Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
April 8th, 2026

Members Present: Dan Gates, Jackie Bay, Robert Platt, Cy Korman, Andrew Sylvester

BC Liaison: Khizar Sheikh

MLHS Liason: Charlotte Caggiano

1. March Meeting Minutes Approved
2. MLHS update: Social Media update and current projects
    a. Dan to get MLHS students Community Clean Up Day info to post on social media
    b. Environmental Club did a short presentation on indoor plants and made succulent planters with the club members
    c. The club wants to do another planting event and donate to Sunrise Senior Living.
    d. Jackie will make an intro Lakes Committee so MLHS students can help with their social messaging as well.
3. ERI completion update
    a. Cy had a comment on hydrology and our current well contamination. We may want to make this more visible in the ERI
    b. Dan and Mimi to perform a final review and sign off, then post to website.
    c. If we need to make changes, we will need a word doc from J Caldwell.
4. MS4 update
    a. Bob asked DPW if there was anything pressing that we could help with compliance. We can do public education and outreach. Bob found an informational flyer through the NJDEP we can use.
    b. Wildwood Lake has an issue with runoff bringing sediment into the lake which is creating an “island”. Might be able to engage Highlands Commission for funds that can help with soft costs to mitigate issue moving forward.
5. Light Pollution
    a. Bob spoke with Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager) about who is responsible for Borough and school lighting. There was a complaint from a town resident regarding field lights being on late with no one using the field.
    b. There are also lights that light up a flagpole at the HS. The HS liaisons are going to try and find out who is responsible for lighting at the school. We will look at ways to make lighting downward facing for the flagpole.
6. Community Clean-up:
    a. Dan to get the rest of the yard signs up around town
    b. Currently 40% of our slots are filled.
    c. The DPW table has all volunteers. Thank you HS Liaisons!
    d. Clean Up Day has been added to the Borough Blast

e. HS Teams are cleaning areas around the high school this week. Thank you Lax and Track!

7. Rain garden update and maintenance:
    a. We feel that the Birchwood Rain Garden should be expanded. There is another runoff area nearby that impacts Crystal Lake. We are looking at ways to get this done cost effectively. We will talk to Mitchell Stern and see if we can get some funds for plantings. Brian Marshall wants to work with the High School students to do the work and get volunteer hours.
    b. We may be able to buy the plantings from the Garden Club.
8. Additional Business:
    a. Meeting date to be changed to third Wednesdays moving forward each month.
    b. Lakes Committee Liaison
        i. Our lakes management company went out of business. So, we currently do not have a lakes management company.
        ii. Lakes Committee will present to Borough Council at the end of April to discuss the Princeton Hydro Report which is expected in 2027. Lakes Committee is concerned that we need to act faster for the dredging they feel is required.
    c. EDAC
        i. We need a liaison.
    d. EC Mailer: We need to decide on a flyer to send out this year. Potential options are riparian buffers, leave the leaves, spring plantings, clean landscaping, water conservation. Jackie to survey the group via email to decide.
    e. Skip the Stuff – August 1st the law goes into effect. Restaurants and delivery apps will no longer be able to provide disposable utensils, etc unless it is requested by the purchaser.
    f. New Member – A potential new member for the EC will join next meeting to see if it is a good fit.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next MLEC meeting is scheduled for 5/20/26 @7:30 pm via Zoom.