

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 9, 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, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith, Eric Wilsusen

Absent: Mark Fisch, Bill Hirshfeld, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Joshua Osowski, Neil Senatore, Joel Servoss

Alternates Present: Melissa Castellon, Tom Foley, Ryan Gilfillan, Tom Sellaro, Richard Zoschak

With ten members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Chair Smith indicates that an executive session will be held at the end of the meeting.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call:

Castellon	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Foley	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes	Smith	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Chair Smith provides the Treasurer's report. He states that there are eight bills totaling \$10,225.83. He states that the Commission did not receive their bank statement yet this month. Commissioner Steinbaum asks what the Commission

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Planner Ken Nelson has done so far. Ms. Lyons states that he has worked with her on some land use applications over the past month and is working with Eric Snyder on ordinance review for each of the municipalities. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the list of bills. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Foley	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes	Smith	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons provides a summary of the correspondence. She states that the Commission’s land use applications are posted on the OneDrive account. She states that in January Commissioner Steinbaum and Ms. Lyons went to Green Pond in Rockaway, NJ. The residents are forming a group called HIGLIN and are looking to collaborate with the Commission/Foundation on studies of water chestnut. She states that they will be sending an agreement to the Commission for the studies to begin. Ms. Lyons states that the Commission also received the most recent discharge data from Weldon Quarry, which indicated clean discharge water. Commissioner Steinbaum speaks briefly about the program on Green Pond.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chair Smith states that the marina owners approached the Commission and Senator Bucco about collecting a fee that could supplement the Commission’s budget. He states that last week the Commission and Foundation met with the mayors and DEP to discuss cooperation on projects going forward.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Alternate Commissioner Foley discusses land use applications in Mount Arlington and indicates that there is a general awareness among the Board and applicants about the impacts of land use on Lake Hopatcong. Commissioner Steinbaum states that a few months ago the Commission was offered the possible use of a building in Mount Arlington as a location for the Commission’s office. He states that after the Mayor’s Meeting he spoke with Carolyn Rinaldi, Mt. Arlington Administrator. Commissioner Steinbaum states that Ms. Rinaldi told him that Mt. Arlington is pursuing historical preservation money to restore the building and the application

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was recently submitted. He states that it will be some time before the Commission will be able to occupy the building and asks Alternate Commissioner Castellon about the roof repairs at the State Park. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that they have a contractor who will repair the roof at the end of the month and then work on the interior. Commissioner Steinbaum states that he and Commissioner Tessier contacted a company to research the economic impact of the Lake Hopatcong region to assist the Senators in their efforts to secure funding for the Commission. He states that the report would cost approximately \$30,000 and could potentially be funded through the Highland's Council. Commissioner Tessier states that he was at a state-wide conference and Commissioner McCabe spoke about HABs and their effect on lake communities. Commissioner Wilsusen states that he attended the Mayor's Meeting as the Mayor of Jefferson. He stated that the dialog between DEP and the group was good and they want to work with us on crisis communication plan. He states that Jefferson merged their Planning and Zoning Board and that the Commission recommendations have been well received.

X. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Jessica Murphy and Marty Kane provide an update from the Foundation. Ms. Murphy states the Foundation hosted the Mayor's and DEP meeting and felt that it was a positive meeting. During the meeting, DEP indicated that HABs grant awards would be announced over the next week and changes to the HABs communication strategy should be released soon. Ms. Murphy states that the Foundation Block Party is sold out. She states that there is a cleanup opportunity with the MWA on April 18th at 9am, and with Roxbury at Yellow Barn Road on April 25th at 8:30am. The Native Plant presentation is on April 30th at 7:00pm with Well Sweep Farm, the native plant sale is on May 2nd, the safety program with Sheriff Gannon is on May 20th at 7:00pm, and a ladybug release on June 20th at 10:00am. Ms. Murphy states that the Foundation is holding a volunteer orientation on Friday and Saturday of this week, sign up online. She states that volunteers are also needed for the Block Party on May 9th, and anyone interested in volunteering for the Lake Loop can attend a meeting on March 24th at 7:00pm. Ms. Murphy states that the Foundation has 16 days of field trips scheduled for this spring and 1,400 students. She thanks the state park for their cooperation. The Foundation will be filming some safety videos that are lake focused for the spring. She states that she will be out on maternity leave in starting in late April returning in July 4th. Marty Kane states that grants will be announced from the Governor's office and the Senators will hear first. Mr. Kane states that Assemblywoman DeCroce and the Senators have put in legislation that would fund Lake Hopatcong. S1986 would guarantee a minimum of \$750,000 to Lake Hopatcong and Greenwood Lake. Mr. Kane states that the Hopatcong sewer project was approved and they are looking to push through with sewers and water. He states that the Foundation is investigating an initiative for Riparian Buffers as something that homeowners can do to improve

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the water quality of the lake. Ms. Murphy states that the Foundation annual meeting will be held on Friday April 3rd. Commissioner Wilsusen states that Jefferson is holding a cleanup on April 18th.

XI. Princeton Hydro Presentation

Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro provides an update on their activities. Dr. Lubnow states that they expect to hear on the HABs grant awards this week and 319h grants in April. He states that they also expect to hear on the EPA Star grant that the Foundation submitted sometime in June. Dr. Lubnow states that the Commission is also looking at submitting one additional grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) but may not be able to get the application together before the deadline. He states that even if they do not apply they are establishing good connections with the group. Dr. Lubnow states that last week he attended the Pennsylvania Lake Management Association and the three main themes of the conference were HABs, Hydrilla, and climate change. He states that in the future he would like to establish an education program to familiarize people with Hydrilla. He states that it is a nasty aquatic plant and very difficult to combat. Dr. Lubnow states that while he was at the conference he spoke with the Regional 3 Director for NALMS who has been working on federal funding and resurrecting on the 314 funding that focuses specifically on lakes.

XII. Updates

Weed Harvesting and Water Level

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that staffing is the same with two permanent employees on staff. She states that the disassembly is complete and they are now working on repairs and have been ordering and receiving parts. She states that they anticipate the small harvester will cost \$18,000 to repair, weed disposal for July through October was approximately \$7,000, hydraulic pump purchase was approximately \$10,000 over average, Aquarius \$8,000 more than average, with the current expenditures their operating account is approximately \$860 and that is supposed to last through June 2020. Chair Smith asks if the funds will go back up after the Commission pays for the small harvester repairs. Alternate Commissioner Castellon indicates that it will. Ms. Castellon states that the program still needs to cover several items until the end of June 2020. Alternate Commissioner Castellon asks whether the Commission will be able to commit to covering the additional expenditures. Ms. Lyons asks for an itemized list of the additional expenditures for the Commission to review and provide an answer. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the outflow was at 8cfs at the gate and as of last week's conditions was changed back to 12cfs. She states that she has set up alert systems and asked for the Commission and Foundation to share the alerts online. Commissioner Steinbaum asks when the harvesters are expected to be on the water. Alternate Commissioner Castellon indicates that they will be on the water on May 1st. She states

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that they have also been looking at areas to dewater weeds to reduce the cost of disposal, but have not found any suitable locations.

Weldon Quarry and Valiant Environmental Investigation Update

Ms. Lyons states that the Commission received data from Weldon Quarry through NJDEP that indicates that discharges from the quarry to the quarry stream have been below criteria.

LHC/NJDEP MOU

Alternate Commissioner Castellon has nothing new to report on the MOU.

CAC Meeting

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states the meeting of the CAC took place on March 3rd and they spoke about the communication protocol. She states the next meeting is scheduled for March 31st.

Land Use Committee Update

Commissioner Tessier provides an update on the Land Use Committee. He states that the committee met with Ken Nelson the newly appointed Commission planner along with Eric Snyder. The group discussed how applications would be determined to need review by the planners and which could still be reviewed by Ms. Lyons. He states that Ken Nelson provided a budget based on how he felt his and Mr. Snyder's time would be spent. He states that the planners will review land use applications, attend meetings as necessary and review the existing municipal ordinances to identify opportunities for better water quality protections. Commissioner Wilsusen states that Jefferson combined their planning and zoning boards this year. Commissioner Steinbaum asks Dr. Lubnow about the impacts of docks on HABS. Dr. Lubnow states that docks are great habitat for geese and geese are a large source of phosphorus and are additional impervious surface cover and water is not being filtered before entering the lake. Anything that is on the dock washes directly into the lake. There is a general discussion of the impact of docks on lake health. Commissioner McCarthy requests that Ms. Lyons provide historic information on catch basins to Princeton Hydro.

Land Use Committee

Commissioner Tessier states that there are no updates. Ms. Lyons is drafting a letter to each municipality to introduce the planning consultants.

Audit Update

Ms. Lyons states that she met with Mike McGuire for the Commission audit last Friday and everything went smoothly. She states that she expects to have the report by next month's meeting.

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XIII. New Items

Dock Regulations & Ice Retardant Systems

Commissioner Steinbaum states that during the dock regulations committee meeting Commissioner Osowski suggested that ice retardant systems should be registered and a fee of \$25 assessed. Commissioner Osowski also suggested that the State Park Police could enforce rules associated with the systems. Commissioner Steinbaum states that when the committee met with the municipalities one of the issues was who would assess the fee and enforce the ordinance. He states that if the State is able to enforce the rules then this will solve the issue. He requests that Ms. Lyons send out a copy of the proposed rules to the Commission for review.

XIV. Public Comments

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.

Dr. Lubnow states that he thinks that the Commission's suggestion of an economic significance report is a great idea. He states that everyone can identify with the cost of impacts to the region.

XV. Action Items (Resolutions)

There are no action items.

XVI. Executive Session

Chair Smith states that the Commission will hold a brief executive session to discuss legal matters. He entertains a motion to move to executive session. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Stevens 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 Tessier makes a motion. Commissioner Wisusen seconds the motion. All those in favor signified by saying "aye" those opposed said "no". The motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Close of Meeting

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

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