

***Lake Hopatcong Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 10, 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: Jacob Hamilton, Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Robert Tessier (7:15p), Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Mark Crowley, Blanca Chevrestt, Ryan Gilfillan, Shawn Pottillo, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Todd Stevens

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

With eight members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

**IV. Executive Session**

There is no executive session.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the February minutes. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	NA
Hamilton	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Abstain		

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

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

In Commissioner Stevens' absence Commissioner Steinbaum provides the Treasurer's report. He reviews payroll, Princeton Hydro invoices and other monthly payments, and states that the total monthly bill amount is \$55,000. Chair

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Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Hoferkamp makes a motion. Commissioner Senatore seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	NA
Hamilton	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously (8-0-0).

**VII. Correspondence**

Mrs. Lyons states that the Commission received land use applications which are available on the Commission OneDrive account. The Commission received Princeton Hydro's monthly report and the planner's monthly report. The Commission received the 319 Grant Report for Objective #2, which she is reviewing. The Commission also received the signed Cooperative Service Agreement with USDA and a response from Morris County Parks inviting the Commission to their July 8<sup>th</sup> workshop meeting.

**VIII. Chairman's Report**

Chair Smith states that the Commission and Princeton Hydro will meet with Weldon tomorrow. He states that the Commission will attend the Morris County Parks Commission meeting about a boat wash station.

**IX. LHC Commissioner's Comments**

No Comments.

**X. Administrator's Update**

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She states that the sixth annual HAB Summit will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup>. She states that all close out documents have been submitted and are under NJDEP review for the HAB Grant, but she is still waiting for final approval and reimbursement. She states that the financial report submitted under the 319 Grant on January 8<sup>th</sup> has still not been approved. This will be the last report that can be submitted before the grant closeout, DEP will hold the remaining \$20,000 until this time. Mrs. Lyons states that Princeton Hydro and Renova are ready to move forward with plantings along the Glen Brook and Musconetcong River under the Commission's NFWF Grant once the final NEPA approval is granted. The 2024 NFWF Grant for improvements at Witten Park is

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under NFWF review. A \$200,000 advanced payment was received for the Lake Restoration Funding Grant. A financial report was submitted on January 12th and she is awaiting reimbursement.

**XI. Weed Harvesting Report**

Mr. Calderio states that personnel are putting the machines back together and that there won't be any welding needed for this year. In April he plans to place an order for Aquarius for the following year's parts. He and Chair Smith discuss the need for a weed harvesting committee meeting in April.

**XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Kyle Richter, Executive Director of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation provides an update on Foundation activities. He states that Dr. Lubnow will give a virtual presentation on the 2024 water quality report on Thursday at 7pm. The Foundation Field Trip Program will begin again this spring, and the Block Party vendor spaces are sold out. Marty Kane provides an update on advocacy efforts. He states that he was in Washington DC for advocacy work this week and that Federal Community Funding is available again this year. He states that the Fountain had a clog and will be worked on again this week. Commissioner Steinbaum comments on the proposed motorboat races on the lake. He states that the Commission should be consulted on motorboat races. Commissioner Wilsusen responds that this would be outside of the Commission's responsibilities. There is a discussion of the Commission's responsibilities as well as safety, recreational and environmental impacts of the motorboat races.

**Princeton Hydro Updates**

Pat Rose provides an update on Princeton Hydro's activities on the lake. He states that water quality monitoring will start in May. He provides an overview of the Commission's and Foundation's grants. Princeton Hydro will also submit a proposal to Jefferson to conduct an aquatic plant survey under a Highlands Council grant.

**XIII. Updates**

**State Park Updates**

Commissioner Hamilton states that the current water level is at 6.44 feet and spring refill is underway.

**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.

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**Committee Updates**

**Land Use Committee Update**

Committee Chair Tessier provides an overview of recent land use applications in the watershed.

**Budget**

Committee Chair Steinbaum reviews the budget against spending to date. He states that spending is at about 66% for the year.

**Finance**

No update.

**Bylaws**

No update.

**Planning**

No updates.

**Public Outreach**

No updates.

**Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant**

Committee Chair McCarthy presents photos of damage from ice creep on the lake. He explains that ice creep happens when the ice on the lake expands and creeps up the shoreline. He also presents photos of road salt piles left by spreaders during storms.

**Ad-Hoc Boating Safety**

Committee Chair Steinbaum presents information from an article on the impacts of wake surf boats on lakes.

**Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat**

Committee Chair McCarthy states that the final report for the trout study is being prepared, but that any trout reported this season should also be included in the report.

**Ad Hoc Goose Management**

Committee Chair Porfido states that she will contact volunteers.

**XIV. New Items**

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Commissioner Steinbaum suggests that the Commission write a letter to the New Jersey State Police requesting that the Commission participate in the planning of motorboat races as an advisory body. Chair Smith entertains a motion for the Commission to send a letter to the New Jersey State Police requesting that the Commission be consulted before the approval of any motorboat races on Lake Hopatcong. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier (7:15p)	Yes
Hamilton	Yes	Wilsusen	No
Porfido	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes (8-1-0).

Commissioner McCarthy comments on best practices for road salt and asks that Princeton Hydro review the document that he sent.

**XV. Public Comments**

Sam DeAlba, Lake Hopatcong comments on the water level management plan and presents his recommendations for the plan.

**XVI. Action Items**

Chair Smith introduces Resolutions 25-05, approving Princeton Hydro's NFWF Contract for the Witten Park Project. He entertains a motion. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Hoferkamp	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Hamilton	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously (9-0-0).

**XVII. Close of Meeting**

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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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