



**Liberty Township Environmental Commission  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting**

**2021, February 18**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting was advertised on the Township Website Blog as Zoom Only, with login instructions, and on LTEC's Facebook page, thanks to Shannon S.

**ROLL:**

Present: Chair Larry Supp, Member Maureen Bonner, Member Rich Larsen, Liason Member Doug Wright. Chair agreed to act as secretary for this meeting.  
Absent: Dan Kurela.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None. No members of the public logged in to Zoom.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes from December 17, 2020, were approved without change. Chair noted that January's Monthly Meeting was not held due to lack of a quorum on Zoom.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Free Tree Giveaway discussed under new business.

Solitude Lake Management's test results discussed under old business.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Nominations for Vice Chair, tabled until next meeting.

LTEC secretary position is still unfilled. Chair agreed to check with Diane P. as to status, since applications were set to close on Monday, February 22.

ANJEC membership dues for 2021 are payable. Chair will communicate with Shannon S. and Diane P. to assure that payment is being made.

LTEC Budget request was to be submitted to Liberty Township. Chair will check with Shannon and Diane to verify whether budget was approved by Township as submitted.

A follow up discussion on items in December minutes was held. Water samples from Mountain Lake Brook Inlet and from Lake Station One were collected by Solitude on December 11, 2020, and were tested for Phosphorus (P) and Nitrogen (N). N levels were good (none detected in lake, and at Inlet was 0.232 which is a fraction of the level that might be a concern). P level was moderate in Lake (0.029) nearing a level of concern, but was good (below detection limits) in the Brook. Algae levels in the Lake were low for Blue-Green Algae, and were at usual and expected levels for Total Algae (Green plus Blue-Green), by comparison with Solitude's results from September.

LTEC pages on the Township website have been revised and updated, following a report on same that had been prepared by this Commission in December, and LTEC's "Annual Report" for 2020 was posted there. The 2021 meeting dates were not yet posted,

however.

Larry volunteered to host LTEC meetings on Zoom this year as needed.

LTEC printed postcards to residents: These postcards are to promote awareness of the LTEC among Township residents and include a color scene and description of the work of the LTEC. Maureen reported that two out of three divisions of postcards were mailed several weeks ago, and one division remains because postage cost had exceeded the budgeted amount of \$570 by \$30. A motion approving expenditure of \$127.40 for postage for the third division, subject to LTEC's Budget having been approved by the Township, was made, seconded and carried unanimously. Maureen reported that she was reimbursed by the Township for \$600 she had expended so far.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

LTEC Newsletter is normally prepared by the LTEC secretary, and incorporated into the Township's annual newsletter to residents. Chair agreed to check with Diane P. as to deadline for submission.

Free Tree Seedlings is a give-away program run by NJ Forest Service Nursery, etc., in which LTEC has participated before and we received a brochure about it this year. Rich volunteered to pick up the 500 seedlings on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Lake Hiawatha, Morris Co. and Larry volunteered to submit LTEC's application and registration form, which is due by February 25 via email, and to submit a request to the Township (through Diane P.) for use of the parking lot on the following Saturday, April 24, and publicity on the lawn sign. A motion by Rich, seconded by Maureen, for this purpose carried unanimously.

Spring Garden Dedication, which will take place was tabled until the next meeting. Chair will check in with Dan K. to give him a heads up. Dan has acquired more wildflower seeds and has been active in initiating and carrying out this project.

A Birding Event is a possible project for LTEC to organize. It could be held on Zoom as a class on Birdwatching, for example, and presented in partnership with the Audubon Society or interested groups who work with the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery. Rich suggested placing sandwich signs with temporary notices inserted for publicity.

A Surface Aerator is a floating device, mentioned by Doug, for circulating the deep water in a lake or pond up to the surface. As opposed to a bubbler that requires pumping air against water pressure at depth, in this technique a propeller is used instead. Within a submerged tube, it creates a flow of water that cascades out at the surface. Operated by an electric motor on an anchored platform, it requires less energy than a bubbler. This is information we can share with Recreation Commission and with consultants that may be hired by the Township or Lake Association (MLCA&WAG).

Fish Cages that were installed at the lake bottom, may be joined by others like them in the Spring. Chair will ask Shannon S. if she has any information about the plans.

**COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:** None.

**EXPENDITURES:** None other than mentioned above for LTEC Postcard postage.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion carried, the meeting as adjourned at 9:00 p.m.