

December 21, 2021
Wesley Lake Commission Minutes
Minutes Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Robert Bianchini
Dr. James Brown
Eileen Chapman
Keith Fiori
Ed Lacombe
Joe Leone
Patricia Lesinski
Doug McQueen
Gail Rosewater
Jenn Schimpf

Gail Rosewater opened the meeting at 7:01 PM with member roll call and reading of the Open Public Records Act.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Brown moved and Ed seconded to approve minutes of 11/9/2021. All Commissioners approved minutes. They will be sent to the municipalities to be posted on the websites.

Open Public Portion

No members of the public present

Standard Reports:

Treasurer:

Balance is \$13,617.72. \$585.00 was paid for lab services to analyze water quality. Tee moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Dr. Brown seconded. Report approved. Ed will now bill each municipality for the \$1,000 they contribute to the Commission each year. Joe asked Ed to send it to Gina LaPlaca who will be taking over for Vito and copy David Milmoie, Keith Cafferty and for Asbury Park Ed should send to Donna Viero and copy Robert and Eileen.

Membership:

Keith Cafferty informed Gail before the meeting that Neptune appointments will be made soon after the new year.

DPW

Joe reported that Neptune is done with leaf pick up so litter pick up should increase. Delaware Ave Fire Lane needs to be redone. Gail will pass this along to Reverend Mitchell.

Robert explained he cleaned out the storm water chambers, which they do once a year. These chambers collect floatables to keep them from going into the Lake. Asbury has one on St James, Bond, Heck plus three more. It is hard to collect silt in these chambers like Manufactured Treatment Devices (MTD) can (like the ones installed in Sunset Lake last fall).

Old Business

Geese Control:

Keith Cafferty had told Gail before meeting that Neptune is on board with Black Lagoon/Pond Weed treatment, REJEXT, Geese Chasers. Robert said he put REJEXIT cost in 2022 budget request. REJEXIT quote for two applications was forwarded to Robert. It is \$5,000.00.

Gail asked Geese Chasers to go to Ocean Grove side also.

OGCMA

Beth was instrumental in getting the one fire lane redone. She wants to know the street of the next one we want. She will bring it to OGCMA as she did last one. Gail will tell her Delaware Ave.

319 H Grant

Islands have been resecured for the winter.

Pond Weed:

Gail got a response from Black Lagoon for \$10,300 and one from Princeton Hydro for \$10,840. Solitude did not respond to a request for a quote. Keith F. moved and Eileen seconded to accept the quote from Black Lagoon. All in favor, Black Lagoon will continue as the Pond Weed treatment company.

Bridges

Keith Cafferty told Gail before the meeting that he is in ongoing conversation with Vin Gopal and Frank Pallone to get funding.

Dredging

Robert reminded the group that the walls around the Lake must be redone before dredging could occur. Otherwise, they can collapse.

Water Quality

Gail had a zoom call with Jason Adolf from Monmouth University about the water quality tests the Commission had done for gasoline additives/Petrol Testing. Samples were taken from the western, middle, and eastern portions of the Lake. Jason explained the following:

“Benzene was detected in excess of the human health threshold criteria at station A (west) where the oil slick was observed in Wesley Lake. Benzene can come from gasoline but has other sources. Trichloroethene approached the human health criteria in the western part of the Lake where the slick was observed. Trichloroethene is listed by the NY DOH as an industrial solvent used in degreasing and paint removal-it is not listed as a gasoline additive. The other chemicals (MTBE, cis-1.2-Dichloroethene) were detected but were below the criteria thresholds (or no criteria existed). MTBE was interesting in that it’s the only chemical detected throughout the lake (although it was below the threshold throughout the lake).”

- There was visible oil sheen/evident fuel on the western end that day
- Benzene was four times higher than it should be for human contact in western end
- Trichloroethene approached the human health criteria in the western end of the Lake
- MTBE was detected but below the criteria level
- cis-1.2-Dichloroethene was detected but no criteria exists
- Anything over the threshold is not good for fish/wildlife if there is constant exposure

Gail’s on-going effort to report the oil sheen/evident fuel on observed on November 2, resulted in an email from NJDEP Sheri Shifren. Gail had met her at a Monmouth University conference, and she got back to Gail:

“I looked into your complaint about an oil sheen in Wesley Lake by reaching out to our Central Water Compliance and Enforcement, Southern Bureau of Emergency Response and Monmouth County Health Department.

Since this was only a sheen called into the hotline, it triggers an email to Central Water Compliance and Enforcement and the Southern Bureau of Emergency Response which is why you did not receive a call back. It was on a holiday and therefore not followed up on until the next working day. Typically, Emergency Response does not go out to every sheen reported and instead sends the County. However, they said that there was a follow up call to the complainant (you?) and found out the sheen was no longer there so the incident was closed out.

Emergency Response said they are familiar with Wesley Lake, and it is a frequent flyer for sheens; the road runoff for the area all the way up to Rt. 33 discharges into the West end of the Lake. The complaint was made after significant rainfall and coastal flooding which was the source of the oil sheen. They would not do anything with a sheen since it’s not recoverable. If the County gets back to Emergency Response indicating there is actual recoverable oil they then would respond.

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They do not get a verbal notification unless the quantity is more than 250 gallons or twenty-five gallons in a waterway or storm drain or if a local official requests assistance.

In addition, Monmouth County Health Department checked Wesley Lake on November 12th and did not observe any signs of oil.

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As an FYI, we receive significant calls about oil sheens and do not have the resources to respond to all of them which is why we follow this policy requesting the County's assistance to determine if there is a recoverable amount and then respond."

Gail will write the NJDEP a letter to have on the record our concern about the oil sheen. Jason and the Commission will review letter first.

Robert said gas/oil has come into the Lake for along time from gas stations.

Gail attend a Monmouth University CLONET conference on November 16. She spoke about our Goose Management. At the conference they explained that the PH testing would be discontinued because the results were looking inaccurate/inconsistent. Also at the conference:

- Gail has agreed to do chlorine testing for the Lake this winter after snowstorms.
- Gail met a Fletcher Lake person who did water testing over the summer with high school students and got her contact information.

Gail has been asked to attend a virtual Asbury Park Green Team meeting on January 25, to contribute to the AP Water Story. This is being put together from a grant the city received. Doug stressed the importance of stating that the water from all our coastal lakes flows in the the ocean.

Eileen explained that she had a meeting with NJDEP and local developers about stormwater management. NJDEP is getting much stricter about requirements of developers. NJDEP explained that Wesley Lake in considered FLUVIAL which means the outflow to the Ocean is narrow, so it is not a tidal basin. It is more like a reservoir.

New Business

Participatory Budget

Eileen explained that Asbury Park is starting a community group which will reach out to the public to produce projects they feel are important in the city. \$250,000 will be available for groups to submit proposals for. The project must have a 5-year shelf life. City will vote on the project. Gail suggested a proposal for a dock and asked Commissioners to come to the next meeting with ideas of their own.

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Tee moved and Eileen seconded to close the meeting at 8:00 PM. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Gail Rosewater