

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2023
125 Landing Rd, Landing NJ 07850

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: Mark Crowley, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Thomas Sellaro, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Laura Franek, Ryan Gilfillan, Bradley Hoferkamp, Steven Levinson, Joshua Osowski, Bill Hirschfeld, Eric Wilsusen,

Alternates Present: Karen Porfido, Shawn Potillo,

With nine members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Chair Smith states that there will be an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. 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 McCarthy makes a motion. Commissioner Senatore 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 Pravs seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Sellaro	Abstain
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Abstain

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Senatore	Yes	Smith	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes 7-2-0 (two abstentions).

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Stevens provides an overview of the monthly cash report. He states that the Commission received the 1st quarter payment for fiscal year 2024 and reviews payments. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Correspondence

Colleen Lyons provides an update on the Commission correspondence. She states that land use applications are available on the Commission’s OneDrive. The Commission received documentation for Bill S3978 allocating supplemental appropriations of \$382,000 due to the loss of revenue from a boating driver license fee waiver the state implemented in FY23. She states that Princeton Hydro provided an amendment to their Lake Restoration Grant contract and scope of work. She states that the State provided a funding reconciliation for the first quarter FY24 payment. She states that Jefferson Township provided an update on dilapidated docks.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith states that the settlement with Weldon is moving forward and the project is under review with NJDEP.

IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Crowley states that the draft ice retardant system ordinance was reviewed by Roxbury and a memo will be provided to the Commission.

X. Administrator’s Update

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Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She provides an update on the Commission's grants. She states that she attended a meeting with Congressman Kean, the Foundation, and Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed to speak about issues in the watershed. Mrs. Lyons states that the July cyanotoxin monitoring indicated elevated levels of cyanobacteria at a couple beach clubs around the lake. Clubs were notified and provided contact information for NJDEP if a HAB is suspected.

XI. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that the harvesters are working on the south side of Brady Bridge and they have completed the Woodport section of the lake. They are working in East Shore, Halsey Island and Castle Rock areas. Mr. Calderio states that there have been welding issues and break downs but 1,767 cubic yards have been harvested so far. 1,600 cubic yards of wet biomass were reduced to 160 cubic yards after dewatering.

XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane states that the Foundation hosted Congressman Tom Kean, the Musconetcong Watershed Association, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed and Fish and Wildlife on the floating classroom. He states that the Foundation and Commission met with Senator Bucco to discuss funding sources for lakes and Lake Hopatcong. He states that they have received HAB reports for other lakes in the area. The Hopatcong State Park Fountain is staying on schedule for work done this year. He states that the Lake Loop is in October and Lake-Wide Cleanup in November.

Princeton Hydro Updates

Pat Rose of Princeton Hydro provides an update on projects associated with the HAB, 319, NFWF and Lakes Restoration Grant. He provides an update on the trout study under the Highlands Council grant with Roxbury Township as well as the oxygenation feasibility study being completed by Morris County. He states that he completed cyanotoxin monitoring on July 24th with the next round on August 21st. Commissioner Steinbaum comments on the impacts of winter salting on water quality.

Water Sports Industry Association – Wake Surf Presentation

Ron Sorenson of Lake Hopatcong Marine states that at the Boat Regulation Commission meeting the Lake Hopatcong Commission was considering making recommendations to the Boat Regulation Commission. He states that the public is concerned about wake surfing restrictions on Lake Hopatcong. Mr. Sorenson introduces Ethan Helyar of the Water Sports Industry Association who presents on

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the impact of wake surf boats, and responsible boating practices. Commissioner Steinbaum provides information from a University of Minnesota study on the impacts of wake surf waves compared to normal boat wakes. He reviews common complaints about damage to boats and waterfront properties. He states that the Boat Regulation Commission is accepting comments on a statewide proposal to increase wake surfing and water skiing from shore a shoreline from a distance of 100 feet to 200 feet.

XIII. Updates

State Park Updates

Mrs. Lyons states that Superintendent Franek provided a written update in her absence. She states that the water level is at 9.13 feet and the state has submitted a permit for this year's five-foot drawdown to fish and wildlife.

CAC Meeting

There is no DEP representation to provide an update.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Chair Tessier provides states that the current Planner, Ken Nelson is retiring and so the committee met with another planner. He will provide a quote for services for the October meeting.

Budget

Commissioner Steinbaum provides an overview of the actual vs budget report.

Finance

No updates.

Bylaws

No updates.

Planning

No updates.

Public Outreach

Commissioner Pravs comments that Congressman Kean's visit shows he is interested in the lake and meeting with the public.

Ice Retardant

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Chair McCarthy states that there is nothing new. He states that Hopatcong has adopted the ordinance and Roxbury has reviewed it.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

Chair McCarthy states that all updates were provided during Princeton Hydro's report.

Ad Hoc Goose Management

Assistant Commissioner Porfido states that the committee will get together soon.

XIV. New Items

Land Use Committee Planner

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

XV. Public Comments

Alexandra Guido – Lake Forest, Comments on safety complaints of putting all wake surf boats in the middle of the lake.

Rich Butkus – Henderson Bay, Comments on implementing education and enforcing existing rules before changing the rules.

Beth Shustin – River Styx, States that there should be additional restriction, police enforcement of existing rules

John Rudolph - Lake Forest, Comments on the safety of restricting wake surfing only to the center of the lake.

Anthony Guido – Lake Forest, Comments on the proposal of 600' and how it limits areas where surfing would be allowed.

Sandra Guido – Lake Forest, Comments that wind, ice, and weather contribute to the erosion of lakefront properties and docks.

Nick VanIsle – East Shore Estates, Comments that the 600' rule proposal prioritizes personal property over safety.

Sam DeAlba – Lake Hopatcong, Comments on water management. Increasing the height of the spillway to 9.25' and restrictions on stream flow.

Ron Sorenson – Lake Forest, Comments on the LHC role in making recommendations to other regulatory agencies & bodies.

Brian Sengebush – Great Cove, Comments on other sources of waves and property damage and on safety issues.

John Kurzman – Lake Hopatcong, Comments on 2020 law 200' from shore and 100' from other vessels, enforcement and education, safety, boat rentals. He also states that glyphosate causes cyanobacteria as referenced in a 2021 report..

XVI. Action Items

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RES 23 - 18 Amended PH/LHC Lake Restoration Grant Contract
RES 23 – 19 Supplemental General Consulting Contract

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the amended Princeton Hydro Contract and the Princeton Hydro General Consulting Contract. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion, Commissioner Stevens seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

XVII. Close of Meeting

Chairman Smith entertains a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.

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