

Wesley Lake Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Meeting Facilitator: Sue Henderson

Roll Call: In Attendance

Mark Balzarano, Neptune DPW
Dr. James Brown
Eileen Chapman, AP City Council
Susan Henderson, Vice Chair
Jim Henry
Tee Lesinski
Peter Longo
William (Billy) McClave, AP DPW
Gail Rosewater, Secretary

Nick DeCotiis, Maser Consulting

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Sue Henderson

The flag salute was led and the Open Public Meeting Act was read by Sue Henderson

Minutes

Minutes from June were reviewed. With a few grammatical changes it was moved to accept by Jim H. and seconded by Tee. They will be sent by Gail Rosewater to Township/City to be posted on website.

Treasurers Report

The current balance is \$13,255.14. The Commission has not received the \$1,000 annual contribution from either municipality. There was no follow up information on the PO for \$3500.00 that was sent to Jim H. last month. (Dr. Brantley took it to find out what it was for.)

Eileen asked about the funding for the Commission and Jim H. explained that the Commission prepared a budget and submitted it the municipalities for 2016. Eileen will find out the status of the budget with Asbury Park. Gail will prepare the budget exactly as it is for 2016 again for 2017 and send it to members to be reviewed and discussed for a vote in August. Municipalities need budget requests in the fall.

Nick reported that he spoke with Vito, Business Administrator from Neptune, and Vito reported that he thought the Pond Weed treatment had been completed. Jim H. said that Asbury Park will reimburse Neptune for the Pond Weed treatment once their budget passes.

Gail suggested that it is the job of the municipalities to schedule maintenance for the Lake and Mark explained it is the Commissions role to let the municipalities know what needs to be done and to pay for it.

Engineers Report

Nick stated that he talked to Vito about the NJDEP's harvester. Vito said it is not available for municipalities unless it is an emergency. The harvester may not be able to fit under the bridges and the crane used to place the harvester would have to be placed in the Lake several different times at different locations.

Gail asked Nick what his responsibility was towards the Commission and he said he would attend meetings free of charge, look into grants and evaluate civil/structural issues.

Pond Weed

It was reported that Friends of Wesley Lake pulled the dead pond weed out of the lake and Neptune DPW took it away. Mark and Bill both said this is a great way to do it. Just call them (DPW) when we have pulled something out of the Lake that needs to be taken away. Everyone seemed to think the Lake was looking great.

Fundraising

Tee said they will meet in August, no other report.

Website

Dr. Brown took pictures of the Lake, said it was looking very good. He would like to use existing websites of each municipality and have the Commissions sites be identical. He will contact Vito or Roberta from Neptune and Michael Capabianco from Asbury Park. He will make a proposal to us first. He stated a good website will help us with getting grants. Tee will forward him the history of the Lake for the Website.

Master Plan

Tee and Gail sent Doug comments for the Master Plan. Jim H. said Brownfield and Main Street Plans should be examined and added. Gail suggested we give Doug time to compile the information sent to him from us. Jim said he thought the Wesley Lake Improvement Plan should be the basis of our comments. Sue and Gail both said our comments must be brief if they are to be read by the Master Plan Committee. Commissioners were asked to be prepared to vote on a final draft in August.

Old Business

Peter asked about the device that captures floatable not working. Bill reported that it had been repaired.

New Business

Peter brought pictures of gardens to be planted by the steam plant in Ocean Grove by volunteers. The work was delayed because they need approval to dig by underground utilities. It is funded by Neptune Township Escrow Fund.

Jim spoke about Madison Marquette's proposal for food trucks and vendors at the Carousel. He expressed concern about the walk way and access around the Lake. He said it was Istar's obligation to put in a walkway.

Gail reported that after the last meeting, Doug, Eileen, Bill, Nick and herself walked around the Asbury side of the Lake to discuss issues. The following was discussed as reported by Doug:

Here are the topics Gail reported that we discussed:

- Sources of inflow into the lake,
 - With additional development and storm water basin infrastructure improvements, the quantity of water reaching the lake has spiked, increasing the chances of flooding,
 - Improved storm water basins have had the unintended consequence of delivering the first half inch of runoff, often the dirtiest, into the lake very efficiently, thereby polluting the water,
- Need to prevent floatables from entering storm drains or exiting storm drains. Current ad hoc system isn't working.
- Condition of the lake wall - deteriorated in many places with trees growing in the concrete structure,
- Benefits of reconstructing one section of the deteriorating bulkhead with a "living shoreline", a reinforced embankment with plants and natural materials,
 - Lower cost than bulk heading
 - Provides water access if needed for boats, maintenance, etc.,
 - Ecologically preferred option by NJDEP over bulk heading
 - Provides shelter for wildlife - birds, fish, turtles
 - Adds green space
- Poor condition of landscaping on City property along lake,
- Relationship of lakefront to "Wesley Lake Village" in Waterfront Redevelopment Plan (NO progress on that initiative since 2008),
 - No progress developing the "focal point" of the lakeside area referenced in the Master Plan and Waterfront Redevelopment Plan,
 - No permanent walkway along the gravel pathway west of the Carousel where the railings are installed,
- "Temporary" lighting stanchions that have been in place for almost a decade,
- Poor circulation of pedestrian and bike traffic around lake due to inconsistent and incomplete sidewalk construction.
 - No flow or connectivity through Carousel parking lot to CBD.
- Poorly constructed bridge approaches and ramps from both pedestrian bridges - not ADA compliant and do not lead to curb ramps

- Poor condition of bridge facade, railings and lighting, despite the obvious fact that the bridges are focal points on the lake (see paintings and photos in many local art galleries),
- Need to be consistent about removing debris from the outflow spillover,
- Need to examine and improve, if necessary, the outflow facility to prevent flooding
- Sink Holes

Gail explained the sink holes were fixed within days and the landscaping maintenance had improved and thanked Bill.

Jim H. made a motion to close the meeting at 6:30 and open the public meeting. Gail seconded. All approved.

Public Portion of Meeting

Anita DiGiulio from Friends of Wesley Lake thanked the Commission for fixing the devices that reduced the garbage floating in the lake. She noticed a difference.

She asked about raingardens and Jim H. explained that Dr. Brantley was going to invite someone from the Camp Meeting Association to come to a meeting to discuss the issue and possibly be a member. Jim asked that raingardens be added to next month's agenda.

Jim moved and Sue seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:33 PM

Respectfully Submitted:
Gail Rosewater