Mountain Lakes Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2026

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

BC Liaison: not present

MLHS Liaisons: Charlotte Caggiano, Samantha Hirschfeld

April 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes Approved

MLHS report:

- Birchwood cleanup completed successfully, plan to do annually
- Charlotte and Samantha plan to run for co-presidents of the MLHS Environmental Club for 2026-2027
- HS lighting: it was recommended that Ryan Dunn, school grounds director, be contacted re lighting
- Botanical Garden: discussion about reviving Garden during next school year and reaching out to ML Garden Club for insight

ERI completion update

- It was reported that Maryjude Haddock (Highlands Council) considers the project to be complete.
- The PFAS issue that Cynthia was concerned about was brought to the attention of Maryjude, who will forward to the Highlands Council science officer

Highlands Council and Princeton Hydro Remediation

- Bob reported that Highlands Council has paid $111, 000 for the Lakes Study Phase 1 and has an additional $73,000 budgeted for additional work. Cy will email Mitchell Stern, Borough Manager, to request a copy of the scope of work that Highlands Council has approved and that has been executed.

Community Clean-up:

- Approximately 70 people participated and overall was a success

Rain garden update and maintenance:

- Andrew is organizing Eagler Scout participation to pursue the rain garden extension and Brian Marshall has generously volunteered to help.

Business Administration:

- Liaison updates: Lakes Committee and Planning Board updates to carry over to next meeting as liaisons were not present
- Borough e Blasts: to discuss at next meeting
- New member application: Pawan Gaitonde, accepted

New Business:

- Highlands Coalition: Bob has suggested that the EC join, invoice to be submitted to Inge Schwarz.
- Highlands Council: information from Mitchell Stern regarding water conservation measures and potentially introducing highlands council for funding for water conservation plan.
- Borough electric equipment and vehicles: EC will check with Jim Pappa (DPW) during budget season (October) to see if items can be converted. EC will do research on this topic.
- Dark Skies: presentation will be scheduled

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm. Next MLEC meeting is scheduled for 6/17/26 @7:30 pm via Zoom.