

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 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)

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, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: 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

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 Pravs 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 Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Hoferkamp 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 Tessier 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

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Pravs	Yes		
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The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Fisch presents the Treasurer’s Report. He states that after the eight expenses are paid the balance in the account will be \$252,654. He states that there was a deposit for 10,162.20 from the Highland’s Council reimbursement on the WIP. Commissioner Steinbaum states that there is only \$165,000 left in the general operating account. He asks when the next payment from DEP is expected. Ms Lyons states that the Commission received their first quarterly payment of \$125,000 for July 1st through September 30th. She states that the Commission has not received their second quarter payment for October 1st through December 31st. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the DEP has received more money in their budget this year and feels that now is an appropriate time to request additional funds for Lake Hopatcong and to complete an economic report for the lake. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and List of Bills. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Tessier 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 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 received the monitoring proposals and contracts from Princeton Hydro and a 319-grant update also from Princeton Hydro.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith states that he has a conference call scheduled with DEP to discuss the weed harvesting program and another call with the state representatives to discuss whether additional lake’s funding is included in the budget. He states that the Chairs of each subcommittee have been tasked with making recommendations for their committees before the next meeting.

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IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Steinbaum states that the lake has had a real winter with up to 12 inches of ice in some locations. He states that the winter conditions will allow DEP to evaluate the Water Level Management Program Pilot Program. Commissioner Tessier states that the Land Use Committee will need another meeting to reduce the administrative burden on Colleen Lyons. Mrs. Lyons states that the Land Use Committee has a meeting on March 11th.

X. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane provides an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. He states that there will be a meeting with state representatives on Friday to discuss the fact that it appears that lakes did not receive any additional money in the budget. He states the Commission did receive their full \$500,000 statutory funding. Mr. Kane states that a request was made by Senator Bucco’s office to the office of Legislative Services for an Economic Survey and Report of the financial impact of lakes in the State. OLS has stated they do not have the resources and have passed the responsibility on to DEP. He states the Foundation was named to the steering committee for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed. The idea of placing navigational markers in Byram Cove has been discussed with DEP and they are waiting for a response. He thanks the State Park and Mayor Francis for extending sewer service around Lake Hopatcong.

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 and contracts to the Commission for water quality monitoring, cyanotoxin monitoring, aquatic plant survey, and review of Stormwater Ordinances. In addition, Dr. Lubnow states that the Commission is currently waiting for DEP to submit the 319-contract. He states that he would like to get the sampling for the project started so Princeton Hydro would like to begin work at their own risk and would not bill the Commission until they have a contract with the DEP. Once the Commission has a contract with the DEP a contract can be signed between the Commission and Princeton Hydro. There is a general discussion of the monitoring programs and grant.

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve five contracts presented by Princeton Hydro in the amount of \$64,670. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes

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Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Smith	Yes
Pravs	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

XII. Updates

State Park Updates

Alternate Commissioner Chevrestt reports that lake refill has been delayed because there is still a lot of ice on the lake. She states that they are monitoring the level and adjusting at the dam as needed. Lake level is about 7.37 feet currently. She states that the Franklin Building will have roof work done in a few weeks, Mike has also scheduled welding work for the machines and he and Tony continue to work on the mechanical work for the machines. Alternate Commissioner Chevrestt states that the office work at the State Park has been completed and the Commission is invited to come back. She states that the sewer project is moving through the State Park property and is expected to conclude on May 21st.

NJDEP/LHC MOU

Commissioner Osowski states that he does not have any updates. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about the harvester investigation and asks Commissioner Osowski to appeal to DEP to finalize the investigation. Commissioner Osowski states that DEP is going to schedule a meeting with the Commission to discuss the program. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about the CAC meeting. Commissioner Osowski states that they are still waiting for information from the DEP scientists and hope to have a meeting in April.

Grant Updates

Colleen Lyons states that she has been in contact with Princeton Hydro about the aqua filters in Crescent Cove and the aeration unit at Mount Arlington Beach. She states that refurbishment of the freshwater wetland islands in Ashley Cove will begin soon and the second Rain Garden workshop was held on March 2nd. She states that there were about 50 participants between the two sessions and 12 people have already signed up for the design sessions. Mrs. Lyons states that she has been working on a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant application with Princeton Hydro and the Foundation. The grant is due on April 1st. Mrs. Lyons gives a brief overview of the grant program and the proposed projects.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

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Commissioner Tessier states that the committee will meet on Thursday to discuss the stormwater ordinance overview and how to make the land use application reviews more efficient.

Weed Harvesting

Chair Gilfillan states that the committee is meeting once a week and is hoping for some positive news from DEP regarding the harvesting program. He states that the most recent meeting on March 5th and they discussed a bid specification to be advertised in case the state cannot support the harvesting program this year. The committee has also discussed options to reduce the cost of weed disposal by dewatering the weeds.

Ice Retardant

Chair McCarthy states that the lake has been well used this winter. Chair McCarthy presents photo that illustrate ice safety, ice creep and ice retardant systems. He notes that recently he has noted several propeller driven devices operating at above freezing temperatures. He suggests that additional outreach and potentially ordinance revisions are needed to address this issue.

Budget

Commissioner Steinbaum that the Commission needs additional funding to meet all of their responsibilities.

XIII. New Items

Rain Garden Workshop

Mrs. Lyons states that the topic was addressed earlier in the meeting.

XIV. Public Comments

Mayor Francis of Hopatcong states that the sewer project on Hudson Avenue started today and should be completed quickly. He states that this will take 40 septic systems offline.

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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