



From the Board Room

November 2025 Meeting Notes



Here are highlights from the November 10, 2025, Board meeting.

Extended Colony Preschool Camp

The board authorized preschool camp expansion for the Summer of 2026. The program will move from the current three (3) weeks at three (3) hours per day to four (4) weeks at three and a half (3.5) hours per day. This decision was made in response to parent request. The 2025 expansion was overwhelmingly popular, and we expect this year's change to be no less. Our staff is in the process of calculating the 2026 fee structure. But there will be a proportionate increase based on increased operating cost.

Property Committee Updates

The Property Committee provided an update on its activities, including the following.

- Phase I of the Vaughan Parking Lot expansion is complete. Phase II of the project (tree replacement and final excavation) will continue in 2026.
- The Brooks Field Hard Surface Restoration project continues its slow journey through the regulatory approval process, but remains active.
- The Committee is moving forward with drainage and waterproofing work at Demby and also restorative work at Area 2.

Lake Projects

The Lakes Committee reported that:

- The Algonquin Pond Spillway project is complete with water levels restored using the Ballinger Lake pumping system.
- Water levels in the upper lakes on the town's west side (feeding the Beach 3 lake – Mishe-Mokwa) continue to be a concern. They are below “even” levels with some

levels falling. The Committee presented water-shed and water table information and diagrams to help explain this condition. Flow in the Aetna system continues to be strong.

- We are experimenting raising water levels in the Sioux-Migazee-Wabassi system by using the Ballinger pumping infrastructure.

In related lake matters: The Board authorized the application process for a lowering in the Aetna system for the 2026 Spring season (early March). Action is, of course, subject to the regulatory approval process and site conditions.

The Board heard additional comment on proposed revisions to the lake lowering policy, with most new discussion about the preferred lowering season – Fall or Spring. The Board will receive the recommendation of the Lakes Committee on this matter in December and vote on the final policy document.

Additional explanatory information on the policy revision is forthcoming.

Dues Collection Schedule - 2026

Colony dues for 2026 will be unchanged from the current year. They are:

	Regular	65+
Lakes Restoration	\$ 145	\$ 145
Capital Expenditures	110	110
General Operations	470	370
Total	\$ 725	\$ 625

Dues are as of January 1, 2026, and are due on January 31. Members who have paid in full by the due date will be recognized on the “Honor Roll” – a return to past practice.

A penalty fee of 1% will be added on unpaid balances beginning on June 1st.

Regular members whose “65 – or over” status is changing should advise the office.

Volunteer Spotlight – Mary Ann Meehan

Everyone has a “How I got to Medford Lakes” story. But Mary Ann Meehan – a 45-year Laker – has one truly worth the retelling.

As newlyweds, Mary Ann and Jim were looking for a place to live. “A girlfriend told me that Medford Lakes was interesting,” she recalls, “and we planned a quick trip to check things out.” During their drive around town, they saw an interesting house with a For Sale sign, and immediately went to the listing realtor. Pooling what they had between them, the two came up with \$50 in cash and made a deposit.

That transaction began a 45-year journey through several homes in town including ones on Algonquin Trail and Hiawatha Trail before she and Jim settled at their current residence on Wyandot, where the couple has lived for 26 years. “Our needs changed over time,” she says. “But one thing was certain. We weren’t leaving Medford Lakes.”

Mary Ann was born and raised in Hammonton, and she kept a connection with that town most of her life. After graduating from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), she returned to the Hammonton School District to teach High School English. She later earned a Master’s Degree from Rowan. In addition to her class load, she directed the school plays. Mary Ann spent her entire teaching career at Hammonton. In addition, she was a member of the adjunct faculty at Burlington Community College for ten years.

Always busy and engaged, Mary Ann was a perfect fit for a term on the Colony Board when she retired from teaching, and she was recruited for an open position in 2014. At the time, there was an interest in developing social opportunities for adults, a programming niche that had declined, and the task came Mary Ann’s way.

After several years as a Board Director, she was tapped to be Vice President of Social Activities. She threw herself into the role and was instrumental in adding Book Club (which she leads), Mahjong, and Pinochle Club. Our active adult social program also includes Sewing Circle and Exercise Class.

She was resolved to keep as many programs active as she could during the COVID pandemic. Mary Ann remembers, “We had exercise classes in the Craft

Pavillion in the winter with space heaters running full blast. But I was determined to keep things going.”

In 2023, Mary Ann served a year as Board President, and oversaw a re-structuring of Colony finances. “We hadn’t increased dues for 15 years, the facilities were deteriorating with no funds for repair, and the General Fund was operating at a deficit. It was not a good year to be the President.”

But as with all things, Mary Ann threw herself at the task, going to as many organization meetings around the Colony as would listen to her, explaining the situation, and earning support. The year ended with a once unthinkable \$200 dues increase with more than 2 to 1 membership vote majority.

The increase restored solvency, significantly improved the lake-cleaning program, and created a long-term capital expenditures fund that currently accounts for all the property

improvements you see around the Colony.

After her sequence of “going through the chairs” on the Board ended, she was deemed to be too valuable an asset to lose. She was asked to continue as social chairman and membership committee member, where she continues to serve.

And as Mary Ann makes her way around the Colony on various errands, you will usually see husband Jim not far behind – almost always carrying something necessary to the task at hand. Of her husband of 45 years, she sums things up in a few words. “He’s a saint.”

With the Colony’s *Medford Lakes Stage* program came Mary Ann’s renewed interest in theatre performance and she became active with roles in each of the group’s five productions to date. And yes, Jim – now a retired defense contractor from Lockheed Martin – has been in every production with her.

Mary Ann has two daughters, Amanda and Maureen (proud Bronze Shield recipients). She takes great pride that both have chosen to follow her career path as public school teachers. She enjoys spending time with their families (including grandchildren!), who live close by.

Although she plans to continue Colony service as long as she is able, We thank her for all she’s done – and for all she has planned for us in the years to come.

