

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 12, 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: Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Blanca Chevrestt, Neil Senatore, Ronald Smith, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen

Absent: Mark Crowley, Ryan Gilfillan, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Thomas Sellaro

Alternates Present: Marie Galate, Steven Levinson, Karen Porfido, Shawn Pottillo

With eleven members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

An executive session will be held at the end of the meeting.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the July minutes. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Senatore seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Chevrestt	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Pottillo	Abstain	Stevens	Abstain
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Abstain
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes 8-3-0 (three abstentions).

VI. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer's report. He reviews the weed harvesting expenses, Princeton Hydro projects, and grant expenses. Chair Smith

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entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner Hoferkamp makes a motion. Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Chevrestt	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Potillo	Abstain	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Correspondence

Mrs. 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 cyanotoxin monitoring report. The Commission received the Planner’s monthly report, the NJDEP quarterly funding reconciliation, a quote from Advanced Mailing for fall mailers, and correspondence on the alum treatment from Princeton Hydro. The Commission also received a memo from Carole Sovocool regarding personal watercraft on Lake Hopatcong.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chair Smith comments on the private use of buoys and rafts around the lake. He states that NJ State Police have started issuing warnings without fines for improperly placed buoys. Marty Kane summarizes a statement provided by NJ State Police Sargent Buro. If you believe you need a buoy for safety reasons you can contact the NJ State Police for an assessment. Chair Smith states that Senator Booker and the Governor will be visiting the lake this month.

IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner McCarthy comments on the partnership with NJ Parks on restoring the State Park fountain.

X. Administrator’s Update

Mrs. Lyons provides an update on current grants. She states that she is working with Princeton Hydro to complete the HAB Grant submission to NJDEP. She states that all projects under the 319 Grant have been completed and Princeton Hydro will finish monitoring to close out the grant. Extra plantings from the 319 grant projects

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were used to replant the floating wetland islands in Landing Channel and Memorial Stormwater Pond in Mount Arlington. She states that she and Princeton Hydro met with NFWF to discuss a change order that would combine the Glen Brook Project with the planting aspects of the Musconetcong River Project. NFWF is supportive. Once NFWF approves the scope change and the Commission approves the proposal the project will be advertised. She states that biochar was installed at two locations in Jefferson Township. The remaining biochar will be installed by the DPW next season. Mrs. Lyons provides an update on the Lakes Restoration Grant. She states that the Alum Project is under consideration for award tonight and the bidder was under budget. She states that Princeton Hydro has recommended that the alum dose rate be increased to provide better control of internal nutrients.

XI. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that aquatic weed growth is light. The program reduced part-time staff hours to two to three days a week. He states that the tape grass is starting to come up now.

XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Kyle Richter, Executive Director of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation provides an update on Foundation activities. He states that the floating classroom public cruises will continue through August. He states that the Foundation is continuing work with Princeton Hydro on the Lakeside Fields Bioretention project. He states that they received an Invasive Species grant and have begun work on that as well. Mr. Richter states that the Lake Loop Registration is now open. He states that Lake Funding of \$17 million will come up for hearings in October. Senator Bucco is hopeful as lakes and rivers all over the state have had HABs this summer. He states that a mayor's meeting was held today with NJ Parks staff. Mr. Richter states that the Hopatcong Police boat has not been in the water due to repairs and that the fountain is off because water is over the dam.

Princeton Hydro Updates

Pat Rose of Princeton Hydro provides an update on their activities. He states that Princeton Hydro conducted the August water quality monitoring event. The Landing Channel Engineering report was submitted in July, and they have received comments from Roxbury. Princeton Hydro has been conducting weekly trout monitoring events and conducted the first cyanotoxin monitoring event on July 22nd. Mr. Rose states that Princeton Hydro is continuing their work on the Highlands Council funded oxygenation feasibility study, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant projects, and Lakes Restoration grant projects. They have also initiated work on two LH Foundation grants and are answering questions on the US Army Corps of Engineers grant submission.

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XIII. Updates

State Park Updates

Commissioner Chevestt states that the water level is 9.12 feet. She states that the fountain is currently off because water is flowing over the dam.

CAC Meeting

Commissioner Chevestt states that the comment period for the Water Level Management Plan ended on August 10th. Parks received three comments, which are being reviewed. After reviewing the plan, it will be finalized, and the CAC will be turned over to the Commission. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the plan did not state whether the pilot program would be continued. Commissioner Chevestt states that the plan does note that the pilot program will continue.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Committee Chair Tessier provides an overview of the planner's monthly report. He comments on lakefront applications that will be before the municipal land use boards within the next month.

Budget

Commissioner Steinbaum provides an overview of the financial reports included in the meeting packet. He states that the fiscal year is approximately 8% complete. He states that the Commission's income is \$500,000 and the budget is \$610,000. Chair Smith states that the budget should be reviewed.

Finance

No update.

Bylaws

No update.

Planning

No updates.

Public Outreach

No update.

Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant

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Committee Chair McCarthy states that the ordinance was submitted to the municipalities, and they are waiting for feedback. Commissioner Wilsusen states that he will check with Jefferson’s administrator.

Ad-Hoc Boating Safety

Commissioner Steinbaum states that the committee provided recommendations to the BRC. He states that he would like to expand the membership of the committee and has asked Commissioner McCarthy to join the committee.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

Committee Chair McCarthy states that no new trout have been reported.

Ad Hoc Goose Management

Commissioner Porfido states that there will be a virtual meeting held with USDA to review the 2024 goose management data. She also requests that the Commission consider sending out a flyer. The cost of the flyer is \$2,350 and would include the goose management flyer, goose management property access form for lake front property owners, a pre-paid envelope to send back the forms, and a copy of the ice retardant system flyer.

XIV. New Items

No new items.

XV. Public Comments

Sam DeAlba, Lake Hopatcong suggests mailing the flyers with the NJ State Police buoy information.

Carole Sovocool, Hopatcong comments on personal watercraft on the lake near the State Park. She states that police don’t have the resources to control them.

Beth Shustin, Hopatcong reads a statement on disrespectful boaters on the lake.

XVI. Action Items

Chair Smith introduces Resolutions 24-15, 24-16, and 24-17. He entertains a motion to approve the resolutions as a block. Commissioner McCarthy entertains the motion, Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion. Commissioner Hoferkamp requests additional information about the alum treatment area. Pat Rose of Princeton Hydro states that the treatment will cover over 950 acres of the lake.

RES 24-15 Amending Princeton Hydro’s NFWF Contract

RES 24-16 Alum Treatment of Lake Hopatcong Bid Award

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RES 24-17 Advertising the Musconetcong and Glen Brook Streambank Stabilization Projects

Roll Call:

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Potillo	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

XVII. 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 Wilsusen 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 Wilsusen makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion. All those in favor signified by saying “aye” those opposed said “no”. The motion passed unanimously.

XVIII. Close of Meeting

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

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