

Minutes Lakes Management Advisory Committee

May 4, 2021 7:30p.m.

Present: Committee Chair Scot Kuehm

Committee Members; Debra Dewing, Tina Gargano, Derek Jackson, Frank Luzzi, Mike Russo, Andy Hilton, Ethan Grodofsky

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

General Public: Chuck Sabino, Adrianna Hernandez, Lyla

Committee Chair Opening (Scot Kuehm)

- Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2021 meeting: Motion (Debra Dewing) and Second (Frank Luzzi)

Solitude Lake Management Report (Bob Schindler)

- Birchwood Hydro Raking was completed, the project went very well, and the lake look clear. The Hydro raking people were experts and did a great job.
- Mountain Lake is very clear, and overall, in very good shape. No nuisance plant growth.
- All the lake are in pretty good shape.
- A question was asked about where we are on our Birchwood 5-year plan. The answer is, we are on target. Will assess again later in the year.

Borough Manager's Report (Mitch Stern)

- In a meeting with the DEP, they explained that the rules had not changed as we thought and we can now continue with our hydro raking project. We are able to remove "accumulated debris" and organic material, but you may not touch land below. Hydro raking does not actually dig into the bottom, so it complies with DEP regs. Therefore, we will no longer need a permit for hydro-raking.
- There was a discussion about more effective alternatives to hydro raking. This matter will be further discussed in future meetings. As of now it may be the best method, based on cost and permit/regulation issues.
- Bob confirmed that the shoreline may not be touched by machines.
- The Living Shore Line project will be addressed this week.
- Canal entrance at Mountain Lakes Club, the manage was contacted and no response yet.
- Update on the Dam Project DEP approval and engineering; it has been put off until 2022. There are now several permits that we need and must get easements to create new property.

- Certain public docs are on schedule to be replaced. 2022 budget will redeck all docs at Birchwood.
- Once the 6' social distancing rules are laxer the signs prohibiting gathering, sunbathing, fishing etc. will be removed.

Yash's Eagle Scout Project

- Fundraising is ongoing has been completed.
- Material collection will take place in the next few weeks.
- Then assembly will be scheduled.
- Mitch offered to see if he could help arrange for the scouts to build them at the DPW and then help transport them to the lake.

Questions and Additional discussion

- Debra raised the question of a student spring project. The committee asked the student members for ideas for a lake service project. They agreed to come up with one by the next meeting.

Public Comment

- A few residents in attendance asked what is being done about the slow leak on Grunden's pond. And is there a plan to fix it. Engineers were out there and did some testing. It appears that root growth has caused the leakage. The spillway has deteriorated, and parts of the dam has rotted away. Mitch and the town are aware of this problem and efforts to resolve it are being discussed.

Motion to adjourn E. Grodofsky. Second Frank Luzzi