

July 21, 2026
Wesley Lake Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Dr. James Brown

Eileen Chapman

Keith Fiori

Melvin Fitzpatrick

Gary Iott

Ed Lacombe

Barbara Lesinski

Doug McQueen

James Rokosny

Gail Rosewater

Jenn Schimf

Anthony Thompson

Tassie York

Gail opened the meeting at 7:04PM with member roll call and reading of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Gail announced that the guest speaker, Michael Boufadel from NJIT, would not be joining us tonight.

No one from the public was present.

Approval of the minutes: Barbara moved to accept the minutes of June 16, 2026, and Jim seconded. All others in favor. Gail will forward minutes to municipalities to be posted on the websites.

Public

Four members of the public from Ocean Grove were in attendance and declined to comment at this time:

Theresa Deckebach

Troy Deckebach

Constance Ogden

Philip Orton

Treasurers Report

Ed provided the current balance of the account at \$20,899.27. It remains unchanged since the last report.

July 6 Flood

Eileen reported that following the flood Senator Booker, Governor Mikie Sherrill and NJ DEP all called her to see how they could assist with the flooding. However, they were not able to assist with funding.

Gail outlined the sequence of events that followed the flood and on behalf of the Commission expressed gratitude to Doug and Keith and the municipalities for all they did to deal with the aftermath of the flood.

- July 7 at 10:20 AM Doug McQueen and Keith Fiori sent emails to the municipalities expressing concern over the huge debris and sediment pile in the west end of the Lake. The concern was that the sediment would prevent the wall at the West End from functioning properly and silt and other debris would just flow into the Lake.
- Mayor John Moor, AP, contacted the AP City Manager who worked together with the Director of AP DPW, Neptune Business Administrator James Manning, Neptune DPW Director Melvin Fitzpatrick, and secured assistance from Tom Arnone, County Commissioner Director, to mobilize clean up efforts at no cost to the municipalities. The Monmouth County liaison was Robert

Compton, Monmouth County DPW Director, who authorized his team to conduct the clean up on July 14.

- In addition, Melvin contacted the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association and asked them to clear up the debris along the Lake. This was done immediately. Gail wrote a thank you letter to Natalie Stephens-Stewart, the COO of Camp Meeting Association.
- Sam Avakian, Engineer, evaluated the cleanup and indicated that 350 cubic yards of material were removed from the Lake. Although some sediment was remaining near the weir wall, they could not remove it due to the possibility of damaging the wall.

AP DPW

Floating Island on the eastern end of the Lake will be resecured further west.

Both aerators survived the storm. Doug suggested another alternative to the current anchors to keep the islands in place.

Neptune DPW

Gail asked for a top to the western end cage. One of the baby swans has fallen in twice and been scooped out by concerned citizens.

Doug asked if there were issues in the stormwater drains that were causing floatables and silt to be trapped in the pipes and asked how we can keep floatables out of the pipes completely. Melvin was also concerned about the amount of floatables in the area between the two cages and would talk to Sam Avakian, the Neptune Engineer.

Gail expressed the desire for a 319 H grant to pay for a manufactured treatment device to be installed to take silt and floatables out of the storm drains before it goes into the Lake. Melvin said Neptune is very good at writing grants and securing money. Gail will talk to Keith Daly.

Both municipalities are cleaning out the cages and fences on a regular basis. Ed said there is a mat in the fence in the eastern end. Anthony said he would have someone look at it.

Fletcher Lake

Gary was not able to attend the last meeting and there is not an August meeting. He continues to test the water.

Friends and Citizens

The Camp Meeting Association and Jim have been in conversation about beautifying the edges of the Lake, especially in the southwestern end. The Environmental Shade Tree Commission has agreed to help. They want to build a living shoreline. Jim is organizing a walk around the Lake to generate interest in this and other projects including getting sidewalks fixed (homeowners' responsibility).

Jim reached out to the Rutgers Environmental Steward Program to see if students may need a project and could work on a section of the Lake to create a garden. He is waiting for Camp Meeting Association approval.

Missing Swallow Sign

The Swallow sign located on the Ocean Grove side of Heck Street Bridge was taken. Barbara is in possession of the new sign, and it has been paid for.

Pedestrian Bridge

Gail reported she communicated with Keith Daly from Neptune concerning the amount of funding left to provide necessary repairs. Keith said that 15-20% of the funding can be used for soft costs (consultant salaries etc.) He assured her that the funding will go towards structural and safety improvements on the west bridge and will defiantly make an impact. In order to complete the structural safety and aesthetic upgrades for both bridges we will need an additional 3.2 million. That funding has been applied for.

Raingardens

They have a lot of weeds but also have a lot of appropriate flowers as do the floating islands.

Monmouth University Citizen Scientists/eDNA

Jim has been working on this project with Monmouth University. He did one sample last year near the outfall pipe. He repeated the test this year. A presentation of findings was made July 14 which he attended. This test determines what marine life exists in a particular area and what changes. If there is a negative change, hopefully, they can advocate for funding.

Public

Constance Ogden asked several questions and provided some information about Fletcher Lake, which experienced flooding on July 6 and affected several houses. Fletcher is looking into a pump station too. She also stressed the importance of the OG North End Development being done in coordination with the new outflow system.

In response to her questions about the outflow Eileen provided the following:

The outflow is not in good shape. They had to cut some of the collapsed pipe off, so the water does not go as far into the ocean now. Sam Avakian is working on a project to fix the wall, pipe and install a pumping mechanism.

Philip Proton provided some facts on the speed at which silt enters the Lake and how many cubic yards are added per second of water flow into Lake.

Dr Brown expressed concern over the sidewalks along the lake in Ocean Grove being a health hazard. Gail suggested he write to the Code Enforcement of Neptune.

Barb made a motion to adjourn, and Jenn seconded at 8:20PM.