

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 11th, 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, Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Ronald Smith

Absent: David Jarvis, Joel Servoss, Robert Tessier, Joshua Osowski

Alternates Present: Thomas Sellaro, Neil Senatore, David Smith, Eric Wilsusen

With ten members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman 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:

Crowley	Yes	Smith	Abstain
Fisch	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes 7-0-2.

V. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Fisch gives the Treasurer's Report, he states that the total list of bills includes five bills totaling \$6,269.01. He reviews the list of bills. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion.

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Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Smith	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Correspondence

Colleen Conover states that there was a land use application for 105 Mount Arlington Blvd on the fourth, three new applications for Hopatcong on February 19th, and an update from Jefferson. Bridge Marina has pulled their application. She states that there is no additional information as to why they removed their application. She states that work that is subject to the freshwater wetlands general permit 1 will be submitted to Mount Arlington for 19 & 21 Hillard Road. The work is for a bulkhead repair. Roxbury’s Construction Official Rod Schmidt sent a response to the dilapidated dock list which stated that he does not have the authority to enforce the repair of docks and that enforcement would fall to the NJDEP. She states that she spoke to DEP who state that enforcement falls on the municipality. After review of the Roxbury zoning code, she found language that does allow for enforcement of repair of docks so she will follow up with Mr. Schmidt this week. Colleen states that DEP sent a finalized copy of the MOU that the Chairman has signed, and Parks and Forestry sent an updated office agreement. There is a general discussion of the updated office agreement.

VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane gives an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that the Foundation is working to push Morris County Parks to continue progress on the Lee’s Park Pavillion. He states that there is no news on the sterile grass carp, but there is a bill to increase the size of waterbodies that would allow sterile grass carp from 10 to 25 acres. However, this does not help Lake Hopatcong. He states that the Foundation is working with other environmental groups to support sterile grass carp since the alternative is chemical herbicides. He states that the Lake Hopatcong Block Party is on May 11th, and the first LHC meeting at the Train Station will be May 2019.

VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates

There are no representatives available from Princeton Hydro. Colleen Conover states that Dr. Lubnow said that he would have recommendations for lake activities

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later this week. She states that Princeton Hydro presented proposals at the January meeting.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Steinbaum discusses concerns over the enlargement of marinas. There is a general discussion of marinas around the lake and expansion of storage facilities. Commissioner Crowley states that Roxbury is working on updating the Landing area as an entrance to the lake. Commissioner McCarthy states that ice retardant system use is still an issue, he still sees a lot of rogue ice retardant systems. He states that he would like to ramp up education and believes propeller driven systems are a problem. Commissioner Pravs states that Mount Arlington passed their annual resolution to support the Lake Hopatcong Commission in its mission of protecting the lake. Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen states that Jefferson has a new code enforcement officer and adopted a new vacant property/foreclosed home ordinance. This should help with lake front issues. The bridge for Liffy Island materials will be delivered within the next few weeks. The Environmental Commission was inactive in Jefferson and Donna from the Foundation is interested in chairing the group. He states that the Mason Street Bar tried to host a motor cycle event on lake was shut down by NJSP because they did not have any permits.

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

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.
There are no comments from the audience.

XI. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith states that the Commission will be moving its office within the State Park Office. He states that he will discuss the terms of the agreement with the state park.

XII. Updates

Weed Harvesting and Water Level

Colleen Conover gives an update in Alternate Commissioner Castellon's absence. She states that there are currently two permanent employees on duty. Seasonal employees only assist at most 2-4 days from now until April on an as needed basis. She states that they are currently assessing and taking apart machines and all equipment is staged in Franklin. They are beginning to work with vendors on properly registering to NJ Start, an on-line procurement system and provides a list of vendors that they are working with. She states that she has communicated with Ag Choice regarding weed disposal fees and hopes to obtain more affordable disposal fees. She states that they have received confirmation for the MUA and Ag Choice on the amount of loads they can take from Lake Hopatcong for the upcoming season and they will both be able to accommodate disposal for the

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season. She states that they are currently maintaining the lake level at 7.19'. Commissioner Steinbaum comments that he is concerned that the DEP may be behind in prepping the harvesters for the upcoming season.

DEP Update

Commissioner Osowski is not present to give an update.

Benecke Update

Commissioner Stevens gives an update on the Benecke Economics Subcommittee. He states that he and Colleen Conover had a conference call with Mr. Benecke to talk about special improvement districts. The subcommittee felt that a SID may not be worthwhile since there are not very many businesses around the lake. He states that they also discussed redevelopment fees and involving the municipalities in giving back to the lake when redevelopment is proposed. He states that a draft ordinance for land-based lake user fees was requested from Benecke Economics. Chairman Smith states that enforcement and collection of fees could be difficult.

CAC Meeting

There are no updates on the CAC meeting.

Audit Update

Colleen Conover states that Samuel Klein and Company were on-site last Monday to complete the audit. They should be providing a draft report soon.

Grant Update

Colleen Conover states that she went to Trenton last Thursday to meet with members NJ Future, NJ League of Conservation Voters, and the Highlands Coalition to discuss stormwater issues, the flood defense bill, and raising awareness about stormwater issues and the new bill in target communities.

Commission Legal Counsel

Commissioner McCarthy states that the Commission has funding in their budget for legal counsel and the Commission should use the services of a lawyer for review of agreements and contracts. He states that this should be revisited with Senator Bucco to determine if the Commission should have independent counsel or use the Attorney General's office.

New Alternate Commissioner

Chairman Smith introduces a new Alternate Commissioner for Jefferson, Neil Senatore.

XIII. Action Items (Resolutions)

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Princeton Hydro Proposals

This will be addressed at next month's meeting.

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

Lou Tarascio of Lake Hopatcong lives in the Woodport section of the lake. He states that there was a discharge to the stream near his home which enters the lake at Prospect Point Road in Jefferson. He states that this is the same stream where an oil spill from Valiant Contracting entered the lake last year. He states that the discharge is sediment from the Weldon Quarry, and the residents are always dealing with stone dust from the quarry on their properties. There is a general discussion of the discharge and Weldon Quarry.

Dave Schnieder of Lake Hopatcong states that during the five-foot drawdown he could see a gray stain on the piers and lake bed. He states that it is impossible to keep everything clean from the stone dust that accumulates on their cars.

Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen states that he will try to organize a meeting with Hopatcong and Jefferson to discuss the issue.

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

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