

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for June 3, 2025 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on June 3, 2025 at Island Beach and 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, Nikki Riley, Wayne Roth

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Cannon (Borough Council Liaison), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Scott Minitier (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Lucien Foster, Mike Russo, Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), 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 meetings on April 1, 2025 and May 6, 2025 was made by Wayne Roth and seconded by Debra Dewing.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Derek Jackson. Derek briefly met with Mitchell earlier in the day.

- Sunset Lake water level is at the top of the boards in the dam. Nikki noted that the lake appears lower than it used to be based on observations of waterlines on rocks along the shoreline. It is not clear if that is truly accurate of recent history or the lines she sees are a reflection of a storm high water mark and expected natural fluctuations that we will see from evaporation and rain events.
- There will be a dock for community access added to Sunset Lake along Sunset Road near the intersection of North Crane, Crystal Road and Sunset Roads. This addition was first looked at several years ago as the borough was examining lake accessibility to the community, and the fact that community tax dollars were going towards preserving the lake with the new dam. The decision to place the dock in the new location was based on the belief that the prior launch point on North Pocono Road had insufficient parking and not as safe for youth to access.
- Mitchell expects Princeton Hydro to start in the next two months. Councilman Chris Cannon shared that there seems to be interest in having the borough join Highlands. However, a formal vote will be needed to make the required ordinance change(s).
- The Trout Derby was in early April. The lake was stocked with Bass and Trout. Given the cool morning, only Trout were caught.
- Both Island and Birchwood Beaches are open on weekends to swimming.

5. Tigris Lake Management Report

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

- Overall things are looking good with the exception of filamentous algae near Island Beach and the Coves. The same applies to Wildwood.
- The upper end of Birchwood does not seem to be as overtaking the water as much as it has been.
- Tigris believes our HAB treatment is approved but needs to confirm based on some unclear portions of the response letter.
- Most of the Sunset Lake plants seem to have died as expected.
- The small basins are getting flow from Sunset and look better than they did last year. This includes Grunden's Pond.
- Bob noted that Birchwood looks like it is at the top of the dam, but seems to be lower than normal. He wonders if there was a board removed from the dam during the inspections. Derek will follow up with Mitchell on this.
- The aerator was off in Birchwood and should be turned on. Bob will be following up with Mitchell.

6. Old Business

Community Education and Communication Campaign – How do we get the residents to think about the lakes as an asset to the community, second only to the schools. Historically we have educated people on best practices, but most residents take the lakes for granted. We have not publicly talked about how we need to invest in the lakes to ensure their future preservation and what that means for residents. Many other lake communities have a lake association charge or other line item to make people acutely aware of the financial and personal investment each resident has. Deborah Dewing reiterated that it would be helpful for independent groups to look into alternative and complementary sources of funding to the borough tax dollars, whether it be a 501c3 or otherwise.

Our lake phosphorus levels are not high when compared to other local lakes. However, most of our lakes' problematic areas are the shorelines and where stormwater runoff enters them. Both of those create higher levels of sediment build up, which we have seen in the Bathymetric Study.

Scott Minter mentioned the idea of a Lake Stewardship Club and creating social media campaigns. We could also share the study and findings of Princeton Hydro with teachers to see if there are ways the students can get involved whether it be with studies, relatable curriculum content etc.

Wayne and Andy will continue to lead the broader communication strategy. Nikki is going to identify a list of key reminder points.

7. New Business

The lake committee believes there should be more transparency and a public discussion around the plan, pros and cons, cost and whether there are better uses of the money designated for the dock on Sunset Lake. The dock may be better placed in the existing points of entry.

8. Announcements

Next meeting July 1, 2025

9. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously passed at 845 PM.