

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 8th, 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, Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs,
Fred Steinbaum, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, David Jarvis, Joel Servoss,
Todd Stevens

Alternates Present: Thomas Sellaro, Neil Senatore, Eric Wilsusen,
With nine members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Chairman Smith entertains a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to enter executive session, Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Smith	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

Chair Smith entertains a motion to exit executive session and return to the public portion of the meeting. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to exit executive session, Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
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Crowley	Yes	Smith	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Treasurer's Report

In Commissioner Fisch's absence Chairman Smith gives the Treasurer's Report, he states that the total list of bills includes five bills totaling \$14,978.76. He reviews the list of bills. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Smith	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons states that she sent out new Land Use Applications via email and they have been posted to the onedrive account. She states that the Commission received the final audit report from Samuel Klein and Company and it was sent to NJDEP with the Final Written Report for money spent from the 2018 MOA. Chariman Smith entertains a motion to approve the Audit Report. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the Audit Report. Commissioner Crowley seconds the motion.

Audit Report Approval

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Smith	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

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Ms. Lyons states that DEP provided an updated office contract, if everyone approves we will give it to Melissa Castellon tonight. Commissioner Steinbaum is concerned that the Commission cannot use the office if the State Park is closed. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that it was on last year's contract and the State Park is open 7 days a week during the peak season and 5 days a week for the rest of the year. Colleen Lyons states that Tom Mahoney of Mount Arlington provided an update of the dilapidated dock survey, he reported that there should be progress on the old Alamac dock and that he has sent notification to other property owners listed in the Commission survey. Amy Overman from Senator Bucco's office provided an update on the Commission's question on legal counsel. Alternate Commissioner Melissa Castellon provided information on why the harvesting of the Jefferson Canals is so difficult. Tim Clancy provided a tributary sampling letter and private sampling results from the tributary which will be covered in the Quarry update. Princeton Hydro provided a tributary sampling proposal. They also sent a draft memo for same, which was sent out earlier today.

VIII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Jessica Murphy provides an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. She states that on April 18th there will be a Meet and Greet regarding information on municipal stormwater at Camp Jefferson. Road clean up April 27th at the Nixon school 8:30am. Annual Meeting is on Friday May 3rd 7:00pm. There will be a preview of the native plant sale on May 4. May 11th is the Lake Hopatcong Block Party. She states that Megan Craig from Jefferson High School, Jefferson Science Academy is interested in a student group which will do projects together around Lake Hopatcong. They will hold an informational meeting at 4:30pm on June 5th for any students who are interested. She states that there will be a young professional group forming as well. She states that there will be 2,000 students signed up for the field trip program for the upcoming season and Commissioner Anne Pravs is an educator. Starting in May, LHC meetings will be held at the train station. She states that the LHF, LHC, MWA & Fred Lubnow met to discuss potential projects for the next round of 319h grant funding. She states that they are working on a lake friendly guide for homeowners around the lake, based on Lake George and Candlewood Lake and will hopefully be ready by the Block Party.

IX. Princeton Hydro Updates

No one present from Princeton Hydro to provide an update. Colleen Lyons provides an update in their absence. She states that Dr. Lubnow sent over results of the recent tributary stream sampling. Commissioner Steinbaum states that in the past Princeton Hydro would do a presentation on water quality results and he requests that they start doing this again and that he makes recommendations on how to improve water quality.

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X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Tessier states that they had a land use committee meeting and he states that the land use decisions that are made around the Lake are very important to water quality. He states that Ms. Lyons could use some more support on the land use applications and the municipal liaisons can get more involved. Commissioner Osowski states that he contacted the Chairman about a meeting with NJDEP to discuss water quality issues on the lake and coordination going forward. Commissioner Pravs states that land use almost out of control in some areas and impact on the lake is being ignored. She suggests that the Land Use Committee rotate attendance at land use meetings, so that we can bring up how important it is to respect input regarding the safety of the lake. Tessier states that Hopatcong ignored their last letter and specified to applicants that they are under no obligation to consider the Commission's recommendations. Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen states that the decking for the Liffy Island Bridge is going on, and that small boats will be able to get under the bridge.

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 states that he would like to have everyone more involved. At the next meeting committee lists will be distributed and everyone will choose based on their interests. He states that this will spread the work load around.

XIII. Updates

Weed Harvesting and Water Level

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that there are currently two permanent employees on duty and there is a full seasonal crew hired of 3 full-time seasonal harvester operators, 2 part-time seasonal harvester operators and 2 full-time seasonal dump truck drivers. 4 large harvesters and 1 small harvester will be on the water for the season. She states that she has updated Treasury information for purchase with each vendor. She states that they have received the purchase order for May and June weed disposal, and the MUA has been contacted and will accommodate 800cy of weeds. She is receiving quotes for a roof leak in Franklin building and purchase of helm covers for each of the harvesters. She states that the Hopatcong office renovations are mostly completed, and they are awaiting final repair of the ceiling for mold. She states that the water level is at 8.44, refill began on Saturday March 16 at 12cfs, but this was reduced on March 22nd due to needs downstream and on April 1st it was readjusted to 12cfs. Commissioner Steinbaum complements the refill procedure. She states the target date for weed harvesting start up is mid-May 2019. Chair Smith states that he would like to get

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the small harvester up and running. Commissioner Osowski states that he stopped by the Franklin Building and Michael Calderio is doing a great job. Mr. Calderio stated that he wouldn't have time to fix the small harvester so close to the start of harvesting season. There is a general discussion of the small harvester repairs. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to repair the small harvester, Commissioner Crowley seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Smith	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

DEP Update

Commissioner Osowski states that he has requested a meeting with Assistant Commissioner. After that meeting, then he will have an update on the water level management plan.

CAC Meeting

Commissioner Osowski states that he is hoping for meeting in May 2019.

Land Use

Commissioner Tessier states that the Borough of Hopatcong has most development activity. There is a general discussion of the difficulty of submitting Commission recommendation letters by the Board's deadline. He suggests that letters that are submitted should be sent to Chairman and Environmental Commission and copy the Mayor. He states that the Environmental Commission can build the bridge to the municipalities. Commissioner Crowley suggests that the Commission also copy the planning board attorney. Commissioner Tessier states that the Hopatcong redevelopment plan is being considered for expansion and an update. He states that the LHC should review environmental controls. He states that redevelopment can be done, but should have environmental protections. He states that the Commission should consider May having a planner on call, so they can be ready to support Ms. Lyons and review the environmental impact to the lake. He states that the LHC should send a representative to the Hopatcong EC meeting.

NJLCV Grant Update

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Colleen Lyons states that she has been working with NJ League of Conservation Voters. They will be hosting a meeting at Camp Jefferson to discuss municipal stormwater and its impacts on surface water and flooding. She states that she is also working with NJLCV to distribute materials at the Lake Hopatcong Block Party.

Discharge to the Quarry Stream

Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen states that on March 29th Jefferson Township hosted a meeting with NJDEP, Hopatcong, Jefferson, and Sussex Co. Health Department. DEP inspected the Site and found broken pipe, they issued a notice of violation and will be following up. He states that the take away message is we got their attention, and hopeful they will follow through. The NJDEP informed Jefferson that they had only received one complaint from homeowners. They stated that when they receive more complaints, more attention is given to an issue. Commissioner Wilsusen stated that the DEP was not forthcoming with information or a plan to clean up the discharge. Commissioner Smith states that John Eskilson made a good presentation with the photos provided by Lou Tarascio and Tim Clancy. He states that there was no quarry representation.

XIV. New Items

Block Party Volunteers

Colleen Lyons states that she will be sending out an email asking for Block Party Volunteers for May 11th.

Historic File Scanning

Colleen Lyons states that she has contacted a company to provide file scanning services for the old files in the Lake Hopatcong Commission office. She states that the new office will be much smaller and they will need to either scan or store boxes.

Office Furniture Purchase

Colleen Lyons states that because the new office is smaller the old desk will not fit in the space. She states that she would like to purchase a desk for the new space. Chair Smith entertains a motion for a desk purchase not to exceed \$500.00. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion, Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Smith	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
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Senatore	Yes		
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The motion passes unanimously.

Committee Structure

Colleen Lyons indicates that this topic was discussed by Chair Smith earlier in the meeting.

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

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.

Tim Clancy of Prospect Point presents information and figures on the sediment discharge from Weldon Quarry. He states that NJDEP has done nothing to stop the continued sedimentation of the stream and lake despite a meeting with members of Jefferson and Hopatcong, and the Commission. He states that the discharge has continued for more than 70 days and presents photos from a drone which show the extent of the damage from the discharge. Commissioner Tessier states that the Commission should continue to send letters to Senators, Commissioners, the Governor’s Office, etc.

Amy Elman of South Beach Road states that a property owner on her street is operating an unapproved marina. She states that the owner Mr. and Mrs. Danckwerth will appear before the Jefferson Board of Adjustment on May 13th. Commissioner Tessier suggests that the Commission submit an updated letter.

Michael Boccher asks about the Commission’s position on wake surfing boats, and their potential to damage lake front properties. He states that his sailboat has sustained damage as a result of the large wakes from the surf boats and will be appearing before the Mount Arlington to lengthen his dock to mitigate the impact from the waves. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the state police have reported an increase in the number of complaints about wake surf vessels. She states that Mr. Boccher may want to reach out to the state police for additional information. Mr. Boccher states that there is a hardship on lakefront owners and this should be presented to the Land Use Board because a variance is required due to water lot coverage.

Mrs. Fisch of Lake Hopatcong states that in Commissioner Mark Fisch’s absence she would like to ask if the gas tax transportation trust of twenty-five cents per gallon could be used to fund the Commission.

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

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