

Meeting of the Wesley Lake Commission

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Brantley

Roll Call

Dr Brantley
Sharon Davis
Jim Henry
Peter Avakian
Mindi Arcoleo
Mark Balzarano
Paul Brown
Tee Lesinski
Joe Cunha

The meeting was called to order by Sue Henderson and was later turned over to Dr. Michael Brantley. The minutes of the Wesley Lake commission meeting was approved. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim Henry and seconded by Mindi Arcoleo. Both commissioners Sue Henderson and Tee Leniski abstained because they did not attend the last meeting.

Report

Peter Avakian reported that the dredging of Wesley and Fletcher lakes and the construction of the 400 feet wall have been completed. Please review the September minutes for more extensive details.

Peter said that there is a proposal to continue the work effort. This includes an additional 400-500 cubic yard and 75 ft construction wall sediment barrier (East of the Boulevard). In addition, Peter noticed that it is very difficult to secure a dredging permit.

Mark Balzarano reported that the lakes have been stocked with 8000 fish. He also noted that the estimated cost to fix the breach in the retaining wall (East of Wesley Lake) is \$75,000. Jim Henry inquired if the supply of fish to the lakes included any golden shirr species. The answer to his inquiry was it did not.

WEED AND GARAGE IN WESLEY LAKE

There was a significant amount of discussion on this subject. The following paragraphs summarize the discussion.

Peter Avakian reported that Wesley Lake is at the lowest level of the existing coastal lakes in our area. This means that most of the runoff of the Storm Water Management system in our region will flow through Wesley Lake. He said that the Wesley Lake as well as the other lakes

has experienced a significant growth of weed this season. The dredging of the lake lowered the water level and very hot summer months compounded the problem.

Peter said that litter including all floating debris will be carried by the runoff to the lowest point of the watershed. Wesley Lake is the lowest point and most of the litter ends up in the lake. This is the way it has been for year. The excessive weed growth in the lakes is preventing the litter (i.e., garbage, debris) from getting to the catch basins.

Sue Henderson reported that the lakes have been treated with herbicide. She noted that there has been significant improvements in Deal lake and suggested that the same will be true of Wesley lake.

Joe Cunha said that Asbury Park Public Works department has been manually removing debris and garbage from the lake. He said the city has submitted a 12 million grant proposal to be used for Wesley lake improvements.

Dr Brantley added that both Asbury Park and Neptune are aware of the problem and they jointly working on a resolution.

Finally, Jim Henry reported that estimated cost of the aerator is \$6000. Mindi suggested that she might be able to obtain a sixty (60%) discount on the aerator. Jim also added that the herbicide is working. He suggested that the residents could help to improve the condition of the lakes by 1.) keeping the street clean and free of garbage and debris, and 2.) stop blowing grass clippings into the street.

The fund in the treasury remains at \$11,500.00. The motion to accept the treasury report was made by Sue Henderson and seconded by Tee Leniski.

Old Business

Dr. Brantley reviewed two items:

1. Stocking the lakes with fish.
2. Participating in the Asbury Park Municipal meeting where an agreement was reached to share in cost of herbicide for Wesley lake.

He postponed the discussion of "New Business" so that the commission could hear from the residents.

Public Portion

A good number of residents was present at the meeting. This was the largest number of residents I have seen attended the meeting in the years I have been a commissioner. The following paragraphs highlights of the residents comments, complaints, and suggestions.

Resident #1:

Forty (40) automobiles were damaged by the latest flooding in the area. What can be done?

Resident #2:

We need information of our location representatives so we can officially submit our complaints.

Resident Annita:

It is not acceptable DEPW cannot do more to address the garbage condition on the Ocean Grove side of the Wesley lake. She wanted know where is the garbage coming from. What procedures are in place to address this condition? Why does the Townships do not have a better strategy for addressing this condition.

Commission Tee Leniski response:

The garbage has always been there.

Commissions Dr. Brantley and Joe Cuhna response:

The excess garbage is a result of the over grown pond weed. The weed is trapping the garbage and debris. As a result, it is NOT following to the designated catch basins.

Commission Tee Leniski suggested a temporary solution:

The temporary solution is to have the Fire trucks spray Wesley lake. The force of the water would push the garbage trapped in the pond weed into the catch basins.

Resident Jennifer Lampert:

She made recommendations that can address future flooding conditions. She recommends installing special doors.

The public session was closed with the commissioners reminding the residents to check the Townships websites on regulations for correct disposal of grass clippings, debris, and etc. The residents were reminded that these materials eventually end up in the lake if they are disposed correctly.

The next Wesley Lake meeting is schedule for ~~September 16, 2014~~ October 21, 2014