

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for July 11, 2023 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on July 11, 2023 on Zoom teleconference. It began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson Derek Jackson.

2. Attendees

Voting Members in attendance: Debra Dewing, Lucien Foster, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner

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

Members not in attendance: Alpesh Amin, Alan Hunter, Nikki Riley, Mike Russo

Guests in attendance: Ethan Grodofsky

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on June 6, 2023 was made by Andy Hilton and seconded by Debra Dewing.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- Lake Treatment Vendor Updates – We have signed a contract with Black Lagoon for the 2023 season. They have been in the lake management business for years. However, they were the only company capable of servicing us on short notice. They will service us on a month-to-month basis. The plan is to execute the 2024 RFP response later in the year.
- Bathymetric Study Update – Should be done in a few weeks. The scope did not include the canal between Wildwood Lake and Mountain Lake. That was added for an additional fee and the report for the same will come AFTER the other
- Sunset Lake Bids and/or plans – All bids came in over budget. The lowest two bidders had a mathematical error. The lowest bidder disqualified themselves based on that error. The second lowest bidder will be awarded the contract. The overall cost for the project is about ~\$850K over estimated budget. The Borough Council agreed to float the bond to cover the same, in addition to exploring grants. We are still targeting a Fall start.
 - There have been questions and concerns by members of the public who believe the Sunset residents are benefiting from the dam work.
 - Some residents are getting additional land. The land is buried in easements and will not add taxable value to the homes
 - Some residents are getting docks replaced. In addition, they were offered this as an incentive to agree to the plan.
 - Mitchell will follow up to find out where the fish will be relocated to
- Grunden's Pond DEP update – still

5. Old Business

- Communication Plan Update – The public notice that was prepared by Andy Hilton will be published this week. This communication will align with the announcement of Black Lagoon.

6. New Business

- Birchwood Lake Maintenance
 - The Birchwood 5-year plan has wrapped up. The scope was never focused on the far north end of the lake and only preserving the entrance to the north end.
 - In September of 2022, members of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee walked around Birchwood with the DPW. There was a discussion of removing trees and branches that overhang the lake and will eventually fall into the lake. There was talk of taking these trees down as proactive maintenance. Mitchell is not aware of any branch and tree work being done this Spring. Our insurance does not cover such work by the DPW and Mitchell believes we may need to outsource the same.
- There are many geese on Mountain Lake that have been defecating in large quantities on the beach. Mitchell will speak to the DPW about potentially raking the beach.
- Hydro-raking – Based on the Birchwood experience, what is the most cost-effective way to remove sediment and maintain the long-term health of the lake? This MAY differ from the best solution to maintain a resident's lake front to keep the weeds clear.
- Vendor Relationship – Would there be a benefit to looking for a change or addition to our working model such that we have an advisor that may suggest treatments that differ from than the “current art” and status quo remediation approaches.
- Meeting Locations – we will try some in-person meetings in the future and will offer hybrid participation.

7. Public Comment

As a lakefront resident and former member of the committee, Ethan Grodofsky has been approached by several residents. One of the residents said that the Borough used to regularly hydro-rake the lakes around the lakefront residents. Scot Kuehn had mentioned on several occasions that the town help organize hydro-raking for the lakes. Could the town potentially provide the “cost of access” and residents cover the time for their lake front?

In the Spring of 2023, we did something similar on Wildwood Lake. Mitchell intends to continue such practices at lakes, budget permitting. In 2022, Solitude said “a base cost is going to be around \$15k for the 5 days, mobilization, and then another ~\$2500 per additional day if done within the same mobilization”.

As we look toward the Fall season, there will be a separate RFP for Hydro-raking scope which could potentially incorporate lake front residents' needs. Ethan has volunteered to help social a program across the lakes.

8. Announcements

Next meeting August 1, 2023 at the Island Beach Pavilion

9. Adjournment

Chris Richter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Lucien Foster seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:40 PM.