

Minutes Lakes Management Advisory Committee

March 9, 2021 7:30p.m.

Present: Committee Chair Scot Kuehm

Committee Members; Alpesh Amin, Debra Dewing, Tina Gargano, Derek Jackson, Frank Luzzi, Mike Russo

Borough Manager Mitchell Stern, Solitude Lake Management representative Bob Schindler, Borough Council Liaison Chris Richter, Environmental Commission Liaison Allison Rankin

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

Not present: Ethan Grodofsky, Andy Hilton

Committee Chair Opening (Scot Kuehm)

- Approval of Minutes of December 1, 2020 meeting: Motion (Dewing) and Second (Alphesh)

Borough Manager's Report (Mitch Stern)

- Will be reaching out to the Mountain Lakes Club about runoff and erosion
- Sunset and Grunden's Damn – potentially Winter 2021 or Spring 2022 (moved up from Fall of 2022). There is a limited time window for Sunset which will be dictated by environment and wildlife impacts. The damn project should take about 4 months.
 - Damn will extend property by about 10 feet but the legal means by which this will happen has to be confirmed. The adjacent landowners will likely have access to the land via easements.
- Dredging permit is pending completion of the permit for Sunset damn to avoid duplication. The dredging permit process may not complete and be approved by Fall 2021. With the new permit we can use different tooling but cannot make the lakes deeper because the permits are based on the maintaining the existing volume of water in the lake. However, we can measure and remove unconsolidated material that rests on the lakes bottom.
- In Fall of 2020 we never completed the planned Hydro-raking in Birchwood. It is scheduled for March 2021. If the dredging permit is not granted in 2021, we could potentially execute a scaled back plan in the Fall of 2021.

Solitude Lake Management Report (Bob Schindler)

- Lakes are still frozen. Shoreline assessment will commence in March once the ice thaws.
- Permits for treatment remain valid for 2021. This includes aluminum sulfate in Mountain Lake.
- Historical programs for other lakes should remain consistent in 2021.
- We will continue to monitor the water lilies in Sunset and Crystal. May change herbicide in Sunset.
- The focus for Mountain Lake will be managing and controlling the Bass Weed growth.

- Wildwood Lake will follow same approach as Mountain Lake. But will try to get land owner permission for cattail treatment. However, Bob does not believe this is truly an ecological issue.

Questions and Additional discussion

- Recreation Commission Fish Committee will make a decision about where the Trout Derby will be and what species of fish to move forward with. It is a decision outside the scope of this committee.
- In order to create a healthy lake ecosystem, it might be worth stocking outside of the Recreation Commission and Trout Derby needs. The pickerel population appears disproportional and not healthy for the growth of a fishery. The Lakes Committee could make a recommendation about recommended species and rotating lake bodies to promote the overall health of the fish population in our ecosystem. Solitude could assess and inform this recommendation with statistics in a fishery report for \$8-10K per lake.
- Solitude can create a proposal to provide emersed diffused aeration for Shadow and Olive Lakes for \$4-6K. Such a proposal could be considered for the 2022 borough budget if requested and prepared in advance of the October budget planning period.
- Debra is working with the League of Women Voters to get the "Know Your Lakes" brochure digitized. We should assess whether it should be updated. Woodlands and the Boys Scouts are considering digitizing the trail maps via a mobile app. We could potentially piggyback on this to provide information about lakes.
- There is a girl scout interested in a water related project. She may be looking for ideas. We might consider recommending the digitization
- Chris asked whether there are grants, financing options for lake replenishment and restoration projects to limit the sediment build up. Large scale projects of this nature seem to be out of the reach of the borough. Bob Schindler was not aware of any other than DEP loans for dams.
- Yash's fish habitat eco-project will be moving to Mountain Lake and Crystal Lake based on recommendations he received

Debra - Motion to adjourn at 9 pm. Second Frank Luzzi