

***Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 11, 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, Blanca Chevestt, Daniel McCarthy, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Jacob Hamilton, Bradley Hoferkamp, Steven Levinson, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Karen Porfido, Robert Tessier

Alternates Present: Marie Galate, Ryan Gilfillan, Shawn Pottillo, Thomas Sellaro

With nine members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. 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 Wilsusen makes a motion. Commissioner Crowley 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.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the June minutes. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Chevestt	Abstain	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Abstain	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes

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Senatore	Yes		
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The motion passes 7-2-0 (two abstentions).

VI. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer's report. He states that the starting balance was \$497,355 and reviews expenses including payroll, Princeton Hydro, the Commission Planner and Administrator, US Department of Agriculture and Weed Harvesting Program expenses. He notes interest revenue and the balance after expenses is \$422,940. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion. Commissioner Senatore seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Chevrestt	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	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. The Commission received monthly updates from Russell Stern and Princeton Hydro. She states that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Project Agreement was sent by Weldon Quarry for review by the Commission. Mrs. Lyons states that the Commission also received email correspondence from Pete Knoll in Hopatcong regarding road conditions at Allendale Road and Thompson Lane.

VIII. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith states that the Commission and Weldon Quarry are drafting an agreement for a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). He states that there have been no complaints about weeds.

IX. LHC Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Crowley comments that NY State uses grape juice concentrate as a goose deterrent. Alternate Commissioner Potillo states that Roxbury will approve a boat house ordinance. He states that the four municipalities agree that Roxbury's noise ordinance is the most comprehensive so the other three municipalities will

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adopt Roxbury's ordinance. He states that the municipality will not be adopting an ice retardant ordinance at this time. They would like further discussion. Commissioner McCarthy states that Sam Hogland, one of the original Commissioners passed away.

X. Administrator's Update

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She provides an update on the Commission's 319 grant and the 2021 and 2024 NFWF Grants. She states that she attended a lunch at Greenwood Lake and has been working with the auditor on the FY23 audit.

XI. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that the weed harvesting program has begun taking weeds to the Morris County MUA and will bring the remaining weeds up in September at their request. He states that the Township of Jefferson has helped the program. He states that the crew finished cutting in Great Cove. On August 5th they moved to Castle Rock Road and Nolan's Point and two machines are in the Woodport area. The total for the season is 1,334cy. There is a general discussion of weed conditions and the harvesting program. Chair Smith notes that East Shore Estates will continue to allow the harvesting program to park harvesters on their property.

XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane provides an update on Foundation activities. He states that a Public Lakes Alliance of New Jersey (PLANJ) meeting was held on Greenwood Lake with Senator Bucco. He and Mrs. Lyons attended. He states that the LH Foundation Gala was very successful. They have a few project ideas for next season including riparian buffers around the lake and new kayak trails. Mr. Kane states that the State Park Fountain is back on again after they had to wait for water to go below the dam. He states that the Lee's Park Pavillion will be opening soon and they will move on to other projects that were included in their master plan. Mr. Kane states that there will be a LH Museum presentation at the Netcong Theater on August 20th and that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the museum.

Princeton Hydro Updates

Pat Rose provides an update on Princeton Hydro's activities on the lake. He states that water quality monitoring results from July 20th showed an improvement in water clarity compared with 2024. He states that deep water total phosphorus and overall soluble reactive phosphorus also improved from 2024. Mr. Rose provides updates on the Commission and Foundation grants as well as the ERDC grant that Princeton Hydro was awarded. He states that Princeton Hydro requested a preapplication meeting with NJDEP to discuss the Roxbury Basin Project. The

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treatments under the ERDC Grant have been successful and permits are underway for the remaining four treatments. He states that the Highlands Council also approved a submerged aquatic vegetation study by Jefferson Township.

Commissioner Steinbaum states that a University of Minnesota Study has investigated the impacts of wake surfing boats on lakes. He states that the studies concluded that wake surfing boats were so large that the wake took 500' to reach the size of a normal boat wake. The second part of the study was published and found that wake boats should be operated in at least 20 feet of water. Commissioner McCarthy asked what should be recommended for Lake Hopatcong. Commissioner Steinbaum suggests that wake surfing should be limited to the main lake at its widest point and 300 feet from shore.

XIII. Updates

State Park Updates

Commissioner Chevrestt states the water level is 9 feet. She states that the water level management plan is in the final review stages and should be finalized within the next few weeks. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if DEP is reviewing boat wash stations for the State Park. Commissioner Chevrestt responds that they are not at this time.

CAC Meeting

No update.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Committee Chair Tessier is not present. Commissioner Wilsusen states that the Commission's recommendation letters are heard at the meetings and the recommendations are used.

Budget

Committee Chair Steinbaum reviews spending to date. He states that the weed harvesting budget is \$366,000 and the Commission budget is only \$500,000. He states that the Commission needs more money. Commissioner Steinbaum states that tear to date spending is near 8% as expected for this point in the fiscal year.

Finance

Committee Chair Stevens has no update.

Bylaws

No update.

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Planning

No updates.

Public Outreach

Committee Chair Pravs is not present.

Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant

Committee Chair McCarthy states that the committee should meet with the municipal administrators.

Ad-Hoc Boating Safety

Commissioner Steinbaum provided an update during Princeton Hydro's update.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

Committee Chair McCarthy has no update.

Ad Hoc Goose Management

Committee Chair Porfido is not present. Commissioner Stevens states that there were fewer complaints about geese and that the cold winter conditions may have helped control the population.

XIV. New Items

NJDEP/Weldon Supplemental Project Agreement

Chair Smith introduces the agreement between Weldon and the Lake Hopatcong Commission. He makes a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Chevrestt	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

XV. Public Comments

Lynn Fischer, Lake Hopatcong comments on the weeds along Castle Rock Road. She states that the weed harvesting crew has done a great job but there are still a lot

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of weeds. She asks why the growth has increased this year. Pat Rose states that it is likely due to the increase in water clarity this year.

Sam DeAlba, Lake Hopatcong states that it has been one year since the water level management plan comments were submitted. He asks if there has been any planning for the CAC. Chair Smith states that the Commission won't begin planning until the water level management plan has been approved.

XVI. Action Items

Action items were approved earlier in the meeting.

XVII. Close of Meeting

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

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