

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2020
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, Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Joel Servoss, Eric Wilsusen

Alternates Present: Melissa Castellon, Tom Foley, Bill Hirshfeld, Tom Sellaro, Neil Senatore

With ten members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Chair Smith states the Commission will hold a brief executive session to discuss personnel, budget, and legal matters. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion to enter executive session, Commissioner Fisch 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 re-enter the public session. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion to reenter the public session. Commissioner Steinbaum 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 McCarthy makes a motion to approve the minutes, Alternate Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Sellaro	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Tessier	Abstain

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Pravs	Abstain	Smith	Yes
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The motion passes 8-2-0 (two abstentions).

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Fisch provides the Treasurer’s report. He states that there are eight bills totaling \$12,630.12. He states that the balance in the Commission bank account is \$138,200.11. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the list of bills. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons provides a summary of the correspondence. She states that because of the holiday the Commission has had less correspondence. She states that the Commission a response from Samuel Klein and Co. for an engagement letter. She states that the Commission received an update from Weldon Quarry. In addition, she states that the Commission received two requests to provide letters of support for proposals to the NJDEP HABs initiative grant. She states that one request was from the Morris County Parks Commission and a second came from NJIT.

VIII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane provides an update for the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that the Foundation submitted a proposal to the EPA for a grant totaling \$990,000. He states the program will award six nationwide grants for up to one million dollars each. He states that the Foundation will find out in June if the grant will be awarded. Mr. Kane states that the NJDEP HABs Grant for awards of \$500,000 per grantee has been delayed for two weeks thanks in part to the efforts of the Commission and Foundation. He states that the Lake Hopatcong Commission will request \$500,000. The grant requires a 1/3 match by the grantee and Morris & Sussex have contributed \$25,000 each toward the match. Mr. Kane states that on Thursday the NJ Lakes Group will go to Trenton to discuss a White Paper that outlines recommended revisions to NJDEP’s HABs response. Jessica Murphy provides additional updates for the Foundation. She states that last month 500

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people visited the Lake Hopatcong Train Station for the train exhibit. She states that the Foundation will be hosting three programs including Landing Crossroads on January 23rd at 7pm, NJ Highlands Rediscovered on February 20th at 7pm, and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis on March 19th at 7pm. Ms. Murphy states that the block party registration is now open to returning vendors. Justin McCarthy of Hopatcong presents the Lake Hopatcong Foundation with a plaque for the Lackawanna Railroad in honor of their restoration of the Lake Hopatcong Train Station.

IX. Princeton Hydro Presentation

Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro gives a presentation on the 2019 water quality monitoring data. Dr. Lubnow states there has been a 30-year database of water quality data collected on Lake Hopatcong that provides unique insight into the causes of the blooms that occurred last summer. He states that there are 11 sampling stations and two of them are in-situ stations. There is one deep lake station mid-lake and Princeton Hydro has five monitoring events during the course of the growing season from May – September. They measure total Phosphorus, Nitrate, Ammonia, total suspended solids and chlorophyll-a. He states that they also do vertical tows to measure dissolved oxygen in the water column. Dr. Lubnow states that vertical profiles of dissolved oxygen (DO) indicate healthy levels of DO in shallow and deep waters in May, but by July there is no oxygen at the bottom of the lake. Dr. Lubnow explains the conditions that led to the algal growth in 2019. He states that rainstorms which washed the watershed followed by sunny calm weather set up conditions for the HABs in 2019. He states that phosphorus concentrations in Lake Hopatcong were also higher than average in 2019 adding to the HAB growth. Dr. Lubnow states that the mid-lake surface water temperature has increased since the late 1980's. He also notes that every year they monitor carry over habitat at the mid-lake station, and this is the first year that the station did not sustain carry over habitat over the summer months. Dr. Lubnow shows a figure which illustrates the concentration of phosphorus in the lake over the past 30 years. He states that in years when the Commission was well funded and grant money was available, phosphorus levels were at their lowest. When the Commission lost funding and grant funds were unavailable phosphorus levels crept back up. Dr. Lubnow suggests adding additional analyses for water quality monitoring for 2020.

X. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith reports that he and Marty Kane met with Senator Bucco's office and the Assemblywoman DeCrocce's Chief of Staff. He states that the Commission's legislation will not be considered during the lame duck session. He states that they are hopeful that the Commission budget will be included in the budget process this Spring. He states that the Commission applied for funding through the DEP HABs Grant and thanks the municipalities and counties for their support. He states that

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the grant money is important to show that the Commission is doing something to manage HABs in the lake.

XI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Tessier states that he is happy to see progress from the Commission. Commissioner Zoschak states that it is good to be back.

XII. Updates

Weed Harvesting and Water Level

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that there are currently two permanent employees on duty. She states that the seasonal staff has been asked to sit out the winter months and will be brought in as needed. Ms. Castellon states that all equipment and trucks are at the Franklin Building and are in the process of disassembling and assessing routine or major repairs. The small harvester that was out of service will be refurbished to operate for Summer 2020 along with the rest of the machines. She states that the State is currently holding the water level for the winter drawdown until refill begins.

Quarry Update

Commissioner Osowski states that he did not receive an update from the quarry.

CAC Meeting

Commissioner Osowski states that they will be holding the CAC meeting at end of January or early February. He states that the meeting will be a kick off for revisions to the water level management plan.

Ice Retardant Systems Committee

Commissioner McCarthy states that he submitted a draft ordinance to the committee members and received comments from Commissioners Steinbaum and Stevens, which he will incorporate. He states that Mayor Francis asked him to prepare an update to the Hopatcong ordinance, because he wants to act on it quickly. He submitted the revised ordinance two weeks ago. He states that he was also asked to prepare an article on ice safety for the Knee-Deep Club.

XIII. New Items

Budget Committee & Planning Committee Meeting

Commissioner Steinbaum states that the Budget Committee and Planning Committee met last week. He states that they recommended hiring a planner who will go to meetings of the municipal land use boards to discuss if they can create stricter rules for land use around the lake. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the committees also discussed hiring a stormwater facilities manager who could work with the municipalities to maintain their stormwater facilities. Both of these

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positions would be part-time. Commissioner Steinbaum reviews the Commission budget for 2021. He states that the Commission receives \$500,000 annually from the State and \$355,000 goes to the weed harvesting program. This leaves \$145,000 available for Commission initiatives and activities. He states that this level of funding is not sufficient and the Commission is hopeful that the State will fund the Commission adequately in the near future.

XIV. Public Comments

Carol Kitchin asks what qualifications the weed harvesting operators have and could they also fill the roles to assist with stormwater management. Commissioner McCarthy states that in the past when the weed harvesting operators were Commissioner employees they did assist the municipalities with stormwater management.

XV. Action Items (Resolutions)

Chair Smith states that he would like to add one action item, to hire a licensed planner at a rate of \$105 per hour. Commissioner Tessier states that Ken Nelson will be the lead because Eric Snyder is gone until April. Chair Smith entertains a motion to move action items a) through h) as a block. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Lyons states that the vote for the meeting minutes of November 2019 did not pass the vote held during the December 2019 meeting. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the November 2019 minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

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The motion passes 7-3-0 (three abstentions).

XVI. Close of Meeting

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

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