

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

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on November 7, 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), Bob Schindler (Black Lagoon Pond Management), Connor Higgins (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Alan Hunter

Guests in attendance: None

3. Approval of Minutes

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

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Derek Jackson on behalf of Mitchell Stern.

- Bathymetric Survey – The borough is still waiting for results from the Canal study. All other work has completed. The only error that noted was a computational error. It has been corrected.
- Sunset Lake – Fish relocation occurred. The lake is in process of being drained. At the time of the meeting the level was guesstimated to be down about 5-6 feet. The draining continues.
- Hydro-raking – The borough is trying to finalize paperwork. They hope to rake mountain and wildwood lakes for total of four weeks.
 - Chris Richter noted that based on recent history, the hydro-raking bids were higher than normal. The council rejected the initial hydro-raking bids. Mitchell is trying to negotiate with a vendor. Given it is a new vendor, the borough needs to reconfirm whether the vendor can service residents' waterfront. Chris believes the vendor may be using a suction technology to remove sediment.
- Grunden's Pond – no update from DEP
- 2024 Vendors – Black Lagoon for Lake Management. No Lake Consultant has been chosen.

5. Black Lagoon Pond Management Report

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

- a. Lake Survey Algae Analysis
 - i. The reported results from Black Lagoon are based on cells/ml. This differs from what was previously reported. However, it is more consistent with standards published in the industry and by the DEP.
 - ii. Reports will be updated to provide better context about how the results adhere to published “norms” or fall into areas of concern.
- b. October Alum treatment was completed last Thursday in Mountain Lake
- c. Birchwood Lake Historical Commentary - While the physical appearance and usability of the north end of Birchwood has not substantially changed, Bob points out that the Oxygen levels in the lake have improved and stabilized.
- d. Year End Report - Black Lagoon will target a draft by the end of business on Nov 28. The report will likely not be on par with prior reports because of gaps in service and data due to the change in vendors.
- e. Black Lagoon has not received a copy of the Bathymetric reports. The borough will send them, or contained information as required. What will be sent is pending confirmation from the Borough Manager.

6. Old Business

Review action items from prior meetings (kept separately from meeting minutes)

- Sunset Lake Restocking - Nikki Riley
Nikki received a high-level cost estimate from a vendor for informational purposes. This was not an official quote, nor was the response based on an official RFP. The borough will likely have to go through its normal process for this scope of work. The vendor suggested the borough have multiple stocking dates to allow for the development of multiple generations of fish. It was noted that not all the fish were able to be removed from Sunset Lake which may reduce the cost and need for restocking.

7. New Business

- There was a discussion about whether there was a difference in the chemicals, treatments and methods used by Solitude and Black Lagoon. Some committee members questioned whether the treatments were as effective impacting aquatic plants and/or lily pads this year. While there are not any known or significant differences, it was noted that Black Lagoon did not start treating the lakes until late in the season. As a result, the timing and levels of growth achieved to that point may create an unfair year over year comparison.
 - Black Lagoon would suggest that as a general policy, glyphosate herbicides should be limited or eliminated from future treatments.
- 2023 Year End Public Meeting Agenda, Preparations and Venue
 - Every borough committee is planning to create and give a presentation to Borough Council. Historically the Lakes Management Advisory Committee has simply forwarded the presentation onto the council. December 11 is the council meeting.

- The Lakes Committee will meet between now and our regular meeting in December to discuss the content and message. There was interest in meeting the week of the 28th.
- The Lakes Management Advisory Committee will present some information about the Bathymetric Study. There was discussion about the challenge of how the borough should prioritize remediation.
- Black Lagoon will share how they will partner with us and what the residents should expect. In addition, they will share some information about the work done this year.

8. Announcements

Next meeting December 5, 2023

9. Adjournment

Debra Dewing moved that the meeting be adjourned. Alpesh Amin seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:35 PM.