

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – November 12th, 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 Fisch, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Mark Crowley, David Jarvis, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Joel Servoss,

Alternates Present: Melissa Castellon, Tom Sellaro, Neil Senatore

With nine members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Chair Smith states that the Commission will hold an executive session to discuss legal matters. Commissioner Fisch makes a motion to enter executive session, Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion. All those in favor signified by saying “aye” those opposed said “no”. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Smith entertains a motion to reenter the public portion of the meeting. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion. All those in favor signified by saying “aye” those opposed said “no”. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Abstain	Tessier	Abstain
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes 6-3-0 (three abstentions)

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 9th, 2019
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VI. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Fisch provides the treasurers report. He states that the Commission did not receive the bank statement in time for the meeting. He states that the Commission was informed that carry over funds from FY19 and the first quarter disbursement of FY20 was deposited in the account. He states that there are seven bills totaling \$13,865.04. Commissioner Pravs makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner Stevens seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes 8-1-0 (one abstention)

VII. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons provides an update on recent land use applications for the municipalities around the lake. She indicates all additional correspondence was sent to the Commissioners prior to the meeting for review. She reviews an estimate that the Commission received for renting a dust monitoring and weather station for assessing particulate originating from Weldon Quarry. She states that the Commission also received a proposal from Princeton Hydro for a bathymetric survey to compare rates of sedimentation between the cove impacted by the quarry discharge and a similar cove on Lake Hopatcong. The also Commission received a memo from the Ice Retardant System Committee that will be addressed later in the meeting.

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the bathymetric survey proposal by Princeton Hydro. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes 8-1-0 (one abstention)

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VIII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane provides an update for the Foundation. He states that the Foundation will continue advocacy efforts for Lake Hopatcong and they are expecting a high-level visit from elected officials in the following weeks. He states that the Foundation is applying for a one million dollar grant with support from the Commission and Princeton Hydro. The grant would be one of six, one million-dollar grants provided by the EPA to address HABs. He states that the Foundation is seeking memos of support from the four municipalities and elected officials.

IX. Princeton Hydro Presentation

There is no representative available to provide an update from Princeton Hydro. Colleen Lyons states that Dr. Fred Lubnow provided an update via email prior to the meeting.

X. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith reports the telephone building in Mount Arlington as a potential office space for the Commission. Meeting next week with the Governor and the delegation he hopes this is a sign that the Commission is getting closer to funding.

XI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Steinbaum states that there is still blue green algae in the lake and it is very dense. Commissioner Pravs speaks about the impervious surface coverage issues around the lake and how the municipalities address land use applications. There is a general discussion of impervious surface coverage. Commissioner Tessier comments on the impacts of impervious surface coverage around Lake Hopatcong. Commissioner Fisch states that he is surprised that the lake has not received any money. He states that it is important to receive funding now so that we can be prepared in the Spring to implement projects. He states that there needs to be a spokesperson appointed for the lake so that the closure of 2019 do not reoccur in 2020.

XII. Updates

Weed Harvesting and Water Level

She states that there are currently two employees disassembling the weed harvesters. She states that the seasonal staff will not be in for the winter months. She states that the small harvester is being refurbished. She states that the total weeds harvested for 2018-2019 was miscalculated and is actually 1,415 cy. She states that there was one isolated HAB on the Byram Bay shoreline. She states that the DEP BFM tried to confirm that it was gone today, but could not due to unsafe weather conditions. They will try to sample the site next week. She states that the advisory has generally been lifted in all areas of the lake.

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CAC Meeting

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that she and Commissioner Osowski have discussed the CAC meeting. She states that she still needs the contact information for the representatives to the CAC from Mount Arlington and Hopatcong. Commissioner Pravs states that she is the representative for Mount Arlington and that the DPW supervisor should also be invited to the meeting. Commissioner Steinbaum states that he can be listed as the representative for Hopatcong Borough.

WLMP Update

Assistant Commissioner Melissa Castellon provides the water level and weed harvesting report. She states that the lake drawdown has begun and they hope to reach the 22” drawdown by December. Commissioner Pravs asks how the DEP decided to continue the pilot program for a second year. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that this is the second year of the pilot program because conditions were atypical during the first year of the pilot program.

Ice Retardant Systems Committee

Commissioner Stevens states that the ice retardant system committee met with each municipality about a year ago to discuss the impacts of ice retardant systems on the lake during the winter months. He states that large ice eaters make the lake unsafe for winter recreational activities. The ordinances are not restrictive enough to regulate their use. He states that Commissioner Crowley asked for a memo from the committee with their ideas. The Committee is now looking to the full Commission to determine what next steps are. Chair Smith suggests that the topic could be discussed at the next mayors meeting. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the Committee believes that the propeller driven systems should be banned and replaced with a bubbler systems. He states that there is precedent of this at other lakes. Chair Smith asks for examples of lakes that have already banned the systems. Commissioner Steinbaum agrees and states one additional reason to ban the propeller driven systems is that they may allow sunlight to penetrate to the lake during the winter months which can promote additional weed and algae growth. More ice and snow on the lake is more protective for future algae blooms. Commissioner Castellon states that the State Park conference room is available for meetings and demonstrations if the Commission would like to use it.

Committee Structure

Chair Smith states that he and the Administrator will meet to finalize the Committee Structure, which can be presented at the next meeting.

XIII. New Items

XIV. Public Comments

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Lynn Owens states that she saw a HAB on October 22, 2019. She states that she did not realize that she was supposed to report it. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the DEP asks that any suspected HABs be reported through the NJDEP WARN DEP phone number. Marty Kane states that the algal bloom was wide-spread around the lake in October. Princeton Hydro has said in the past that they are typical late in the season.

Fitzgerald asks whether the monitoring station proposed by the Commission will be used to evaluate rock dust from the quarry. Mrs. Lyons states that it will be used to determine the presence of particulate in the air that could originate from the Quarry. Mr. Fitzgerald asks for clarification on the bathymetric study by Princeton Hydro. Mrs. Lyons states that the study will investigate and compare the rate of sedimentation in the cove effected by the quarry discharge and Van Evry Cove. Mr. Fitzgerald asks when the lake drawdown will be completed. Alternate Commissioner Castelon states that it started on November 9th and end on December 15th.

Anne Gail, Lake Shawnee asks the composition of the rock at the quarry. Mrs. Lyons states that from what she understands the rock from the quarry has not been profiled.

XV. Action Items (Resolutions)

Memorandum of Understanding between LHC and NJDEP

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the MOU between the LHC and NJDEP for the weed harvesting program in FY2020. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes 8-1-0 (one abstention)

XVI. Close of Meeting

Chairman Smith entertains a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Servoss makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.

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