

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – October 15th, 2018**  
**Mount Arlington Civic Center**

**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: David Jarvis, Daniel McCarthy (arrived 7:15pm), Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent:, Mark Crowley, Mark Fisch, Joel Servoss,

Alternates Present: Eric Wilsusen, Melissa Castellon, Aitor Ostolaza

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:

Jarvis	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Abstain	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes 6-1-0 (one abstention).

**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 \$26,477.97. Ms. Conover gives the Treasurer's Report in Commissioner Fisch's absence. She states that the Commission received payment from the Highlands Council for work completed by Princeton Hydro on the WIP. She states that she and Commissioner Stevens discussed who should deposit the checks from the Highlands Council and since the Treasurer is not available, she asks for a volunteer to deposit the checks. Commissioner Stevens states that it is important to have a segregation of duties. Commissioner Steinbaum volunteers to deposit the checks. Ms. Conover states that the Commission bank account balance is \$35,574.33.

**Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Monday, November 19th, 2018**  
**Mount Arlington Civic Center, Fern Place, Mt. Arlington**

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – October 15th, 2018**  
**Mount Arlington Civic Center**

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

Roll Call:

Jarvis	Abstain	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes 6-1-0 (one abstention).

**VI. Correspondence**

Chair Smith asks Colleen Conover about Commission correspondence. Ms. Conover responds the Commission received an email from Tanya L. in Byram Cove, who has a complaint about floating weeds coming to her dock area. She states that Tanya indicated that some of the weeds had roots attached and may have been pulled at someone else’s property. They were now rooting in front of her property. Ms. Conover states that Tanya asked if anyone could help her remove the weeds. Ms. Castellon states that the harvesters are out of the water and there is little that the weed harvesters can do. Ms. Conover states that the homeowner may be able to enlist the help of volunteers during the lake clean up, or she may be able to remove the weeds while the lake is lowered. Ms. Conover states that the Commission also received Joel Servoss’ reappointment letter and his alternate appointment Tom Sellaro. She states that the Commission also received the payment from the Highland’s Council. She states that the Bridge Marina application will be heard on November 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a general discussion of the Bridge Marina application.

**VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Marty Kane gives an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that last week was the Lake Loop, which was a successful event with about 250 participants. He states that after the cleanup this week there will be a beefsteak dinner at 6:30pm at St. Jude’s Parish Hall. There have been two sets of inquiries from Lisa Barno from FWS and Mr. Kane views this as positive progress. He states that the floating classroom is out of the lake and is being stored at the Train Station for now. He states that the Foundation is hoping to move to the Train Station by November.

**VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates**

Princeton Hydro is not in attendance to provide an update.

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**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – October 15th, 2018**  
**Mount Arlington Civic Center**

**IX. Audit Update**

Ms. Conover states that there are no updates from on the audit. She called Mr. McGuire to let him know that he did not need to attend the meeting tonight because the Commission only has a few questions, and that she will email the questions to him in preparation for the Commission's November meeting.

**X. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Pravs thanks Karen Fucito for the Lake Hopatcong News because it focuses on stories that are close to the Commission's heart and highlights some of the projects that the Commission is involved in. She also recognizes James Leach on his retirement and his work on conservation and preservation around Lake Hopatcong.

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

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.  
No comments.

**XII. Chairman's Report**

Chair Smith reports on the budget. He states that Ms. Conover was able to communicate with someone in the Office of Management and Budget and found out that the Lake Hopatcong Fund will have \$500,000 for fiscal year 2019. He states that it is the Commission's money to spend. Ms. Conover is in the process of finding out how to draw the money down. Commissioner Osowski asks who Ms. Conover has been communicating with. She responds that she has sent emails to the OMB general mailbox. Chair Smith reads the response from OMB, which indicates that the fund has not reached its statutory limit of \$500,000, but the fund does not need to collect the full \$500,000 before the Commission can begin to spend the funds. Commissioner Tessier asks if Ms. Conover can send a copy of the email to the Commissioners.

**XIII. Updates**

**Water Level Update**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that some seasonal and the two permanent employees are working to transport the weed harvesting equipment to Franklin. She states that the harvesters were on the lake for eighteen weeks and harvested 3,925 cubic yards. The total for last year was around 4,020 cy, this year may have been less due to the shortened season to accommodate the drawdown. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if there were any significant repairs that had to be done during the season. She states that there were some repairs, and gives some examples. She states that they will begin breaking down the machines for maintenance and repairs in about two weeks. She states that the lake level is

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**Regular Meeting Minutes – October 15th, 2018**  
**Mount Arlington Civic Center**

currently at 6.78 feet, which is about six inches off of target. She states that the gates are open to the fullest extent possible without causing any downstream damage. She states that the water is just below the paper mill factory and the water cannot be lowered any faster. She states that the at the last meeting she asked the Commissioners to reach out to their township engineers to find out if they would be willing to work on drawings for stormwater outfall cleanouts during the drawdown. She has not received any indication that the Commission would still like to apply for the permit. Commissioner Steinbaum asks Ms. Castellon what property is downstream that limits the rate that the lake can be drawn down. She states that it is the paper mill factory on the Musconetcong River. There is a general discussion of the paper mill factory and the limits that the structure places on the rate of the drawdown on Lake Hopatcong.

**Recalibration of Gauges – USGS**

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

**Ice Retardant System Committee Updates**

Ms. Conover states that she has sent emails to Mount Arlington requesting a meeting, but has not received any response. She asks Commissioner Pravs to reach out to the Zoning Officer.

**Dilapidated Docks**

Commissioner Steinbaum provides an update on the dilapidated dock survey. He states that he and Ms. Conover surveyed all of the docks around the lake by boat. He states that there is a total of 2,183 docks around the lake and 55 were found to be actively shedding lumber. He states that dilapidated docks were located in all four towns. He states that they are now compiling the docks using the LHF dock numbering program. They will then send information and photos to the townships and are asking for action. Chair Smith states that on Wednesday Jefferson is meeting about abandoned properties and they will be enforcing the ordinance. Commissioner Pravs states that the zoning officer in Mount Arlington told her that the Alamac owner of record for the property has been notified that they need to take action.

**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. The Commission did not vote on it at that time, but they will vote on the budget tonight.

**Benecke Economics**

***Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.***  
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**Mount Arlington Civic Center**

Commissioner Tessier gives an update on the Special Improvement District project. He states that the Commission has an agreement with Benecke Economics to look at alternate funding sources for the Commission to recommend to townships or municipalities. Mr. Benecke will provide a draft report by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Conover will distribute it and then he will come to the November meeting, and at that meeting or later we can make recommendations to the municipalities for collection of alternative funding. Chair Smith states that he will not be at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission moves the meeting to November 19<sup>th</sup> so that the Chair can attend the meeting.

**XIV. Action Items (Resolutions)**

**FY2019 Budget (RES18-12)**

Commissioner Smith gives a brief overview of the budget. He states that \$355,000 has been allocated to the weed harvesting program. Chair Smith states that he expects that the Commission will also be able to apply for funding through the Highlands Council. There is a general discussion of the budget. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the budget. Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion. Commissioner Osowski states that on October 12<sup>th</sup> Marlen Dooley sent an email to the Chairman and Commissioner Osowski asks if he plans to respond to the email. Chair Smith states that passing the budget does not have anything to do with the MOA mentioned in the email. He states that the Commission needs to pass the budget in order to receive any funding. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the Commission was mandated to submit a budget of \$500,000 by the DEP and Treasury so that the Commission can receive funding for FY2019. Ms. Conover states that November 1, 2018 the Commission, NJDEP, and the Senators will meet to discuss funding and the MOA. There is a general discussion of the upcoming meeting.

Roll Call:

Jarvis	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Abstain	Tessier	Abstain
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion does not pass (6-2-0) two abstentions.

Chair Smith requests that a special meeting be scheduled for a revote on the fiscal year 2019 budget because a 2/3 vote is required for approval of the budget. Ms. Conover will send out an email with proposed dates. There is a general discussion of the budget approval.

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

John Kurzman states that someone should look back at the number of licensed boaters there are to be sure that the fund will accrue \$500,000. He states that the buildings downstream that prevent a faster drawdown were deliberately built over the stream. He states that the flooding downstream is not caused by the drawdown, but a narrow part in the roadway in Stanhope that prevents the river from flowing. He states someone should look into the roadway and see if there is a project that can be done to widen the roadway. He states that he sent an email to the Commission with suggestions for recovering from the five-foot drawdown. He states that the lake should be brought back up to 22 inches. He states that the ice should also be allowed to rise. He states that in the winter they could reduce from 12cfs to 8 cfs in the winter when no fish would be in danger. He states that if they reduce the flow in the winter it could prevent the same conversation in the summer when water temperatures will be higher.

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

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