

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

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on March 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, Lucien Foster, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner, Wayne Roth, Mike Russo

Non-voting Members in attendance: Tom Menard (Borough Council Liaison), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison)

Members not in attendance: Debra Dewing, Nikki Riley, Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Gwyneth Buckley (Student Representative), Kelsey Dages (Student Representative), Maxwell Hollick (Student Representative), Scott Minitier (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: Mary Beth Greene (Mountain Lakes Garden Club)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on February 3, 2026 was made by Wayne Roth and unanimously approved.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Derek Jackson on behalf of Mitchell Stern.

A purchase order was issued to Musky Hatchery for restocking Sunset Lake. We are still waiting to hear back about the schedule start date. According to Mitchell, the purchase order is for the entire quote – not splitting it into multiple years. There were questions as to whether this means the stocking will be multiple generations. Wayne Roth stated that he had spoken with Musky, and he believes the quoted purchase order has multiple waves, starting with small bait fish in the early season, followed by some larger fish. The success of the stocking will need to be monitored to determine whether the desired outcomes have been achieved or whether there will be additional generational waves. Derek will be following up with Mitchell to confirm the committee’s understanding is correct.

Mitchell has been told that Tigris may be having financial difficulties. It is unclear if this will impact our services. Mitchell has reached out to Tigris reps and is waiting to hear back. He will communicate to the committee as soon as he has information.

5. Old Business

- Princeton Hydro Engagement and Dredging Restoration Feasibility Study Need
 - When we originally spoke to the Borough Council about the need for a third-party advisor, the hope was that the committee would be able to provide the borough advise on mission critical questions and concerns.
 - Recommend how to balance recreation with natural aquatic growth needs which support marine life habitat
 - How to manage and/or remove the sediment deposits that are naturally accumulating in the lakes in a cost-efficient manner
 - Review infrastructure enhancements needed to minimize stormwater impact on our lakes
 - Review of the SOW with Princeton Hydro revealed that we are not likely to be able to sufficiently advise on if/how to cost effectively restore the areas of the lakes that have been severely impacted by sediment accumulation because the Princeton scope will not provide sufficient details to estimate potential costs for dredging. Mitchell Stern, Derek Jackson and Tom Menard met and jointly acknowledged the gap. However, it was noted that it would not be cost effective to dredge the all the lakes at once, thus sampling all areas immediately may not be a critical path task. It was agreed that the lakes management committee would provide an immediate term priority list of areas expedite a study for. Initial conversations and recommendations focused around the swim and dive competition areas at Birchwood where the water depth has become a problem, and the northern end of Birchwood which has been an ongoing struggle. Further the committee suggests the northern end of Wildwood Lake which receives large amounts of stormwater drainage from the hill section and is hydrologically connected to the main lake. This information will be shared with the Borough Council at an April meeting.
- Resident Communications
 - Wayne Roth has created multiple communication documents.
 - Lakefront and Non-Lakefront One Pagers
 - Detailed Pamphlet – discussed and distributed previously
 - Social Media Campaign – in progress
 - Most residents have little to know knowledge about how their actions impact the lakes. Regardless of whether they are a lakefront property owner or an owner of property on the hill or in the village, we all contribute to the lake’s ecosystem. Wayne requests feedback on the 1-page informational documents and will be working with the student members to refine the social media concepts and content.

6. Public Comment

Mary Beth Greene is a longtime area resident and member of the Garden Club. She was approached about creating a Lakes Committee presentation for the Garden Club October 2026 Flower Show at the Borough Hall. The lakes are an asset to everyone, regardless of where they live, and offer unique beauty and recreation opportunities. Mary Beth

approached Wayne for ideas about how the committee could use the show to educate people. Historically residents at the Garden Club events have not been interested in the Lakes Committee material at the plant sale. The hope is that this event might be a different and have a more interested audience. It was suggested that we try to find some aquatic plants, flowers or living shorelines photos that are native to the lake to create a natural connection to the audience. Similarly, we may prepare some content about buffers. Jackie Bay and Wayne Roth will partner with Mary Beth.

There was discussion of the living shoreline demonstration that was proposed for Briarcliff Park, and buffers that were proposed at Island Beach. It was suggested that we try to resurrect those projects in an effort to educate residents.

7. Announcements

Next meeting April 7, 2026

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 830 PM.