

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – July 10, 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, Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Laura Franek, Steven Levinson, Joshua Osowski, Shawn Potillo, Bill Hirschfeld, Karen Porfido, Thomas Sellaro

Alternates Present: Ryan Gilfillan

With ten 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 McCarthy makes a motion. Commissioner Hoferkamp 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 Wilsusen makes a motion. Commissioner Crowley 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 McCarthy makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes

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Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Stevens provides an overview of the monthly cash report. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. He asks Mrs. Lyons about the outstanding grant reimbursements. Mrs. Lyons states that the reports have been submitted and she is waiting for approval from NJDEP. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion, Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	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 also received monthly updates from the planner and Princeton Hydro. She states that PEOSH conducted an inspection of the harvesting program and issued a report to the Commission. The findings indicate the program is well run, and some of PEOSH’s recommendations will be incorporated into the Commission’s Policy and Procedure Manual.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith comments on the transfer of the nearshore aeration system from Lake Forest Yacht Club to East Shore Beach Club. He states that the agreement between Weldon and NJDEP is moving forward. He states that due to the number of audience members, public comment will be limited to 2 minutes per person.

IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

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Commissioner Senatore states that he took a drive around the lake and noticed some issues with silt fencing that was not installed properly. He will report the issues to the Borough of Hopatcong. Commissioner Wilsusen states that the four municipal mayors and other elected officials met with the police chiefs. The lake safety videos have been filmed and should be available soon.

X. Administrator's Update

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She states that East Shore Beach Club has confirmed that they can meet the electrical requirements for the near shore aeration system. She states that she is waiting for approval of HAB and 319 grant reports from NJDEP before submitting subsequent reports. The Filterra Tree Boxes in Jefferson were upgraded with new biochar filter material under the 319 grant. There were some issues with flooding, but they have since been resolved by Princeton Hydro. She states that the Lake Management Grant contract has not been issued by DEP.

XI. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that all of Crescent Cove, Henderson Cove, and River Styx have been completed. The harvesters were moved from Lee's Park to East Shore. Now they are working in northern Woodport and working their way south toward Brady Bridge. 705 cubic yards of aquatic weeds have been removed so far this season, which is more than this time last year.

XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Kyle Richter states that the Foundation received a stormwater grant for \$239,000 for a bioretention basin at Lakeside Fields and they are working with Jefferson Township High School students to complete the project. He states that 7 tons of shrink wrap were recycled during their program this spring. On July 19th there will be a volunteer planting event at Memorial Pond in Mount Arlington. Mr. Kane states that public lake's funding will not be voted on until after the election. He is optimistic that it will pass. He states that the Boat Regulation Commission meeting will be on Wednesday at 10am at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club. He states that the concept of a navigation corridor around Byram Cove has resurfaced.

Princeton Hydro Updates

Pat Rose of Princeton Hydro provides an update on 319 grant activities including supplemental planting of floating wetland islands in Landing Channel in the spring, Memorial Pond plantings in Mount Arlington, Filterra units in Jefferson Township and a biochar socks for docks program in Hopatcong next spring. Roxbury received funding through the Highlands Council for planning work in Landing Channel. Jefferson received approval for the 2023 trout monitoring project from the NJ

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Highlands Council. The NFWF grant covers three streambank stabilization projects in the watershed and is in the planning stages. Mr. Rose states that the 2023 total phosphorus value is still lower than the 2019 high of 0.042mg/L.

XIII. Updates

State Park Updates

There is no DEP representation to provide an update. Commissioner McCarthy states that the lake is at 9.69 feet and the rate of outflow was at 308 cfs. He comments on the need for a red line on the usgs website to indicate high water mark.

CAC Meeting

There is no DEP representation to provide an update. Commissioner McCarthy comments on the 22-inch pilot program.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Chair Tessier provides an overview of land use applications in the watershed over the past month.

Budget

Commissioner Steinbaum provides an update on the Commission's spending. He states that the Commission is on target in most categories and that next month he can report on the year-end financials.

Finance

Chair Stevens states that the auditor conducted their field visit on May 30th. The Commission is waiting for a draft report.

Bylaws

No updates.

Planning

Chair McCarthy has no new updates.

Public Outreach

Commissioner Pravs comments on distribution of the LHC brochures and asks the Commissioners distribute them as well.

Ice Retardant

Chair McCarthy states that he forwarded the draft ordinance to the municipalities for comment.

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Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

Chair McCarthy states that trout were caught into July. He states that the next meeting is in August.

Ad Hoc Goose Management

Commissioner Stevens comments that he and Alternate Commissioner Porfido counted 700 geese on the lake. He states that a better addling program could further reduce populations since many of the geese they counted were juveniles.

XIV. New Items

Commissioner Steinbaum revisits a study on wake boats by the University of Minnesota and summarized the findings of the study. He states that he will present the findings to the Boat Regulation Commission at their meeting. Chair Smith states that the Commission will consider Commissioner Steinbaum's proposal in August. Commissioner McCarthy requests a copy of the proposal in writing and a copy of the study.

XV. Public Comments

Alfred Claus of Lake Hopatcong comments on the high quantity of salt on the roads in the winter and how it impacts the lake.

Daian Delforno of Hopatcong shares photos related to the buoys in Byram Cove. Commissioner Wilsusen suggests the photos be provided to the state police and Boat Regulation Commission.

John Kurzman of Lake Hopatcong comments on the Filterra units on Yacht Club Drive, wake surfing, and the five-foot drawdown. Commissioner Steinbaum states that his drawdown comments have already been proposed to the DEP.

Lynn Ownes of Byram Cove comments on the noise and music in Byram Cove. Commissioner Wilsusen and Hoferkamp state that the municipalities are adopting a uniform ordinance and there has been more police on the lake now than ever before.

Lisa Paluso of Byram Cove comments on the noise in Byram Cove

Cliff Lundin of Byram Cove comments on the noise in Byram Cove

Chris Tormey of Byram Cove comments that there should be more marine police on the lake. Commissioner Wilsusen states that there is double the coverage than there has been in the past and Morris County is supplementing and patrolling the whole lake, not just Morris County.

Marty Kane states that the Attorneys General stated that the Boat Regulation Commission only controls noise from the boat itself, not music and they have no authority over music, just boat noise such as mufflers. Commissioner Wilsusen comments on the increased policing in recent years and this year. He states that

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Greenwood Lake only receives one day of coverage a week. He states that the state police need to be notified and there are no logs of calls between 2-3am. Rachel Rodriguez comments on the lack of communication and that the complaints should be communicated to the Hopatcong Council.

XVI. Action Items

There are no action items.

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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