

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for April 9, 2024 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on April 9, 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, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner, Wayne Roth

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison)

Members not in attendance: Lucien Foster, Nikki Riley, Mike Russo, Billy Barrett (Student Representative), Jack Buckley (Student Representative), John Corbo (Student Representative), Connor Higgins (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: None

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on March 5, 2024 was made by Andy Hilton and seconded by Wayne Roth.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- 2023 Bathymetry study updates – Meeting with the vendor was pushed out and should be in the next two weeks. Mitchell anticipates getting the questions answered by the next meeting.
- Sunset Lake dam update – Construction is delayed by about 2 months. Weather, rain in particular, has delayed the project. In addition, during construction we found peat material at the north and south ends of the dam. This is unstable to build upon. The initial plan was to use dry material to stabilize the ground for construction. That plan did not work as we originally hoped. Instead, we will need to remove the material. This will result in a cost overage of \$480K. There was a bond ordinance proposed at the council meeting to cover the excess cost.
- Hydro-raking update – Paragon did not complete the 2023 scope. They have been working in Wildwood. However, Paragon believes they have reached a point of diminishing returns. It is not known at this time whether that is a consequence of the tool we are using to address the problem or that the symptoms observed in Wildwood are not as generally hypothesized. There is a proposal to focus a significant portion of the remaining Paragon scope on the north end of Birchwood. As we look to 2025, we will need to further explore Wildwood to see if we can get a permit by rule to dig a ~50 ft radius around the inlet.
- Independent Consultant / Advisor and Grant Application – Mitchell believes a third-party independent advisor will be helpful to us. The borough has reached out to Princeton

Hydro. Princeton Hydro is creating a proposal which will be submitted to the Highlands Commission. Based on the precedent of similar proposals for other lakes, the assumption is that the scope will be approved and funded by the council. Mitchell will reach out to Princeton Hydro to see if the proposal and approval can be expedited. One of the goals of expediting would be to try and get information/recommendations for Sunset which could save money long-term.

- The borough has received a proposal to try and contain the geese on the lakes. They use dogs to chase and startle the geese, as well as nest egg addling.

5. Tigris Lake Management Report

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

- Representatives from Tigris are local every Monday to look at water quality etc. The DEP seasonal blackout lifted on April 1, so treatments can start if required or desired.
- The historical labs that Tigris have been used were acquired by Pace Analytical. This should result in more timely analytics and lab results.
- Olive, Shadow and Grunden's have no water flow from Sunset during the construction. This could result in water level drops in those lakes and/or other seasonally abnormal algae growth. Sediment can be seen flowing into Mountain Lakes (from the dam construction project) in or around the cove in the west south west corner of the lake bordering Grunden's Pond.
- Grunden's has had algae since early March. It will be treated, if necessary.

6. Old Business

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

- Wayne Roth draft survey of borough residents. He will be circulating it for feedback from the committee members. The borough has a subscription to survey monkey. We can use the borough's electronic communication channels to eventually broadcast and socialize the survey to the general public.

7. New Business

- Highlands Master Plan – The Highlands Commission is meeting with various committees and groups in town to understand what it would take for us to amend ordinances etc. to fully comply with their regional master plan to enable borough to meet membership requirements. Based on the learnings from the commission and residents in town, next steps would be made. Mitchell will send some information on the master plan and/or requirements that will be distributed to the committee.

8. Announcements

Next meeting May 7, 2024

9. Adjournment

Jason Miner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Andy Hilton seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:25 PM.