

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for October 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on October 1, 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, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Nikki Riley, Wayne Roth

Non-voting Members in attendance: Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), Kelsey Dages (Student Representative), Scott Minter (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Debra Dewing, Lucien Foster, Jason Miner, Mike Russo, Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Billy Barrett (Student Representative), Jack Buckley (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: None

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on September 3, 2024 was made by Wayne and seconded by Andy Hilton.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- Birchwood Aerator RFQ update – Bob and team believe that the maintenance kits are needed. So, it is likely not a major net addition to the 2025 budget.
- Sunset Dam update – Grass was planted and has been growing. Shrubs are being planted. There has been various debris and tools cleaned up around the Dam site.
- Independent Consultant / Advisor and Grant Application update – There will likely not receive a response until after the New Year.
- Gruden's Pond update – No update – waiting on NJ DEP.

5. Tigris Lake Management Report

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

- NJ DEP Lake Monitoring Plan permit update – Remains a work progress. We may need a permit for Aluminum Sulfate for the bodies of water and a second permit for other products. Given the difference in this permit application relative to others, Bob believes if we submit them by the end of 2024 calendar year, we should be fine by the start of the application period in the Spring of 2025.
- Early September Tigris sprayed Birchwood, so there should be fewer Lilies now. Tigris noted there is more water shield growth in the open water areas that used to be occupied by Lilies. This leaves Bob questioning mechanical removal out of fear that it will enable and spread more aquatic plants.

- Bob noted that Crystal remained at full pool or close to it for most of the summer. On the other hand, Birchwood was VERY low. This makes Bob believe Birchwood is leaking / spilling water faster than it should.
- There was an airboat on Sunset Lake in early September. The lake was sprayed where it was accessible. There was significant area that could not be reached. The original plan was to try again next week, but the water level seems to be lower. The majority of the plants will die when the lake fills. The original plan was to hydro rake / harvest the decomposed plants after they die.
- About 20 feet from the dam there appears to be mounds of dirt that are 2 feet higher than the lake bottom. Nikki indicated that there was a bit of an island / mound near the vicinity of the Pocono and East Shore Road meet. Nikki also noted that there are cattails along the shoreline of the lake, which were never there before.
 - a. We will speak to Mitchell about trying to get the DPW involved to help the lake front owners.

6. Old Business

Review action items from prior meetings (kept separately from meeting minutes)

- Mountain and Wildwood Lake lower update – Lakes are being lowered. Expecting another week or two before it's lowered to max point.
- Wildlife Survey Update – Wayne has finished his research and plans to share the report in the next meeting.
- Multiple residents have expressed concern that we are losing Birchwood Lake. The general communication points on this topic are that the lakes are below full level, which exposes more plants. There is still a plan to get strategic advice about the long-term maintenance strategy of Birchwood and other lakes.

7. New Business

- Mountain Lake Brittle Naiad Growth – There are expansive plant growths between Island Beach and the club, with the growth reaching the surface. Given the longer warm period into September, the region is seeing aquatic plant growth continuing into the Fall period. Although they historically would not treat this due to a natural death of the plants in the water column, the state is now allowing treatments through October.
- There was a question about stocking grass carp in the lakes to eat excess plant growth. Bob mentioned that there are limitations on the size of the body to around 5 – 10 acres. He has seen them ruin the habitat of a lake after they eat everything in the lake.
- Andy Hilton shared that residents have seen Otters in Mountain Lake near the bridge. Nikki and Wayne mentioned that they have seen Mink on the lake.
- Next meeting is Election Day. This will be discussed with Mitchell as to whether that impacts the November meeting schedule.

8. Announcements

Next meeting November 5, 2024

9. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Wayne Roth seconded the motion. The motion passed at 825 PM.