

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for March 4, 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 March 4, 2025 on Zoom. 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, Derek Jackson, Wayne Roth, Mike Russo

Non-voting Members in attendance: Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), Scott Minitier (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Andy Hilton, Jason Miner, Nikki Riley, Chris Cannon (Borough Council 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 meetings from December 3, 2024 and January 7, 2025 was made by Wayne Roth and seconded by Lucien Foster.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- Budget is pending approval in mid-April, at which point there is a one-month freeze. After that period the budget capital expenditures can begin.
- Highlands Grant – No update, which will likely remain the case until mid-year. If the borough does not join the Highlands, there is a separate budget item for the \$190K.
- The borough applies a liquid brine solution to pretreat before snow storm. Using brine to pretreat allows the material to dry onto the road where it is applied, unlike rock salt, when spread on a dry surface, has a tendency to ricochet all over the place, with much of it going to the curb, where it's useless. During the storm, we use rock salt. Like anything else that enters the lake through runoff and storm drains, it likely has some affect our lakes. The higher levels of salt is not ideal because it increases salinity levels which impacts the lakes' delicate ecosystem. However, the brine is generally considered better than the rock salt for the lake.
- Midvale dock, we're working on quotes to replace the posts that have moved (which is why the dock is bound up). The dock is expected to be addressed before the beginning of the season.
- Birchwood Dam – there is wet area and some seepage at the bottom corner of the dam. The initial impression was that it was not of concern and is not contributing to

significant water loss. There will be additional studies of this of the next month or two. The Borough, and our engineer, will be keep checking this and create a future plan of action, if required.

5. Tigris Lake Management Report

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

The lake monitoring permit draft will be ready next week. Monitoring of the lakes will start in April in accordance with DEP regulations.

6. New Business

- Residents have been inquiring about whether there is truly a need to lower the lake every four years. For maintenance reasons, it is advisable to maintain waterfront, walls etc before the damage is so significant that there are collapses into the lake and costly reconstruction projects.
- There is a three-phase dock repair and replacement plan for Birchwood Lake. The first phase will start in the Fall of 2025. The project will require a one-time draw down in the Fall, which will create extra Crystal and Sunset.
- Wayne Roth noted that he has observed a large amount of animal fecal waste. More so than what he remembers in prior years. Bob noted that this is impactful to the lakes and water quality. Mitchell added that they will communicate to the public to remind them of the impact.
- The environmental commission approached our commission about partnering to add storm drain filters in the hill section of town. Most of the stormwater from the hill goes into Wildwood and Mountain Lake. There is already a sediment containment system at the top of the parking lot of Island Beach. There is no such system for Wildwood Lake, although there have been discussions about adding something near the storm drain inlet near the Boulevard. More information gathering would be required to determine if the filters would be beneficial, have a diminished benefit with the basins or be completely redundant.

7. Announcements

Next meeting April 1, 2025

8. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Wayne Roth seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:15 PM.