

Wesley Lake Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Chair Gail Rosewater and notice of the NJ Open Public Meetings Act was read.

Note: Meeting location was moved to Room B-11 (downstairs) in the Neptune Municipal Building due to a meeting conflict with the Committee Chamber.

Members in attendance were: Gail Rosewater, Eileen Chapman, Keith Fiori, Beth Whalley Mitchell, Mark Balzarano, Bill McClave, Doug McQueen.
(Michael Brantley appeared after roll call.)

No members of the public were present. CME Engineer Bennet Matlack was present.

Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. (McClave, Chapman)

Membership: The commission unanimously elected Gail Rosewater as Chair (Chapman/Fiori), Doug McQueen as Vice Chair (Chapman/Fiori), Beth Whalley Mitchell as Secretary, and Jim Henry as Treasurer (Chapman/Fiori). Gail Rosewater reported that Asbury Park approved Ed Lacombe as Asbury Park's designated alternate. Mr. Lacombe will need to be sworn in at an upcoming meeting. The Commission also discussed that Neptune will need to appoint a replacement for Peter Longo, who relocated. Gail will send Neptune a letter requesting that appointment.

Treasurer: Jim Henry forwarded the Treasurer's Report to Gail Rosewater, reporting no change to the Commission's finances since the last meeting. Gail Rosewater discussed whether a second signature might be useful on the Commission bank account in case Jim Henry is not available. The commission resolved that Gail should go to the bank to add her as a second signatory. (Balzarano/Chapman) Gail Rosewater reported that Neptune approved using Neptune Township's address for utility bills, if necessary. Gail also reported that both municipalities submitted their annual contributions to the lake.

Watershed/Stormwater: Gail Rosewater discussed Governor Murphy's New "Rain Tax" law, which would authorize municipalities to set up stormwater commissions and charge fees for stormwater runoff, if they desire. Eileen Chapman described that there may be opportunities in the future to get developers involved in lake dredging, but no specifics are available yet. Michael Brantley said that the Neptune CFO is looking at costs and funding sources for dredging.

Grants: Doug McQueen described that several Commission members attended a preliminary meeting with NJDEP, Sunset Lake, Deal Lake and Avakian Engineering representatives on March 12th. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a site evaluation with NJDEP for the location of stormwater mitigation devices, which will be funded by a NJDEP Section 319H grant. The representatives toured Sunset, Wesley and Deal Lakes to discuss the best location of these devices. The proposed devices for Wesley Lake are four tree boxes and one bioswale. Expected project installation could be Spring 2021.

Eileen Chapman discussed that several commission members attended the Coastal Lakes Summit at Monmouth University on March 15th. The Summit was organized through the Urban Coast Institute at the University and was funded with a grant from the Jules Plangere Foundation. The purpose of the Summit was to bring representatives together from Monmouth County's 11 coastal lakes, along with NJDEP representatives and Monmouth University scientists. Attendees heard from each lake representative and discussed common challenges including siltation, water eutrophication (nutrient loading), stormwater runoff, and wildlife issues. As a result of the Summit, Urban Coast Institute will be training volunteers from each lake to conduct sediment and water quality testing, with the data to be managed on a dedicated website hosted by the Institute called "CLONet", or Coastal Lakes Monitoring Network. The Urban Coast Institute will be providing the testing kits. Testing and monitoring will begin this spring and will continue for at least one year.

The Commission also discussed renewing the idea of installing rain gardens in the 7 fire lanes between Asbury Ave and Lake Avenue in Ocean Grove. Coordination with Neptune engineering and OGCMA will be needed.

DPW Reports: Bill McClave reported that repair work is being started on two outfall pipes that collapsed next to the lake at Grand Avenue. Mark Balzarano reported that a sewer line backed up at the West Grove Square shopping plaza (Clancy's) over St. Patrick's Day weekend. Due to a grease backup in the sewer line, some sewage may have escaped onto the ground that could consequently wash into the lake. The clog has been repaired. Keith Fiori reported that there are sinkholes appearing on both sides of the lake in the "usual" spots. Gail reminded the members that there is a copy of the comprehensive 2008 Wesley Lake Rehabilitation Plan on the Neptune Website.

Weed Treatment: Gail Rosewater advised that Neptune approved Black Lagoon for 2019 weed treatments, same as last year.

Public Outreach: Gail Rosewater reported that Asbury Park will be hosting an open streets event called "Asbury Alive" on May 4th, where she and Friends and Citizens of Wesley Lake will plan to host an information table. Eileen explained that the event runs along Springwood and Lake Avenues for the entire day. Gail advised that Asbury Park recently put out a press release discussing all three of Asbury Park's coastal lakes, and that Gail sent a similar press release to The Coaster and the AP Sun regarding keeping Wesley Lake's water clean.

Friends/Citizens of Wesley Lake: Keith Fiori reported that there is currently a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to replace an information sign that was vandalized. Keith will help with the design of any signs.

OGCMA: Beth Whalley Mitchell reported that she asked some of her OGCMA colleagues about the proper channels for discussing streetscape improvements along the lake - sidewalks, bridge gates, trash cans - and was redirected to others who were not available. She will report back. Gail mentioned that she learned that Neptune Mayor Carol Rizzo does not want to remove the bridge gates because she feels that too many people visiting Asbury Park park in Ocean Grove for free.

Doug McQueen reiterated our position that, from Neptune's or Wesley Lake Commission perspective, the primary responsibility for maintaining the walkway along the buffer strip of the lake and at the bridge aprons should be the owner of that property, which is OGCMA.

Old Business:

Gail Rosewater advised that the 2nd Tuesday of each month is not available for WLC meetings.

Doug McQueen provided each DPW Superintendent with information about a water-based, DOT approved paint product from TexCote that could be applied to help give the bridges a uniform, refreshed look until more substantial rehabilitation can be accomplished. A floating work platform may be needed.

New Business:

CME Engineer Bennet Matlack distributed a proposal from his firm for completing a Master Plan for Wesley Lake. This plan would use the 2008 updated plan as a starting point, then provide more detail and updated information.

Doug McQueen asked Michael Brantley if the North End Redeveloper will be asking for any relief from stormwater requirements or obligations to rebuild the wall. Michael Brantley said that the developer should not expect to get any relief on these areas. Doug also asked if the Commission could be notified if anything affecting the lake is on a Neptune public agenda, particularly stormwater and wall issues. Gail Rosewater will send a letter to Neptune regarding these North End Redevelopment Plan issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. (Chapman/McClave)