

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 14th, 2019
Jefferson BOE, Rt. 181 Jefferson 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 (lakehopatcongcommission.org)

II. Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence

III. Roll Call

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

Absent: David Jarvis, Joel Servoss, Mark Fisch,

Alternates Present: Thomas Sellaro, Eric Wilsusen, Melissa Castellon

With eleven members present, Acting Chairman McCarthy declared a quorum.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

In Chairman Smith's absence Commissioner McCarthy will run the meeting. Acting Chair McCarthy entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Pravs makes a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report

In Commissioner Fisch's absence Colleen Conover gives the Treasurer's Report, she states that the total list of bills includes nine bills totaling \$6,219.11. She reviews the list of bills, there is one additional bill added just before the meeting for printer paper totaling \$63.96. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

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Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Correspondence

Colleen Conover states that there have been no new land use applications due to the holiday and annual reorganization meetings. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the Land Use Committee was supposed to meet prior to tonight’s meeting. He states that there is a lot of activity going on around the lake. Two marinas are applying for improvements, Mount Arlington is updating their economic development plan, and Lee’s County Park will be making improvements. He states that the Commission should be more involved in the review of variances because many variances are being granted around the lake and they may not be what is best for the lake. He states that there should be boat washing facilities at each marina around the lake. Acting Chair McCarthy asks about why the subcommittee meeting was postponed. Colleen Conover responds that the municipalities produce an annual zoning report each year, and the Commission will need to submit OPRA reports in order to receive copies of the reports. She states that the meeting was postponed until after she is able to request the reports. Colleen states that in November Donna Macalle-Holly forwarded a grant opportunity with the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters to the Commission. She states that she applied for and received a small grant, which will help to build awareness in the Communities around the lake about stormwater and new legislation that will allow (but not require) municipalities to create a stormwater utility. The purpose of the stormwater utility is to improve flood conditions and pollution carried by stormwater. It is relevant to the lake because improved stormwater flow can lower the amount of nutrients that enter the lake.

VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane gives an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that the Foundation has moved into the train station and they are looking forward to hosting the Commission meetings. He states that NJDEP did not approve the plan for sterile grass carp. They are not willing to try anything in the State’s largest lake. The NJDEP is also not interested in any trials in Bear Pond or in any other waterbodies greater than 10 acres in the State of New Jersey. He states that they will be briefing the legislature to determine if there is another avenue. He states

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that they want to be careful because they have to continue to work with the NJDEP in the future.

VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates

Dr. Fred Lubnow gives an update for Princeton Hydro. He refers to a handout and states that they made corrections to the amount of plant biomass harvested over time. He states that over last three years the number of weeds harvested equates to approximately 620-650 lbs of phosphorus per year. He states that this translates to about 700,000 pounds of wet algae biomass. He states that since creation of Commission, the average amount of phosphorus harvested from the lake is about 6% of the TMDL per year. Commissioner Steinbaum asks what contributes the most phosphorus to the lake. Dr. Lubnow states that it is the septic and stormwater around the lake that contribute the majority of phosphorus. He states that Princeton Hydro is currently updating the watershed implementation plan and the Commission will be able to apply for 319h grant funding which was recently announced by NJDEP. New grant funding is expected in Spring 2019. He states that the Commission will be able to submit a list of potential projects when the 319h grants become available so that if one project is not eligible than another one will be next on the list. He states that 319h grant funding targets older developments and aims to bring them up to current standards. Commissioner Tessier asks if Dr. Lubnow believes that the current regulations are enough to protect the lake from stormwater. Dr. Lubnow states that a lot can be addressed by evaluating the site plans. He states that stormwater rules need to be enforced in order for them to be effective. Dr. Lubnow states that Princeton Hydro submitted 2019 proposals for water quality monitoring, cyanotoxin monitoring, and submerged aquatic vegetation survey. Commissioner Osowski states that the NJDEP will test suspect blooms if someone calls the hotline. If it is on state property then the State will test, if it is on a municipal property then the municipal health department will conduct sampling. Commissioner Stevens asks if the Commission would benefit from increased testing from any of the three studies, and if he could provide proposals that indicate the benefits of advance testing versus basic testing.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Pravs states that the Foundation educational team was selected for an environmental education award. Next week they will go to Princeton to receive the award. Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen states that the trail on the Prospect Point Preserve property is a nice preserved piece of land to visit on the Lake, and he recommends a visit.

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

Acting Chairman McCarthy opens the meeting to the public.
There are no comments from the audience.

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XI. Chairman’s Report

Acting Chair McCarthy has nothing new to report on.

XII. Updates

Weed Harvesting and Water Level

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that they are currently assessing and taking apart machines. She states that Michael Calderio is off on medical leave, but should be back by the end of January. The other full-time employee, Curt is also off because a fall. She states that they are a little behind, but she thinks that they will get back on schedule quickly. She states she will provide a copy of the list of repairs when it is available. The lake is at 22” below water level and they will hold until March 1st, and then continue refilling to full pool. She states that if they are able to refill a couple of days yearly with no downstream impact they will do so after review by the appropriate personnel. Commissioner Steinbaum asks why the refill gauge is at 12.3cfs instead of 12cfs. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the gauge was recalibrated and although the flow is the same as it was the gauge is now reading 12.3cfs. Commissioner Steinbaum states that while the lake was refilling, downstream communities were flooding because so much water was being let out. He states that in the future the DEP could allow the lake to refill faster and prevent flooding on the communities downstream.

Memorandum of Agreement

Commissioner Osowski states the MOA was updated many comments were changed. Acting Chairman McCarthy states that he spoke to the Chairman and he suggested the vote be held in his absence. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to adopt the memorandum of agreement with the NJDEP. Commissioner Crowley seconds the motion. There is a general discussion of the MOA.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

Benecke Update

Commissioner Stevens gives an update on the Benecke Economics Subcommittee. He states that the subcommittee feels that there are not enough businesses around the lake to warrant a special improvement district. Commissioner Steinbaum states

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that the committee felt that boat user fees may be the best path forward. Commissioner Crowley states that the Commission should work on legislation that supports using the revenue from the lake for improving the lake. He states that he does not support user fees. Commissioner Osowski states that the park loses money. The Commission asks if Commissioner Osowski can provide the numbers for the park. There is a general discussion of admission to Hopatcong State Park and funding. Commissioner Osowski suggests that the Commission request that the NJDEP write user fees into the administrative code. Commissioner Tessier states that there needs to be a plan about how the Commission sees the lake being funded, whether it is entirely by the State or if the businesses and municipalities around the lake would contribute. If it all comes from the State, then the Commission will be at the mercy of State funding.

Reports

Colleen Conover states that according to the Lake Hopatcong Protection Act there are several annual reports that are due to the Commission. The Commission should be reaching out to Fish and Wildlife, the State Police, and NJDEP for these reports. She states that the Commission is also supposed to provide an annual report. She states that the last meeting of the CAC was November of 2017. Commissioner Osowski states that he will look into holding the next CAC meeting. Acting Chairman McCarthy states that it might be beneficial to wait until the NJDEP begins revisions to the WLMP so that the CAC can make recommendations.

Lake Hopatcong Foundation Block Party

Colleen Conover states that the Foundation has once again waived the fee for the Commission to have a booth at the Lake Hopatcong Block Party, which will be held on May 11, 2019. She states that she will need input from the Commissioners about what they would like to see at the booth for this year, and volunteers to help man the booth.

XIII. Action Items (Resolutions)

Newspaper RES 19-01

Commission Wilsusen makes a motion to approve the newspapers. Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion. Colleen Conover states that the Commission is required to advertise in two newspapers and are currently advertising in three. She states that the Star Ledger is twice the cost of the other newspapers and suggests using the NJ Herald and Daily Record, and the Star Ledger as a backup. The Commissioners accept the amendment.

Roll Call:

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Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

NJLOCV Grant Acceptance RES 19-02

Commissioner Steinbaum thanks the Foundation for sending notification of the grant opportunity and makes a motion to accept the grant agreement. Commissioner Stevens seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

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

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

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