

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2021
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, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Bradley Hoferkamp, Neil Senatore, Richard Zoschak

Alternates Present: Blanca Chevrestt, Ryan Gilfillan, Bill Hirshfeld, Tom Sellaro,

With eleven members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Due to technical difficulties, no executive session was held and a Special Meeting date will be set to discuss legal matters.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fisch makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the minutes should be updated to clarify information on a contract awarded by the State Park to install sewer lines.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes 8-0-3 (3 abstentions).

VI. Treasurer's Report

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Commissioner Fisch presents the Treasurer’s Report. He states that There are twelve bills and half are reimbursable through the HAB’s grant. He states that as of this morning the balance in the Commission account is \$310,887.03. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the bills, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons states that there have been no new land use applications, but there will be land use board meetings toward the end of the month. She states that Tim Clancy sent a letter about the December lake level discussion. Bruce Friedman from DEP sent notification of an upcoming HAB’s conference for February. Princeton Hydro sent a revised stormwater ordinance proposal which Commissioner Tessier will review later in the meeting.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith states that he had a conversation about the Commission budget with Commissioner Steinbaum and Murphy Durkin regarding Weldon Quarry.

IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Steinbaum comments on two articles the first from Washington State that indicated fish were dying after heavy rainstorms. They found that chemicals from tires present in the water were killing fish. The second article is from the NJ Sierra Club and states that the budget signed by Governor Murphy in September increases the operational budget of NJDEP to 181 million up from 159 million. This is first year in a decade that the DEP budget has not been cut. Commissioner Pravs shares a notice that the House of Representatives passed the Water Resources Development Act which names inland waters of New Jersey as a priority for HAB demonstration projects.

X. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

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Marty Kane provides an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that the Foundation will have a meeting with DEP tomorrow to discuss issues around Hopatcong State Park such as the rain garden restoration, sewer line, dock for the Lake Hopatcong Foundation Floating Classroom and the State Park Fountain. The Foundation is looking at having a virtual floating classroom this year, they are working to include lakes funding in the 2022 budget. The Foundation is also working on a water trails map. Mr. Kane states that Hudson Farm walk will be held on May 15th, Annual Native Plant Sale at the Train Station is on May 22nd, LHF Annual Hike June 6th, Antiques Boat Show at the Yacht Club June 19th, Fireworks July 4th, Boating Regulation Commission at the Yacht Club Meeting July 14th, LHF Gala July 31st, Block Party at the State Park October 2nd.

XI. Princeton Hydro Updates

Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update on Princeton Hydro's work around the lake. He states that Princeton Hydro submitted their year-end water quality report and will be submitting a separate HABs report in February. Dr. Lubnow states that Princeton Hydro will be presenting at the upcoming HABs Summit as well. He provides an overview of the Water Quality Report. There is a general discussion of the water quality report and HABs projects.

XII. Updates

State Park Updates

Commissioner Osowski states that the new seasonal weed harvesting employee has been working with Mike Calderio two days per week working on the equipment. The harvester that was involved in the accident was moved inside last week. Mike will begin looking at the motor and has drained the oil, but they are not allowed to begin working on the machine. Mike and Tony are working on the conveyor belts and assessing what parts are needed. The lake water level is currently at 7.27' with a release rate of 28.3cfs at the dam. Staff met with the sewer contractor on January 6th and staging of equipment and materials will begin this week. He states that the contractor is waiting on permits but hopes to complete work by May 21st. Commissioner Osowski states that the CAC will not meet in January to provide additional time for DEP scientists to provide answers to water level questions that were presented. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if there will be weed harvesting this year. Commissioner Osowski states that it will depend on the timing of the report from PEOSH and the report by DEP.

NJDEP/LHC MOU

No new updates.

Grant Updates

Colleen Lyons states that there are no new updates.

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Land Use Committee Update

Commissioner Tessier states that the Land Use Committee had two meetings with Princeton Hydro and the Commission’s planners. The Commission’s Planners have been requesting data on how existing land use regulations impact water quality, so the Committee asked Princeton Hydro to put together a proposal. Commissioner Tessier introduces the proposal and there is a general discussion.

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the proposal. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to accept the proposal and direct Dr. Lubnow to draft a contract for the Commission to look at. Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

Budget

Commissioner Steinbaum introduces the fiscal year 2022 proposed Commission budget and proposal for an updated executive financial summary instead of a bill list each month. There is a general discussion of the proposals.

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the fiscal year 2022 budget. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

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Sellaro	Yes		
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The motion passes unanimously.

Lake Level Proposals

Commissioner Steinbaum states that during the last meeting there was some concern about whether his proposal to reduce the annual drawdown was passed by the Commission. He requests an opportunity to revisit the topic and Chair Smith agrees. Commissioner Steinbaum reviews the lake level proposals presented at the December 2020 meeting. Chair Smith entertains a motion to reconsider the proposals. The motion fails and no vote is held.

XIII. New Items

Scottish American Insurance

Colleen Lyons states that she has spoken with Fairview Insurance and their representative has justified the additional expenses.

XIV. Public Comments

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.

Donna Macalle-Holly a resident of Jefferson Township states that she commends the Commission for passing the proposal by Princeton Hydro for the stormwater ordinance review. She states that she would like to address her comments to Commissioner Wilsusen and Commissioner Crowley as well as other municipal representatives of the Commission. She states that \$16,500 is a substantial amount of money for the Commission and she asks that the Commissioners bring the information back to their planning boards to ask them to consider the document that Princeton Hydro will be preparing.

XV. Action Items (Resolutions)

RES 21-01 Meeting Dates & RES 21-02 Official Newspapers

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the meeting calendar and the official newspapers of the Lake Hopatcong Commission. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
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The motion passes unanimously.

XVI. 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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