YOUR GOALS. OUR MISSION.

Memorandum

To: **Mayor and Borough Council**

From: **Kris Krzyston**
Edward Herrman

Date: **December 15, 2025**

Re: **Spring Lake Heights Kayak Launch**
Regulatory Review
Statement of Findings / Options

Executive Summary

As detailed in the following narrative, T&M Associates conducted a field study, reviewed all available correspondence, and evaluated several options to address the ongoing concerns regarding the kayak launch. Based on the factors outlined below, we recommend that the kayak launch be removed from the lake at this time to avoid potential regulatory violations, public opposition, and additional costs associated with securing a Tidelands License and Army Corps of Engineers permits.

In discussions with Borough representatives, we noted that there may be an opportunity to incorporate the kayak launch into a broader shoreline enhancement initiative—such as phragmites eradication and native replanting—at a later date. This approach would allow for public participation as stakeholders in the process and ensure the project is integrated into a more comprehensive environmental improvement effort.

Please see the following narrative for further detail.

Analysis Overview

Based on our review of available documents, we offer the following summary:

- Within the NJDEP Permit Language, the Borough was/is responsible to obtain a Tidelands Instrument from the NJDEP – this appears to be an open item.

- Within the NJDEP Permit Language, the Borough was/is responsible to obtain an Army Corps of Engineers Permit – this appears to be an open item.

- The kayak launch that was constructed deviates in size from what was approved. This will require legalization in order to be compliant and to avoid a violation.

- Based on our review of email correspondence between the NJDEP and Charles Stewart, the location of the launch was revised on August 30, 2024, to avoid wetland vegetation and eliminate the need for a ramp over the wetlands. The updated plan was submitted to the DEP on September 3, 2024. It appears that the DEP did not require a revised 200-foot property owner notification, as the permit was issued on September 5, 2024, and no request for updated notice was made by the State.

The original property owner notification included the initial proposed location, and the consultant attached that version of the plan to the notice. **This discrepancy appears to be the primary issue, as the public was shown the original location, while the launch was ultimately constructed at the current site.**

Alternative Options:

- There are three other locations within the area of the current launch that are void of vegetation and the launch could be moved to one of these areas. That will require a major permit modification, new plans and is closer to the homes along Shore Road.

- The Borough can submit for an NJDEP and ACOE Individual Permit and propose mitigation for the impacts. This will be a large expense to the Borough and is subject to the NJDEP's and ACOE's review and approval of an alternatives analysis and statement of purpose and need. Both agencies may not agree with the proposal and reserve the right to deny the applications.

- Create a designated parking area in a safe zone further away from the residences and possibly screen the ramp from the public. We anticipate this option will not be acceptable as it will block the viewshed of the adjacent homeowners.

- Remove the launch from the lake.

Conclusion

As previously noted, we recommend the prompt removal of the structure to avoid potential DEP violations, address public concerns, and prevent additional costs to the Borough—both for outstanding permits and for future permitting expenses should the structure be relocated.

When the Borough wishes to commence with a larger shoreline / lake restoration project, we can assist with the relocation of the kayak launch at that time.