

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – June 10th, 2019**  
**LHF Offices, 125 Landing Ln, Landing 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, Joel Servoss, Fred Steinbaum, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith, Todd Stevens

Absent: Ronald Smith, David Jarvis, Mark Fisch

Alternates Present: Eric Wilsusen, Tom Sellaro, Neil Senatore

With nine members present, Acting Chair McCarthy declares a quorum. Commissioner Crowley arrived at 7:02pm

**IV. Executive Session**

No executive session.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Acting Chair McCarthy entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	NA	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Senatore	Yes
Servoss	Abstain	Wilsusen	Abstain

The motion passes 7-0-2 (2 abstentions)

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

In Commissioner Fisch's absence, Colleen Lyons provides the Treasurer's report. She states that there are five bills totaling \$22,575.83. She states that there was an error on a check for Princeton Hydro from May's list of bills. The check was voided and the bill is listed again this month. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

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**Monday, July 8th, 2019**  
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Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Senatore	Yes
Servoss	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes

The motion passes unanimously.

**VII. Correspondence**

Colleen Lyons provides an update on correspondence received by the Commission. She states that all Land Use applications have been posted to the OneDrive account and emailed to the Commissioners. The Commission also received a file scanning proposal to digitize historic Commission files and a memo from Princeton Hydro on long term temperature data for Lake Hopatcong. She states that the Commission has also received several calls about the weed harvesting program, increased weed growth and the requirements for boat rentals.

**VIII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Jessica Murphy provides an update for the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. She states that the Foundation is trying to advertise and push dock numbers around the lake. She states that dock numbers improve safety and they have volunteers who can help install the number on docks. She states that they hosted their last field trip on Wednesday, this year they hosted 1,200 students. She thanks Hopatcong State Park for all their help. She states that she has reached out to DEP Aids to Navigation about lighted bouys, but hasn't heard anything back yet. The Foundation will host a Smithsonian Waterways exhibit through August 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Wild and Scenic Film Festival will be at the Palace Theatre in Netcong on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**IX. Princeton Hydro Updates**

No one is available from the Princeton Hydro to provide an update. Colleen Lyons states that Princeton Hydro will be providing a draft WIP and presenting on the WIP at the July 8, 2019 meeting.

**X. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Pravs enjoyed working with the Foundation education program this year and she believes that education is important for teaching children about the lake.

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

Acting Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.

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Barbara Loring states that insurance companies may offer a break on dock numbers because it adds to safety of the home.

John Kurzman states that he has seen weed harvesting complaints on the Facebook page Lake Hopatcong citizens for action. He states that Crescent Cove has dense weeds and so does Henderson cove and need weed harvesters there. He has never seen Woodport Cove have so few weeds and it may be due to the quarry discharge.

**XII. Chairman's Report**

Acting Chair McCarthy reports that there is an upcoming meeting of the Boat Regulation Commission at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club on July 10, 2019 10am.

**XIII. Updates**

**Weed Harvesting and Water Level**

In Alternate Commissioner Castellon's absence, Commissioner Osowski provides an update. He states that the lake level was at 9.17 at 3:15pm today. He states that there are currently two permanent employees on staff and a full seasonal crew. He states that the staff has been trained and is operating harvesters on the water. As of today, they removed 105 cy of material. The harvesting program is done in phases and all phases are listed on the website. He states that at the end of the fiscal year the DEP will provide the Commission with a list of expenditures for the year. There is a general discussion of the weeds in Crescent Cove and the current schedule for weed harvesting.

**DEP Update**

Commissioner Osowski reads an update on the quarry as sent by Don Hirsch of DEP. Acting Chair McCarthy reads a letter as received today from Weldon Quarry which details steps the quarry has taken to mitigate the release of dust fines to the tributary and Lake Hopatcong. There is a general discussion of the discharge from Weldon Quarry and what parameters should be measured to determine the impact of the discharge on Lake Hopatcong. Commissioner Steinbaum reads an article from the New England Journal of Medicine on the symptoms of silicosis in a 76 year-old patient. He states that silicosis can be caused by inhalation of silica dust as is present at Weldon Quarry. There is a discussion about posting the results of the quarry investigation provided by DEP on the Commission's website.

**CAC Meeting**

Commissioner Osowski states that he should have a meeting with the Assistant Commissioner and then will set up the CAC meeting and begin review of the water level management plan.

**Historic File Scanning**

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Colleen Lyons states that a proposal was provided by Innovative Document Imaging for scanning of boxes. She currently has five boxes that need to be scanned, and is going to put an additional 20 boxes into storage at the Franklin building. She states that the total estimated project cost is \$2,875. There is a general discussion of digitizing the Commission's historic files.

**Committee Structure**

Colleen Lyons states that in Chair Smith's absence, he has asked that discussion on committee structure be held until the July meeting.

**Office Furniture Purchase**

Colleen Lyons states that she has not purchased any new office furniture yet. Marty Kane has told her that the Foundation may be able to provide office furniture from previous donations to the Foundation. Commissioner Crowley states that he may know of some other office furniture that is available.

**Benecke**

Commissioner Steven's gives an overview of the Benecke Economics proposals and the subcommittee discussions to date. He states that the subcommittee determined that the proposals were not worth pursuing at this time, however Commissioner Steinbaum has asked that the Commission vote on whether to pursue boat user fees further. Commissioner Steinbaum provides an overview of the Benecke Economics proposal for boat user fees and compares it to the Commission's original proposal for boat user fees. He distinguishes the difference in accumulated funding and notes that the Benecke Economics proposal would not provide enough funding to the Commission. There is a general discussion of boat user fees. Commissioner Tessier suggests that the subcommittee should review the proposals, and present answers to the Commission for questions of whether the state or municipalities can impose a boat user fee.

**Ice retardant**

Acting Chair McCarthy provides an update on the findings of the ice retardant systems committee. He states that the committee found that the best approach is a complete ban of propeller driven systems. Commissioner Steinbaum states that an outright ban is too big of a step and is unlikely to pass. There is a general discussion of regulating ice retardant systems on Lake Hopatcong. Commissioner Crowley states that he would like a memo from the committee that can be presented to each municipality and then the Commission can receive feedback.

**XIV. New Items**

**LHC & NJDEP Memorandum of Agreement**

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Commissioner Osowski states that we are nearing the end of the fiscal year and the MOU between the LHC and NJDEP needs to be updated. He requests that the Commissioners review the existing MOU and provide comment on any revisions that should be made. There is a general discussion of the existing MOU.

**Commission Boston Whaler**

Colleen Lyons states that the Commission is waiting to hear from Lee's County Park if they will receive a dock space for 2019. Commissioner Crowley suggests that the Commission write to the Board of Chosen Freeholders to request Crowley – write to the board of freeholders to ask for a dock space. Ask the mayors too.

**XV. Action Items (Resolutions)**

**RES 19-08 Revised Commission Bylaws**

A vote will be held until next month.

**RES 19-09 Digital Conversion of Records**

Commissioner Stevens comments that he would rather see the Commission's money spent on weed harvesting rather than digitization of records. There is a general discussion of conversion of the records. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the proposal for the digital conversion of records. Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Senatore	Yes
Servoss	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes

The motion passes unanimously.

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

Acting Chair McCarthy opens the meeting to the public.

Barbara Loring states that records digitization is important. She states her concerns over ice retardant system regulations. She states that there should be an independent consultant for the quarry issue.

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Tim Clancy states that he has more information than that Commission does. He states that he has spoken with the LSRP for Boswell Engineering and provides updates provided by Mr. Rossi.

John Kurzman states that the Commission should produce a model ordinance for ice retardant systems. He states that boating fees should be consistent for all contests. He provides information on the requirements of boat licensing for a renting a boat. He states that the rules for Lake Hopatcong need to be posted. He states that residents are purchasing their own no wake buoys so boaters are ignoring no wake buoys.

Lou Tarascio states his concerns about the lack of progress by DEP on the investigation of the Weldon Quarry discharge.

Acting Chair McCarthy reads state statute 12:7-61 regarding boat safety courses.

Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crowley seconds the motion.

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