LAKE RESTORATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 17, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE: *Indicates Regular Members  *A Indicates Alternate
Ed Runyon, Chairman*  Dan Brescia*  Mary Ann Cernak* (Excused)
Elizabeth Naskiewicz*  Dona Messer*  Richard Kleeman* (Excused)
Don Smith* (Excused)  Kathy Novak*A-1  Eugene Libertucci *A-2
Jerry Barron – Liaison/ Green Team  No Township Representative Present

OPENING OF MEETING:
The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Ed Runyon at 10 am. The minutes of the last meeting, November 15, 2018, were read. A motion was made by Dona Messer, seconded by Dan Brescia and approved as amended. Dan Brescia was welcomed back after being reappointed to another term on the Committee and was given paperwork to sign.

Hearing and Concerns of Guests in Attendance: No guests present.

OLD BUSINESS:
1) Open Space Natural Areas (Bear Swamp – BSNA and Big Woods – BWNA)
   a. Warm weather grasses in BSNA
   b. Maintenance of area between Maxim Rd & Bear Swamp Pond
   c. Vehicle encroachment on BSNA
   d. Problems with signage needing to be addressed.
   e. Posting of BSNA and BWNA
   *Items a thru e were not discussed, as there was no representative from the Township.
   f. BSNA Unsanctioned Tent Camp
      *It was reported by Dan Brescia that residents living adjacent to the tent camp have complained about finding more garbage and liqueur bottles thrown deeper in the woods as well as in the stream. Fires burning are obvious to them. All Committee members agreed a list containing this subject, among others, should be compiled and sent to Council. It should include the two questions to the Manager and Councilman Nicastro, left unanswered, from our May meeting that they attended. 1) Is the town violating the rules and for properties listed on the open space roster (ROSI) by allowing a tent camp to remain on property listed as public open space? 2) What happened to two of the three formal complaints made by occupants of nearby residences?
   g. Correction of missing and incorrect Lot & Block numbers of properties purchased a Bear Swamp Natural Area.
      *Discussion of Planning Board’s contradiction of the maps listed in this Committee’s Natural Resource Inventory and Master Plan for BSNA, which already had been adopted and part of the Howell Township Master Plan when they updated the open space and recreation portion last year. All agreed will be included in list to Council.
   h. Forest and Woodlot Management Plan for B/S.
      *Committee agreed to include this in Council list as there has been no progress since approved forester finished the plan and the trees to be thinned were marked.

2) Deer Survey (BSNA & BWNA)
   a. Thermal Imaging Survey       *On hold
   b. Deer Kill Count    *Will be done at the conclusion of the 2018/2019 hunt season.

3) Eagle Scout Projects
   *Gene Libertucci reported 2 wood duck nesting boxes had been constructed at both Soldiers Memorial Park and Sparrow Lake. He will hopefully be signing off on that project shortly. He is putting the word out that we would like one of the Eagle
candidates to take on the project of a bulletin board for Aldrich Lake.

4) Echo Lake
   a. Repair List Update
      *Ed reported that the ice breakup are on as are the gutters. All agreed that the much
      needed staining of the pavilion should be be put on the list to Council.
   b. Lake levels
      *Have been addressed.
   c. Brick Utilities
      *Ed suggests the lack of our receiving reports on the lake sampling by Brick Utilities
      should be included on the list to Council.
   d. After discussion, Kathi Novak made a motion, seconded by Dona Messer and approved
      by all that this Committee should request an amendment to the Rules and Regulations
      for Echo Lake that includes parking for park users only. She explained large groups of
      bikers often park vehicles in the lot and ride off on their bikes for long periods of time,
      leaving no parking spots for park users.

5) Status of Dredging
   *Ed Runyon advised the Committee that the fish were removed from Bear Swamp Pond
   in anticipation of the dam replacement. No other information on pending projects.

6) Security and Uses for Open Space and Natural Areas
   *Committee members questioned why nothing has been done on since Resolution was
   adopted by Council last year to go forward in the creation of an Ordinance for such. It
   was agreed the status of this Ordinance would be on the list to Council.

7) Report of Green Team on Subjects Relating to this Committee
   *Jerry Barron reported they are still trying to get the ERI done by way of grant money.

8) 2019 Budget Requests
   *According to Ed Runyon, our budget requests, again this year, were to attempt to get
   the already approved Woodlot Management Plan approved tree cutting done and mow
   fields in B/S, which were both in last years budget and funds were unspent. Also, funds
   were requested for members to attend useful seminars relating to this Committee and
   the purchase of required books for such.

9) Non Profit Open Space Group
   Mary Ann Cernak will keep us informed of any progress.

10) Status of $750,000 Open Space Grant
    *No formal word. Possibilities pending.

11) Soldiers Memorial Park Grant Application    *No Word

NEW BUSINESS:
1) Lake Louise Parking and Access
   *After discussion by Committee, Dona Messer made a motion, that was seconded by
   Gene Libertucci, to send a letter to the Township Council, copying Monmouth
   Conservation, to purchase the lake access lot belonging to the now defunct Lake
   Louise Home Owners Assoc. as well as an additional lot, if the way be clear, that would
   facilitate parking for lake users. All voted in the affirmative.

2) Letter to Council
   *A motion was made by Dona Messer, seconded by Kathi Novak and approved by all, to
   send correspondence to the Township Council listing various items that have not been
   resolved for an extended amount of time as well as items we feel important which
   have arisen recently.

ADJOURNMENT:
With no further business to address, the meeting it was adjourned at 11:49. The next
meeting of the LR&WMC will be at 10am on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at the pavilion at
Alfred C. Sauer Park at Echo Lake. Approved by email by all attending and eligible to vote.