

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2025
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, Daniel McCarthy, Jacob Hamilton, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Blanca Chevrestt, Ryan Gilfillan, Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs

Alternates Present: Marie Galate, Steven Levinson, Karen Porfido, Shawn Potillo, Thomas Sellaro

With eleven members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

Chair Smith states that there will be an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss legal issues.

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 Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Porfido	Yes
McCarthy	Abstain	Stevens	Yes
Hamilton	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Senatore	Abstain	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Wilsusen	Abstain
		Smith	Yes

The motion passes, four abstentions (7-0-4).

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VI. NJSP Safety Update

Hopatcong Police Lieutenant Ryan Tracy, New Jersey State Police Sargeant Anthony Buro, New Jersey State Police Sargeant Fahy. and Morris County Police Sargeant Ed Koster present data on the 2024 safety initiatives on Lake Hopatcong. The officers present an overview of joint training exercises, boater safety videos and initiatives around the lake. Lieutenant Tracy states that at Lee’s Par they provided safety checks of boats before they entered the water, this will continue in 2025. He states that in 2024 Hopatcong Police were loaned a boat from Hopatcong State Park Police but had some engine troubles. In 2025 they will have their own boat as well as the boat on loan from Hopatcong State Park. The police are also working with the municipalities to develop a uniform noise ordinance. They provided details on the number of stops in 2024. Sargeant Fahy provides a summary of new Boating Regulation Commission (BRC) regulations including mandatory personal flotation device (PFD) during cold weather activities on power vessels from (November 1 – May 1). She also provides information on a second new regulation that prohibits riders on a personal watercraft (PWC) between the controls and the operator. She states that the updated water ski rules for Lake Hopatcong were approved by the BRC, however the process to approve is nine months. The rules will not be enforceable until fall of 2026.

VII. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer’s report. He reviews payroll, Princeton Hydro invoices and legal invoices. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Porfido	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hamilton	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Senatore	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
		Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously.

VIII. Correspondence

Mrs. Lyons states that the Commission received land use applications which are available on the Commission OneDrive account. The Commission received

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Princeton Hydro's monthly report and annual contracts, as well as the planner's monthly report, and correspondence from Weldon Quarry.

IX. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith states that the draft audit report for year ending 2021 is being reviewed by the finance committee.

X. LHC Commissioner's Comments

No comments.

XI. Administrator's Update

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She states that the auditor is beginning work on the year end 2022 audit. She has inquired about a line of credit for the Commission. Valley Bank is reviewing financial documents and will provide a determination. She states that a letter was sent to Morris County Parks Commission recommending the installation of a boat wash station at Lee's County Park. Mrs. Lyons provides an update on grant activities and reimbursements.

XII. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that the harvesters will not need any welding this year and no major parts from Aquarius.

XIII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Kyle Richter, Executive Director of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation provides an update on Foundation activities. He states that the Block Party will be held on May 17th. Marty Kane provides an update on Lee's County Park. He states that the new pavilion will be open to the public in three months and rentals this summer. He states that the fountain is off until Wednesday to determine why it is clogging with weeds. He states that he will discuss funding with Senator Bucco.

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 next week. Dr. Fred Lubnow will provide a presentation in February 2025. 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.

XIV. Updates

State Park Updates

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Commissioner Hamilton states that the current water level is at 7.22 feet.

CAC Meeting

Commissioner Hamilton states that the Water Level Management Plan is under review by the Chief of Operations and that she is finalizing comments.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Committee Chair Tessier states that the committee met to discuss progress and goals for the upcoming year. They feel that the current process is working. He provides an overview of recent applications.

Budget

Committee Chair Steinbaum reviews the budget against spending to date. He also suggests a new funding opportunity through a registration fee for boats used on Lake Hopatcong. There is a general discussion of the proposal.

Finance

Committee Chair Stevens states that the committee will meet on Wednesday to review the fiscal year 2021 audit. The auditors have started the fiscal year 22 audit.

Bylaws

No update.

Planning

No updates.

Public Outreach

No updates.

Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant

Commissioner McCarthy states that the committee has received feedback from Jefferson and is awaiting feedback from Mount Arlington and Roxbury. He states that there is ice on the lake.

Ad-Hoc Boating Safety

No update.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

No update.

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Ad Hoc Goose Management

Committee Chair Porfido states that they will sign the contract for USDA.

XV. New Items

No new items.

XVI. Public Comments

Harry Gedicke, Landing states that a user fee was proposed in the past but the State could not guarantee that the funds would not go to the General Fund.

XVII. Action Items

Chair Smith introduces Resolutions 25-01, 25-02, and 25-03 and proposes they be considered as a block. He entertains a motion. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

RES 25-01 2025-2026 Meeting Dates

RES 25-02 LHC Official Newspaper

RES 25-03 Princeton Hydro Contracts

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Porfido	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hamilton	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Senatore	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
		Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously.

Executive Session

Chair Smith states that there will be an executive session to discuss legal issues. He entertains a motion to move to executive session. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Senatore 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.

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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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