Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
February 17,2026

Members Present: Dan Gates, Jackie Bay, Robert Platt, Cy Korman, Scott Dubnoff
BC Liaison:
MLHS Liason: Samantha Hirschfeld

1. January meeting minutes: Approved.

2. MLHS Updates

- The students created a "Winter Sustainability Tips" flyer that was posted in the school.
- There was debate about the MLHS students creating a maintaining a MLEC Instagram and facebook page to promote the activities of the MLEC in town. The MLEC needs to check with the borough on if this would be okay or not. In the meantime, the High School Environmental Club will reactivate their social media pages and the MLEC can provide content to post.

3. ERI Comments:

The group agreed with Dan and Mimi's comments on the draft ERI. Mimi and Dan to provide comments to Caldwell to update the draft ERI accordingly. Scott was going to pull together a list of our existing environmental ordinances and resolutions to include as an appendix to the ERI.

4. MS4 Update:

The town's watershed Assessment Report is due 1/1/2027 and the Watershed Improvement Plan is due 12/1/27. Bob has reached out to Jim Pappas at the DPW to see if there are ways the MLEC can help.

5. Light Pollution:

The Parsippany EC is planning a discussion on light pollution with Steve Mariconda at Dark Sky International. We have been invited to the event and should put the word out in town. The MLEC feels there is more we can do in town to improve our light pollution. Bob has reached out to Mitchell regarding potential ways the Borough can limit their light pollution at Borough Hall and the Schools.

6. Alkaline Battery Recycling:

Bob contacted ERI in Lincoln Park who supposedly does alkaline battery recycling and would be willing to work with the Borough on ways for our residents to easily recycle our batteries. Mitchell is supposed to have a meeting set up with the company to see if there is a way to make this possible. Bob to follow up with Mitchell after the meeting.

7. Rain Garden Schedule:

Bob and Cy responsible for February, weather permitting. Dan to resend the rain schedule from last year. We will need to make some changes to better accommodate the MLHS students.

8. New Members: We need more members. Bob to put together a blurb to be placed in the E-Blast by Laurie Stepper.

9. Additional Business:

The 117 Bloomfield zoning board application has been rescheduled for March 5th. We should try to have some members attend for public comment.

Dan is going to get started on Community Clean Up. The proposed date is April 25th, 2026 which is the weekend after Earth Day. Dan to work with Cy on procuring compositable bags and gloves. Dan to start getting together the Signup Genius, emails, etc.

Scott would like to start putting together a depository of all of our MLEC documents and best practices. Dan to share the Dropbox he created with Bob that has all of the materials from Dan's time as Chair.

Meeting adjourned @8:45pm. Next MLEC meeting is scheduled for 3/17/26 @7:30pm via Zoom (or potentially in person).