

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – January 8, 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, Bradley Hoferkamp Daniel McCarthy, Neil Senatore, Ronald Smith, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Eric Wilsusen  
Absent: Joshua Osowski, Karen Porfido, Shawn Pottillo, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Robert Tessier

Alternates Present: Laura Franek, Marie Galate, Ryan Gilfillan, Steven Levinson, Thomas Sellaro

With nine 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 December minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes 6-3-0 (three abstention).

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer's report. He comments on the receipts and disbursements listed under each grant and that reimbursements should be received in a timelier manner. He states that the top section of the monthly cash

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report should be improved to be more understandable. He notes that the receipts for the monthly cash report should include the credit card receipts.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

**VII. Correspondence**

Mrs. Lyons states that the Commission received monthly land use applications, the Princeton Hydro monthly report as well as the 2024 proposals for cyanotoxin monitoring, water quality monitoring and general consulting. She states that they also received the monthly land use report from the Commission planner.

**VIII. Chairman’s Report**

Chair Smith states that the water level is back up to 7.19 feet. He states that there will be a personnel meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> to review the employee manual. He states that he and Marty have been discussing strategies to increase the Commission budget. The Commission is seeking a new auditor since the current auditor has been unresponsive. He welcomes the new Hopatcong Alternate Commissioner and new Mayor of Hopatcong, Marie Galate.

**IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments**

Commissioner Steinbaum comments that over the past year he has noticed that residents have three major concerns including water level and drawdowns, aquatic weed and HAB control, and boating etiquette and safety. There is a general discussion of the purpose of the citizens advisory committee. Commissioner McCarthy asks if the State Police will present on a strategy for Byram Cove for the upcoming season. He also presents a 2008 Commission Contact List. He asks that a new one be prepared.

**X. Administrator’s Update**

Mrs. Lyons provides an update on her activities and reviews grant project progress and reimbursement reporting. Multiple requests from DEP for additional information have delayed reimbursement for the HAB and 319 grants. She states that due to increased construction costs, the scope of work under the NFWF grant will be revised. She is working with Princeton Hydro and NFWF to revise the

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scope. The first reimbursement request for about \$50,000 was submitted in November and payment is expected soon. The outfall maintenance sediment removal project under the Lakes Grant is complete. Mrs. Lyons states that she is coordinating the reimbursement request with the municipalities and counties. Princeton Hydro has begun the permitting process for the alum treatment. The Commission received a \$200,000 advanced payment for the Lakes Grant and is applying invoices against the balance.

**XI. Weed Harvesting Report**

Mr. Calderio states that the new truck should be delivered in the new year. He states that he placed an order with Aquarius for harvester parts. One of the dump trucks needs repairs, but the shop is booked until after the holiday. Chair Smith asks whether the damaged harvester will be ready this season. Mr. Calderio states that it is in good shape.

**XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Kyle Richter provides an update on Foundation activities. He states that planning for the 2024 Block Party on May 18<sup>th</sup> has begun. Marty Kane states that the Lakes Funding Bill did not make it through the lame duck session. He states that that will try again this year and will also seek to increase the boat licensing fee, which is currently set at \$18 every four years. He states that the LHF, LHC, and mayors had a good meeting with the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of NJDEP. There are two new mayors, Jaki Albrecht in Roxbury and Marie Galate in Hopatcong. He states that Hopatcong Police Department would like to get their own boat for Byram Cove. They are working on an agreement between Hopatcong and State Park Police for use of the boat at Hopatcong State Park. Mr. Kane states that work on the Fountain Project should be completed in the next month. Commissioner Steinbaum requests information on the LHF salt monitoring project.

**Princeton Hydro Updates**

Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro provides an update on monitoring and grant projects. He states that they are continuing work on the Highlands Council grants. For the Floating Island project, they are looking for potential disposal sites for dredged material and will complete wetland assessments in March 2024. He states that they will seek the third and final round of funding for the Trout Study through Jefferson Township. Dr. Lubnow states that NJDEP has provided a list of questions about the proposed oxygenation system and that Princeton Hydro and Gantzer will provide responses. A second public information meeting will be held after DEP provides a list of approvals that will be required. Dr. Lubnow provides an update on the NFWF streambank stabilization projects and notes that results of sediment sampling in the Musconetcong River came back clean, which will make disposal

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much less expensive. He states that Princeton Hydro has begun the permitting applications necessary for a spring alum treatment. He notes that they are targeting a spring application, but it is dependent on the permitting timeline. A fall treatment might be necessary depending on permits. Commissioner Crowley offers to help locate disposal sites in Roxbury. Commissioner Steinbaum requests a cost benefit analysis for alum and oxygenation.

**XIII. Updates**

**State Park Updates**

Alternate Commissioner Franek states that the water level is at 7.19 feet. She states that they are above minimum flow to prepare for the storm. She states that two to three inches of rain are expected but they state park will bring the lake back to 22 inches as soon as possible.

**CAC Meeting**

No updates.

**Committee Updates**

**Land Use Committee Update**

Committee Chair Tessier is not present to provide an update. Commissioner Steinbaum comments that the planning report was thorough and easy to understand. He states that a committee meeting to provide comments to the planner may be helpful.

**Budget**

Committee Chair Steinbaum provides an overview of the Commission budget. He states that that the Commission has received half of their annual funding. He states that the weed harvesting employee budget is \$250,000 now that they are running a more robust program. He states that the program budget will be about \$380,000 this year and that the Commission's funding of \$500,000 is not enough.

**Finance**

No update.

**Bylaws**

Committee Chair Crowley states that there is no update needed to the bylaws to allow for virtual commissioner attendance.

**Planning**

No updates.

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**Public Outreach**

No updates.

**Ice Retardant**

Committee Chair McCarthy states that Hopatcong adopted a new ordinance requiring registration of propeller driven systems. He states that the form is ready at Borough Hall. There is a general discussion of whether a dock number is required under the new ordinance. The consensus from the Ice Retardant System Committee is that there is no requirement. Committee Chair McCarthy asks Marty Kane if a presentation can be made at the next Mayors Meeting.

**Ad-Hoc Boating Safety**

No updates. However Marty Kane states that the State Police and local police departments will present their new safety videos at the February meeting.

**Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat**

Committee Chair McCarthy states that the committee needs to pick a date for their third and final stocking.

**Ad Hoc Goose Management**

Commissioner Stevens provides an update. He states that the 2023 addling program was successful. In 2024 the committee plans to recruit volunteers to assist with locating nests in 23 areas of the lake. USDA will continue addling. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about a molt capture program. Commissioner Stevens states that they will do an additional year of addling.

**XIV. New Items**

Colleen Lyons states that she received an update from Weldon Quarry earlier in the day. She reads the update which states that Weldon submitted the supplemental environmental project (SEP) on July 24, 2023 and it remains under DEP review. The timeline for approval is subject to DEP review.

**XV. Public Comments**

There are no public comments.

**XVI. Action Items**

RES 24-01 Setting the Time and Date of the 2024-2025 Regular Meetings for the Lake Hopatcong Commission.

RES 24-02 Designation of an Official Newspaper to Receive Notices of Meeting Dates of the Lake Hopatcong Commission.

RES 24-03 Regarding Environmental Studies of Lake Hopatcong for 2024

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Chair Smith introduces Resolutions 24-01, 24-02, and 24-03. Colleen Lyons states that RES 24-01 includes a meeting on Veterans Day. There is a general discussion and the meeting is moved from November 11<sup>th</sup> to November 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Stevens comments on RES 24-03 and requests that the proposals from Princeton Hydro be revised to coincide with the fiscal year instead of the calendar year. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve RES 24-01 as amended and RES 24-02. RES 24-03 will be voted on at the next meeting. Commissioner Hoferkamp makes a motion, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

**XVII. Close of Meeting**

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

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