

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ  
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes  
Minutes for February 3, 2026 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

**1. Call to Order**

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on February 3, 2026 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, Derek Jackson, Wayne Roth  
Non-voting Members in attendance: Tom Menard (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), Gwyneth Buckley (Student Representative), Kelsey Dages (Student Representative), Maxwell Hollick (Student Representative), Scott Minitier (Student Representative)  
Members not in attendance: Lucien Foster, Andy Hilton, Jason Miner, Nikki Riley, Mike Russo, Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management)

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meetings from November and December 2025 was made by Debra Dewing and seconded by Wayne Roth. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Borough Management Report**

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

Mitchell clarified the process referenced in the December 2025 minutes regarding the development and use of the 10-year capital expenditure plan. It is not formally part of the budget process, but can be used to create financial plans for to support the annual budget.

The 2026 budget includes a similar scope as 2025 for Tigris to maintain the lakes. In addition, it includes about 3 weeks of hydro-raking. The location is TBD. There was not a dedicated budget set aside for the Sunset Lake restocking. However, there are paths to get money to stock the lake for one or more generations of fish. Further, there are means by which some printed material for educational purposes can be printed. The printing would need to be reviewed by the Borough Council before it is done.

The Highlands Grant of about \$180K will be paid in two, or possibly three tranches. The first half was received from the Highlands in 2025. Princeton Hydro is working on some of the initial stages of the scope using some of the historical data from bathymetric study to create models. At this point we would expect the scope to complete in mid-2027.

The investigation of the Birchwood Dam definitively concluded there is a leak in the dam, but the exact location has not been identified. The study found that the makeup and composition of the dam is not ideal by today's construction standards. The dam contains lots of sand, boulders and decomposed material which are likely contributing factors to the leak. Mitchell does not believe the dam is or will be deemed a threat to structurally fail. However, we will get some more information about options to repair the dam. We are likely in a scenario where the lake level could be down for a few years before the dam leak can be rectified. The Recreation Director is exploring whether other lakes can host our swim and dive teams.

## **5. Old Business**

The resident communication plan is currently supported by three pillar documents:

- 1 Pager for Lake Front Residents
- 1 Pager for Non-Lake Front Residents
- Multi-page pamphlet about the lakes' history and ecosystem

The goal is to create multiple seasonally appropriate specific campaigns that message information to residents. These will be predominantly communicated electronically via social media. The borough has a presence on Facebook and Instagram. Over the next few weeks, Wayne will engage Kelsey, Scott, Gwyneth and Max to get input and help from our high school representatives.

Pending approval from the council, there will be printed copies of the pamphlet created. The remaining pillar documents could be communicated as links from constant contact and/or as links within the social media campaigns. Further, paper copies of the printed pillar documents could potentially be mailed as part of the new resident welcome packet. There are typically 40-60 of those sent annually.

## **6. New Business**

Given the recognition of the need to develop a long-term plan to maintain and preserve the lakes in the community, a few members have been discussing the possibility of creating an independent charitable trust to benefit the same cause. This will be explored in more detail with tax and legal advisors. There was a discussion about the possibility of seeding and/or benefiting the trust with the proceeds from a borough polar plunge fundraiser in 2027.

## **7. Announcements**

Next meeting March 3, 2026

## **8. Adjournment**

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