

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

I. Opening of Meeting/Open Public Meeting Statement

- a. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, The Lake Hopatcong Commission has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof delivered or mailed or electronically mailed to the following:

DAILY RECORD and posted on the Lake Hopatcong Commission website (lakehopatcong.org)

II. Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence

III. Roll Call

Present: Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Joel Servoss, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Mark Crowley, David Jarvis

Alternates Present: Eric Wilsusen, Aitor Ostolaza

With ten members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Minutes of Meetings

Commissioner Fisch requests a change to the April 2018 meeting minutes. He states that he was not at the April 2018 meeting, and his name should be removed from the minutes. Commissioner Fisch moves to approve the minutes, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Fisch	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Servoss	Abstain	Smith	Yes

The motion passes 9-0-1 with one abstention.

V. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Fisch gives the Treasurer's Report. He states that the balance in the bank account is \$21,608.44. The list of bills totaling, \$7,627.06 was submitted for approval. Colleen Conover states that with the current list of bills included, the Commission has reached the NJDEP required expenditures of \$50,000 and can now request their second disbursement of funding. The second disbursement is for \$40,000. Chair Smith states that this should be processed as soon as possible. Commissioner Steinbaum moves to approve the Treasurer's report and list of bills,

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 11th, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion once the appropriate receipts have been provided.

Roll Call:

Fisch	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Servoss	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Correspondence

Colleen Conover states that Roxbury sent a request for a donation to their Memorial Day Parade and the Commission has received Land Use Applications from Hopatcong. Commissioner Tessier asks if the Commission is receiving applications from each of the towns now. Ms. Conover states that the Commission is only receiving applications from Hopatcong, but that she has requested application packets from each of the four townships. Each township has indicated that they do not want to request an additional application packet from the applicant's due to the cost of each packet. She states that in order for the Commission to receive all of the applications, Ms. Conover will call each of the Townships 10 days prior to their Land Use/Planning Board meetings to find out if there are any new applications. If there are new applications within the watershed, Ms. Conover will go to the township to review the application. The applications would be categorized by the Commission based on their impact on the lake. She states that this would be based on whether or not they are in the watershed, and then by the level of impact. Mr. Tessier comments that the level of impact would be determined by the amount of impervious coverage proposed, increases in stormwater runoff, changes to septic systems, land disturbances, or changes to docks and shoreline. Commissioner Pravs expresses concern about expanding the Commission's requests for applications from within 300 feet of the lake to anything within the watershed. Ms. Conover states that the Township won't have any new requirements, but the Commission will call the Townships and ask if there are any new applications for upcoming meetings. She states that if the Commission waits for the application to be sent to the State Park, they won't receive the applications in time. The Commission needs to be proactive in contacting the Townships to find out if there are any new applications. She states that once they have each of the applications, the Commission can decide whether it is close enough to the lake to have an impact. Chair Smith states that the Commission will try contacting each of the townships and will see how it works. Regarding the letter from Roxbury, Chair Smith asks

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, June 11th, 2018

Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

whether the Commission has donated to any events in the past. Commissioner Pravs and McCarthy state that they have not. Chair Smith states that the Commission will act as they have in the past and will not donate to the parade. Chair Smith states that the Commission received a letter from the NJDEP which appoints Melissa Castellon as the Alternate Commissioner to Joshua Osowski.

Chair Smith introduces the watershed implementation plan (WIP) contract. Colleen Conover states that the Commission voted to sign the contract at their last meeting and it was signed and sent to the Highlands Council and Princeton Hydro. She states that Dr. Lubnow, informed her that Princeton Hydro is in the planning stages of the WIP. Chair Smith asks about the proposal from Benecke Economics for a special improvement district. Commissioner Tessier states that the Commission received an updated proposal from Mr. Benecke. Commissioner Steinbaum gives some background on the proposal, which will create a special improvement district to generate funding for the Commission going forward. Commissioner McCarthy expresses concern about whether the Commission is allowed to collect boat user fees, because in the past the Commission was told that only the State can collect fees. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the Benecke Economics proposal, with the stipulation that they not exceed \$9,600. Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion. Chair Smith asks for any comments or questions. Commissioner McCarthy states that he understands how important it is to have money, however he believes that there could be controversy if the Commission proposes an additional fee on the lake. Chair Smith states that Mr. Benecke will only be researching additional options for funding, and that the Commission would still have to approve any fees before they were implemented. Commissioner McCarthy states that he understands, but asks that Mr. Benecke’s report explain the statutory, constitutional, or regulatory agencies that would permit the Commission to collect fees on the lake. He states that when he was on the supplemental funding committee, he was told by representatives of the NJDEP that it is unlawful and prohibitive for anyone other than the State to impose fees related to the use of Lake Hopatcong. He states that he would like to have the proposal amended to show the statutory, constitutional, or regulatory agency that would allow any fee structure.

Roll Call:

Fisch	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Abstain	Wilsusen	Yes
Servoss	Yes	Smith	Yes

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 11th, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

The motion passes 9-0-1 with one abstention.

VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Chair Smith introduces Marty Kane of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. Mr. Kane states that the Lake Hopatcong Foundation Block Party was a success despite the weather. There were more than 1700 people in attendance, 200 volunteers, and 400 vendors at 180 booths. He states that they received positive responses from the vendors and merchants said they are interested in returning next year. Mr. Kane states that the floating classroom was in the water for the event and their first class is one week away. This year the Foundation will host the four schools surrounding Lake Hopatcong plus Netcong. He states that the Landing Train Station is still under construction. The sidewalks, ceilings and lights are in, but they are still waiting on doors and part of the floors. They hope to be open this summer. He states that the Foundation's native plant sale did well and the Carp proposal is moving forward. The next step is to talk to the Deputy Commissioner and then present a final proposal to NJDEP. Mr. Kane states that they briefed Lake Musconetcong on the Carp Plan. He states that the boat regulation committee which normally meets in South Jersey will be meeting at Lake Hopatcong on July 11th at 10am. The two main issues that they will be discussing are wake surfing boats and the wake they produce, and the section of the boat regulations that refers directly to Lake Hopatcong. Mr. Kane states that the rules that govern Lake Hopatcong are actually less restrictive than the rest of the State. He states that what the Foundation would like to do is form a committee to determine if the Lake Hopatcong rules should remain, or if they should be removed. Commissioner Pravs states that last year State Troopers attended a LHC meeting to discuss boating rules and there was standing room only at the meeting. Commissioner McCarthy, Servoss, and Steinbaum request copies of the current rules from Mr. Kane. Commissioner asks how the BRC meeting is being publicized, Mr. Kane states that the LHF will be advertising the meeting and Ms. Conover will post it on the LHC website. There is a general discussion of the BRC.

Commissioner McCarthy asks Mr. Kane what happened to the data from the hydroraking pilot done last year and if the pilot will continue this year. Mr. Kane states that the Foundation is waiting for a report from Princeton Hydro and that Princeton Hydro will be surveying the area for other studies anyway and should look at the impact of hydroraking as well. The Foundation will forward the report to the Commission when they receive it.

VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates

Princeton Hydro was not present at the meeting and no updates were presented.

IX. Commissioner's Comments

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 11th, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

Commissioner Pravs comments that Colleen Conover did a wonderful job preparing for the Foundation Block Party Booth. She states that there were several handouts including harmful algal blooms, proper use of ice retardant systems, phosphorus in the lake, meeting schedules, and Lake Hopatcong stickers. Ms. Conover also thanks the State Park personnel and weed harvest operators including Michael Calderio for getting the harvesters in the water early this year. The harvesters provided a great backdrop to the Commission booth.

Commissioner Servoss comments that the letter from the Hopatcong Land Use Board states that if your planning application is within 300 feet of Lake Hopatcong shoreline, you need to send a copy of your zoning permit and the plans to the Lake Hopatcong Commission. He states that the applications that the Commission has been receiving do not include the plans, and provide very little information. Commissioner Tessier states that he spent some time going over the land use applications, but also saw all of the other responsibilities Ms. Conover has. He states that as the Commission requires her support, he hopes that next year's budget will include additional hours for her.

X. Comments from the Audience *(on agenda items only, if applicable)*
No comments from the audience.

Earl Riley – Chairman of the LMRPB states that the Lake Hopatcong Foundation did not present to the LMRPB, they presented to the Lake Musconetcong Community Association. He states that the Community Association has no authority over the maintenance of Lake Musconetcong. The only organization with authority, other than State Parks, is the LMRPB. Mr. Kane states that the group they spoke to puts a lot of chemicals into the lake and so they were happy to speak to them about the carp.

Kathy Hegarty of Crescent Cove asks if there will be hydroraking done this year in Crescent Cove, since it was done in Landing last year. Mr. Kane states that the Foundation did hydroraking in Landing last year, but there are no plans for Crescent Cove. He states that Crescent Cove would not be a good candidate because hydroraking works best in areas without rocks. He states that Crescent Cove would be a good location to do a sterile grass carp pilot, which still requires State approval. The Foundation is working with the State to try to gain approval for sterile grass carp in Lake Hopatcong. There is a general discussion of the grass carp proposal. Mrs. Hegarty states that the weeds in Crescent Cove are to the top of the water and they cannot wait two more years. Commissioner McCarthy states that over the past few years the harvesters have not been in the lake early. This year the harvesters are already in the water and the Commission will be trying to get additional equipment onto the water as funding permits.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 11th, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

Earl Riley states that Lake Musconetcong had a grant for \$360,000 last year and they bought equipment to do hydroraking. He states that he was informed today that they will not be allowed to do hydroraking on Lake Musconetcong until August 1st because Fish and Wildlife does not want to disturb Blue Gill spawning. He states that he believes that if Lake Musconetcong is not allowed to conduct hydroraking, then Lake Hopatcong would not be allowed to either. He states the he has \$500,000 worth of equipment that they cannot use.

Al Riha of Cresnet Cove presents some photos of the cove where homeowners have picked up mounds of weeds and placed them on their docks because the harvesters cannot collect everything. He states that they have no place to put the weeds. He states that Hopatcong landfill refuses to accept any weeds, the garbage collection will not accept them either. He asks if there can be a container placed at the landfill. Chair Smith asks Ms. Conover to check if Tomco will accept the weeds. Commissioner Steinbaum comments that he has had similar problems disposing of boards floating in the lake that originate from dilapidated docks. He states that he has tried to bring the material to the Hopatcong recycling facility, but has been turned away because it is not in their contract. Mr. Riha states that he has been able to dispose of floating lumber at the Hopatcong recycling center. He adds that the boards are dangerous for kids who swim at the beaches in Crescent Cove and there has to be a way to dispose of the boards.

XI. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith states he was impressed with the Foundation's Block Party on Saturday and the materials that were produced for the Commission. He states that it was his first block party and it there was a great turnout.

XII. Updates

State Park Weed Harvesting Update

Hopatcong State Park Superintendent, Melissa Castellon gives the weed harvesting update. She states that the harvesters got out on the water today. There are five seasonal harvester operators, two permanent operators, and two seasonal dump truck operators. The employees started training today and training will run for about two weeks. She states that there is one large harvester and one small harvester at the State Park, one large harvester, one shore conveyor, one barge, and two dump trucks at Lee's County Park/Crescent Cove, and two large harvesters at Ashley Cove/Woodport. The general phases for the weed harvesting program are listed on the State Park website, and Lake Hopatcong Commission website (lakehopatcongcommission.org). Mr. Riha asks why the DEP doesn't use the fire lane in Crescent Cove. He states that they go all the way across the lake instead of using the fire lane. Melissa Castellon states that it may have to do with the weight restrictions on the road. Mr. Kane states that most fire lanes in the

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, June 11th, 2018

Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

Borough of Hopatcong are now privately owned and have been sold by the Borough. Ms. Castellon will look into the fire lanes as an option. She states that harvested weeds will be disposed of at Tilcon for the season, and water is still over the dam. She states that they have started receiving fuel deliveries and they will continue every two weeks for the season. The first phase of weed harvesting will run May 14 – June 15th on Friday's the experienced harvesters will focus on clean-up of floaters. She states that she knows that this is a concern in the coves. She states that the schedule is subject to weather conditions and weed conditions across the lake. There are three new operators that are learning and the rest are returning staff and they are told not to get too close to docks to avoid damage. She states that she receives calls asking why harvesters are not cutting along the docks and the answer is that they are trying to avoid damage to the harvesters. Commissioner Steinbaum asks Ms. Castellon if funding were available, could there be one or two dumpsters at the State Park where homeowners could bring weeds only. Ms. Castellon and Chair Smith state that if the dumpster is not policed, there will be other items placed in the dumpster. Commissioner Stevens states that they could have a dumpster like Lee's Park for recycling shrink wrap, but instead it would be for weeds. Ms. Castellon states that she is willing to talk about it, but is concerned about other items ending up in the dumpster. There is a general discussion of how to dispose of weeds picked up by residents around the lake. Commissioner McCarthy asks Ms. Castellon for updates on the "lake-wide" permit for outfall clean-up during the 5-year drawdown. She states that she does not have any updates, and she is also looking into the USGS recalibration from the Fall. There is a general discussion of the outfall cleanup.

NJDEP

Commissioner Osowski states that the State Park Service no longer has funding for weed harvesting operations beginning July 1st, 2018. He states that the NJDEP put together a draft budget of the actual costs of the harvesting program (he provides a handout). The handout details the FY18 budget and the proposed LHC FY19 budget. He states that the full-time salaries equate to \$100,000, fringe benefits associated with full-time employees equal to 53% or \$53,000 and indirect benefits equal 21% or \$32,300. He states that the total full-time salaries are \$185,500. The part-time hourly costs and over-time equal \$120,000 with fringe of \$9,180. The total for personnel costs for a year are \$314,734. He states that in addition to that they estimate \$100,000 to maintain the equipment, \$15,000 for weed disposal for next year, and \$2,000 in miscellaneous maintenance. He states that the total budget of those costs is \$414,734. Chair Smith asks what the estimate is for the second small harvester on the lake and if he can get a number. Commissioner Osowski states that the numbers provided only include the operation of the same equipment as last year. He states that he will get a number for the small harvester repairs and operation of the harvester for the year. Earl Riley states that the small harvester

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, June 11th, 2018

Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

used on Lake Musconetcong would only need about \$5,000 in repairs. Chair Smith and Commissioner McCarthy state that the harvester was beat up. Commissioner Steinbaum asks Commissioner Osowski why the budget is so much more than it was last year. Commissioner Osowski states that the NJDEP accountants found that they had been taking on many of the costs associated with the fringe and indirect benefits which total \$85,000. Commissioner Osowski states that the Commission needs to vote on the budget for the whole year or the DEP will have to determine what they will do with those employees. He states that the DEP will continue to pay for the program through June 30th of this year after that they have no funding for this program. Commissioner McCarthy requests previous years budgets down to the penny. Commissioner Osowski states that it has already been provided, but can be sent again. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the budgets that were sent previously did not include fringe benefits. Commissioner Osowski states that the Commission can decide not to maintain the equipment to the level that the DEP has maintained it, they could have fewer harvesters and less employees. There is a general discussion of the increase in cost between FY 2018 and FY 2019.

Ice retardant System & Dilapidated Docks

Commissioner McCarthy updates the Commission on progress of the Ice Retardant System Committee. He states that the committee met with the Borough of Hopatcong, including the mayor, zoning, and construction officials. He states that the objective of the meeting was to explain why ice retardant systems are a concern and how to approach their use in the future. The next step includes public education and possibly sending out the Commission flyers with the township tax bills. Commissioner Steinbaum states that sometime in the future after public education it might be possible to register each of the devices so that compliance would be easier. There is a general discussion of ice retardant systems on the lake. Chair Smith requests an estimate from Commissioner Osowski to get the second small harvester up and running. Commissioner Steinbaum gives a brief presentation on dilapidated docks around the lake. He states that wood that is not secured or is loosely attached to dilapidated docks around the lake becomes detached during the winter months and after spring refill. He states that this is dangerous to boaters and recreational users. The presentation will be given again at the next meeting because the slides could not be loaded.

Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 11th, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ