

**Workshop April 18, 2019**

**Discussion: Land Use Regulations and Importance of Protection of Plants, Tress and other native vegetation on banks of Deal Lake with Shade Tree Commissions.**

The DLC has acknowledged that many residents and some local officials are not aware of the Land Use Regulations that are written to protect the lake, water quality, wildlife and to prevent flooding.

During the workshop, Engineering consultant Peter Avakian provided information regarding the impact that clearing, cutting or removal of riparian vegetation adjacent to lake surface waters has on bank stability and water quality. Dr. Steven Souza also discussed the impact that clearing of vegetation can along lake can have on animal life, as the lake banks provide habitat for many types of animals.

From The NJ Dept of Land Use web site:

“ Disturbance of this vegetation can destabilize the banks of waterways, leading to increased erosion and sedimentation that increases the intensity and frequency of flooding. The loss of vegetation near waterways also reduces filtration of stormwater runoff and subjects surface waters to increased sun exposure. This causes water temperatures to rise and the amount of oxygen in the water to decrease. Such impacts threaten the health and habitat of fish and wildlife, disrupting the ecological balance that is necessary for life. Humans are ultimately affected by this imbalance, since clean water is essential for all life.” (

The banks of Deal Lake are regulated and protected by the Dept of Land Use.

Typically any land 50 feet above the lake shore line falls under the Permit –by- Rule regulations. 7:13

## 7:13-7.1 Permit by Rule Normal Property Maintenance

### a) Permit by rule1

Authorizes clearing, cutting, and or removal of riparian zone vegetation which is necessary to service, maintain or ensure the safe use of lawfully existing structure, easement , right of way field, lawn ,park, and or garden. Normal property maintenance includes:

- 1) Pruning
- 2) Selective tree cutting, such as removing dead, fallen or unsafe tree
- 3) Planting native , non invasive plant species
- 4) Removing trash, debris and dead vegetation by hand

b) This permit –by-rule does not authorize the following activities:

- 1) Burning or applying herbicide to riparian zone vegetation
- 2) Grading and other changes to topography
- 3) Construction of structures, or placement of fill or impervious surfaces; and
- 4) Removal of riparian zone vegetation not listed (a) above such as removal of vegetation to accommodate an on-going regulated activity or to create new open landscaped areas.

Discussion following Information Session:

Two questions were areas of discussion:

- 1) Why these regulations are important to lake stability

2) What the DLC and the Shade Tree Commissions can do to help bring about awareness to the public and to public officials that would help to deter the cutting of vegetation and trees along the lake bank in order to preserve wild life, bank stability, and improve water quality?

Suggestions to improve education of the public and officials

The group with input from the community decided that education of the public and officials is key.

Some suggestions made:

Post info on the DLC web site, email server,

Send notices to the local newspaper,

DLC can send letters to municipalities (code enforcement officials) re: land Use Regulations and suggestions.

Shade Tree Commissioners can reinforce this to members and officials on a local level

The public can be involved by reporting when they see regulation violations along the lake. Contact the NJ Division of Land Use for Monmouth County.

NJ Dept of Land Use

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The DLC and the Shade Tree Commissioners will make  
an effort to work together on this issue.