

**Sunset Lake Commission
Meeting, March 3, 2020
Agenda**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Open Public Meeting Statement: The notice requirements of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, have been met by transmitting the notice of Regular Meeting to the Commissioner's official, posting the notice where required and filing a copy of the notice with the Commission Clerk.**
- IV. Roll Call**
 - a. Present:** Jaimee Nadell (Co-Chair), Councilwoman Eileen Chapman (City Council Liaison), Marc Ax (Treasurer), Sam Berzok (Secretary), Chet Boles, Brian Watkins, Sue Henderson (Co-Chair), William McClave (Superintendent of Public Works)
 - b. Guest Speaker:** Prof. Sean Sterrett, Ph.D. Biology Department at Monmouth University
- V. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes Resolution to accept minutes of prior meeting(s): February 4, 2020. Will take place at the next meeting in April.**
- VI. Motion to New Business - All present voted YES to move immediately to New Business to allow the guest speaker to present:**
 - a.** Presentation by Prof. Sean Sterrett on protecting the Deal Lake Watershed's turtle population
 - i.** Pitching an idea to build floating platforms that could be used by turtles. Safer environment for turtles to bask without entering human dominated space on parts of the shore or roads. Asking to see if student or youth groups would be interested in constructing them.
 - ii.** Dr. Sterrett made a similar presentation to the Deal Lake Commission. Notes that there's almost no habitat for basking in the other lakes, namely Wesley Lake.
 - iii.** Councilwoman Chapman noted that she could speak to the APHS Principal to announce the project and gauge student interest. Sue Henderson noted that students at the Academy schools might also be interested.
 - iv.** Councilwoman Chapman notes that through the Deal Lake grant, Sunset Lake should be receiving three floating islands. Will be placed on the western half of Sunset Lake.
 - v.** Brian Watkins raised a point of aesthetics of artificial platforms. Would like to see natural logs be added to the Lake over platforms.

- vi. Prof. Sterrett is interested in serving as an “Ecological Consultant” on the implementation of the floating islands. Offering to provide an educational seminar on the watershed’s wildlife and ecology for students.
- vii. High School students could build, elementary students paint

VII. Old Business:

- a. T & M Associates Sunset Lake Master Plan Approved by the Planning Board on December 9, 2019 subject to conditions discussed on November 25, 2019
 - i. Councilwoman Chapman said the City is currently reviewing the Master Plan for its impact on all the Lakes. Any changes to the park should be cleared with the Master Plan. The Commission’s domain only covers the Lake itself. Wendy asked for a moratorium in the Park until the City provides further guidance.
 - ii. Master Plan also included thinning and raising of the tree canopy at the west end of the Park. There was a conversation to move the Farmer’s Market to Bond St. in the Park rather on than Main Street.
 - iii. Deal Lake Commission presented at last City Council meeting to update the Council on the Watershed grant and its impact on all city Lakes.
- b. Update on Deal Lake Grant from Sue Henderson
 - i. Next meeting on the Grant will be in May with all DPW Commissioners and towns involved.
 - ii. Update from Princeton Hydro: Have to make sure that they’re using the chemical treatment they agreed to which would have no adverse effect on the proposed floating islands. In the past first treatment typically takes place in late April.
 - iii. Would like to invite Princeton Hydro to speak at the April meeting.
- c. Update from Superintendent Bill McClave/DPW
 - i. Walking path – St. John’s Island, progress update: Still waiting on purchase order and the work could start in a few weeks.
- d. Update on Commission Membership: None
- e. Informational Flyer re: Slow Acting Fertilizer, Update
 - i. Brian Watkins says that we cannot use this product (Green Edge) in New Jersey. Better than Scott’s turf but cannot be used because of its level of phosphorus, according to state regulations. Need to find a new product that falls with state guidelines.
 - ii. Councilwoman Chapman stated that she will contact Deal Country Club to find out which fertilizer they use.
 - iii. According to Bill McClave, DPW does not currently use fertilizer along the shore of the Lakes.

- f. Letter to City Council recommending Parks Department be established by the City: Sent to the City Council and Published in the Coaster, will discuss next steps
 - i. Published in the Coaster on February 11th:
<http://thecoaster.net/wordpress/sunset-lake-commission-says-time-for-a-city-department-of-parks/>
 - ii. Sunset Lake Conservancy also prepared a letter which was printed in the The Coaster
 - iii. Both Deal and Wesley Lake Commissions are aware of the letter and were going to take their own votes about whether to join our recommendation or make their own.
 - iv. Councilwoman Chapman advised that she would seek an official response from the City Council

VIII. New Business

- a. Brian Watkins's wife would like to host a fishing derby on Sunset Lake at the end of May. Would like to present the idea and event at the April meeting.

IX. Public Input

- a. Sunset Lake Conservancy will be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 8th with a Wizard of Oz theme.
- b. Sonia Spina has reached out saying one of the charter schools would like to be involved in a lake cleanup. Suggestion is to encourage them to participate in the upcoming cleanup in late March.
- c. Next Sunset Lake Conservancy cleanup is Saturday March 28th 9am-12pm. Monmouth University students expected to participate. One of the bigger cleanups of the year.
- d. Ernest Mignoli, resident of Santander complex on 400 Deal Lake Dr., spoke about what he believed to be EPA violations at the Santander, including styrofoam waste from the contractor which was not disposed of properly and blown into Deal Lake which shares a water table with Sunset Lake. APFD said they were going to inform the EPA. Code Enforcement came but he claims they did not issue the contractor a citation. Would like stricter code enforcement against Santander and the new building on Cookman Ave and Bond Street as well
- e. Commissioner Sue Henderson advised Mr. Magnoli that he should contact Frank Pallone's office in Long Branch for assistance with this issue

X. Adjournment – All present voted in favor of the Motion to Adjourn