

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for September 12, 2023 at 7:30 PM - Hybrid

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on September 12, 2023. The meeting format is hybrid with in-person attendance at Island Beach Pavilion and virtual attendance on Zoom teleconference. The meeting began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson Derek Jackson.

2. Attendees

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

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Black Lagoon), Billy Barrett (Student Representative), John Corbo (Student Representative), Connor Higgins (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Alpesh Amin, Andy Hilton, Alan Hunter

Guests in attendance: None

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on August 1, 2023 was made by Chris Richter and seconded by Debra Dewing.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- Black Lagoon will manage the lakes through 2023 and 2024. The borough will look for an independent third-party advisor for 2024 and beyond.
- The Bathymetric Study report was received by the vendor today (September 12) and it is being reviewed. The vendor will forward the report to Borough Manager when their review is complete. The Borough Manager will forward it to committee and post on website upon receipt.
- Earthworks was awarded the contract for the Sunset Lake Dam. The quote came in about 800K over budget due to inflationary cost increases. Some of the cost is attributed import of fill. There is some contingency in that cost, so the final cost may ultimately come under the current forecast.
 - The lake will be lowered significantly and will likely appear almost drained to the general public. Fully dredging the lake will not be possible due to permit requirements and timing
 - The fish will be relocated to Mountain Lake (Solitude will relocate the fish). There is currently no plan to put fish back in Sunset. One will need to be developed. It was proposed that some students could help with this.
- Fall Hydro-raking is out for bid. Black Lagoon will not be bidding because they do not have the equipment at this time.
- Grunden's Pond continues to be held up by the DEP

- Black Lagoon intends to perform Alum treatments in October / November. The treatment is intended to reduce the nutrient phosphorus.

5. New Business

- Black Lagoon Algae Reports – For the last three weeks, Black Lagoon has been performing weekly testing of the lakes and sending the results to Mitchell Stern. To date, these tests have not produced results that stood out as alarming. During this time of year, the lakes naturally initiate an annual recycling process which often leaves green coloring on the surface.
 - Trace amounts of Blue Green Algae was present in most of the lakes during the swim season. If visible at all, it was in very low quantities which were not risky.
 - There was a large dense bloom observed across all of Olive Pond on or around August 21. Black Lagoon immediately treated it, and the symptoms cleared.
 - There was discussion about the risk of the blue green algae, and Cyanobacteria. The state threshold is around 100K cells per ml. There was discussion on if/how we can get in front of this problem. Black Lagoon explained that there is a delicate balance because treating the blue green algae can kill the healthy green algae, which can bring back a larger blue green bloom. Some public education may be helpful to mitigate risk and monitor the lakes.
- For 9 weeks during the Summer of 2023 John Corbo tested PH and Phosphorus in Birchwood and Mountain Lake
 - PH – levels were observed as within normal ranges
 - Phosphates / Nitrates – They run into the lakes through our storm drainage system
 - John obtained strips off the internet to test levels. The tests were done at the Cove, Midvale boat dock and Birchwood. The general conclusion was that phosphate levels are too high in the lakes. Birchwood was a little healthier than Mountain Lake, but John thought neither was great. Mountain Lake was generally 1-2 parts per million.
 - There are natural causes like goose fecal material, and when there are higher oxygen levels the phosphorus will be released from Iron in the lakes.
 - Conclusion – We need to continue public education. History has shown communication for change action is very effective to students and through the school to organically spread knowledge and pressure parents.
- Borough Council has asked all committees for a report of what we do, what are our actions, recommendations etc. We could potentially combine that with our annual presentation. Chair Derek Jackson will discuss this with Councilman Chris Richter.
- We had 6 total student volunteer applicants. Student member John Corbo believes we should welcome as many students as we can. One potential project is to figure out how we repopulate the fish in Sunset Lake.

6. Announcements

Next meeting October 3, 2023

7. Adjournment

Chris Richter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Debra Dewing seconded the motion. The motion passed at 9:00 PM.