

# June 16, 2026

## Wesley Lake Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Dr. James Brown

Gary Iott

Barbara Lesinski

Doug McQueen

James Rokosny

Gail Rosewater

Anthony Thompson, APDPW

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

No one from the public was present.

Approval of the minutes: Barbara moved to accept the minutes of April 21, 2026, and Jim seconded. All others in favor. Gail will forward minutes to municipalities to be posted on the websites.

AP DPW

Western aerator installed closer to AP side and further east. Eastern aerator will be installed next week after a part comes in. The aerators will be turned off if the Lake gets too low. Dr Brown asked if we could have lights on the aerators. Anthony indicated there were no funds at this time for lights.

Jim asked for a third aerator further east. Another 950 ft. cable will be needed. Barbara asked Anthony to look into another box to be put in on the Asbury side for the third aerator.

Fletcher Lake

Gail referenced an email from Fletcher Lake she and Gary received and forwarded to the Commission showing documentation that the aerators improved the dissolved oxygen in that Lake. Gary has been doing water testing which allowed them to collect data. Fletcher is also looking into stocking the Lake with fish.

Geese Management

Gail asked the Geese Chasers if they could chase geese if accompanied by babies. They said they can only chase the adults away. There are a lot of baby geese around the Lake. 43 eggs were added this year between Sunset and Wesley.

Gail was copied on an email from Jason Adolf, Monmouth University about the concerns voiced last month from the Geese Chaser via Anthony. Jason reiterated that the dog/staff should not go in the water as follows:

*"I don't know of anything in Wesley Lake that would make it unsafe for your staff or dogs to operate around, although I would not allow either to swim in the lake. These lakes do not pass the fecal indicator bacteria (Enterococcus) thresholds necessary to be deemed safe for swimming by the state. Nearby lakes experience cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms that produce toxins, but Wesley Lake has not had an issue with this over the last 6 years or so we've been sampling. However, if you ever encounter the lake looking like it's fluorescent green be cautious. The smell can be a lot of things, most often in my experience anoxic mud that smells like rotten eggs. Is that what you're smelling? Are there other specific water quality conditions you're concerned about?"*

*As Gail said, Wesley Lake receives some challenging runoff and has pretty poor water quality in spots as a result. We have seen some [improvement](#) in the data collected by citizen scientists since 2019, dissolved oxygen levels specifically in Wesley Lake. It's an uphill battle but worthwhile! J."*

#### 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 that the Engineers (CME) had a meeting with SHPO regarding permitting and are performing underside bridge inspections tomorrow as part of the structural repair design. We are supposed to get Committee updates. Ed saw CME looking at the bridges and went out to talk to them. They are verifying that the information that was collected 5 years ago is still accurate. They will draw a plan of repair and Neptune will put it out to bid for the actual work to be done. Barb asked Gail to ask how much is left of the grant for the bridges.

The STAR LEDGER contacted Gail and asked for a quote about the bridge project for an article. She stressed the advocacy of the Commission that got the initiative started over 5 years ago. Many other officials were contacted by both municipalities for the article.

#### Dredging

Gail reported that Senator Booker and Senator Kim are both supporting a CDS request for a Neptune Coastal Lakes project (Wesley and Fletcher Lakes) that would include dredging, shoreline stabilization, outlet control structure repairs, and related improvements. The extent of the work will depend on the amount of funding awarded, if any.

Doug suggested we look into creating islands in the lake with the silt that is dredged.

Barbara sent an email to Commissioner Arnone asking for a dialogue concerning funding for dredging as follows. No response.

*“Good morning, Commissioner Arnone,*

*I am a member of the Wesley Lake Commission which consists of members from both Neptune and Asbury Park. As I am sure you know, flooding of Wesley Lake is a serious concern for Asbury Park. This has been an ongoing discussion with Commission members and City officials which have been investigating several flooding remediation solutions.*

*Recently the County has collaborated with Ocean Township's dredging of Fireman's Pond which empties into Deal Lake. This has renewed discussions with our Commission about the importance of dredging the western end of Wesley Lake. It has been decades since this has been done. There is no culvert within the stormwater drainage system that empties into the lake from under the county bridge capturing floatable or silt. With each rainfall the volume of silt increases and is now deposited past the silt wall.*

*We would like to initiate a dialogue and meet with you in anticipation of future availability of a funding source to collaborate on a dredging project. I have cc'd the Commission Chair Gail Rosewater. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.”*

Raingardens

Keith and Ed did some weeding in the smaller rain garden. Doug said he would do some weeding of mug wart if he can get there after a big rain to make it easier to pull out the large weeds.

If we are able to plant additional appropriate flowers in the future, in the rain garden, Steve Souza has recommended:

| <b>BOTANICAL NAME:</b>          | <b>SPECIES NAME:</b>          |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ECHINACEA PURPUREA</b>       | <b>PURPLE CONEFLOWER</b>      |
| <b>AGROSTIS SPECTABILIS</b>     | <b>PURPLE LOVEGRASS</b>       |
| <b>LOLIUM MULTIFLORUM</b>       | <b>ANNUAL RYE</b>             |
| <b>PERSICARIA PENNSYLVANICA</b> | <b>PENNSYLVANIA SMARTWEED</b> |
| <b>RUDBECKIA HIRTA</b>          | <b>BLACK EYED SUSAN</b>       |
| <b>SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM</b>  | <b>LITTLE BLUE STEM</b>       |

**TRIDENS FLACUS  
SYMPHYOTRICHUM  
LATERIFLORUM**

**PURPLETOP  
CALICO ASTER**

**SOLIDAGO JUNECA**

**EARLY GOLDENROD**

**CHAMAECRISTA FASCICULATA PARTRIDGE PEA**

**LAWN RESTORATION SEED MIX: TO BE SOWN IN ALL AREAS OF DISTURBANCE  
EXCLUDING DESIGNATED MEADOW PLANTING AREA**

**BOTANICAL NAME:**

**SPECIES NAME:**

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**FESTUCA BREVIPILA**

**HARD FESCUE**

**LOLIUM PERENNE**

**PERENNIAL RYEGRASS**

**POA PRATENSIS**

**KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS**

**Friends and Citizens**

Jim reported that he met with the Neptune Environmental Shade Tree Commission to build a partnership to work on beautification along the Ocean Grove side of the Lake especially the west end. They agreed to assist and Jim has asked the Camp Meeting Association if it is OK.

Jim is also concerned about the safety of sidewalks and ask that Neptune enforce homeowners' responsibility.

Jim did an inventory of signs. Jim would also like to put more signs and plants around the Lake on the strip between the sidewalk and lake, which is owned by OGCMA. Jim invited the CMA to take a walk with him around the Lake to see how it could be improved with plantings.

**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 will repeat the test this year. A presentation of findings will be made in July. 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.

**Asbury Park Master Plan**

Asbury is redoing their ten-year Master Plan. Doug, Gail and Jim attended one of the public meetings on Sustainability. Gail spoke about the need to have the water quality improved, and

Doug gave specific information about surface treatment vs. Manufactured Treatment Devices (gardens, planting in the bump outs etc.)

Gail was asked to walk around the Lake in May with the Committee that is leading the Master Plan project. She stressed dredging, and that the outfall pipe needed to be fixed. She also described achievements of the Commission such as the advocacy to get the bridges repaired, geese management, water testing, floating islands and rain gardens as well as the need for the City to create a watershed plan, and that the bulkhead and shoreline need repairs and improvements, as well as bridge lighting.

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