

# Minutes Lakes Management Advisory Committee

August 3, 2021 7:30p.m.

Present: Committee Chair Scot Kuehm, Debra Dewing, Andy Hilton, Lukas Dequina (student rep), Frank Luzzi, Yash Samat (student rep), Mitchell Stern, Alpesh Amin, Ethan Grodofsky, Solitude Lake Management Representative Bob Schindler

Not present: Derek Jackson, Mike Russo, Ben Schuckman, Borough Council Liaison Chris Richter, Environmental Commission Liaison Allison Rankin

## Committee Chair Opening (Scot Kuehm)

- Approval of Minutes of July 6, 2021 meeting postponed to September meeting.
- Reviewed notes from Scot/Debra/Solitude walkabout of Birchwood to assess progress (see notes in Addendum). Next step: Scot, Debra, others to paddle lake for further observation; review findings with DPW.
- Yash: Will need a signature once the fish habitats are placed. Aug 13 fish habitats will be placed. Committee members are welcome to join (6:30-11:30). Yash to send email to the committee in advance.
- Lukas would like to return to the Committee for next year. Yash is tentative. Tina raised that Connor Higgins is very interested in becoming a student member of the Committee.
- Request from Scot for a “student coordinator” volunteer from the Committee for the 2021-2022 school year. Suggestion for small project for students prior to school starting; Birchwood project an opportunity (2-3 hours for 3 people). Another project is the canal. Could use another 2 hours with a few people.

## Borough Manager’s Report (Mitchell Stern)

Living Shoreline Update – After consultation with our Borough Engineer and the Engineer’s consultant, the Borough Manager is satisfied that the project presented by Solitude is covered under more than one of NJ DEP’s permit by rule. Any deviation from Solitude’s proposal could alter this opinion.

- **8/3 update:** Mitch confirmed this is covered under “permit by rule.” When the committee is ready to move forward, it should send a final work plan to the Borough and proceed. Solitude suggests waiting until Spring to do it. Can’t start in the Fall because plants are not available from the nurseries.

Mountain Lakes Club Update – The MLC has removed a significant amount of sand from the canal and placed it back on their beach. The remediation still needs to be checked by Borough personnel to see if what was done was sufficient. MLC has been advised that it is their responsibility to be sure that the sand does not end up in the lake again.

- **8/3 update:** Mitch will meet with the Club soon to discuss and understand their mitigation efforts, and urge them to create a plan to keep sand out of the lake.

Update on Grunden’s Pond

- **8/3 update:** Still expect it will be a Fall of 2022 project. Body of water will be drained, the embankment removed and replaced with a new embankment.

Hydro-Raking Plan – Borough Manager requests a definitive statement on the progress of Birchwood Lake to understand progress to date and expected future results. Aside from Birchwood, Borough Managers request for Solitude to provide a report on the condition of all of our lakes as it relates to hydro-raking. The report should also rank the lakes regarding which lake(s) should be raked next. Committee has no visibility into the budget. Had the Committee had visibility, a hand would have been raised about the decision to limit hydro-raking at certain locations.

- **8/3 update:** Recommendation by the Committee to initiate a long-range strategic plan for our lakes. Suggestion is to put forward a recommendation to Council for resources in time for the 2022 budget. (Committee to put forward recommendations for 2022. Andy, Bud and Ethan have raised their hands to support.)
- **8/3 update:** Recommendation by Scot to initiate a project to capture images of the shoreline annually.

## Solitude Lake Management Report (Bob Schindler)

- (See report under separate cover.)
- Very limited treatments required overall. Very stable month for July. Water quality is favorable overall.

Motion to adjourn at 9:04 pm by Andy Hilton. Seconded by Frank Luzzi.

# Addendum

## Notes of Birchwood Lake Site Visit 7/06/2021

Scot Kuehm, Debra Dewing, Bob Schindler (Solitude)

Purpose to assess progress of Birchwood Lake remediation project.

### Birchwood Lake 2021

- 1 week hydrotanking with 2 machines autumn 2021 in budget to constitute year 4 of remediation program to restore clear water
- Summer treatments to be applied to water lilies. These will help raise undesired material in preparation of autumn hydrotanking
- North end and cove near beach in need of clearing to avoid shrinkage of lake perimeter
- Excluding north end and cove, expect to remove approximately 30% of currently visible material autumn 2021
- Much has been achieved in first 3 years yet to restore clear water to full lake will take several years longer than initial 5-year plan. Accelerate if funds available. Recognize that process is 5 steps forward, 1 step backward
- Goal of 100% clear water means 60-70% clear over time so we should not scale back the 100% goal

### General Birchwood Considerations

- Plants
  - Spatterdock
    - Large, elongated leaf plant with yellow flower
    - Spreads slowly
  - White water lily spreads aggressively; can double area in 1 or 2 years
  - Bladderwort along edges okay; no need to remove
- Trees/dead overhanging limbs and debris along edges: much can be done by land DPW crew to restore a healthy shoreline and eliminate new material going into the lake

### Long-term Perspectives applicable to all ML lakes

- Optimally, dredge each of our lakes every 30-50 years
- Consider economics and flexibility of owning own hydrotanker. Bob estimates appropriate size 100K new
- A healthy lake does not naturally fill in. It is the input of sediment and nutrients that create the problem
- Storm water sedimentation basins should be considered prior to major remediation of Wildwood and Mountain Lakes

- Significant portion (3-4 acres) of upper-end inlet (Boulevard end) area needs cleaning/clearing
- Same applies to Mountain Lake cove at new bridge

### Clean-up of Birchwood south end/swim lane area edges

- Solitude to spray edges on either side of fire hydrant with Rodeo herbicide now
- Consider simple 2-hour commitment of Committee adults and students to tend to south end edges bordering parking lot. From right to left:
  - Cut knotweed back as far as possible; Solitude will then apply herbicide spray with special injection into stem
  - Remove cattails and vines
  - Leave Mulberry far left; shape if desired