

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 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 Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Mark Crowley, David Jarvis, Joel Servoss,

Alternates Present: Thomas Sellaro, Eric Wilsusen, Neil Senatore

With ten members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Pravs makes a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes 7-0-3.

V. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Fisch gives the Treasurer's Report, he states that the total list of bills includes five bills totaling \$14,124.40. He reviews the list of bills. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 8th, 2019
Jefferson Board of Ed, Rt. 181, Lake Hopatcong NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 11th, 2019
Jefferson BOE, Rt. 181 Jefferson NJ

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons states that there were no new land use applications. She submitted OPRA reports for Annual Zoning reports for each municipality. Each municipality submitted a report with the exception of Mount Arlington who does not produce a report. The Commission received a dust fact sheet from NJDEP and copies are available to the public at the back of the room. She states that the Commission was also copied on an email to Melissa Castellon from Cliff Lundin regarding the refill procedure.

VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Jessica Murphy provides an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. She states that the Block Party is almost sold out. Field trips for environmental education are booked this year. She states that 1,200 students committed and the floating classroom will be at the State Park. The Foundation has moved into the train station and will be officially hosting LHC in May. They will host a Smithsonian exhibit July and August 2019 and an environmental film festival will be at the theater in Netcong at the same time. She states that she and Colleen have been in touch about partnerships between the Foundation and LHC. She states that about 40% of the lake has dock numbers and are hoping to push for even higher percentages. She states that last week she met with Olivia Glenn and the State Park has been very helpful in accommodating programs by the Foundation.

VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates

Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update on Princeton Hydro’s activities on Lake Hopatcong. He provides the Commission with a thumb drive containing reports. He states that DEP will be announcing 319 grants and the Musconetcong River Watershed is a high priority watershed for the next few funding cycles. He states that once the draft WIP is submitted to the Highlands Council, the Commission can apply for additional funding with them. Dr. Lubnow states that as part of the WIP Princeton Hydro will begin drone surveys this week, and they are making the Woodport area at the north end of the lake a priority due to the recent sediment discharge along a tributary. He states that he reviewed past data for the lake and

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 8th, 2019
Jefferson Board of Ed, Rt. 181, Lake Hopatcong NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 11th, 2019
Jefferson BOE, Rt. 181 Jefferson NJ

compared all of the water quality stations on the lake. He found that total suspended solids and sedimentation were highest near station 10 over time at any of the stations. Station 10 is located in the Woodport section of the lake. He states that Prospect Point cove was found to be the highest priority cove for dredging due to high amounts of sedimentation. He states that Princeton Hydro is preparing a proposal for sampling of the affected tributary and one offsite tributary as a control. Commissioner Osowski states that Chris Brindle oversees the permit for the quarry, he states that it is an ongoing DEP investigation and they are monitoring the tributary on a regular basis. He states that because it is under investigation they are not allowed to share all of the information. Tim Clancy and Lou Tarascio of Lake Hopatcong comment on their disappointment in the way that NJDEP is handling the discharge. Commissioner Tessier states that quarries are licensed by municipalities, and the Commission should find out what their license requirements are. He states that the Commission should obtain a copy of their DEP permit, foundational documents to see what is required of the quarry. He states that the Commission should consider writing a letter to the Commissioner of the DEP and how the stream has been impacted.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen states that he, Commissioner Steinbaum and Colleen Lyons attended a presentation by the Jefferson High School environmental science program. The students compiled data and came up with solutions for trash in the Lake Hopatcong. He states that at some point the students would like to come to the Commission to present their data.

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

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.

Jim Leach comments on the weeds in the Lake Hopatcong canals waterway section. He states that during the LHRPB days weed harvesting was done in the canals and Bright's Cove. He states that there has not been harvesting in Bright's Cove in a long time, but there was some hydro raking completed. Commissioner McCarthy states that this may be an area for the second small harvester. Tim Clancy states that the reason they stopped harvesting in that area is because of the time and effort to transport the harvesters was 2.5 days of work for 1 day of harvesting.

XI. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith states that the Commission is getting more active and he would like to see the committees getting more active as well. Commissioner McCarthy states he would like to schedule a meeting of the Ice Retardant System Committee meeting. Colleen Lyons states that she will send out an email request for a meeting with examples of ordinances adopted in other lake communities.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 8th, 2019
Jefferson Board of Ed, Rt. 181, Lake Hopatcong NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 11th, 2019
Jefferson BOE, Rt. 181 Jefferson NJ

XII. Updates

Weed Harvesting and Water Level

Commissioner Osowski gives an update on the weed harvesting program. He states that two permanent employees on staff, and seasonal staff as needed. He states that they have a position opening for a dump truck, and one weed harvester operator was replaced. He states that the staff is finalizing parts requests, and Alternate Commissioner Castellon is finishing updating vendors to NJ Start he states that half of the vendors have been updated. He provides an update on weed disposal contracts. He states that Ag Choice has agreed to reduce their rate from \$8 to \$7/yd. He states that the lake water level is currently being maintained at 7.19 and they will restart the refill when conditions are right.

DEP Update

Commissioner Osowski states that they are working with the Assistant Commissioner to see if they can start the process of updating the Water Level Management Plan earlier, possibly even this year. He states that the Commission requested information about whether land-based user fees could be incorporated in the DEP administrative code updates. He states that his Department is not seeking large changes to the code, and will be only be asking for some flexibility in some of the fees that they charge. He states that in order to establish fees they may have to go through the legislature and legal review.

Benecke Update

Commissioner Stevens states that one of the statutory responsibilities of the Commission is to explore alternative funding opportunities. He states that Benecke provided a draft ordinance to assess a user fee at the municipal level. There is a general discussion of the Benecke proposal.

CAC Meeting

Commissioner Osowski states that the next CAC meeting is contingent on whether they can begin to update the WLMP this year. Commissioner Steinbaum states that if they can have the meeting soon, it gives a chance for more than one meeting if necessary. Commissioner McCarthy states that they should wait to schedule the meeting until after the ice off.

Audit Update

Commissioner Stevens states that the draft audit was reviewed with the auditors and edits were made. He states that they got the final draft and it was emailed to everyone. He states that everyone should take a look at the audit and provide any comments within the next week so that they audit and final report can be submitted to NJDEP as is required by the 2017 MOA.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 8th, 2019
Jefferson Board of Ed, Rt. 181, Lake Hopatcong NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 11th, 2019
Jefferson BOE, Rt. 181 Jefferson NJ

NJLCV Grant Update

Colleen Lyons states that she has been working with NJ League of Conservation Voters. She states that the Flood Defense legislation is on the Governor's desk waiting to be signed.

Commission Legal Counsel

Colleen Lyons states that she sent an email to Senator Bucco's office, and Amy Overman responded that she is going to look into whether the Commission can hire outside counsel or must use the Attorney General's office.

Discharge to the Quarry Stream

Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen states that the first thing that Jefferson tried to do was to arrange a meeting with Weldon Quarry. He states that they have not heard anything back. He states that Jefferson is now trying to schedule a meeting with all of the parties involved including Sussex County, Morris County, Jefferson, Hopatcong, the LHC and NJDEP. They have reached out to Kerry Kirk-Pflugh to see if they can get someone to from DEP to attend the meeting. Colleen Lyons states that John Eskilson, Acting Administrator of Jefferson met separately with Lou Tarascio to observe the stream and lake. She states that the sedimentation was obvious. She states that in her latest emails with DEP investigator Chris Brindle, he states that there was no evidence of a discharge to the stream other than the photos that were provided by residents and the LHC. Commissioner Pravs states that she is disappointed in the DEP response. Commissioner Wilsusen states that Sussex County Health is in charge of Air Quality. There is a general discussion of quarry issue and the sediment discharge to the tributary. Tim Clancy gives a presentation showing the stream, expansion of the quarry over time, and sediment samples he collected from the stream.

XIII. New Items

NALMS Conference

Colleen Lyons states that she included a flyer for a conference hosted by the North American Lake Management Society that she would like to attend. She states that there is a lot of information that is presented that could be beneficial for Lake Hopatcong. Dr. Lubnow comments that he thinks Colleen could benefit from attending the event. Chair Smith suggests that she put together a proposed budget for the event and include it in the packet for the April meeting.

Commissioner Packets

Colleen Lyons states that she is working on putting together Commissioner packets. She states that she included a proposed table of contents in tonight's meeting packet. If there is anything that needs to be added Commissioners can offer suggestions.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 8th, 2019
Jefferson Board of Ed, Rt. 181, Lake Hopatcong NJ

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 11th, 2019
Jefferson BOE, Rt. 181 Jefferson NJ

Franklin Building Update

Colleen Lyons states that she received a call from Senator Oroho's office inquiring about the Franklin Building and possibilities for alternative storage options for the harvesters. Commissioner Osowski states that Franklin send DEP a letter asking if they could purchase the property. He states that he does not believe that there is any interest in selling the building.

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

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public. Barbara Loring of River Styx states that she would like to see not only air quality but water and sludge testing and groundwater analysis. She states that she was at the meetings of the Hopatcong Land Use Board when the Quarry asked to expand, and the Borough of Hopatcong approved the expansion. She states that the Borough is interested in redevelopment and grass carp. She states that if the Commission establishes a user fee the fund must be dedicated to Lake Hopatcong.

Chair Smith entertains a motion to adjourn, Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 8th, 2019
Jefferson Board of Ed, Rt. 181, Lake Hopatcong NJ