

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for December 3, 2024 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on December 3, 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, Debra Dewing, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner, Wayne Roth, Mike Russo

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Scott Minter (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Lucien Foster, Nikki Riley, Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), Billy Barrett (Student Representative), Jack Buckley (Student Representative), Kelsey Dages (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: None

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on November 12, 2024 was made by Debra Dewing and seconded by Wayne Roth.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

The borough is in its budget season. Mitchell is expecting proposals from Tigris, including the aerator maintenance. Bob Schindler of Tigris commented that he had a list of items in his presentation which will be reviewed later in the meeting.

The Highlands Grant is expected in early 2025. There was a suggestion from Jason Miner that we add a contingency to the budget plan in the event that the grant is not approved.

Mitchell welcomes a budget request from the Lakes Management Advisory Committee to enable communications via dedicated email blasts and/or paper mailing to the approximately 1500 addresses. It was noted that the borough email list has 2000 addresses. They have a 60% open rate and a “decent” click-through rate. The borough also has survey monkey available for use.

The dam inspection will complete by the end of January. Special attention will be given to Birchwood because it was noted that the lake did not seem to maintain its water levels as well as other bodies, most notably Crystal. This could be a consequence of the warmer and dryer summers which could have lowered the water table.

Special thank you to Chris Richter for serving on the Borough Council and acting as a liaison to the committee.

5. Tigris Lake Management Report

The year end summary report was presented by Bob Schindler.

The historical data from old labs and reports needs to be extracted and seeded for new historical trend reporting.

The abnormally low precipitation levels in May, June, July, September and October have resulted on historically dry conditions and extreme drought.

All months in 2024 were warmer than the historical averages.

Industry and reporting requirements have moved algae counts from organisms per ml to cells per ml. This makes comparing lab readings with historical data extremely difficult.

Across the lakes we observed YoY higher phosphorus counts. While such elevated levels could increase the risk for blooms, the biggest risk was in the smaller basins like Shadow and Olive which were highly conducive to blooms. With that said, nothing manifested itself in those bodies. We did unfortunately have the bloom in Crystal, which also had a rapid increase in phosphorus levels from June to July. On top of this, we had higher frequencies of cyanobacteria but small traces across the lakes.

Moving forward in 2025, we will be applying for permits early in the year to enable treatments across the lakes.

6. Announcements

Next meeting January 7, 2025

7. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Everyone seconded the motion. The motion passed at 9:05 PM.