aware of these occurrences and we will address them. Explain why it happened, how we can control it and what residents can do to help.
- Andy agreed that it is a good idea to notify residents of this issue and advise that the Lakes Management Committee is on top of it.

- Andy commented on the storm drains from the roads draining directly into the lake. Mitch explained that many of these drains are grandfathered from before the current rules were in place which prohibit such direct inflow from public and private property.
- Jaro said the League of Women Voters published a 'know your lakes' pamphlet and can it be updated. It may not be possible as the League is struggling. Ethan suggested digitizing it and maybe having the Student members help. Tom agreed.
- Tom asked if residents could do their own aeration. Bob said 'no', it needs to be part of an overall plan because aeration in some areas could cause problems in others. He may need to do a study to determine the appropriate system of aeration.

Borough Manager Report (Mitchell Stern)

Projects

- Island Beach is now open. No guest passes to facilitate COVID-19 social distancing. Beach Director, Vicki Allison, has directed people to Birchwood when it is too crowded at Island Beach. Guards will be kept until Labor Day to support added COVID-19 use at a cost of \$18,000 for 18 days (\$1,000/day guards plus staff) plus \$4000 for rangers.
- Agreed with the State to move the date for the lakes drawdown from Sept 15 to Oct 1. This may be a better time due to warm water, lengthening full recreation time and hopefully avoiding any 'fish-kill.' Agreement with DEP includes refill to begin any time up to end of December.

Solitude Lake Management Report (Bob Schindler)

Hydroraking Permit Process Update

- Birchwood hydro raking will be started after Labor Day. Already, we are set up well with floating islands, providing sufficient surface material to allow for non-permit autumn hydroraking
- Hydro raking- Bob met with Ferriero Engineering, they believe that we will be able to apply for one permit for all nine Borough water bodies under consistent scope of work and that the data they have for the dam projects can be used for preparing the permit. When they take out the permit it will be open for 5 years and can be renewed for additional 5-year periods with minimal cost/data as long as under consistent 'scope of work', which is good because it will take years to address all 9 water bodies. The plan is to get full permit drawn up and submitted to DEP over the winter, get it approved by spring and have a 10 to 15-year Borough plan in place.
- Debra asked about the inlets and Bob suggested including that in Ferriero's work.
- Debra asked where we could do a clean-up project for this fall and to add that to the agenda for next meeting as well as where we could do additional hydro raking in the fall.

2021 Living Shore Line project

- Tom has been trying to get on a council meeting agenda
- Bob has not had time to get to this.

Sunset Lake water lilies

- Jaro asked whether water lilies on Sunset Lake are from Birchwood and Crystal, but Bob didn't think so.