

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for January 7, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Borough Hall of Mountain Lakes

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on January 7, 2025 at the Borough Hall of Mountain Lakes (400 Boulevard). It began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson Derek Jackson.

2. Attendees

Voting Members in attendance: Alpesh Amin, Debra Dewing, Lucien Foster, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Wayne Roth, Mike Russo

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Cannon (Borough Council Liaison), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), Scott Minter (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Jason Miner, Nikki Riley, Billy Barrett (Student Representative), Jack Buckley (Student Representative), Kelsey Dages (Student Representative), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management)

Guests in attendance: Melissa Muilenburg (Borough Council and Deputy Mayor), Sando Barcza (Resident)

3. Approval of Minutes

The review of the December 2024 meeting minutes was deferred to February 2025.

4. New Business

Derek Jackson presented the Lakes Management 2024 Year in Review Presentation.

Key conversation points in response to the presentation:

- Chris Cannon suggested that the Borough Council consider tax incentives for residents who create rain gardens, living shorelines or similar barrier and/or water filter landscaping. The lakes management advisory committee members indicated that such a change would be for the borough council to decide. Regardless of any such incentive, it was noted that there should be more education for residents about the beauty and benefit of such landscaping. Derek Jackson shared the history of the free demonstrative Raingarden that had been proposed by one of our vendors to be put in Briarcliff Park. It was suggested that we consider a borough budgeted installation to demonstrate the same, with the potential location of Island Beach Park where large amounts of runoff are causing erosion of sand into the lake near the bridge.
- Alpesh Amin noted that the sediment accumulation as measured by comparing the 2012 to the 2023 Bathymetric study suggests that in 20-30 years the lakes will look materially different from what they are today. Extrapolating the sediment accumulation suggestions that the bodies of water with about 5-6 feet of water depth will minimally exist. It was noted by Debra Dewing that our Tigris vendor representative suggested that in a normal environment, a man-made lake such as ours would probably be dredged every 50-60 years.

All of the lakes are now over 100 years old. To the best of the knowledge of the committee, they have never been dredged. However, it is thought that the canal between Wildwood and Mountain Lake had significant work done in the 1980s.

- There were multiple discussions about the need for a Lake Environment Advisor Consultant to help us create a strategic plan for the lakes. This plan will likely inform some financial planning by the Borough Council and future steps for restoration and preservation. This need has been discussed for many years. Recently, it has been blocked, pending a decision on the Highlands Grant. The Lakes Management Advisory Committee requested that the Borough Council create a budget contingency to enable onboarding a contractor in 2025 ASAP, regardless of the grant application status. In the event that the grant is approved, the payment of the consultant would come from the grant.

5. Public Comment

Sando Barcza: What are we putting on the roads in the winter? How does it impact the lakes?
Scott Miniter: What can we do about the docks that are elevated and binded off the lake water?
It seems like a safety issue.

Follow-up questions were sent to the Borough Manager on January 8. These points will be discussed in the next meeting, and information shared with the Sando, Scott and others as appropriate.

6. Announcements

Next meeting February 4, 2025

7. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Debra Dewing seconded the motion. The motion passed at 835 PM.