

Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes  
February 18,2025

Members Present: Dan Gates, Mimi Kaplan, Jackie Bay, Robert Platt, Cy Korman  
BC Liaison: Josh Howley

1. January meeting minutes approved, with changes

2. MLHS Updates – none

3. Update: NJ Highlands Council(HC) Compliance

The tentative date for BC discussion is either 3/24 or 4/1 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. Mimi will put this together and send to Maryjude Haddock-Weiler and find out next steps.

There was discussion on vernal pools, the importance of vernal pools(VP) and where they are located in ML. There was some inconsistency in the number of VP's and the need to verify locations. Jackie will reach out to Raritan Headwaters Assoc to find out how they coordinated citizen science to map their vernal pools and Dan will reach out to HC to verify locations and numbers of VP's in ML.

We will also include this in our ERI content request with HC.

4. Monthly environmental fun fact submission for ML Borough Blast:

Dan spoke to Janet from Green Team, who is already submitting monthly environmental fun facts with links in the ML Borough Blast, so that we could take turns with the submissions. He will work on an info segment with Bob on the negative effects of light pollution.

5. No February rain garden maintenance

6. General business:

Jackie attended the Lakes Management(LM) Dec meeting and shared that there is a concern on the extent of sediment in all the lakes that can no longer be managed by hydro-raking. It was recommended that MLBC that lakes be dredged every 50 years and we are well overdue. She asked if the EC would be willing to assist LM with working on a solution to this problem. Josh will discuss with Melissa(LM BC Liaison) and get back to us.

Whippany Watershed Meeting(3/5) – Cy has a conflict and asked if anyone else could attend. Mimi said she would try via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned @8:40pm. Next MLEC meeting is scheduled for 3/18/25 @7:30pm via Zoom.