

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for June 6, 2023 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on June 6, 2023 on Zoom teleconference. It began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson Derek Jackson.

2. Attendees

Voting Members in attendance: Alpesh Amin, Debra Dewing, Lucien Foster, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner, Nikki Riley, Mike Russo

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), Connor Higgins (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Alan Hunter

Guests in attendance: Thomas Garibaldi

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on May 2, 2023 was made by Debra Dewing and seconded by Andy Hilton.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- Bathymetric Study – The purchased order has been signed with DPK Consulting and work will begin in about two weeks. The total duration of the project will be about two months until we receive the reports.
 - For comparison's sake, the prior study was to the top of the accumulated sediment at the bottom of the lake. Today technology can penetrate that to the "hard bottom". Mitchell will confirm that we can get the hard bottom, as well as the sediment top, to ensure we understand the depth.
 - Solitude originally provided a bid on the project but did not have licensed surveyors. The DEP requires this if we decide to dredge, as such this disqualified Solitude and resulted in a lower cost to the Borough at around \$50K to study all of the lakes. This is \$30K under the original budget. The balance could potentially be used to add scope like the canal between Wildwood and Mountain Lake.
- Wildwood Lake Hydroraking – Solitude completed 7 days of Borough financed Hydroraking of Wildwood Lake. Private residents paid for at least an additional 2 days. Mitchell will try to get a record of the volume of sediment removed.
 - This was paid for by the 2022 budget. The Hydroraking in the 2023 budget scope will go out and will be awarded to the lowest bidder. The exact scope and targeted body of water has yet to be finalized.
- Sunset Lake Bids and/or plans – We are still waiting for the responses to complete. It is estimated to be around July 13 with the project starting after Labor Day.
- Grunden's Pond DEP update - No update. We are still waiting for the DEP.

5. Solitude Lake Management Report

Solitude Lake Management did not attend the meeting. They have some personnel issues and many of the northeast region employees have resigned. This includes our former project manager Bob Schindler, his replacements were Kevin Shank and Terry Nolan. Kevin and Terry have since left Solitude. We were told Rob Meyer would be the new project manager. Solitude has not been on the lake since April (by their admission). They are going to refund the May invoice. The Borough is withholding the payment for the Spring Hydroraking in Wildwood Lake until this is corrected.

The Borough is looking for a short-term and long-term partner for our lakes.

- For the short-term, Mitchell wants to get us through the summer maintenance and testing requirements. There are a limited number of companies that are licensed in NJ and can accommodate our scope due to the size of the lakes or limitations with personnel capacity.
- Mitchell has engaged a few companies, including Princeton Hydro. Princeton will look at a long-term RFP but does not have the capacity to accommodate us in the interim this summer. There is the potential of a contract with Black Lagoon but that will be confirmed. The permits will not transfer from Solitude to another vendor. They will request new permits which will likely result in about a 7 day delay.

6. Old Business

- Communication Plan – There is no budget for direct to home communications. The only alternative is electronic or a proposal in collaboration with Shade Tree and Woodlands.

7. New Business

- Residential Concerns
 - Mountain Lake
 - Garibaldi and Richter cove is overrun with filamentous algae. This is likely the largest and most prevalent growth of this algae in the lake. Most of the shoreline around the lake has algae.
 - Dead fish and a foul odor can be detected near the Midvale boat ramp.
 - Wildwood Lake
 - Filamentous Algae floating near the surface
 - Creeping water primrose can be seen near the canal and Wildwood school shore
 - Birchwood Lake
 - The northern third of the lake continues to look poor
 - Canal
 - There is a large amount of creeping water primrose.
 - The canal is barely passable
 - Shadow Lake
 - There is a large algae bloom
 - Other

- Solitude has continued to test the water and Mitchell received a report today. The tests are for Ecoli at the swim beaches. In the future, we will discuss the applicability of and need for other tests.

8. Public Comment

Thomas Garibaldi joined the call. He has a biology background and was in environmental studies before he became an anesthesiologist. The cove area near his and Chris Richter's home has an abundance of filamentous algae. Thomas believes a contributing factor is poor water flow. In the leeward portion of the island, he has noticed poor waterflow due to the low water depth and narrow passage. In addition, the inlet canal from Sunset is totally blocked. Mitchell is going to explore pruning near the Cove and the Island near Chris Richter's home. It is unclear who will pay for the cost of pruning and removal brush and limbs. Thomas offered his services to do an environmental study and/or trim the island.

9. Announcements

Next meeting July 11, 2023. Please note that this date differs from our historical first Tuesday of the month schedule.

10. Adjournment

Andy Hilton moved that the meeting be adjourned. Debra Dewing seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:30 PM.