

# **SYLVAN LAKE JOINT COMMISSION**

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

**August 16, 2023**

**Present:** Anne Politi, Kathy Martin, Mayor Ed Bonanno, Jeff Casner, Greg Matthews, MLFarmer

**Not present:** Sharon Luba, Dennis Luba, Councilman Al Gubitosi, Bev Riley

**Public:** Paul Norwicki

1. The **Minutes** of July 19, 2023 were approved as written.
2. **Avon's Living Shoreline:** Discussion of the municipal meeting held in Avon on August 14, 2023 regarding living shoreline plans to finish/continue the project on Avon's side. It was acknowledged that some of the existing plants have become too high, especially near First Avenue. Avon's Dept. of Public Works has been apprised and will reduce them. It was also discussed that the pathway on the big curve has been overgrown and that it should be restored. Member of the public, Mr. Norwicki, suggested that small signs be placed where there is access to the Lake for the purposes of fishing. It was agreed that this was a good idea. Mayor Bonanno will bring this to the attention of Avon's Public Works to see if a sign in the shape of a fishing pole can be made for each of the Lake entries which are – or will be – on each Avenue. This will also be an access for ice skating.

Mayor Bonanno will also talk to Public Works about a portable 'ramp' that might be placed on one or more of the openings to the Lake. The existing paths become overgrown quickly because they are so seldomly used.

Phragmites were also discussed. They will be dug out during the creation of the second phase of the living shore line after which chemicals may be need to keep them from returning.

3. **Interest from the Public:** Chair Anne Politi spoke with Mr. And Mrs. Paul Norwicki, new residents to Bradley Beach. They are very interested in the Commission and would like to hear what we are doing and how they can contribute. Paul was present at the August meeting. Mr. Norwicki inquired as to why the Minutes of the meetings had stopped being published on Avon's web site. Commission members had not been aware that they had

been being published. Mayor Bonanno will discuss this with Avon's Administrator and ask that the Approved Minutes be posted regularly. Commission Secretary Farmer, will bring this to the attention of Bradley's Administrator for publication on their web site. Greg Matthews, who is also a member of Avon's Environmental Commission, will discuss similar publication at the next meeting of that body.

4. The Avon 9/11 commemorative flag was installed in August in the Avon park on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Sylvan Lake where it will fly until mid-September.
5. Several people have inquired about whether Bradley Beach would be displaying the 9/11 flag. Biagio Cofone, head of the Bradley Beach Department of Public Works has the flag in his possession and will decide if it will be hung in Ocean Avenue Park or in Riley Park before and after 9/11.
6. **Geese problem.** Chair Anne Politi received permission from Bradley DPW head Biagio Cofone to have a test strip on the Bradley grass median with the natural goose repellent "I Must Garden" a totally natural product that will deter geese, but not harm them. The test will be conducted in mid-August.

The following Resolution was passed unanimously by voting members present:

**RESOLVED:** The Sylvan Lake Joint Commission, whose purpose is to provide advisory guidance to the Boroughs of Avon-by-the-Sea and Bradley Beach regarding the ecological health and ongoing maintenance and stability of Sylvan Lake, recommends that each of the municipalities engage ***Galaxy Geese Removal*** for a pilot program of approximately one month, seven days a week, commencing on or about the first week of September for the purpose of removing geese from the Lake and the municipalities' land surrounding the Lake. The monthly cost of \$1000 (One Thousand Dollars) is to be shared equally by the municipalities. Galaxy Geese Removal has stated that dogs, drones, 'boats' will harass, but not harm, geese so that they are encouraged to find new sites. The dogs and equipment will not interfere with herons, egrets or other Lake inhabitants. It is assumed that after Avon creates the development of the Living Shore Line in the fall that the geese will find that severely disruptive and will depart permanently, but Bradley will still need a deterrent.

If the municipalities agree, Avon will notify Residents of the start of the program.

7. Mayor Bonanno will mention at the next Municipal meeting and on Constant Contact that Avon is looking for two Alternative members for the Commission.
8. It was acknowledged that the flowers by the new Lake sign on Main Street in Bradley and the one on the Main Street bridge look great and have not been vandalized. Chair Politi found 'anchors' that make it very difficult to steal the planters. It was proposed that, next year, instead of in-ground plants near the benches on Bradley's median, (which are affected by dogs) that flowers in boxes, with 'anchors' be placed behind the benches. They would require to be watered by Bradley's watering truck. It may be that citizens might want to make a donation to have an inscription be placed on the boxes. Member of the public, Mr. Norwicki, suggested that Bradley residents might be interested in forming a Garden Club for public beautification, similar to Avon's.
9. A homeowner on Lakeside in Avon mentioned to a Commission member that racoons were on the roof of her house and thought that their arrival might be connected to the mass of phragmites. The phragmites are due to be removed but it will be suggested to the homeowner to call Avon's Public Works Department and/or an exterminator. Western Pest Control would be a possibility.

Respectfully submitted,

*ML Farmer*

Mary Louise Farmer, Secretary