

Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
April 15,2025

Members Present: Dan Gates, Mimi Kaplan, Jackie Bay, Robert Platt, Cy Korman
BC Liaison: Josh Howley
HS Liasons: None

1. March meeting minutes: Approved
2. MLHS Updates – None by students. Hania did provide an beautified flyer for the light pollution educational posting. It was approved by ground and Dan will have it submitted to the weekly E-Blast.
3. Update: NJ Highlands Council(HC) Compliance

The tentative date for BC discussion is 4/28 Borough Council Meeting. The next step for ML is to pass a conformance ordinance.

Plan Conformance involves the revision of local planning and regulatory documents to integrate the land use provisions and resource management protections of the Highlands Act, so that those documents align with the goals, policies, and objectives of the RMP. Grant funding is available to support this work. The MLEC's request for funding an Interactive ERI was approved (\$3,000) so we have to provide the HC with an outline of what we want included in our ERI.

EC plans to prepare simple talking points for public comment at this meeting. We want to address potential resident concerns regarding impacts to current home ownership, impacts to new development and the benefits of future funding opportunities that conformance with Highlands will provide.

4. ERI Update

Dan is still waiting to hear back from J. Caldwell Associates on a proposal.

5. 2025 ML Community Cleanup:

The group discussed coordination with the high school teams as well as day of setup at the DPW. The event is planned for April 26th.

6. Rain Garden: MLHS students are responsible for the rain garden maintenance this month.
7. Additional business: Cy mentioned Shade Tree wanted to educate the public on proper tree pruning techniques. MLEC decided this was an effort that Shade Tree Commission should be responsible for.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:32pm. Next MLEC meeting is scheduled for 5/20/25 @7:30pm via Zoom.