

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – November 9, 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, Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith, Eric Wilsusen

Absent: Ryan Gilfillan, Neil Senatore, Richard Zoschak

Alternates Present: Melissa Castellon, Bill Hirshfeld, Tom Sellaro

With ten members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum. Commissioner McCarthy arrives at 7:03pm.

IV. Executive Session

Chair Smith states that an Executive Session is not needed for tonight’s meeting.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|-----|
| Crowley | Yes | Steinbaum | Yes |
| Fisch | Abstain | Stevens | Yes |
| Hoferkamp | Yes | Tessier | Yes |
| McCarthy | Yes | Wilsusen | Yes |
| Osowski | Yes | Smith | Yes |
| Pravs | Yes | | |

The motion passes 10-0-1 (one abstention).

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Fisch presents the Treasurer’s Report. He states that the Commission did not receive a bank statement prior to the meeting so he does not have the balance in the account. He states that there are twelve bills totaling

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\$16,724.00. Commissioner Steinbaum requests additional information in the Scottish American insurance invoice. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to approve the bills, Commissioner Crowley seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Crowley | Yes | Steinbaum | Yes |
| Fisch | Yes | Stevens | Yes |
| Hoferkamp | Yes | Tessier | Yes |
| McCarthy | Yes | Wilsusen | Yes |
| Osowski | Yes | Smith | Yes |
| Pravs | Yes | | |

The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons states the Commission land use applications are available on the OneDrive account. She states that the Commission received a weed harvesting and supply list from Melissa Castellon which will be discussed later in the meeting. She states that Keefe Law Firm sent a request to preserve evidence related to the weed harvester accident. Mrs. Lyons states that the Commission received an insurance renewal request from Scottish American Insurance and a letter from Jessica Murphy reflecting on her time working with the Foundation and Commission. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if there is evidence that the Commission needs to preserve related to the accident. Commissioner McCarthy states that any discussion of the harvester accident should be held in executive session.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith states that the Commission completed some limited weed harvesting, it was a small operation but people in the cove are happy that some harvesting was completed. Chair Smith states that he had a chance to meet with Colleen Lyon, Melissa Castellon, Mike Calderio, and a potential part-time mechanic for the harvesting operation. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that Parks is waiting for the applicant to submit his application package and will continue with the hiring process.

IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Pravs asks if the weed harvester will be left outdoors all winter. Commissioner Osowski states that the DEP cannot move the harvester until permission is granted by PEOSH. There is a general discussion of the weed harvester investigation. Commissioner Pravs states that the Borough of Mount

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Arlington has formed a green infrastructure committee to explore the new DEP stormwater requirements. Commissioner Wilsusen states that Jefferson Township received a grant from the Highland's Council to update their sewer plan from 2002. He states that the mayors have been meeting regularly with the Foundation and Commission to help support the lake and will be meeting again next week.

X. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane provides an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that the Foundation has put a temporary hold on bringing officials to the lake until after the election. He stated that The Boat Regulation Commission has scheduled a meeting at Lake Hopatcong for July 14, 2021 at 9:30am. Mr. Kane states that the Foundation has already decided to move the Block Party and Lake Loop to Fall 2021 in case COVID is still an issue. He states that the Foundation is looking for an Executive Director and the Foundation is looking at working with the municipalities on trails around the lake.

XI. Princeton Hydro Updates

Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update on Princeton Hydro's work around the lake. He states that the WIP is complete and will be sent soon. He states that with the warm weather there is a potential for HABs to pop up around the lake. Dr. Lubnow states that he is reviewing the Existing Conditions Report from the quarry, and the Commission, Foundation and Princeton Hydro have met to discuss grant funding including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The group plans to apply for planning funding for the proposed projects through the Highland's Council and implementation funding through NFWF. Dr. Lubnow states that Mount Arlington was awarded funding for their beach restoration plan from the Highland's Council. There is a general discussion of Watershed Implementation Plan.

XII. Updates

State Park Updates

Alternate Commissioner Castellon's provides a state park update. Michael Calderio is the only weed harvesting employee on staff currently. The three hourly staff that were on over the summer left at the end of October. She states that the lake is at full pool, lowering will begin next week. She states that in addition to the mechanic Ron spoke about, she has posted a vacancy for an additional seasonal employee to assist over the winter months. There is a general discussion of seasonal hires.

NJDEP/LHC MOU

Commissioner Osowski states that the next Citizen Advisory Committee will be next Tuesday.

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Grant Updates

Colleen Lyons states that with the help from the Foundation a survey on the Rain Garden Program has been sent to participants of the first workshop for feedback on how the spring program can be improved.

Land Use Committee Update

Commissioner Tessier states that the Land Use Committee is continuing with the planners to review site plans around the lake. He states that Ken Nelson is working on a procedure as a letter to request that the municipalities send the applications to the Commission at the same time as the municipal officials. He states that the committee also requested a proposal from Princeton Hydro for support and data on stormwater regulations are important for the lake.

Ice Retardant System

Commissioner McCarthy states that the next step is to present the proposed ordinance at the upcoming mayor's meeting.

Weed Harvesting – Northern Lights

Colleen Lyons states that Northern Lights was contracted by the Commission to complete limited harvesting in Hurd Cove. Mrs. Lyons presents photos from Northern Lights which illustrate the cove before and after harvesting. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the machines are small but are efficient for small shallow areas. He suggested to the owner that he may be able to offer services to coves that normally treat with herbicides as a more environmentally friendly way to deal with weeds. There is a general discussion of harvesting program. Commissioner Crowley suggests that the Commission request a proposal for full-time services next spring.

XIII. New Items

Lake Drawdown Proposal – Fred Steinbaum

Commissioner Steinbaum introduces a lake drawdown proposal. The proposal reduces the annual drawdown from 22-inches to 18-inches beginning on November 21st instead of November 17st. He states that the proposal will also increase the speed of the 60-inch drawdown and allow for refill earlier in the season providing extra time for refill. There is a general discussion of the proposal, impacts of climate change on lake level and impacts of drawdowns on HABs. Chair Smith states that the Commission should review the proposal and be prepared to take action at the January meeting.

XIV. Public Comments

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.

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Marty Kane states that the next mayor’s meeting is next week. Ice retardant systems is on the agenda. Mr. Kane states that the Hopatcong sewer project was approved and a contract was approved. Commissioner Hoferkamp states that Hopatcong’s aeration system in Crescent Cove is now offline. Mr. Kane states that Billy Orth longtime owner of the Jefferson House passed away last week.

Brian Cramer of GreenVest states that they provided a supplemental package to the Commission. He states that they will be available during the December meeting to discuss any questions.

XV. Action Items (Resolutions)

RES 20-15 NJDEP Weed Harvesting Budget

Chair Smith introduces the weed harvesting budget submitted by Alternate Commissioner Castellon to the Commission. There is a general discussion of the budget. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion to approve the DEP weed harvesting budget for \$255,000. Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Crowley | No | Steinbaum | Yes |
| Fisch | Yes | Stevens | Yes |
| Hoferkamp | Yes | Tessier | Yes |
| McCarthy | Yes | Wilsusen | Yes |
| Osowski | Yes | Smith | Yes |
| Pravs | Yes | | |

The motion passes unanimously.

There is a general discussion of distribution of Commission funding and weed harvesting program funding.

XVI. 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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