

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2018
Jefferson BOE Administration Building

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 Crowley, Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy (arrived 7:13pm), Anne Seibert-Pravs, Joel Servoss, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: David Jarvis, Joshua Osowski

Alternates Present: Eric Wilsusen, Melissa Castellon

With eleven members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	NA	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

V. Treasurer’s Report

Chair Smith introduces the Treasurer’s report and list of bills. He states that the total of the list of bills is \$5,716.17. Commissioner Fisch gives the Treasurer’s Report. He states the balance as of August 1st is \$39,889.90 he states that the support materials for the list of bills was sent via email to the Commissioners with the meeting packet.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15th, 2018
Mount Arlington Civic Center, Fern Place, Mt. Arlington

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2018
Jefferson BOE Administration Building

Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	NA	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Correspondence

Chair Smith asks Colleen Conover about Commission correspondence. Ms. Conover responds that the only correspondence was related to land use applications from the four townships.

VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane gives an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that last week he attended a meeting with the NJDEP to discuss a grass carp pilot program in Lake Hopatcong. He stated that members of the Foundation, and Commission were present as well as two scientists, Mayor Francis and Councilman Hofferkamp. He states that the meeting was neither positive nor negative, but the NJDEP did listen and requested additional information. He states that it will be a slow process. At best, it may be two years. He states that the Foundation will continue to go through the application process. He states that the carp would do a great job in the canals and crescent cove; it is not a cure all for weeds on the Lake, but it would be another tool to use. He states that the NJDEP was concerned about the destruction of other fish habitat by the carp and containment of the carp in the lake. He states that 35 states allow sterile grass carp and science is on their side. He states that at the meeting the Commission volunteered to maintain the containment barrier. Commissioner Tessier asks the cost of the dam. Dr. Lubnow estimates the cost between five thousand and twenty-five thousand dollars. Mr. Kane states that the foundation completed surveys in Byram cove and overall it was quiet. He states that there were fewer complaints in comparison to prior years. He states that the key has been to keep the perimeter open. He states that the Lake Loop coming up in October.

Commissioner McCarthy arrives at 7:15pm.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15th, 2018
Mount Arlington Civic Center, Fern Place, Mt. Arlington

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2018
Jefferson BOE Administration Building

Kirsman – BRC meeting used LHF as a example for other communities facing the same issues.

VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates

Dr. Fred Lubnow gives an update on Princeton Hydro monitoring around the lake. He states that generally clarity was acceptable at one meter or greater, which is good for swimming and boating. He states that in the northern section of the lake clarity is less than one meter due to particulates. He states that secchi disk station three in Crescent Cove was consistently above a meter, he attributes this to storm-water facilities and the area being partially sewerred. He states that there was an improvement in water quality and clarity in River Styx. He states that no Hydrilla was found during the aquatic plant survey. He states that public education is important so that people see what it looks like. Hydrilla is creeping up in more watersheds and can enter the lake attached to someone's boat and trailer. He states that Hydrilla grows an inch a day. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about the calibration of secchi disk. Dr. Lubnow states that readings are collected around the same time of day each time. Which is between 9am and 2pm, and they take readings on the side of boat where sun is not shining. He states that the same people collect data each time, and they follow the standard protocol. He states that cyanotoxins were monitored twice during the summer. State agencies are very serious about monitoring cyanotoxins. Ten sampling stations in Lake Hopatcong were negative or below threshold. He states that there were no high concentrations, but if there were they would have immediately contacted the Foundation, Commission, and NJDEP. He states that two stations are at the state park, and others are located throughout the lake and other municipalities. He states that blue green algae are present in the lake, but they are not generating toxins. He adds that Lead and cyanotoxins are high concerns in the State. Commissioner Steinbaum states that on Budd Lake they will close based on appearance, and Princeton Hydro is working with them to close based on cyanotoxin levels and not just on appearance. Dr. Lubnow comments on the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) survey. He states that the survey was completed once during the summer and was semi quantitative. The survey was done in preparation for the sterile grass carp pilot program. He states that Princeton Hydro weighed the plant biomass and various densities of weed. If and when sterile grass carp are stocked they will compare the plant biomass before and after stocking. Commissioner Pravs asks if there is a correlation between shallow water and water quality. Dr. Lubnow responds that in shallow and windblown areas there can be concentrated weeds and particulates which may cause a problem. Commissioner Pravs asks if that may be a good argument for dredging. Dr. Lubnow states that dredging would not necessarily help with cyano-

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15th, 2018
Mount Arlington Civic Center, Fern Place, Mt. Arlington

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2018
Jefferson BOE Administration Building

toxins. Alternate Commissioner Castellon asks where cyanotoxins have been detected on the lake. Dr. Lubnow states that they have not been detected since 2015, but they were detected in Crescent Cove, River Styx. Commissioner Steinbaum asks what treatments are effective. Dr. Lubnow states that copper sulfate lysates the cells making the cyanotoxin more bioavailable. He states the long-term goal and most effective treatment is to keep the nutrient concentrations down. There is a general discussion of how to keep nutrient load low. Commissioner McCarthy asks whether the breakdown of algae can produce an oil-like sheen. Dr. Lubnow states that in some cases the appearance can be natural. Commissioner McCarthy suggests that the Commission should create a post card that identifies hydrilla compared to elodea.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Pravs states that on Saturday and Sunday boat races were held on Lake Hopatcong. She states that she was proud that the lake was welcoming to the association. She states that no money was made unless donations were made to the association. Another race will be held in Lake Forest this weekend with larger boats. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the event hadn't been held until the Commission helped and the NJDEP and State Park backed the event. He states that it is a family event. Mr. Kane states that it was well attended this year. Commissioner Stevens states that local businesses do well due to the event.

Commissioner McCarthy notes that there are eleven members at the Commission table for the first time in years.

X. Comments from the Audience (on agenda items only, if applicable)

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.

John Kurzman, Lake Hopatcong states that in an issue of the Lake Hopatcong News there was information about a lake-wide permit for maintaining the stormwater outfalls. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that she is working on the lake-wide permit, however the NJDEP requires engineered drawings for outfall cleanup and she does not have adequate funding for the drawings. She asks the Commissioners if township engineers may be able to assist in providing engineered drawings. Mr. Kurzman states that it is a simple permit for the full lake. He states that the water in Crescent Cove and North end of Jefferson is stagnate and the drawdown helps flush the water out. There is a general discussion of the dredging permitting process and its requirements.

XI. Chairman's Report

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15th, 2018
Mount Arlington Civic Center, Fern Place, Mt. Arlington

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2018
Jefferson BOE Administration Building

Chair Smith reports on the meeting between organizations around Lake Hopatcong and the NJDEP to discuss a sterile grass carp project. He states that there was a good showing of Lake people.

XII. Updates

Water Level Update

Alternate Commissioner Castellon asks the Commissioners to reach out to their town engineers for help with the lake-wide permit. She states that the lake lowering will begin in the next week or so.

State Park Weed Harvesting Update

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the weed harvesters have been operational for 18 weeks. On staff are five seasonal weed harvesting operators plus two permanent operators and two seasonal dump truck drivers. She states that one of the dump trucks is leaking and they are operating with one dump truck. To date they have harvested 3,830 cubic yards of weeds. Commissioner Fisch asks what the total was for last year. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that it was close to 4,000 cubic yards.

Five Year Drawdown – Stormwater Maintenance Permit

Chair Smith asks Alternate Commissioner Castellon if there is anything new to report on the drawdown. She states that the drawdown will start on or soon after September 22nd. She states that she has been working with Ms. Conover on a lake-wide stormwater outfall clean out permit

Recalibration of Gauges – USGS

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that there are no new updates for the USGS gauge reading.

NJDEP Updates - Budget

Alternate Commissioner Castellon presents a hand out which details the fringe benefits for the weed harvesting program employees including two full-time employees and the part-time employees. There is a general discussion of the cost of fringe benefits. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if the total for weed harvesting is near \$425,000 with the addition of the all the fringe benefits and Alternate Commissioner Castellon believes it is.

Alternate Appointments – Sussex County

Colleen Conover received a response from the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and they are working on finding an alternate for Commissioner Ser-voss.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15th, 2018
Mount Arlington Civic Center, Fern Place, Mt. Arlington

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2018
Jefferson BOE Administration Building

Ice Retardant System Committee Updates

Commissioner McCarthy provides an update on the ice retardant system committee meeting in Roxbury. He states that the committee presented photos and updates to the current ordinance including the registration of ice retardant systems on the lake, and the township was receptive to updating the ordinance.

Dilapidated Docks

Commissioner Steinbaum gives an update on dilapidated docks around the lake. He states that he and Ms. Conover surveyed the entire lake over two days and they are about two thirds done. He states that the old Alamac Hotel is the worst property on the lake so far. Mr. Kane states that the lot may now be owned by the town. Colleen Conover will reach out to Mt. Arlington regarding the status of the lot.

FY 2019 Budget

Commissioner Steinbaum gives a brief overview of the FY19 draft budget which was introduced in full at the August 2018 Commission meeting.

Benecke Economics

Ms. Conover states that Mr. Benecke and she spoke about holding a workshop for all four towns to attend and learn about the special improvement district process. She states that the Commissioners responded to the event email, but there was little response from the townships. Commissioner Steinbaum states that based on the email that was sent, the townships may have little incentive to attend the meeting and they may view it as another tax. He states that the email should be reworded. Chair Smith states that Mr. Benecke may have to meet with each of the four townships individually. Commissioner Tessier states that Mr. Benecke should attend the next meeting and he and Ms. Conover can meet with him prior to the meeting to discuss the project.

XIII. Action Items (Resolutions)

Chair Smith introduces one action item which includes a letter of engagement for a financial audit from Samuel Klein & Company. Ms. Conover states that she and Chair Smith met with Michael McGuire to discuss an audit for fiscal year 2018, which is required by the NJDEP and should be completed by March of 2019. Commissioner Stevens raises concerns about the letter of engagement and suggests that some items in the letter of engagement may not be necessary for the Commission audit. Chair Smith states that each Commissioner should review the letter of engagement and a vote will be held during the October meeting. He asks Ms. Conover to prepare a Resolution.

XIV. Public Comments *(please refer to Section V “Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:”)*

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15th, 2018
Mount Arlington Civic Center, Fern Place, Mt. Arlington

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2018
Jefferson BOE Administration Building

Mr. Kurzman states that bubblers are on 24 hours a day at some properties. He states that it is difficult to find signage that meets the ordinance requirements and suggests that the Commission or Foundation sell the signs. He asks Alternate Commissioner Castellon what the lake will be refilled to on December 15th. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the lake will refill to 22 inches. There is a general discussion of refill procedure.

Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15th, 2018
Mount Arlington Civic Center, Fern Place, Mt. Arlington