

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Attendees:

Name
Bill Roberto
Frank Bianchi
Jason Van Eeuwen
Jeff Wadleigh
John Centrella
Keith Small
Ken Trickilo
Lauren Bianchi
Marty Sweinhart
Tom Grobleski

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 8:03 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at WML Clubhouse.

1. December 2024 Minutes approved.
2. Fishing Club Updates
 - Opening Day is April 5, 2025.
 - The plaques still need to be updated with the winners of the Ray Shanahan contest. This will be done by mid-Feb.
 - Kurt will be spray painting no fishing graphics by the swim lanes in the spring.
 - Mark your calendars for Contests! The contest calendar has been posted in the newsletter.
 - NJ DEP Updates
 - i. Remember to get your NJ License with Trout Stamp.
 - ii. 2025 NJ Freshwater Fishing Digest in stores now and its free.
 - iii. Webinar on the changes found in the 2025 Fishing Digest. [Fish Code Changes Meeting, January 16, 2025](#)
 - iv. Jr Fishing Club: Fishing Club agrees we should participate in Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs Program. [NJDEP | Fish & Wildlife | Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs](#) (I received confirmation that it is OK for us to be a Private Community and participate-no need to open to the public)
 - Largemouth Bass are now considered a different species from Florida bass.
3. Lake Committee January Updates
 - Looking into steps for dredging, getting quotes for bathymetric survey.
 - Dam inspection completed.
 - Goose control methods.

- Concrete Canoe race-end of April.
4. Trout Spring Stocking Event
- Date TBD-dependent on Hatchery schedule, but it will be a weekend, Sunday is preferable.
 - 2 hours, rain or shine. Time TBD, depending on delivery schedule.
 - Coffee, hot cocoa, donut holes will be available.
 - Basket of lures available-Pick a lucky lure for opening day.
 - Info will be posted in the newsletter and on Facebook.
 - Cost to come from Fishing Line Item 521.06. **Approximate total=\$150**

5. **Preliminary 2025 Stocking Schedule**

Fish	Approximate 2025	Budget Line
Rainbow/ Brown Trout (11-12")	100	521.03
Largemouth bass (5-7")	350	521.03
Tiger Trout (11-12")	50	521.03
Fathead minnows	25k spring/ 25k fall	522.17
Walleye (6-7")	100	521.03
Golden Shiners	500	522.17
Common Crayfish	500	522.17

6. Larry O'Rourke Opening Day Fishing Contest-April 5
- Registration from 7-8 at Clubhouse, Contest from 8-11 am, rain or shine
 - 1st and 2nd place for most and biggest of any species.
 - From Boat and from Shore
7. Other topics
- WML Fish History: About 300 Tiger Musky were stocked 30 years ago to handle the stunted perch. Hybrid Stripers are known escape artists and will swim upstream or over the dam to escape.
 - Contest prizes for adults will be embroidered hats, stainless steel mugs with FC logo, shirts, etc.
 - Carp control-explore professional bow-fisherman.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Minutes written by Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: February 27, 2025.

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Name
Frank Bianchi
Jeff Wadleigh
Ken Trickilo
Lauren Bianchi
Marty Sweinhart

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 8:04 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at WML Clubhouse.

1. January 2025 Minutes approved.
2. Fishing Club Updates
 - Inaugural Jr. Fishing Club Meeting held on February 21-5 kids attended. Next meeting will be on **March 23, 2025** to learn how to cast.
 - **March 22, 2025**-Trout Stocking Event **from 8am to 10 am**
 - i. Lake will be closed for all fishing from March 22 to March 26, then closed for TROUT fishing from March 27-April 5.
 - Sponsor updates? Lauren to check status with Mike L and John C.
 - **April 5, 2025**-Opening Day fishing contest **8 am to 10:30 am**
 - The plaques still need to be updated with the winners of the Ray Shanahan contest. Dropped off on Tuesday.
3. Lake Committee February Updates
 - Quote for bathymetric survey passed at Board.
 - Dam inspection completed and sent to NJ DEP.
 - Goose control methods will be implemented.
 - Concrete Canoe race-end of April.
4. Contest prizes update
 - Very expensive, Ken suggested checking Etsy.
 - Jeff W. reminded us that we could also make "in house". Good idea! This would be a huge cost savings.
 - Other ideas-boat key floats
5. Other topics
 - Jeff W. offered to be the official Fishing Club representative at Lake Committee meetings-Thanks Jeff!
 - Question was raised about keeping bathrooms unlocked before Memorial Day. Lauren to check.
 - For **March Meeting**, we need to finalize gamefish quantity. Zetts wants to get us on their schedule for May delivery (order in April).

The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes written by Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: March 27, 2025.

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Attendees:

Name
Frank Bianchi
Jason Van Eeuwen
Jeff Wadleigh
John Centrella
Keith Small
Ken Trickilo
Lauren Bianchi
Marty Sweinhart
Michael Kilgallen

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at WML Clubhouse.

1. February 2025 Minutes approved.
2. Old Business
 - Checking with Security and Maintenance to see if at least 1 bathroom can be opened prior to Memorial Day.
 - FYI-town needs to inspect before open to the public.
3. Fishing Club Updates
 - **March 22, 2025**-Trout Stocking Event **from 8am to 10 am**
 - i. Over 50 people showed up-we are making it a nice tradition!
 - ii. Special thanks to Bill Roberto, Keith Small, and Mike Lynch for helping out.
 - iii. Lake will be closed for all fishing from March 22 to March 26, then closed for TROUT fishing from March 27-April 5.
 - **6 Sponsored Trout this year-21-23"**
 - **THANK YOU!** to those who donated:

Company
Lynch Power
Joanne Machalaba
Illene Horowitz Real Estate
Monti Landscaping
Hilberg Construction
Guscos Landscaping

- Jr. Fishing Club casting class on **March 23** at **1 pm**. Five kids braved the cold.
 - **April 5, 2025**-Opening Day fishing contest **8 am to 10:30 am**
 - Plaques are updated with the names of the winners of the Ray Shanahan contest.
4. Finalized Gamefish quantity by unanimous vote. Zetts wants to get us on their schedule for May delivery (order in April).

Fish	Approximate 2025	Cost	Budget Line
Largemouth bass (5"-7")	200	6.50/ each	521.03
Walleye (6"-7")	50	6.25/ each	521.03
Fathead minnows	25k spring	\$395/ 5000	522.17
Golden Shiners	500	\$75/100	522.17
Channel Catfish (8"-12")	50	\$4.00 each	521.03
Common Crayfish	500	\$60/ 100--\$300 +tax/ shipping	522.17

5. Fishing Updates

- FYI: a 5 year old bass is 18 inches.
- Our lake is too shallow for smallmouth.
- Perch are spawning
- TONS of baby crappy being seen along the shoreline.

6. Lake Committee February Updates

- Alum treatment-getting prices.
- Concrete canoe competition update- at beach 1 on April 27th rain or shine nine school involved spectators are welcome on clubhouse lawn. Working with Steve George of NJIT on logistics
- Boat Bingo-positive feedback!
- PH bathymetric proposal was discussed first step towards dredging. PH is scheduling date-TBD
- Geese control ~ Geese Chasers contracted from May 19th to Sept 7th. On call sunrise to sunset.
- Lake conditions- motion to hire Princeton Hydro to consult for 2025 season passed unanimously. State mandated alum testing to be part of PH's contract.
- Dock approval
- NJ Cola Meeting on Saturday, 3/29 at Lake Mohawk.

7. Contest prizes update

- Adults don't really need/ want new gear like rods, tackle boxes, etc. Save these items for kids.
- Cost of getting logo T-shirts, embroidered hats, etc. is very high.
- Can use a Cricut machine to make logo and apply to various cups, mugs, flags at a fraction of the cost.
- Donation of iron-on Fishing Club logo patches provided. Each member in attendance received one.

8. Other topics

- Look into stocking Eastern Newts
- Call the state and ask where to buy Tiger Musky.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Minutes written by Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: April 24, 2025.

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Attendees:

Name
Frank Bianchi
Keith Small
Ken Trickilo
Lauren Bianchi
Marty Sweinhart

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 8:02 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at WML Clubhouse.

1. March 2025 Minutes approved.
2. Fishing Club Updates
 - Still waiting for Trout Sponsor checks from Lynch Power and Guscus. Need to pay Musky, so we cut the check and WILL continue to chase for reimbursement.
 - Needed to revise quantities of Gamefish and Baitfish stocking due to inventory issues:

Qty	Species	Cost each	Total	Budget Line	Original request
100	Bass (9"-10")	\$10	\$1,000	521.03	200 (5"-7")
50	Walleye (6"-7")	\$6.25	\$312.50	521.03	no change
25,000	Fatheads	\$0.08	\$1,975	522.17	no change
500	Golden Shiners	\$0.75	\$375	522.17	no change
50	Channel Catfish	\$4.00	\$200.00	521.03	no change
	Delivery		\$250.00	521.03	
	Sales Tax		\$272.45	522.17	
			\$4,385		

- Revised quantities and species was approved by the Board.
 - Need volunteers to stock baitfish and gamefish on either May 17, 24, or 31. Zetts to confirm at a later date.
 - Cub scouts reached out and asked if Fishing Club would teach 30 kids from grades K-5 how to fish. **Saturday, May 10 from 11-12 on the Clubhouse Lawn.** Any volunteers?
 - **April 5, 2025**-Opening Day fishing contest-had 30 people registered for boat and land.
 - i. 12" rainbow trout caught by Jason Van Eeuwen from a boat
 - ii. 14-pound mirror carp caught by Tom Grobleski from shore.
 - iii. Ken Trickilo caught a pickerel,
 - iv. Kurt Eisenger caught a few crappy (one of them was massive).
 - v. I caught my first bass of the season.
3. Lake Committee February Updates
 - Concrete canoe competition update- at beach 1 on April 27th rain or shine nine school involved spectators are welcome on clubhouse lawn. 10 AM.
 - Princeton Hydro conducted the bathymetric survey.

4. Contest prizes update

- FYI: spent \$152.52 from line 521.06 on:
 - i. Fishing lures (free to residents when we have events)
 - ii. 2 rod/ reel combos (kids)
 - iii. 8 stainless steel travel mugs, permanent vinyl, and transfer tape (for adults)

5. Other topics

- none

The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:22p.m.

Minutes written by Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: May 29, 2025.

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Attendees:

Name
Benjamin Peretto
Frank Bianchi
Jeff Wadleigh
John D
Keith Small
Ken Trickilo
Lauren Bianchi
Michael Lynch
Sal Mandragona

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at the WML Clubhouse.

1. July 2025 Minutes approved.
2. Old Business
 - Lake passed our cash tournament letter to Legal Counsel. Waiting for an update.
 - Guscos paid for their trophy trout about 2 months ago-Thanks to Suzie for chasing them.
3. Fishing Club Updates and information
 - August Board Meeting Fishing Club Budget was presented (no change from last year). Please come to the Budget Meeting on September 10 to support.
 - Purchased in July: Customized Banner, Tablecloth, Filter, Filter cartridges, Power Cord, Fishing Poles for kids prizes (4)
 - NJDEP: proposed changes are coming for 2026. An AI generated summary is included at the end of the minutes. The full proposal can be found at the following link: [proposal-20250818a.pdf](#)
 - Next Fishing Clinic with Cub Scouts will be Sept. 20, tentatively 11am-12 pm. Lanyards will be provided to volunteers.
4. Lake Committee August Updates
 - Getting info on possibly lowering the lake for residents to do repairs. If we lower the lake substantially, many fish will die. DEP would require a "fish harvest" to preserve the fish, but no where to put them. More info to follow at next Lake Meeting on Sept 4.
5. Fall Stocking Finalized quantities
 - We should avoid putting anything smaller than 6"-7". A size smaller than this is essentially food. Discussion about different species, as well as pros and cons. Preference is for larger-sized fish. All fish will continue to be dispersed in the lake by volunteers on boats. Approximate quantities, costs, and budget line on next page...

2025-Fall	Approximate Qty	QTY	Ext. price	Budget Line
Golden Shiners	200	\$150	\$150	522.17
Fathead Minnows	25K	\$1,975	\$1,975	522.17
Hybrid striped bass	10 fish: 8"-10"	\$7.25 ea	\$72.50	521.03
Walleye	50 fish- Yearlings	\$12 ea	\$600	521.03
Trout-Rainbow	10: Large Rainbows	\$90 ea	\$900	521.03

6. Fish Study or Fishing Club Creel Project?

- **Fish Study:**

- Concerns with selecting species and quantities using data that is 17 years old.
- Some people claim fishing has never been better, others claim it is not as good as it used to be.
- Called NJ Fish & Game and spoke to someone in Freshwater Fisheries. They support both Creel Report and Survey, however, mortality rate for survey is less than 5%. Usually mortality rate using Seine nets, Traps, and electroshocking is closer to 1 % if done during the cooler months. Mortality for gill netting is 50-75% so we absolutely DO NOT WANT TO USE GILL NETS.
- Creel Report is helpful to see what is actually being caught, but won't tell you the overall health of the fishery-people aren't catching fingerlings.
- Cost is \$12,000.

- **Fishing Club Creel Project**

- Concern: not enough participants and can't control the data collection. Not enough info.
- Current Creel Survey on QR code asks too many questions. Survey will be revised to have one question-what did you catch? Uploading a photo is optional.
- Controlled data collection has 0 mortality rate and it can be a good representation of the health of the fishery. Must be same time of day, using the same lure.
- Cost effective

VOTE results: Fishing Club voted unanimously to NO FISH STUDY at this time. Fishing Logbooks may be purchased for all active Fishing Club Members to participate in this effort. Data needs to be collected: date, time, weather, temperature, species, size, method. Free online apps are also available.

7. Upcoming Events

September 20: Cub Scout Fishing Clinic, time TBD. Volunteers needed.

Date	Type	Name	Species
21-Sep	Adult + Kid	Ray Shanahan Bass Contest	Bass

8. Other Topics

- NONE

The meeting was officially adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Minutes written by Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: September 25, 2025

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Attendees:

Name
Frank Bianchi
Jason Van Eeuwen
Jeff Wadleigh
John D
Keith Small
Ken Trickilo
Lauren Bianchi
Marty Sweinhart
Tom Grobleski

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 8:02p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at the WML Clubhouse.

1. October 2025 Minutes approved.
2. Old Business
 - Lake passed our cash tournament letter to Legal Counsel. We will follow up.
3. Fishing Club Updates and information
 - Our budget passed-thank you to those who came and voted:
 1. 521.03-Gamefish Stocking-\$7,000
 2. 521.06-Fishing Club-increased to \$1,400
 3. 522.17-Lake Management-\$15,000
 - Fishing Clinic with Cub Scouts in September was cancelled in September (sports).
 - Updated Creel Survey on QR code to have one question-what did you catch? Uploading a photo is optional.
 - Ray Shanahan contest: The winner for the adult category of the longest fish was Sebastian Gallo with an 18" largemouth bass. There were no winners in the adult category for most bass. There were no bass caught in the child category for both longest and most.

Several other species were caught during the contest including: a catfish, carp, and bluegill.

Sebastian will have his name engraved on the Ray Shanahan plaque in the Trophy Room.

- Reminder: T-shirt survey for active Fishing Club Members.
 - Fall Stocking
 - Permit was received. Stocking will happen on November 2 between 10 and 10:30 am. We will see if Zetts can use the boat ramp by Beach 2 since the clubhouse ramp will be crowded due to boat removal.
 - Walleye are not accessible in Zetts pond. It is 30 ft deep and he only has 18 foot nets. He does not want to drain the water due to the drought. No credits because it messes with his books. Don't want to revise the check due to timing. Walleye budget (\$600) to be divided into shiners, fatheads, and hybrids.
- Musky never replied back about the trout-despite emailing several times. Another company (Mid-Atlantic stocking) does not have the size we need. Zetts is not certified for trout in NJ. We will try again next year.
4. Lake Committee August and Sept Updates provided.

5. Other Topics

- How to make us a “real” club? Maybe some trips together and the gathering on the lawn. Next year, we will try and schedule some fishing in Lake Hopatcong for FC members.
- Some members comment that fishing is slow this year. Some reasons could be: fishing pressure, weather, chemicals added to the lake, too many baitfish, method.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes written by Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: November 20, 2025

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Attendees:

Name
Benjamin Peretto
Frank Bianchi
Jeff Wadleigh
Keith Small
Lauren Bianchi
Marty Sweinhart

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 8:00p.m. in person in the Teen Room at the WML Clubhouse.

1. October 2025 Minutes approved.
2. Old Business: Waiting for a response: Lake passed our cash tournament letter to Legal Counsel.
3. Fishing Club Updates and information
 - Reminder: T-shirt survey for active Fishing Club Members. Shirts will be given at December meeting.
 - Fall Stocking
 - Stocked at Beach 2! We were surprised with Walleye-Zetts was able to get them. Thanks to all who helped. Musky replied back the day before my trip to let us know he had trout and they could be stocked. There was a misunderstanding, but in the end, we stocked 9 trout (mostly Browns) 19"-23". This was discussed and approved at a prior FC meeting, but the quote was not received. Thanks to Keith for managing the stocking. This will be an FYI to the Board and Lake (total cost \$897.78).

2025-Fall	Approximate Qty
Golden Shiners	200
Fathead Minnows	25K
Hybrid striped bass	10 fish: 7"-8"
Walleye	96 fish- 6"-7"
Trout-Rainbow	10: Large Rainbows

- We received an unsolicited comment that the baitfish are doing well. They resident thought we stocked them because of the huge numbers of baitfish in the creek by Beach 2. We had actually stocked the following week. The past 2 years of dispersing the baitfish around the perimeter of the lake seem to be allowing for them to reproduce.
4. Lake Committee November Updates provided.
5. Other Topics
 - We like the teen room for our meetings-will ask Suzie if we can permanently change the location.
 - Beginning in January, we may need to change the date and time of meetings.
 - We will finalize the 2026 contest calendar in December.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes written by Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: December 18, 2025