

**LAKE RESTORATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES – January 21, 2021**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Edwin Runyon, Chairman	Daniel Brescia (Absent)	Mary Ann Cernak
Elizabeth Naskiewicz	Dona Messer (Absent)	Lauren Roth
Kathi Novak	Vlad Markov (Alt 1)	Dianne Cimmino (Alt 2)
Howard Belton (Alt 3)	Jerry Barron Liaison (Green Team/Shade Tree)	

Township Representative: Justin Yost, Deputy Director Community Development

Opening of Meeting: The meeting was brought to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Ed Runyon.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 16, 2020 were previously approved via email and read for the new members.

Committee reorganization:

- 1) Ed Runyon, Chair
- 2) Dona Messer, Coordinator Deer Reports
- 3) Kathi Novak, Secretary

New Members: Howard Belton, Dianne Cimmino, and Lauren Roth gave brief introduction and their interest in joining this committee. Welcome to all the new members.

Old Business:

1) Open Space Natural Areas (Bear Swamp BSNA & Big Woods BWNA)

a. Warm weather grasses in fields BSNA

DPW is in the process of mowing/clearing the grasses in the 3 fields.

b. Maintenance of area between Maxim Rd & Bear Swamp Pond

Clearing and maintenance is ongoing.

c. Forestry & Woodlot Management Program status

2) Deer Survey (BSNA & BWNA)

- a. Thermal Imaging & Spotlight survey
- b. Deer Kill Reports

3) Eagle Scout Projects

No details given on any current Scout projects.

4) Echo Lake

- a. Justin is not aware of any Brick Utilities lake sample reports.
- b. Lake levels lowered for the winter for the purpose of freezing invasive species and lessening the growth in the summer months.

5) Status of lake dredging

- a. There are no future plans for the dredging of any Lakes in Howell.
- b. It is too late to include Lake Louise in the bridge/dam replacement project.

- c. Justin reported planning for the dam and bridge on Lanes Pond Rd. at Lake Louise project is 98% done and should begin in late winter. Engineering is coordinating this project with Monmouth County who will be replacing the bridge.
- d. Mary Ann commented on the Aldrich Lake pocket park that was constructed with kayak launch, fishing pier, park benches and picnic table after the dredging of Aldrich Lake was completed. She said many people are enjoying the area.

6) Security & Uses for Open Space & Natural Areas

- a. Regulation adherence enforcement/Viable suggestions for patrolling – brought up discussion regarding dirt bikes/quads near Reservoir and in neighborhoods throughout town.
- b. Letter to be sent to Town Council regarding bike trails and passive/active recreation.

7) Report of Green Team/Shade Tree Commission – Jerry Barron

- a. The Roots to Rivers grant for tree plantings that was planned for Earth Day 2020 was rescheduled due to covid-19. In October, 150 volunteers planted 755 trees (saplings) in Winston Park.
- b. Environmental Resource Inventory has not been completed yet. Justin said once completed it will be added to the Master Plan.

8) Schools Liaison - Mary Ann Cernak

- a. There are projects in the works with Ramtown-Greenville School planning pollinator garden with birdfeeders to attract butterflies and birds.
- b. Middle School South and the Howell Organic Community Gardens are collaborating with master gardeners on various projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Capital to Coast trail planned to go through BSNA discussed. Ed and Justin will contact Monmouth County regarding the feasibility of rerouting the trail to lessen the impact bicycles and heavy foot traffic would have and to preserve the natural environment. Allaire trails have been severely impacted by bicycles and LR&WM does not want that to happen in BSNA. How best to allocate the grant money awarded by Monmouth County for the Capital to Coast extension through Howell is yet to be determined.
2. Information for ice fishing program Feb. 8-10
3. A thank you letter was sent to Gene Libertucci for his service on LR&WM Committee
4. Dianne will research possible grants from the Conservation Reserve Program within Freehold Dept. of Agriculture regarding management of forest lands.
5. At this time, it is unknown if the annual Baxter Fishing Derby held at Echo Lake will be held in October. Due to Covid-19, it did not take place in 2020.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. The next meeting will be held on March 18, 2021. Location to be announced.