

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – February 8, 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](http://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, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Anne Seibert-Pravs, Richard Zoschak

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

With ten members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

**IV. Executive Session**

Chair Smith states that the Commission will enter executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. He entertains a motion to move to executive session. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy 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 Crowley makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy 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 Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes

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McCarthy	Yes	Smith	
Osowski	Yes		
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

**VI. Treasurer’s Report**

Commissioner Fisch presents the Treasurer’s Report. He states that there are thirteen bills totaling \$17,351. \$10,013 will be paid from the Commission’s operating budget and \$7,337 will be paid from the grant account. Commissioner Steinbaum suggests that a column be added to the report that would show the balance of each account. Mrs. Lyons states that this can be done through Quickbooks, but will take some time. There is a general discussion of how the weed harvesting bills are paid in the absence of an MOU. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to approve the bills, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

**VII. Correspondence**

Colleen Lyons states that the land use board applications and are uploaded on OneDrive and have been sent out to the Land Use Committee. She states that the Commission also received a welding quote for the weed harvesting program from Michael Calderio.

**VIII. Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Smith states that the Weed Harvesting Committee met last week to explore options for the 2021 program. The committee discussed two options, to either continue with the NJDEP program or to hire a subcontractor for the season. Chair Smith states that he reached out to two contractors who expressed interest in the request for proposals posted by the Commission last season to understand if they would be interested in submitting a bid for 2021. There is a general discussion of the weed harvesting program.

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**IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments**

Commissioner Wilsusen states that the Mayor’s Meeting is coming up on Wednesday, they still meet regularly with the Commission and Foundation to talk about lake issues. He states that he also did an interview with two high school students that go to the Morris County Environmental Academy which is run through Jefferson High School. The students are working with the Foundation on a video about the harmful algal blooms. He states that he recommended they speak with Chair Smith and other mayors, and he urges those who are contacted to speak with the students. Commissioner Crowley has been working with Marty Kane to complete work on a plaque for Curtis Mulch. He asks whether he can get concurrence from the four mayors on the wording for the plaque. He states that the family has asked that the plaque be placed at Lee’s County Park, which the County has approved.

**X. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Marty Kane provides an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that the Foundation has received inquiries about ice safety and has provided some information. He states that the Foundation continues to work towards a lake’s funding line in the state budget. Mr. Kane states that they have had meetings with DEP about the floating island in Roxbury channel and the fountain at the State Park. Mr. Kane states that the DEP HABs Symposium will be held on March 8, 2021.

**XI. Princeton Hydro Updates**

Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update on Princeton Hydro’s work around the lake. He states that Princeton Hydro has submitted proposals to the Commission for water quality monitoring. Dr. Lubnow provides an overview of projects that Princeton Hydro is working on for the Commission. He states that he will provide a HAB grant report and proposals for water quality monitoring before the March Commission meeting. Commissioner Steinbaum comments on the Princeton Hydro Water Quality Report. There is a general discussion of the report and projects around the lake.

**XII. Updates**

**State Park Updates**

Alternate Commissioner Chevrestt reports that the lake level is at 7.38 feet, she states that they did open the gate about 17 inches. She states that Mike and Tony are working on fixing the weed harvesting equipment. Snow has delayed roof repairs at the Franklin Building. Asbestos abatement work has been completed in the office, but they are still doing finish work. The sewer connection project is continuing with some delays due to snow. Mrs. Lyons asks whether vendors such as Aquarius have submitted paperwork for the weed harvesting program. Ms. Chevrestt will check to see if vendors are up-to-date on their paperwork.

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**NJDEP/LHC MOU**

Commissioner Osowski states that the DEP is still working on getting the information they need for the next CAC meeting. He states that they will cancel the February meeting and hoping to have the next one in March.

**Grant Updates**

Colleen Lyons states that the updates were covered in Princeton Hydro's update.

**Committee Updates**

**Land Use Committee Update**

Commissioner Tessier states that the land use committee met and needs to select six sites for Princeton Hydro to review as part of their land use ordinance review. He states that there was a recent application before Mount Arlington which included a rain garden. There is a discussion of land use reviews.

**Weed Harvesting**

Chair Gilfillan states that the committee updates were covered in the Chairman's Report.

**Ice Retardant**

Chair McCarthy states that there have not been many complaints. He provides an update on the ice and asks the commissioners to pay attention to ice retardant systems around the lake and document where they are functioning well or are not well maintained.

**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.

**XIII. New Items**

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant**

Mrs. Lyons states that Dr. Lubnow spoke about the grant earlier

**Rain Garden Workshop**

Mrs. Lyons states that the Commission's Rain Garden Program will be held virtually on March 3, 2021 at noon and 7pm.

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**Lee’s County Park Boat Slip**

The Commission was contacted about the use of a boat slip at Lee’s County Park. The County will provide the slip free of charge. Chair Smith states that the Commission should launch the boat this season.

**Weed Harvesting Welding Quote**

Mrs. Lyons states that Mike Calderio received a quote for welding work to include installation of containers to store safety equipment on the machines, tacking of grates on each of the machines, and stairs installed on the near shore conveyors. The quote is for \$6,928.80 and Mike is seeking approval from the Commission to complete the work. Commissioner Steinbaum asks whether they should wait for the results of the investigation before completing work on the machines. Chair Smith states that the work is minimal and should be completed.

**Chloride Monitoring**

Mrs. Lyons states that the Watershed Institute is running a program which provides chloride strips to environmental organizations for monitoring salt levels in waterbodies. She states that she and Donna Macalle-Holly from the Foundation have been monitoring four inlets to Lake Hopatcong for salt impacts. The data from the study may indicate where salt usage could be reduced to lower impacts to the lake.

**XIV. Public Comments**

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.

Donna Macalle-Holly a resident of Jefferson Township requests that the municipalities help to get the word out for the Rain Garden Program. She states that the program has budgeted up to 16 rebates of \$450. Mrs. Macalle-Holly states that the State Park will also be replanting the rain garden this year.

Mayor Francis states that he is concerned about the weed harvesting program and believes it is a good opportunity to revisit the use of grass carp. He discusses the aeration project in Crescent Cove and in the future for the rest of the lake. He also comments on the reduction of herbicide use in the lake. There is a general discussion of these topics.

**XV. 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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