



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 and on LTEC's Facebook page.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Larry Supp, Vice-Chair Jarod Gajda, Ammunje Nayak, John Ward, Regan Bottomley, and John DeHuff
Absent: Doug Wright

Public Comment: None

Approval of minutes: Motion was made by John Ward to approve the April 17, 2025, meeting minutes subject to a correction of the missing date for the previous minutes. Second, by Regan Bottomley, all in favor.

Communications:

Old Business:

- **Free Seed Giveaway Postmortem** – Lots of seeds left over. Approximately 25 people attended. Next year do it earlier and more people were asking for flowers. Try a mass mailing with email lists collected. Consider March for next year. Ask the MLCA to share the date with their members to help with publicity.
- **Two deteriorated signs were replaced** out of the four nature signs at the lake. We ordered the replacements from Hollie Studios to match the existing ones.
- **Bird Walk** – Date set for May 17th 8:00AM at the Pequest Fish Hatchery. Everything is set and looks like the weather should be okay. Larry is advising the fish hatchery. June 14th is a possible date for the next event, subject to public interest.

New Business:

Community Day Preparations – We believe this will be taking place in August again. Larry will reach out to ANJEC for resources. There is still a large stock of wood ornaments that can be offered as a craft project. A motion was

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made by John Ward to purchase DIY bird feeder kits for up to \$50, seconded by Jarod Gajda. All in favor.

- **Weed Harvesting** – The final decision regarding this activity will be made by Lake Subcommittee and the Township Committee. If they approve it, the LTEC would likely need to pay the \$3,000 for one day's work by Northern Lights, since our budget was bumped up by the Township to cover extra lake maintenance and weed control expenses, over and above the beach and boat ramp herbicide costs. The proposed purpose for this harvesting is to keep the outlet open and give the fisherman more room to fish in that area. The harvesting would involve a two-day process. This was approved and performed two years ago, creating a situation where coontail and milfoil weeds quickly took over in place of the lily pads. All members of the LTEC do not agree with weed harvesting at the outlet as proposed, as it has been proven to leave the door open for other invasive species to move in.

Lake Monitoring – Recent monitoring by the MLCA indicates that the BGA bloom that was detected in the Spring is persisting, keeping the lake at the DEP's Advisory Level. If there is no change before mid-June, it could prevent opening the beach, because no swimming is permitted when water quality is at the DEP's Advisory Level.

Although BGA cell counts are not excessive, the DEP found that cyanotoxin levels were above 2ug/L (8 earlier and near 3 recently). Only the DEP will run toxicity testing. Since the DEP stated it will return for retesting only when our monitoring shows the bloom is clearing up, timing on the DEP's return will be important.

Buzzard's Glory/Liberty Lake Property – The LTEC will maintain on its agenda, ideas for potential public uses of this property after the dam removal.

Commission Member Reports: None

Approval of Expenditures: *See Community Day Preparations*

Adjournment: A motion was made by Larry at 8:29 PM, seconded by John Ward. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: June 19, 2025