

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – December 9, 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, Blanca Chevestt, Bradley Hoferkamp, Todd Stevens, Fred Steinbaum, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Daniel McCarthy, Jacob Hamilton, Anne Seibert-Pravs, , Neil Senatore, Steven Levinson, Eric Wilsusen, Shawn Potillo

Alternates Present: Marie Galate, Ryan Gilfillan, Karen Porfido, Thomas Sellaro

With ten 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 November minutes. Commissioner Hoferkamp makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Porfido	Yes
Chevrestt	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Galate	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Gilfillan	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes, one abstention (9-0-1).

VI. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer's report. He reviews the grant reimbursements that were received. Commissioner Stevens reviews the monthly invoices. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Annual Reorganization Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 13, 2025
In Person Meeting, Lake Hopatcong Train Station
125 Landing Rd, Landing NJ 07850

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Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Porfido	Yes
Chevrestt	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Galate	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Gilfillan	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Smith	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 the Commission received the Planner’s monthly report, Princeton Hydro’s monthly report, the final Alum Treatment Report from SOLitude Lake Management, the 2025 USDA Goose Management Agreement, and a copy of approved Lake Hopatcong Rules from the Boating Regulation Commission.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chair Smith states that he attended the League of Municipalities and spoke with a goose management vendor. He suggests waiting to sign a contract with USDA until after he has spoken with the vendor.

IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Alternate Commissioner Porfido states that after the November meeting she spoke with Dave Helmer from Lee’s County Marina. At this time, they are not planning a boat wash station. She states that he will be sending her a plan for the property. Commissioner Steinbaum suggests a letter be sent to Morris County Freeholders and the Parks Commission expressing the importance of a boat wash station.

RES 24-25 Recommending a Boat Wash Station at Lee’s County Park Marina

Chair Smith entertains a motion for the Commission to send a letter to Lee’s County Park Marina recommending the installation of a boat wash station. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Porfido	Yes
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Chevrestt	Abstain	Stevens	Yes
Galate	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Gilfillan	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes (9-0-1), one abstention.

X. Administrator’s Update

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She reviews grant reimbursements that were received. She states that NJ State Police will provide a safety update at the January Meeting, and Princeton Hydro will provide their annual contracts for January as well.

XI. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that after looking at the machines there is no major damage and no welding required. He states that he won’t need to order very many parts through Aquarius and the program should see a savings.

XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Kyle Richter, Executive Director of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation provides an update on Foundation activities. He states that the Foundation sent out a newsletter update on all of their accomplishments for 2024.

Princeton Hydro Updates

Pat Rose from Princeton Hydro provides an update on their activities. He states that they are working on the 2024 water quality report, and it should be ready by the January 2025 meeting. Dr. Fred Lubnow will provide a presentation in February 2025. Commissioner Steinbaum requests a copy of the report in January so there is time to review before the presentation. Mr. Rose reviews work completed under the Commission’s Lake Restoration, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and 319 Grants. He states that Princeton Hydro is also working with the Foundation on their Stormwater Management Grant and NJ Audubon Grant, and with Roxbury Township on their Highlands Council Grant.

XIII. Updates

State Park Updates

Commissioner Chevrestt states that the lake lowering is underway. The current water level is at 7.5 feet and they hope to reach the 22 inch drawdown level by December 15th.

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CAC Meeting

Commissioner Chevrestt states that the Water Level Management Plan is under review by the Chief of Operations and that it has been shared with other agencies within NJDEP. She hopes to have an update in the new year.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Committee Chair Tessier provides updates on land use applications around the lake.

Budget

Committee Chair Steinbaum reviews the budget against spending to date. He also introduces the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget. There is a general discussion of the proposed budget.

Finance

Committee Chair Stevens states that the auditor should have a draft of the fiscal year 2021 audit either this, or next week.

Bylaws

No update.

Planning

No updates.

Public Outreach

No updates.

Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant

Alternate Commissioner Galate provides an update from Committee Chair McCarthy. She states that the committee has received feedback from Jefferson and is awaiting feedback from Mount Arlington and Roxbury.

Ad-Hoc Boating Safety

Mrs. Lyons states that Sargeant Fahy from the NJ State Police provided information on the updated rules for Lake Hopatcong. They have been accepted by the Boating Regulation Commission.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

Alternate Commissioner Galate provides an update from Committee Chair McCarthy. She states that Princeton Hydro is working on the final report and looking for alternate sources of funding to continue monitoring.

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Ad Hoc Goose Management

Committee Chair Porfido states that USDA submitted a contract, but that they won't move forward until after Chair Smith contacts the other vendor.

XIV. New Items

No new items.

XV. Public Comments

No public comments.

XVI. Action Items

RES 24-24 Approving the FY26 Lake Hopatcong Commission Budget

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the fiscal year 2026 budget. Commissioner Hoferkamp makes a motion. Commissioner Stevens seconds the motion.

Commissioner Tessier states that the Commission's income is \$500,000 per year and the FY26 proposed budget of \$613,000 is more than the Commission income. He states that the Commission needs to identify a new source of income or at some point will need to cut the budget significantly. Commissioner Crowley thanks the Budget Committee for their work.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Porfido	Yes
Chevrestt	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Galate	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Gilfillan	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously.

XVII. Close of Meeting

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

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