

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 11, 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, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Anne Seibert-Pravs, Joshua Osowski, Todd Stevens, Eric Wilsusen, Karen Porfido,

Alternates Present: Laura Franek, Ryan Gilfillan, Bill Hirschfeld, Steven Levinson, Shawn Potillo, 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 minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Senatore	Yes
Franek	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Hoferkamp	Abstain	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes 6-2-0 (two abstentions).

VI. Treasurer's Report

In Commissioner Steven's absence Chair Smith asks the Commissioners to review the Monthly Cash Report and Finances. He then requests a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion, Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion.

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Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Senatore	Yes
Franek	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Smith	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 the monthly progress report from Princeton Hydro and two requests to stop the five-foot drawdown and on request to continue it.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith states that the harvesters will begin being removed tomorrow and that there will be a safety presentation from New Jersey State Police later in the meeting.

IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Senatore states that over the holiday weekend state troopers did a great job. Alternate Commissioner Gilfillan asks whether there are any regulations governing towing through the main lake on weekends.

X. Administrator’s Update

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She provides an update on the Commission’s grants. For the HAB grant, East Shore Estates has responded that they cannot meet the requirements for the nearshore aeration system. Mrs. Lyons suggests the Commission get a quote from Lake Management Science to remove the system and store it at Franklin Building until a new location can be found. She is still waiting for approval on the last grant report submitted on June 9th. Three of the 319 grant projects are complete in Roxbury, Jefferson and Mount Arlington. The Hopatcong project will be completed in spring 2024. Mrs. Lyons states that she began reimbursement reporting for the NFWF Grant and the Commission should receive their final grant agreement for the Lakes Restoration Grant soon.

XI. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that cutting for the season was completed on Friday. He states that they removed 2,200 cubic yards and after dewatering this resulted in 400 cubic yards. With the help of Jefferson Township, the Commission saved roughly

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\$10,000 in disposal costs. Commissioner McCarthy asks if there are any known issues with the machines. Mr. Calderio states that one cutter bar needs to be replaced, but they will have to look everything over before he knows what needs to be repaired. Chair Smith suggests a harvesting committee meeting be scheduled.

XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane states that the Foundation is hosting a Lake Cleanup on November 4th. The annual Lake Loop will be held October 1st at Hopatcong State Park and on October 7th Hudson Farm will host a walk for Byram Township. He states that the HSP Fountain Project is moving forward, and a Mayor's meeting with NJDEP will be set soon. He states that the Boat Regulation Commission meets Wednesday in Tom's River. Mr. Kane states that the property north of Landing Bridge was temporarily paved but is set to be green space. He states that the next Lake's Bill will have to go through a lame duck session. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about federal sewer funding. Mr. Kane states that money has been set aside for a feasibility study.

Princeton Hydro Updates

Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro provides an update on projects associated with the HAB, 319, NFWF and Lakes Restoration Grant. Commissioner Crowley asks when the municipalities are expected to take over biochar purchase and installation for stormwater structures. Dr. Lubnow states that the commission has grant funding for the next two years and after that responsibility would shift to the municipalities. Commissioner Tessier asks about the project in Witten Park. Dr. Lubnow states that a regenerative stormwater system will be installed to remove pollutants/nutrients before they can enter the lake.

NJSP 2023 Safety Presentation

Sgt. Buro of the New Jersey State Police presents safety information for the 2023 season. He states that towing should be 100' from other vessels and 200' from shore. He states that NJSP had an increased presence on the lake in 2023. They participated in the Block Party, and assisted municipal zoning officers with a dilapidated dock survey. He states that the NJSP, Morris County and Hopatcong police departments collaborated on boating safety videos that will go out in 2024. He also provides an update on a safety initiative for boat rentals that standardizes boater education. NJSP and local police departments also participated in boater safety and ice and water safety for kids age 12-18. Sgt. Buro states that this year was more successful than last year for stops. There were two drownings only one involved a boat. He states that they are also using residential cameras for surveillance detail for issues on the lake. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about boat carrying capacity for the lake. Sgt. Buro states that there are safety issues, but he

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doesn't know a carry capacity limit. Commissioner McCarthy suggests ice retardant system safety be included in education for elementary school classes.

XIII. Updates

State Park Updates

Alternate Commissioner Franek states that the water level is at 9.15' and 25.1 cfs. She states that they received the lake lowering permit. Drawdown will begin September 22nd. The lake will be lowered until November 1st and will remain at draw-down level until December 15th when refill begins.

CAC Meeting

No update.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Chair Tessier states that they will hire a planner next month.

Budget

Commissioner Steinbaum provides an overview of the actual vs budget report. He states that two months into the year spending is around 16%. He states that weed harvesting staff and benefits are higher with the new full-time person. Total weed harvesting expenses are less than expected.

Finance

No updates.

Bylaws

No updates.

Planning

No updates.

Public Outreach

No updates.

Ice Retardant

Chair McCarthy states that Hopatcong adopted the ordinance, Roxbury has sent an email and he would like to have another committee meeting.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

No updates.

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Ad Hoc Goose Management

No update.

XIV. New Items

Ad-hoc Boat Safety Committee

Chair Smith states that a committee was formed to discuss boat safety issues on Lake Hopatcong. Six members met on August 28th. He states that the group will review boating safety rather than just wake boats.

XV. Public Comments

No comments.

XVI. Action Items

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve an additional \$6,000 to purchase a new truck for the weed harvesting program. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Senatore	Yes
Franek	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	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 McCarthy seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.

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