

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2020
Remote Virtual Meeting

I. Opening of Meeting/Open Public Meeting Statement

- a. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law (N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.1), The Lake Hopatcong Commission has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof via electronic notification to the following:

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, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Melissa Castellon, Tom Foley, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Joel Servoss, Eric Wilsusen, Richard Zoschak

Alternates Present: Ryan Gilfillan, Bill Hirshfeld, Tom Sellaro, Neil Senatore,

With ten members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Chair Smith indicates that no executive session will be held.

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:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Fisch provides the Treasurer's report. He states that there are eleven bills totaling \$62,429.79. He states that about 85% of the bills come from grant money. He states that there is \$207,376.89 in the Commission's bank account as of April 30th. The May statement was not received prior to the meeting. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the list of bills. Commissioner Steinbaum

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makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Sellaro	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Gilfillan	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Smith	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. Colleen Lyons states that the Commission has received several messages from the community about weed growth. She states that the Commission received a letter from Dolan & Dolan regarding DEP regulations on habitable bathrooms, and information from the State on annual boat licensing fees. Commissioner Steinbaum comments that the boat licensing totals were interesting, and that the fund received over \$500K every year except one. He states that motor vehicle closed in March, so getting a new license isn’t possible. He states that there may be a rush now that DMV is reopening and there could be more funds by the end of June. She states that the last piece of correspondence is a letter from Olivia Glenn regarding the weed harvesting program for FY20/21.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chair Smith states that they have had several Zoom meetings, and DEP seems to be listening to the Commission’s concerns.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner McCarthy provides an update on his participation in the Governor’s Restart Advisory Council. He would like to submit comments to the group regarding Lake Hopatcong’s tourism and a request for funds to address the impacts of the pandemic to the community.

X. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane provides an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that the native plant sale was successful. The floating classroom will not be put on the water this year. The Block Party and Lake Loop have been pushed to October and they will wait to see whether large outdoor events are allowable at that time.

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He states that they have been working closely with the Commission on their goals for this year. He states that the elected officials have been extremely supportive of all of our lake issues.

Princeton Hydro Presentation

Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro provides an update on their activities and a presentation on water quality results. Dr. Lubnow states that they will be sampling on Thursday and they will be doing both standard monitoring and pre-monitoring for the HABs projects. He states that they have completed some work in Ashley Cove, lake-wide water quality monitoring, and next week they will complete Phoslock treatments in Ashley cove and Landing Channel next week. He gives an overview of the other projects that are scheduled for implementation this season. He states that Princeton Hydro will hold an information session for the municipal DPWs on Biochar installations around the lake. Colleen Lyons states that on June 4th the Commission held two rain garden information sessions and had 100 registrants and 60 participants. The goal is to install 16 rain gardens throughout the watershed and there will be two more sessions held in either the Fall of 2020 or Spring 2021. Fred Lubnow states that rain gardens can achieve high nutrient removal rates. Commissioner Osowski states that the state park hopes to install three rain gardens with educational signage. Water quality monitoring will occur on June 11th and cyanobacteria monitoring after July 4th. Dr. Lubnow provides a brief overview of water quality results. He states that total phosphorus concentrations are lower this year for May compared to May of 2019. He states that while results show that there were higher amount of algae in the lake this year, there is less phosphorus available to fuel their growth. He states that there has been a decrease in clarity at mid-lake over the past ten years. However, overall throughout the entire lake clarity was better this year than it was in 2019. Better clarity may contribute to the increase in weed growth in 2020 as compared to 2019. Commissioner Steinbaum states that this Spring has been drier, cooler and windier, which could contribute to less HABs and more weeds. Dr. Lubnow states that the main contributor to lower HAB incidence is that there is less phosphorus in 2020. He states that DEP will decide on 319 grants by the end of June. He states that he would like to invest GreenVest to the next Commission meeting to discuss available funding for stormwater projects. Dr. Lubnow discusses concerns that Commissioner McCarthy had brought up regarding copper sulfate and its use on the lake. Colleen Lyons states that she received an email from a company who sells ultrasonic units and they offered a unit for demonstration on the lake free of charge. She states that the Commission had included ultrasonic units in their original proposal for the HAB grant, but DEP chose to trial the technology in another lake instead.

XI. Updates

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Weed Harvesting and Water Level

Commissioner Osowski asks Commissioner Steinbaum for a water level reading. He states the water is two inches over the dam. Commissioner Osowski provides the weed harvesting update and states that there are two permanent employees working right now. Seasonal employees are not back to work due to budget constraints. The Commission purchased parts for the weed harvesters and the employees are working to install the parts and make other repairs to the machines. He states that they are waiting for guidance from the Commission and Trenton on the start date for operation of the harvesters. He states that they are waiting for confirmation from the municipalities as well on assistance for weed transport. He states that the program will need a minimum of four employees to mobilize, and disposal facilities need to be coordinated. He states for the remainder of FY20 through the end of June they hope to begin harvesting. For FY21 he states that they are still trying to understand how the extended fiscal year will influence the Commission's funding. He states that the DEP sent a letter to the Commission describing a proposed program and budget for FY21. There is a general discussion of the letter and FY2021 budget.

Weldon Quarry and Valiant Environmental Investigation Update

Colleen Lyons states that the Commission received results of discharge monitoring from DEP. Results were under criteria except for total dissolved solids. Commissioner Tessier asks whether a cost estimate for clean up of the quarry discharge was provided to the Commission's attorney. Dr. Lubnow states that it was provided as a paragraph and included in a letter from Durkin and Durkin to Weldon's attorney.

CAC Meeting

Commissioner Osowski states that they are looking to schedule the next CAC meeting virtually in July.

Ice Retardant Committee

Commissioner McCarthy provides a brief update and next steps for the committee toward introducing their proposal to the municipalities.

Audit Update

Ms. Lyons states that the Commission received the draft audit from Samuel Klein and Company. The Commission needs to review and provide comment on the audit before it can be finalized.

XII. New Items
No new items.

XIII. Public Comments

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Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.
No public comments.

XIV. Action Items (Resolutions)

There are no action items.

XV. Close of Meeting

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

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