

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 18, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting was advertised on the Township Website as in-person at the Township municipal building, town blog, and on LTEC's Facebook page.

**Roll Call:** Present Chairman Larry Supp, Vice-Chairman Doug Hankin, Rich Larsen, Jarod Gajda, and Regan Bottomley  
Absent: Doug Wright and John Ward

**Public Comment:** A member of the public attended and had some comments regarding the dam removal at Liberty Lake/Buzzards Glory Rd. He advised that his understanding is that there will be a large fee to have the fish removed from the area for the dam removal to happen. It was his suggestion that members of the public assist by fishing there to reduce numbers and save the township money.

**Approval of minutes:**

- **April 20, 2023-** A motion was made by Rich Larsen to approve the April 20, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Regan Bottomley. All in favor.

**Communications:**

- Shannon has advised that she would like to assist with preparing the final report for the ANJEC grant.
- Claire from the Allamuchy Green Team reached out looking for herbicide solutions for Allamuchy Pond.
- The LTRC/Community Day Committee is requesting to borrow sandwich boards to advertise Community Day. The LTEC has agreed and is asking for clarification on how many. Rich Larsen will handle installation/display.

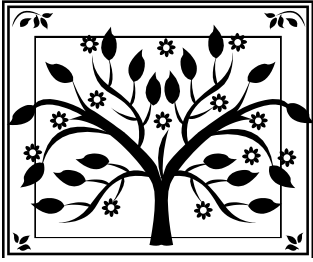
**Old Business:**

- **Bird Walk Workshop** – The workshop was a success. It was suggested that next year we do something similar and advertise with posters/flyers at various businesses and with the use sandwich board posters. It was also agreed that next year, the Janes Chapel location would be better suited for parking/gathering.
- **Free Tree Giveaway - April 22, 2023** – The event went as planned. There was a very limited selection of trees, and therefore much less interest from the public. The procedure put in place for distribution worked very well for the second year in a row and should not be changed.
- **ANJEC Grant/Weed harvesting** – The grant was denied. The reason for denial has not yet been provided.

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**New Business:**

- **Peaceful Garden Maintenance** – Weed whacking, transplanting, and mulching were recently done. Hand-weeding is being planned in the coming weeks.
- **Lake Monitoring Update** – MLCA and volunteers including from LTEC are continuing to collect water samples and water quality readings. The NJDEP has discontinued providing free lab results on our algae samples. Lake Assn is paying PH now for that lab work, and as in the past is paying ECM lab in Hillsborough for Phosphorus analysis. Most recent results from 4/17/23 show a cell count of Blue-Green Algae of 161,732 which is considered an algae bloom. However, this is very common for the time of year during seasonal turnover and is expected to improve. Sampling upstream at the brook is desired. The Mountain Lake Association is applying for a grant with the Highlands through Princeton Hydro.
- **Liberty Lake/Buzzards Glory Road vacant township property** – The LTEC will continue discussions regarding project ideas. Looking into getting a map of the property, and specifics on how the land was purchased.
- **MS4 Regulation change, storm water status**– The township has engaged with a consultant to handle.
- **Sale of homes served by cesspools (NJ law, exceptions)** – There is state law in place with regards to updating home properties served by cesspools to septic systems. However, the many exceptions provided leave loopholes that could be detrimental to our area, Mountain Lake especially. The law states that if a home is being transferred/sold to a family member, the system does not require inspection or updating. The EC will continue discussions regarding a recommendation to the town for an ordinance that would close loopholes.
- **Proposed “Clean your prop” sign at the lake** – The EC agrees that a clearly visible sign advising boat owners to have their props cleaned before launching into the lake. Is there an existing sign, and if so, how visible is it?
- **Water Testing** – A former member of the EC had shared information about an event another township was holding with regards to town-wide water testing available. The EC agrees this would be a great service to offer to the community. More detailed information will be researched.



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**Commission Member Reports:** Please see lake monitoring update and cesspool information.

**Approval of Expenditures:** A motion was made by Rich Larsen to approve all expenditures for the purchase of mulch used at the Peaceful Garden, Posters for Free Tree Giveaway, and for the bird potting leaflets. Seconded by Doug Hankin, all in favor.

**Commissioner and Public Comments:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Larry Supp to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM. Seconded by Regan Bottomley. All in favor.

**NEXT MEETING June 15, 2023**