

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

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on July 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, Lucien Foster, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner, Nikki Riley, Mike Russo

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

Members not in attendance: Wayne Roth, Billy Barrett (Student Representative), John Corbo (Student Representative), Connor Higgins (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: Jeremy Lonsk (Sunset Lake resident)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on June 11, 2024 was made by Debra Dewing and seconded by Alpesh Amin.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- We received a lake lowering permit for Mountain Lake and Wildwood for repair. The permit normally becomes effective in October. Residents will be communicated to.
- Sunset Dam update – Starting to be refilled. The hole has been plugged and it is being refilled naturally. Lakefront grass seeding is in-progress. Resident docks will be built once there is more water.
 - How long will it take the lake to refill? Mitchell does not know. Debra provided history based on when Birchwood was drained 20 years ago for the dock reconstruction project. After 1 year, Birchwood was refilled.
 - There was significant concern expressed about the condition of the lake bed due to the volume of land-based plants. In addition, refilling the lake in the last few weeks has resulted in high water temperatures, and algae blooms on the surface.
 - Bob Schindler stated that we have followed the normal process based on the timelines granted to the borough in its DEP permit. If those dates were not binding, it might be ideal to wait to the Fall to re-fill the lake.
 - While we are waiting and hoping for a natural restoration and cleaning process to occur in the lake, the water will be tested for safety to ensure a dangerous condition does not develop and flow into other lakes.

- There was a discussion whether it would be possible lower Crystal by about 1 foot to expedite filling Sunset, and to simplify boat access for testing. Mitchell will reach out to the engineering firm for their input on the subject.
- Fish restocking is planned but there are no dates defined. There should be a budget line item for 2025 and possibly subsequent years to ensure generational diversity. The Lakes Management Commission will partner with Laurie Stepper and the hatchery.
- Independent Consultant / Advisor and Grant Application – no update. We are waiting for a response

5. Tigris Lake Management Report

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

Aquatic Analysts have joined Tigris. This expands their portfolio of services to include hydro-raking, harvesters etc.

Tigris will be at the lakes tomorrow (Wednesday). Wildwood and Mountain will be treated for filamentous algae. Olive and Shadow will be treated in Thursday. Birchwood's water lilies will be remedied on Thursday. Grunden's Pond is down by about 18". Crystal looks good right now. However, it had an algae bloom about a month ago which was treated.

Regionally, Tigris is monitoring bodies of water for blue-green algae blooms due to the unseasonably high-water temperatures in 2024. Thus far, there has not been concerning reports in any lakes. Bob requests that if anyone locally sees suspicious blooms to contact the borough hall.

6. Old Business

- Birchwood Lake North End Future Plan – Tigris will be doing water lily control later this week and over the remainder of the season. For the immediate term, the focus will be on the swim areas. In terms of the north end, they will continue to monitor.
 - There was discussion about whether the Spring hydro-raking was helpful and/or contributed adversely to the situation. Bob Schindler suggested that the current condition is indicative to the high rhizome levels and historical volumes of growth.
- Forward looking, hydro-raking would ideally be in the Fall. Future contracts will continue to be put out to public bid. Paragon received the contract in 2024 based on this process. The borough would welcome bids from other companies, including Tigris (Aquatic Analysts).

7. New Business

- Nikki suggested we resurrect the resident communications. Andy will try to take some of the old content for distribution into the Borough Blast. In the future, we will try to partner with the Environmental Committee, budget permitting.

8. Announcements

Next meeting August 6, 2024

9. Adjournment

[Name of mover] moved that the meeting be adjourned. [Name] seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:35 PM.