

Minutes

Lakes Management Advisory Committee

October 6, 2020 7:30p.m.

Present: Committee Chair Debra Oliver Dewing

Committee Members; Alpesh Amin, Tina Gargano, Ethan Grodofsky, Andy Hilton, Scot Kuehm, Frank Luzzi, Jaro Mesicek, Mike Russo

Borough Manager Mitchell Stern, Solitude Lake Management representative Bob Schindler, Borough Council Liaison Tom Menard, Environmental Commission Liaison Allison Rankin

Student Auxiliary Members: Lukas Dequina, Yash Samat, Ben Schuckman

Community Member: Lucas Stelling

Committee Chair Opening (Debra Oliver Dewing)

- Approval of Minutes from September 1st meeting: Alpesh, Tina 2nd
- Welcome back Jaro from your 3 week-long solo Sail and we are sorry to hear that after serving 16 years on the Lakes Committee you will be resigning. We hope you will stay involved possibly serving as a Historian.
- Canal Clean-up project
 - Ethan paddled the canal and identified 5 or 6 spots that need work
 - It was suggested that we keep the group small– 3 or 4 groups of 2 or 3 students each
 - Cut down overhanging trees and bushes that block passage through the canal
 - Mitch said that the DWP did some work on it this week; Ethan will go out again in the next few days and report back
 - Potential dates for the project are Oct 17th or 18th
- Debra has reached out to ML League of Women Voters' president Mary Joelsson re our proposed student endeavor to digitize and possibly update the LWV *Know Your Lakes* publication. This will be addressed further with the LWV following their busy election debate season.
- Student auxiliary member Yash Samat offered to work with Cara Fox to update Committee websit.

Borough Manager's Report (Mitch Stern)

- Lakes drawdown began Oct 1st. Plan is to lower 2 feet from 499.4 to 497.4 feet above sea level. It is expected that the lake will recede so that 10 to 20 feet from the shoreline will be exposed.

- Andy asked about repairing docks and if it is a requirement for homeowners to maintain them. A note will be put in the weekly e-blast explaining the town guidelines for dock maintenance. Mitch will come up with wording...one shot every 4 years to fix your docks. No machine tools.
- Budd Luzzi advised that docks are meant to be removable, floating, detached from walls
- No updates on work to be done on Grunden's Pond and Sunset Dam. The engineer is still working on it.
- The question, if a tree falls in the lake who is responsible, has been answered. The borough is responsible, but only for the portion of the tree that is in the lake.
- Mitch is working to remove tree that fell across the canal between Olive and Shadow.
- The Geese report: Budd commented and others agree that this year we have seen the fewest geese in a long time. Scot added that this may be partially due to the swans

Solitude Lake Management Report (Bob Schindler)

- Annual Hydroraking to preserve lakes
 - Trying to get a full lakes 5-year permit. This would allow us to create a long-term plan for ongoing maintenance. This permit will essentially be a dredging permit as well and will give us a flexibility in the future. Dredging permit would allow for more aggressive hydrorake implements and removal of accumulated sediment vs organic matter only, which has been our protocol to-date.
 - Wetland and Flood Hazard permits will be required.
 - Council Liaison Menard keen to achieve this and will work with Borough Manager Stern re 2021 budgeting process
 - Bob Schindler notes that getting material out of lakes is neither hard nor particularly expensive. If required, offsite disposal is the big cost.
 - Nearly all lakes in NJ are man-made
 - Mountain Lakes has multiple areas in need of hydroraking. Wildwood filling in along some shoreline areas.
- Birchwood Lake
 - 2020 Hydroraking of surface water lily material expected to begin October 26th or November 2nd
 - Plan has been for 1 week x 2 machines. If second week recommended by Solitude equipment operator, Jake, then Bob will consult with Mitch re budget
 - The numbers show that the hydroraking we have been doing in Birchwood Lake has definitely resulted in a positive effect on the water quality. This is further proven by jelly fish sighting in the lake. And although we do not want jelly fish it is indicative of better water quality.
 - Debra commented that we are in year 3 of the anticipated 5-year plan to improve the flow of Birchwood Lake.
- Sunset was treated for water lilies. The target area was the entrance from Crystal Lake. Noted recent explosion from the inlet. After treatment yellowing/declining. Not linked to Birchwood.

- Jaro asked about the Primrose. Bob will continue to treat, but thinks it would be more effective to treat some of this from people's homes and docks to better access the areas that can't be reached by boat. He will be sure to ask those homeowners' permission first.
- Solitude will prepare a proposal to upgrade the aeration system in Shadow (5) and Olive (2). He believes a new system will be more effective and efficient.
- Mitch will be addressing the erosion of the wall from the bridge on Island Beach. The sand is pouring into the lake and that needs to be fixed.
- Living Buffer: we are still trying to get a proposal for a sample living buffer and its maintenance. Tom would like to present this to the Borough next week. Bob has agreed to prepare a short power point presentation to show the Borough Council the cost and long term benefits of a living buffer at Wildwood lake. Bob notes that he is on site 1x/week for 7 months of the year, already, so easy to take care of small amount of maintenance (weeds, invasive grass) expected at little additional cost. Should not need watering.

Old Business

New Business

Public Comment