

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2024
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 (7:05p), Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Neil Senatore, Ronald Smith, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Eric Wilsusen

Absent: Ryan Gilfillan, Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Robert Tessier

Alternates Present: Laura Franek, Marie Galate, Steven Levinson, Karen Porfido, Shawn Pottillo, Thomas Sellaro

With eight members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Chair Smith states that there is no need for an executive session.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call:

Crowley	Abstain	Senatore	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Franek	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes 9-1-0 (one abstentions).

VI. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer's report. He states that the Commission received the second and third quarter statutory payments and payments from the NFWF and HABs grants. He reviews the monthly expenses.

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Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Monthly Cash Report. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion. Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Franek	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Correspondence

Ms. Lyons states that the Commission received land use applications which are available on the Commission OneDrive account. She states that they received Princeton Hydro’s monthly report and the monthly land use memo. They also received annual letters of support from the Borough of Hopatcong and Borough of Mount Arlington.

VIII. Police Safety Report

Chair Smith introduces Lieutenant Tracy from Hopatcong, Sergeant Buro from NJ State Police, and Chief Ambrose from the Morris County Sheriff’s Department. The officers report on upcoming 2024 enforcement initiatives, present the 2023 end of year safety statistics, an update on youth education, boating safety and a program through Bridge Marina that will offer hands on training to youth boat safety program graduates.

IX. Chairman’s Report

Chair Smith reports that one of the full-time employees resigned their position. He states that the Commission will advertise his position immediately and hold a Weed Harvesting Committee meeting.

X. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Stevens comments on the water level. He states that water level rose very quickly and as a result docks are battered by windy spring conditions. Commissioner Wilsusen states that Jefferson received \$750K from the federal government for a sewer feasibility study. Chair Smith states that there has been an increase in docks in Byram Cove.

XI. Administrator’s Update

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Mrs. Lyons provides an update on current grants. She states that the Commission received several payments from the statutory funding and grant reimbursements. She states that she will be attending annual municipal council and county commissioner updates with Marty Kane and Kyle Richter.

XII. Police Safety Report

Lieutenant Ryan Tracy, Sergeant Anthony Buro and Chief Jack Ambrose are present to discuss a joint safety video release expected in April 2024. Lt. Tracy and Sgt. Buro provide a summary of the safety initiative for Lake Hopatcong and present five of the six safety videos. Safety videos will be made available in the spring along with signage at marinas on how to access the videos and boating safety manual. News and information on the lake will also be shared by law enforcement to the marinas and shared with their email lists. Commissioner McCarthy suggests a topic for an additional video on Lake Hopatcong specific information such as no wake. Lt. Tracy states that no wake information can be provided through email communications as well.

XIII. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that some welding was completed and was half the price of a competitor. He states that the dump trucks need maintenance and the machine that was involved in the accident is coming along.

XIV. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane provides an update on advocacy work. He states that the Hopatcong Police Department is working to secure a boat. They are working with Morris County and State Park Police on a memorandum of understanding to use the police boat at Hopatcong State Park. He states that the work on the fountain has been completed. Mr. Kane states that the Boating Regulation Commission is considering changes to the no wake speed limit restriction. He states that a sewer feasibility study for Jefferson Township was awarded \$750K through Federal Community Projects Funding. Mr. Kane provides an update on the Lee's County Park Pavilion and dates of upcoming community events hosted by the Foundation.

Princeton Hydro Updates

Pat Rose of Princeton Hydro provides an update on monitoring and grant projects. He states that he final water quality report was submitted to the LHC in January. Data will be presented at the April 2024 LHC meeting. He states that Princeton Hydro continues to work on the NJ Highlands Council grants which include the Landing Channel Floating Island project, oxygenation project and the Trout Study. He states that they are also continuing work on the NFWF grant, which consists of three streambank stabilization projects at Witten Park, Glen Brook and the

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Musconetcong River. He states that the Trout Study Report has been provided to the committee. He states that Princeton Hydro is also working on the Lakes Restoration Grant. The alum treatment will be completed in fall 2024 rather than this spring. Mr. Rose states that projects under the LHC 319 grant are wrapping up. A scope change amendment was recently submitted to reallocate funds for the Hopatcong project for a socks for docks program that would provide homeowners with biochar socks. Stormwater monitoring for the Filterra units in Jefferson was completed in March. Water quality monitoring will begin in May and Princeton Hydro will also reach out to Roxbury Township about applying for funds from the Highlands Council to refurbish the stormwater basins on Singac Ave. Ms. Lyons states that she will provide costs for biochar to each municipality. The Commission and Princeton Hydro recommend that the municipalities take over installation responsibilities beginning in spring 2026.

XV. Updates

State Park Updates

Alternate Commissioner Franek states that the water level is 8.93'. She states that she is transferring to High Point State Park in March, but will continue to assist with Hopatcong as needed.

CAC Meeting

Alternate Commissioner Franek states a meeting was held on March 6th. She states that NJDEP is finalizing the plan and it will be posted for public comment soon.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Committee Chair Tessier is not present. Colleen Lyons states that there has been a change in the municipal land use board reviews as they pertain to water quality on Lake Hopatcong.

Budget

Committee Chair Steinbaum provides an overview of the FY24 Budget vs Actual spending. He states that the weed harvesting budget exceeds what was budget because of the addition of a second full-time employee.

Finance

No update.

Bylaws

No update.

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Planning

No updates.

Public Outreach

No updates.

Ice Retardant

Committee Chair McCarthy states that it is no longer ice retardant system season and suggests that a meeting should be scheduled.

Ad-Hoc Boating Safety

Committee Chair Steinbaum states that the committee will meet with NJSP Sgt. Buro and will provide a recommendation to the Boating Regulation Commission for evening speed limits.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

Committee Chair McCarthy states that members of the committee went to the hatcher in February and will wait to stock until April 13th to allow the trout to get larger. He states that they applied for a permit. This years tag color will be caramel.

Ad Hoc Goose Management

Alternate Commissioner Porfido provides an update and states that there will be a virtual meeting tomorrow night for volunteers and captains. She states that they have twelve zones and seven captains covered so far.

XVI. New Items

No new items.

XVII. Public Comments

Sam DeAlba Lake Hopatcong asks whether the shrink wrap program is posted on social media and where the Water Level Management Plan will be posted. Alternate Commissioner Franek states on the state park website, LHC and LHF websites. He asks when work will be completed on the state park boat ramp. Alternate Commissioner Franek states, by April 1st.

XVIII. Action Items

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the resignation of a full-time employee. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion.

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Franek	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

XIX. Close of Meeting

Chair Smith entertains a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.

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