

***Lake Hopatcong Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes – July 14, 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, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Blanca Chevrestt, Jacob Hamilton, Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs

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

With ten 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 June minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes; Alternate Commissioner Galate seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Galate	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Porfido	Abstain	Wilsusen	Abstain
Senatore	Abstain	Smith	Yes

The motion passes 7-3-0 (three abstentions).

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer's report. He states that the starting balance was \$673,090 and then reviews expenses including weed harvesting,

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Princeton Hydro, FY22 audit, and Renova Environmental. He states that \$25,000 was moved to the capital fund and the balance after expenses is \$497,000. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion. Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Galate	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	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. The Commission received the monthly land use report from Russell Stern and a letter from Senators Bucco, Steinhart and Space to DEP Commissioner LaTourette and an email response from Commissioner LaTourette's office regarding Lake Hopatcong Commission funding.

**VIII. Chairman's Report**

Chair Smith states that the Commission received a supplemental environmental project proposal from Weldon. The Commission's attorney is reviewing the proposal. He states that the weed harvesting program has received positive reports from residents about weeds.

**IX. LHC Commissioner's Comments**

None.

**X. Administrator's Update**

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She states that on July 8<sup>th</sup> she made a presentation on boat wash stations to the Morris County Park Commission. On July 9<sup>th</sup> she attended the Boating Regulation Commission meeting at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club. She provides an update on grant activities. She states that all documents under the 319 Grant have been submitted and are under review by NJDEP for final payment approval. She states that the 2021 NFWF grant plantings are complete and the State Park, Princeton Hydro and Commission are discussing

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plantings at the state park to use remaining funds from the grant. The 2024 NFWF grant for Witten Park is in its planning stages.

**XI. Weed Harvesting Report**

Mr. Calderio states that the crew is getting ready to move the north team to Ashley Cove. Two machines are staying south of Brady Bridge to harvest Great Cove and Crescent Cove. He states that 848cy have been harvested to date.

**XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Kyle Richter provides an update on Foundation activities. He states that he attended the Mayors Meeting in June. Deputy Commissioner Kati Angarone also attended. He states that the Floating Classroom educational cruises are running during the summer. The Gala is on Thursday with auction bidding open online. He states that 20 tons of shrink wrap have been recycled so far this season. Marty Kane provides an update from the Museum. He states that the open house for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Museum was awarded \$30,000 Historic Preservation Planning Grant. He states that they hope to build a barn on the property with State Park approval. Lee's County Park Pavillion is still finishing construction, but they are taking event reservations. An open house will be announced.

**Princeton Hydro Updates**

Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update on Princeton Hydro's activities on the lake. He states that water quality monitoring will be completed July 29<sup>th</sup> and Cyanotoxin monitoring on July 16<sup>th</sup>. He states that clarity is slightly better than this time last season. He compares June 2024 data and June 2025 data stating that Secchi depth readings were greater in 2025 and phosphorus levels on average are lower. Dr. Lubnow reviews grant progress stating that Princeton Hydro submitted a proposal to Jefferson Township to apply for funding from the Highlands Council for an aquatic plant survey. He provides an overview of the Army Corps ERDC grant funded treatments that occurred earlier in the season in Crescent Cove and Ashley Cove. The treatments aim to prevent harmful algal blooms. He states that in 2026 Princeton Hydro will complete a cost benefit analysis of the treatments with ERDC funding. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about progress toward an oxygenation system. Dr. Lubnow states that they will continue to look for funding and the reports and public meetings are complete.

**XIII. Updates**

**State Park Updates**

Commissioner Chevrestt is not present.

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**CAC Meeting**

Commissioner Chevrestt is not present.

**Committee Updates**

**Land Use Committee Update**

Committee Chair Tessier states that the planner is back to reviewing land use applications. He states that he will work with the planner and Mrs. Lyons to complete reviews.

**Budget**

Committee Chair Steinbaum reviews spending to date. He states that it is the end of the fiscal year but not all bills for the year have been submitted and paid. He states that there were savings in the weed harvesting program due to a low weed year in 2024. Chair Smith suggests that the FY2026 budget be revised to reflect the actual spending for the weed harvesting program in FY2025.

**Finance**

Committee Chair Stevens states that the FY2023 books were submitted to the auditor. Mrs. Lyons will follow up with the auditor.

**Bylaws**

No update.

**Planning**

No updates.

**Public Outreach**

Committee Chair Pravs is not present.

**Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant**

Committee Chair McCarthy is not present.

**Ad-Hoc Boating Safety**

Commissioner Steinbaum states that Sgt. Fahy with the NJ State Police contacted him about existing rules for State Parks that incorporate ice boating regulations. Marty Kane states that they found out that the rules do not apply to Lake Hopatcong.

**Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat**

Alternate Commissioner Galate states that no tagged trout were reported.

**Ad Hoc Goose Management**

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Committee Chair Porfido states that USDA will issue a report in September. The egg addling and goose survey were completed. She asked USDA to make a presentation to the Commission in person at the end of the season.

**XIV. New Items**

No new items.

**XV. Public Comments**

John Kurzman, Lake Hopatcong states that the public was not aware of the current boating regulations. He states that in addition to reducing phosphorus, nitrogen should be addressed. He states that people get “Hopatcong Flu” from going in the water and more studies are needed besides those completed on algae. He states that the minutes should be more detailed. Dr. Lubnow states that the projects around the lake do address nitrogen. He states that the ERDC treatments focus on overwintering cells. He states that the “flu” could be due to cyanotoxins in the water.

George Cronk – Benedict Cove states that he is a new resident and is inundated with weeds. He requests harvesters assist in his area.

**XVI. Action Items**

Chair Smith introduces Resolutions 25-12 Approving the Planning Consultant Contract. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion. Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Galate	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Porfido	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes	Smith	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. Alternate Commissioner Porfido seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.

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