

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

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on May 7, 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, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner, Nikki Riley, Wayne Roth, Mike Russo

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Jack Buckley (Student Representative), Connor Higgins (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Billy Barrett (Student Representative), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), John Corbo (Student Representative), Andy Hilton

Guests in attendance: Nick Meurer (J Caldwell and Associates)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on April 9, 2024 was made by Debra Dewing and seconded by Wayne Roth.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- Sunset Dam update – expecting the project to conclude near the middle or end of June. The project has created water flow problems in the smaller bodies. We expect those to return to normal once the project concludes
- Hydro-raking – Hyrdo-raking has continued at Birchwood. It will move to Crystal Lake for some private residents.
 - Debra walked around Birchwood and thought it looked great and noted that people were fishing in the northern end of the lake. However, given it is early season Debra and the vendor’s employees caution that the growth may return.
- Independent Consultant / Advisor and Grant Application – Mitchell will be reviewing this proposal for \$185K with the council and will hopefully send the information to the committee afterwards. The consultant will be engaged for a little more than 1 year to help inform a long-term strategy.
- ML Club Pool Drainage – ML Club emptied the pool into the lake. Normally the best practice is to check the chlorine and pH level. Nothing occurred to that extent. It is concerning that they did not speak to anyone and had little to no consideration for the impact on the general public. There will be further investigation into the NJ DEP requirements. there is nothing forbidding this by NJDEP,
- ML Club Beach – There will be no new sand added to the ML Club Beach to avoid the runoff into the canal and lake.

5. Tigris Lake Management Report

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

- Treatments have started.
- The hydro-raking is disturbing the lake bottom and causing material to get caught in the docks and get trapped. The DPW may want to clean that.
- Water Lilies are starting to appear in Crystal.
- With the dam construction, we are not getting the typical water flow from Sunset into Olive, Cove, Grunden's etc. Cove Pond is looking better post treatment.
 - Given the lack of waterflow, Tigris added shading dye in Grunden's Pond to minimize the algae growth.
 - The same treatment may be applied to Olive and Shadow for the same reason.
- Mountain Lake is getting filamentous algae along the shore. The curly leaf was surfacing and treated.

6. Old Business

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

- Sunset Lake Fish Relocation – Slightly less than 1000 fish were salvaged and relocated from Sunset Lake to Mountain Lake.

Species	Count
Largemouth Bass	121
Bluegill	151
Chain Pickerel	60
Golden Shiner	29
Pumpkinseed	89
Black Crappie	42
Yellow Perch	362
Brown Bullhead	56

- Bathymetry study and vendor update meeting – The vendor partner met with Chris Richter, Derek Jackaon and Mitchell Stern. The vendor clarified that given the different methodologies for measurements, it is difficult to compare the volume of sediment from the prior study with the recent study. As a result, the vendor does not believe we can reliably use the sediment change delta from the prior to last year's study. Bob noted that we should be able to get some information from the prior study. Mitchell will connect the vendor with Bob Schindler.

7. New Business

- Highlands Master Plan – Nick Meurer from J Caldwell and Associates spoke to the committee about the borough partnering with the Highlands Commission to conform with the Highlands plan and regulations. If Mountain Lakes were moved forward, the borough would start in the "planning" phase. This means the borough is not required to conform to the plan. However, the Highlands Council incentivizes plan conformance with monetary grants.

- By mid-May Nick and team would like some ideas of projects.
- Dredging and/or Sediment Management study - Sediment accumulation in the lakes ranges from 30-50%. and leaf accumulation, tore erosion, Beach erosion
- Fish stock assessment study – do we have a balance? What variables are impacting the health of the population and lakes
- Beaver study – impact on flood plains and lakes
- Storm Drainage study – to assess and make recommendations on how we can improve the system and add filters
- Resident education can be shared by the Highlands
- There was a question about whether the dam inspections can be funded by the Highlands. Nick needs to look into this.
- Debra Dewing noted that the aerators at Birchwood are extremely loud. There was discussion about whether we could put something around the pumps to dampen the noise.

8. Announcements

Next meeting June 4, 2024

9. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Wayne Roth seconded the motion. The motion passed at 840 PM