

Minutes of Meeting
Lake Topanemus Park Commission

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
Borough Hall
51 West Main Street
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

- Call to Order / Statement of Compliance Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with the Open Public Meetings Act

- Roll Call
Commissioners

Present:
Roger Kane
Joe Luongo
Bob Higley
Greg Jewell
Edward Daley
Jim Lau

Absent:
Mike Phillips
Chris Kean

Secretary: Lisa Tiedemann

Guests: Kirk Tibbett, Bill Degnan, Jack Lepre, Michael DiBenedetto

- Review of minutes from May 19, 2021.
Motion to adjust meeting minutes to include prior to Roll Call statement as presented made by Commissioner Lau, seconded by Commissioner Luongo. All in favor.
- Correspondence
 - Request received from the Democratic Club for use of the lake and pavilion on June 26, 2021 12:00pm-4:00pm for a gathering. They will be having games and food and expect approximately 50 people. They will be making a \$100.00 donation to the Lake Topanemus Commission.

Motion to allow the Democratic Club use of the park on July 26, 2021 and acceptance of their \$100.00 donation made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Higley. All in favor.

- Email from Giers Group expressing their appreciation of the use of the park on Sunday.
- Treasurer's report –Commissioner Lau reported a balance as of May 31, 2021 of \$3,579.16, donation of \$500.00 and requested approval of park expenses in the amount of \$241.93.

Motion to accept report as presented and approval of expenses made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Luongo. All in favor

- Old Business
 - Lake Restoration – Commissioner Kane reported on a statement sent to Steve Gallo from Princeton Hydro in response to what they are doing.

Chris Mikolajczyk, CLM Princeton Hydro – Our project will investigate the lake and watershed. We will collect growing seasons (May-September) worth of lake and stream data on such things as nutrients, physical parameters, plankton, plants, algae, etc. We will also map the lake and bottom. Additionally, we will map the watershed and model both its pollutant and hydrologic loads.

Once all this is complete, we will author the lake and management plan, which will be a guide on how to reduce the nutrient that feed the algae and plant blooms the lake currently sees. These nutrient reduction tools may be hardscaping, engineered MTDs and BMPs, green infrastructure, aeration, dredging, etc. Once the plan is completed, as I said earlier, you can use the plan as a guide for nutrient reduction, but all of the watershed projects we recommend should be eligible for grant funding through the NJDEP and EPA.

The key to the lake and watershed management plan is that it is the LONG-term guide, not short term. Lake management tends to not have short term fixes. Proper lake management goes after the cause of the issues, not just treating the symptoms.

- Projects for 2021
 - Pedestrian Bridge – Kirk Tibbett reported that he has taken delivery of the aluminum rails. After the are up he will be ready to pour the two pads.
 - Pathway to bridge – Kirk Tibbett reported that is all set.
 - Parking Lot – Kirk Tibbett handed out plans for the parking lot. Discussion on angle in vs straight in parking, number of spaces, handicapped spaces, and boat trailer parking.
 - Downed Trees – Commissioner Kane reported he will be getting the applications for harvesting the firewood from Freehold Borough. He also stated that the dead limb over the checkerboard was removed as well as the fallen tree on Robertsville Road.
 - Fishing Pier – No report at this time.
 - Bench and Table placements – No report at this time.
 - Rental of the Pavilion – No report at this time.
- New Business – No reports at this time.
- Commissioners Reports
 - Commissioner Higley – Spoke about the lily pads filtrating the water, fishing being incredible and the clarity of the water. He stated that he has done soundings of depth of the lake and has found that not much changed in 10 years.
 - Commissioner Daley – Reported that the dock was put in the water last week and has already seen people fishing off it.
 - Commissioner Lau – Stated he will call United Site Services to find out what days cleaning is done on the porta johns. He spoke about the running of the paddle boats on Olde Freehold Day.
 - Commissioner Luongo – Reported that a table was available at the Freehold Township Day for the Commission.
 - Commissioner Jewell – Reported that he has orders for 2 additional benches with a more permanent placement.
- Volunteers Reports
 - Kirk Tibbett – Looking into get a map for placement of the benches.
- Guest Reports
 - Mike DiBenedetto reported that a 50-amp plug has been put in and wanted to know if there was any interest in running power to the shed and pavilion with a sub panel in the shed.

- Jack Lepre reported that an ice cream truck stops daily at the park as well as taxi's who sit idling in the roadway.
 - Bill Degnan requested an explanation of invasive plants vs beneficial plants.
- Public Comments – Nothing at this time.
- Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm
Motion to adjourn meeting made by Commissioner Lau, seconded by Commissioner Luongo. All in favor.