

## Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025

Members Present: Dan Gates, Cy Korman, Mark Stuart, Bob Platt, Jackie Bay

BC Liaison: Josh Howley

HS Liaisons: Evan Mei

Public: Nora Lin, Charlotte Caggliano

- June Meeting Minutes – Approved – Amended June Notes for 49 Bloomfield to account for approx. 40 units
  - Introductions: Heard from Nora and Charlotte and their interest in joining the EC. Next steps include landing on High School Liaison for the 2025-2026 year. **Josh to check** by-laws on HS Liaison member cap.
- **Riparian Buffer Signage:** Jackie said no one has returned her calls – Cy mentioned PS Print on RT 46 could be an option– a bit late at this point to get signs printed and out for this year. Let's plan to have it teed up for Spring 2026.
  - Cy brought up maybe we could ask for some grant money through Highlands – Cy mentioned they pay soft costs – and could Highlands reimburse for an educational event. Could professionals come in to educate the public on Riparian Buffers
  - Could someone offer a cookie cutter Riparian Buffer design – if they opt in, we could offer professionally designed buffer for their space. There are multiple local options – **Jackie to take as an action.**
- **Highlands: Anything else here?** – Voted in and Josh texted Mitchell – we have the Grant approval for 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Lakes Management study approx. Sept.
- **ERI Update: We received a SOW (attached). Let's discuss if we want to add anything else.** – **Dan to check** if \$3k is in the budget (to be reimbursed by Highlands) – should be kicked off – Cy mentioned in terms of review she mentioned the EC would review and that we should we offer Council Members review and comment after the EC first draft. We will pass over to Josh – and then to council.
- **Dan** to tweak verbiage to add “and council members’ to the fourth Task on Page 3: “ Revise ERI with feedback from Highlands Council and Environmental Commission **and council members**. Complete and provide final ERI.”

- **E-Blast: Battery Disposal - Do I have a volunteer to take over this from me?** – Need E-Blast on “How to Properly dispose of a Battery.” Improper disposal of Lithium Batteries could cause fires in Garbage Trucks and Recycling Centers. **Dan to forward Bob** a list of talking points from Cy – Bob mentioned there may not be a Battery Disposal Container – need to also check to see if there are designated places in the county to dispose them and provide those locations in the E-Blast. According to the Borough Website, it does state that Non-alkaline, lead acid, automotives etc. for rechargeables there will be a e-waste container at the DPW.
- **Birchwood Rain Garden:** Bob – Dan will resend the list for the remainder of the year
- **Additional Business:** Dan sent out Fall Fest invite from Laurie Stepper – Does the EC have anything we’d like to do – it’s from 1-3pm on 10/12 – it’s at Birchwood Lake –

#### Post-meeting

- Dan sent out Scavenger Hunt Ideas
- Dan reached out to Janet from Green Team for joint table
  - Green Team has a tablecloth and could provide 1-2 tables
  - They have literature and bag-in-bag giveaways
  - Janet still has bags from last year’s potato sack races
  - Mark can provide candy for the kids (M&M’s, Skittles, etc.)
  - Cynthia offered to provide support at the table
- Cy would love to find Landscapers who use electric tools – Could we come up with a statement on non-gas powered tools – E-Blast for the Fall time – there should be one already available.
- Cy and Jackie brought up Landscapers are not adhering to Borough Ordinance of operating during the allowed time along with dumping leaves – Jackie brought up that other towns have a digital drop box where you could take a photo/video of violations and it would be enforced. Hard to get action on it currently when at times you receive a voicemail box at the police department.
- Cy brought up if we Could we get biodegradable bags for April – people are using plastic bags for their clean ups and this would be a good option.

**Next Steps** – Discuss HS Liaisons + action on Fall Fest ideas.