

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2021
In Person Meeting, Jefferson Township Board of Education Bldg.

I. Opening of Meeting/Open Public Meeting Statement

- a. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, The Lake Hopatcong Commission has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof delivered or mailed or electronically mailed to the following:

DAILY RECORD the NEW JERSEY HERALD and posted on the Lake Hopatcong Commission website (lakehopatcongcommission.org)

II. Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence

III. Roll Call

Present: Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen, Neil Senatore, Ronald Smith

Absent: Mark Crowley, Bill Hirshfeld, Tom Sellaro

Alternates Present: Laura Franek, Ryan Gilfillan

With nine members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Abstain	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes 8-0-1 (one abstention).

V. Treasurer’s Report

Mrs. Lyons states that Commissioner Fisch has resigned from his position as Commissioner, and she will present the Treasurer’s Report. She states that there are ten bills totaling \$16,147. She states the cash balance after payment of the bills is \$298,995. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if the Commission received their third and fourth quarter FY21 payments. Mrs. Lyons states that the money has been transferred, but is not in the Commission’s account yet. She states that the total amount of the payment will be \$158,52.10.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 16th, 2021
In Person Meeting, Jefferson Township Board of Education
31 NJ-181, Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2021
In Person Meeting, Jefferson Township Board of Education Bldg.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons states that the land use applications are available on the OneDrive Account. She states that she requested a quote from IEC for cleaning out the Aquafilter units in Crescent Cove over the next five years. She states that the Commission received a letter from Tim Clancy about the health of the fishery in Lake Hopatcong. The Commission has received donations from the municipalities, two counties, DEP, LHF, and Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum for the cost of the memorial plaque for Curtis Mulch. She states that the Commission received a request from NFWF for grant revisions and a letter from Morris County authorizing use of Mahlon Dickenson property for dewatering weeds. She states that the Commission was also copied on a letter from Senator Bucco to DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette requesting that DEP continue to insure the weed harvesting equipment. Mrs. Lyons states that the Commission also received a letter of resignation from Mark Fisch.

VII. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith introduces Senator Tony Bucco to speak about the letter he sent to the Commissioner of NJDEP. Senator Bucco states that weed harvesting on Lake Hopatcong is important and he supports the Commission’s efforts. Chair Smith continues his report and states that the Commission has been looking at the costs of weed harvesting and will discuss this in public with the exception of personnel costs which will be discussed by the Commission in executive session. He states he attended the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce event and is happy to see that businesses around the lake are busy. He states that there have been a couple of boating accidents on the water this season and talks about safety and patrols on the water.

VIII. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Wilsusen states that he attended the Boating Regulation Commission meeting at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club. He states that the Governor visited the lake and met with the four mayors. He states that it was a

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productive meeting and they pressed hit to sign the lake's funding legislation. He states that the lines of communication between NJDEP and the lake are getting better. He states that the Governor did say he would get a meeting with the State Police Colonel to discuss safety issues on the lake. Commissioner Pravs thanks Mark Fisch for his years of service and dedication to Lake Hopatcong.

IX. Administrator's Update

Colleen Lyons provides updates on her activities. She states that the Commission and Foundation have met with three of the four municipalities to discuss projects outlined in the watershed implementation plan. The Commission received feedback and a request for additional information on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Application, a response was prepared and sent. She states that the Commission's third and fourth quarter payments are expected to post this week. Mrs. Lyons states that the NJDEP installed two continuous monitoring buoys in the lake and will be installing two additional buoys. She states that the LHC is coordinating with the MWA and LHF on volunteer HAB monitoring. Mrs. Lyons states that she attended the Boat Regulation Commission meeting with Commissioner Wilsusen, Steinbaum, McCarthy, and Stevens.

X. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane and Kyle Richter are present to provide an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. Mr. Kane states that the Foundation continues to advocate for the lake and is hopeful that the \$10 million for lake's funding will be signed by the Governor. He states that Foundation continues to organize the quarterly Mayor's and DEP meetings. Mr. Richter states that the Floating Classroom is on the water and public cruises are filling up quickly. He states that the annual gala will be held on July 31st, and a safety event on August 4th. He states that the LHF has been coordinating meetings with enforcement officials and elected officials on safety for the lake.

XI. Princeton Hydro Updates

Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update on Princeton Hydro's work around the lake. He states that they continue water quality and HABs monitoring and phosphorus levels in the lake are lower than in 2019. He states that July cyanotoxin monitoring was negative at all ten stations. He states that as a result of Tim Clancy's trout letter, Princeton Hydro is increasing DO and temperature monitoring throughout the water column. Dr. Lubnow states that Pat Rose will be at the next commission meeting to provide updates and they will alternate attendance at meetings. Commissioner Steinbaum ask how phosphorus can be low despite no weed harvesting. Dr. Lubnow states that the increased rainfall may be flushing water out through the lake, and the work on stormwater projects in the watershed may also

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In Person Meeting, Jefferson Township Board of Education Bldg.

be reducing phosphorus levels. Commissioner McCarthy comments on the health of the fishery.

XII. Updates

State Park Updates

Alternate Commissioner Franek states that the park has a seasonal staff member monitoring HABs with a handheld fluorometer at the beach each Tuesday. She states that the current lake level is 9.25 feet.

NJDEP/LHC MOU

Commissioner Osowski introduces Laura Franek as the new Hopatcong State Park Superintendent. He states that Laura worked in the regional office and is familiar with park operations. Commissioner Osowski states that he does not have any updates on the CAC meetings, but hopes that they will resume in the fall.

Grant Updates

Dr. Lubnow states that we are now in the second year of the HABs grant and they are continuing to install and monitor projects. He states that the next projects are to install biochar and refurbish freshwater wetland islands in Ashley Cove, install biochar in Ingram Cove and install the last of three aeration unit at Mount Arlington Beach.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Chair Tessier is not present to provide an update.

Budget

Chair Steinbaum states that through new federal infrastructure programs there may be funds available for sewer projects. He states that he would like to update the monthly cash report to include a column to compare spending against the budget.

Finance

Chair Stevens states that there is no update.

Bylaws

Chair Crowley is not present to provide an update, however Mrs. Lyons states that he did submit a list of revisions for the bylaws that update how the Commission can hire employees and also allow alternate commissioners to chair committees.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
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Regular Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2021
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Planning

Chair McCarthy requests that a meeting be scheduled. He states that he would like to see the Commission get back to the model of a full-time staff that can assist the municipalities through shared services. He states that there should be more attention focused on stormwater issues.

Public Outreach

Chair Pravs provides updates on public activities around the lake including the Veteran’s Parade

Ice Retardant

Chair McCarthy states that there is nothing new to report. He requests that Mrs. Lyons schedule a meeting.

Ad-Hoc Reorganization Committee

Chair Smith states that weed harvesting will be discussed later in the meeting.

XIII. New Items

Lake Hopatcong Block Party

Mrs. Lyons states that she will be away the weekend of the Lake Hopatcong Block Party. She asks if Commissioner’s are available to volunteer for the booth in her absence. There is a general discussion and agreement to proceed with the booth.

Office Furniture

Mrs. Lyons states that due to the reduced size of their new office, their old furniture does not fit in the space. She requests permission to order a desk and a air conditioning unit totaling \$500. There is a general discussion and agreement to proceed with the purchase.

Appointment of the Commission Treasurer

Mrs. Lyons states that Mark Fisch submitted his resignation from the Commission, and the Commission needs to appoint a new Treasurer. Chair Smith nominates Commission Stevens, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes

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Senatore	Yes		
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The motion passes unanimously.

XIV. Public Comments

Gary Mans of Ingram Cove states that there is a stormwater runoff issue in the cove. He asks whether filtration can be installed to manage stormwater. Dr. Lubnow states that Princeton Hydro has a site visit scheduled in August to this area. He states that several treatment device proposals have been denied by NJDEP, but they will look for other locations. He states that they will be installing biochar in Ingram Cove.

Maureen Falconer and Ann Farber of Hopatcong discuss the installation of a new berm in Hopatcong that is causing stormwater runoff issues on their properties. Chair Smith states that they should discuss these issues with the Borough of Hopatcong.

John Kurzman of Lake Hopatcong states that there should be drains to lake signage on all catch basins. He states that water should not be released through the sluice gates and over the dam, which results in a greater than 12cfs discharge from Lake Hopatcong. He states that discharge over the dam retains colder water in the lake as opposed to release of bottom waters through the sluice gate. He states that restoration of the fountain will increase the volume of water released from the lake/

Marty Kane of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum states that restoration of the fountain will not increase outflow from the lake.

XV. Action Items

RES 21-04 Full Time Administrator

Chair Smith introduces the resolution to renew Colleen Lyons’ contract for FY22. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion, Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

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RES 21-05 Valley Bank

Chair Smith introduces the resolution for signers on the new Valley Bank accounts opened for purposes of payroll. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion to approve the resolution, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

RES 21-06 ByLaws Revision

Chair Smith introduces the resolution to revise the Commission Bylaws to amend requirements for hiring and to allow alternate commissioners to serve as subcommittee chairs. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Abstain
Osowski	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

RES 21-07 Weed Harvesting Budget

Chair Smith introduces the weed harvesting budget and provides an explanation of costs. He states that personnel costs will be discussed in executive session. There is a general discussion of insurance and material costs.

XVI. Executive Session

Chair Smith states that the Commission will enter executive session to weed harvesting personnel matters. He entertains a motion to move to executive session. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion. All those in favor signified by saying “aye” those opposed said “no”. The motion passed unanimously.

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In Person Meeting, Jefferson Township Board of Education Bldg.

Chair Smith entertains a motion to re-enter the public session. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion. Commissioner Pravs 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 approve the weed harvesting budget. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Senatore	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously.

XVII. 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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