

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for March 5, 2024 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on March 5, 2024 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, Wayne Roth, Mike Russo

Non-voting Members in attendance: Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), Billy Barrett (Student Representative), Jack Buckley (Student Representative), Connor Higgins (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), John Corbo (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: Laurie Stepper (Mountain Lakes Recreation)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meetings in January and February 2024 was made by Mike Russo and seconded by Jason Miner.

4. Borough Management Report

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

- 2024 Budget – Budget was introduced to the council. There is an ask for 4 weeks of hydro-raking @ \$80K
- Sunset Dam update – Progressing. At this time there are no delays. There is an issue with a peat bog at the southern end of the dam. The borough is waiting for more information about the size and what will needed fill-wise to stabilize the area. There could be delays depending on the findings.
- Grunden’s Pond update – No word from the state DEP
- Bathymetry Study Q/A – Mitchell is going to setup a call with the mapping and engineering companies later this week.
- Lake Consultant / Advisor – Working on the paperwork with Princeton Hydro for a grant submission to the Highlands Council to cover the cost of a study. There will be more information in the April meeting
- Hydro-raking timeline update – The goal is to start in early April. There is owed time that was previously planned for Wildwood. A decision needs to be made about where the 2024 raking will occur.

5. Old Business

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

- Borough Council Presentation
- Fish stocking in Birchwood – Laurie Stepper shared that we stock a hybrid “golden” and tiger trout for the Trout Derby. She raised the question as to why we stock trout vs something naturally native and hearty species like Bass for 2025. This suggestion was well received by the Trout Derby committee
 - Historically, there were recommendations to stock another species that went to deaf ears
 - In addition, there is an idea to create educational programs for “how to fish”

6. New Business

- Wayne Roth Proposals
 - Wildlife audit – wants to audit the “4 main lakes” (What are the 4 main ones??). Wants to begin this study in the Spring using sonar and underwater cameras to get additional information on the health of the lakes, wildlife species present etc.
 - Connor Higgins comments that he has noticed a drop in the size of the fish in the last year. In particular, he does not recall catching anything over a foot last year. Wayne echoed the same observation.
 - Jackie Bay offered the support of the Environment Committee. The club which is supported by youth, might be a great resource for help on the study.
 - Lake usage survey – Goal would be to learn from residents about how they use the lakes, what they think etc.
 - Jackie Bay suggested that the Woodlands Committee would probably want to piggy back on our survey.
- Treatments are scheduled to start at the end of the March
- Geese on Mountain Lake – A resident shared that they observed a large population of geese on Mountain Lake. The Borough has requested money to try and protect Island Beach using dogs. However, the borough generally relies on the USDA for geese management.

7. Announcements

Next meeting April 2, 2024

8. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Debra Dewing seconded the motion. The motion passed at 830 PM