

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for February 7, 2023 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on February 7, 2023 on Zoom teleconference. It began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson Derek Jackson, with Alan Hunter as secretary.

2. Attendees

Voting Members in attendance: Alpesh Amin, Debra Dewing, Lucien Foster, Alan Hunter, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Solitude Lake Management), Connor Higgins (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Andy Hilton, Nikki Riley, Mike Russo, Allison Rankin (Environment Commission Liaison), Billy Barrett (Student Representative), John Corbo (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: Karen Brennfleck (Recreation Director), Jason Kahn (Eagle Scout Candidate), Lawrence Kahn (Jason's father), Kristin Larsen (Jason's mother)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 3, 2023 was made by Debra Dewing and seconded by Lucien Foster.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- Tree cutting on Sunset Lake has or should begin within the next week

5. Solitude Lake Management Report

There were no updates from Solitude.

6. Old Business

- Solitude Scope and Lakes Needs (from Chris)
 - Current contracted scope is focused on routine maintenance treatments only
 - There was a discussion whether the recommendation from the committee is to continue hydro raking or defer projects in favor of dredging
 - There is no clear data driven recommendation on the extent of the problem or what is the right tool or approach is to address the problem. This decision needs to be informed by data, which will hopefully be provided by the Bathymetry Study. This study is proposed in the 2023 budget.
 - With what is known today, the committee recommends the following prioritization:
 - Routine maintenance treatments

- Bathymetric Study to help inform areas of need and appropriateness of approaches to remediate the same.
- The current “penciled in” recommended plan would be to continue racking in late 2023 with a focus on Wildwood (north end) and Birchwood (north end) and the Cove
- Forward looking financial considerations
 - Maintenance contract ~\$64K
 - Bathymetric Survey ~\$86K
 - Budget for sediment removal – TBD but likely will be the cost equivalent of a couple of weeks of hydro raking
 - If the town were to require repeated and regular dredging as remediation, there may be a need to buy a barge to reduce ongoing cost
 - Currently there is no capital projects in 2023 for the Lakes. If we were to do a major or multiple major dredging projects, could they be capitalized vs an expense?
- Publicity Plan report (Derek Jackson)
 - Andy, Nicki, Ethan and Derek met to discuss a publicity plan
 - The goal is to send focused seasonal “blasts” to get time relevant messages out. The first one will focus on fertilizer in the Spring.

7. New Business

- New Member Introductions
- Fish Stocking - Karen Brennfleck (Recreation Director)
 - Karen was approached by current or former members of the committee with an interest in stocking Mountain Lake.
 - Karen consulted Jeff Mansini. According to Jeff, stocking new bass in the main lake would help grow and diversify the bass population. He recommended stocking bait fish as well. No mention of scope or cost. Jeff has worked on larger lakes in Wayne area
 - If the Lakes Management Committee want to move forward, they should consider a fund raiser to finance the program.
- Bird Blind at Birchwood Lake - Jason Kahn Eagle Scout Project Proposal
 - Jason is a member of Troop 41. The troop has 30-40% of its scouts attain Eagle Scout. This is an amazing number when compared to the 2% nationally.
 - Proposed building a bird blind at Birchwood Lake off of red trail.
 - Lakes Committee has no issues with the proposed location and plan, provided confirmation from the DPW that the location will not interfere with its access paths. The plan will be forwarded to DPW for next approval.

8. Announcements

Next meeting March 7, 2023

9. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jason Miner seconded the motion. The motion passed at 9:04 PM.