

***Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – October 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, Jacob Hamilton, Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Blanca Chevrestt, Steven Levinson, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Todd Stevens Marie Galate, Karen Porfido

Alternates Present: Ryan Gilfillan, Thomas Sellaro, Shawn Pottillo

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 McCarthy makes a motion. Commissioner Wilsusen 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 McCarthy makes a motion. Commissioner Wilsusen 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 September minutes. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes

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Hamilton	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Treasurer's Report

In Commissioner Stevens' absence Mrs. Lyons provides the Treasurer's report. She states that the Commission started the month with \$520,000 received \$1,173 in interest. She reviews the expenses including payroll, Princeton Hydro invoices, weed harvesting expenses, audit expenses, administrator, internet and the Commission's bookkeeper. She states that after expenses the Commission ended the month with \$465,000. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about the audit expenses. Mrs. Lyons states that the invoice is for the fiscal year 2023 audit. 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
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Hamilton	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 Planner is on vacation, so Mrs. Lyons provided an abbreviated update on land use activities. The Commission received monthly updates from Princeton Hydro. The Commission received an email from John Kurzman about the Princeton Hydro ERDC treatments, and an email response sent to John. She states that the Highlands Council contacted the Commission and Foundation about a grant opportunity called Resilient NJ and she forwarded information to the municipalities. She states that the Commission also received the 2025 Goose Management Report from USDA.

VIII. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith introduces Phil Harvey, who will serve as Alternate Commissioner for Mount Arlington Borough. Karen Porfido will serve as the Commissioner moving

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forward. He states that all the harvesters have been removed from the water for the season.

IX. LHC Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Steinbaum asks if the Commission meeting recordings have been uploaded to the website. Mrs. Lyons states that after the October Commission meeting several commissioners suggested that meetings not be uploaded but be provided on request. Mrs. Lyons states that anyone who would like a recording can contact her by email and she will send the recording. She states that she will also post Princeton Hydro's memos on the Commission website with the meeting minutes. This will provide additional information on all the projects going on around the lake. Commissioner McCarthy comments on the success of the boat races. Commissioner Hoferkamp thanks Morris County for their restoration of the pavilion at Lee's County Park. There is a general discussion on the pavilion restoration. Commission Wilsusen states that the boat races were successful and that he received positive feedback.

X. Administrator's Update

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She states that New Jersey State Police will attend the November meeting for their end of season update. The Commission is waiting for final payment on the 319 Grant from NJDEP. Princeton Hydro and the Commission are working on a scope change with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that will spend down remaining funds. She states that the 2024 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant is in the planning stages and she will follow up with Princeton Hydro about bid preparation.

XI. Weed Harvesting Report

Chair Smith states that Mike is not at the meeting, but that all the machines are out of the water.

XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Caitlin Doran, Acting Executive Director for the Lake Hopatcong Foundation provides an update on Foundation activities. She states that the Fountain will be turned off this week for maintenance. On Thursday the Foundation will host their monthly program where a speaker will talk about apples and cider making in New Jersey. She states that they recently wrapped up the second year of the high school education program. Six schools participated and they are looking for others. She states that the Foundation is working with Princeton Hydro on the stormwater project at Lakeside Fields.

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XIII. Princeton Hydro Updates

Pat Rose from Princeton Hydro provides an update on their activities as outlined in their monthly memo. Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update on the Princeton Hydro Army Corps Grant activities as detailed as an attachment to the monthly memo.

Commissioner Steinbaum asks how Princeton Hydro determines the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen are in plants. Dr. Lubnow states that sampled plants and the lab breaks them down into phosphorus and nitrogen. Commissioner McCarthy asks about beneficial reuse. Dr. Lubnow states that the Highlands Council Grant for Landing Channel outlined the use of sediment dredged from the channel for reuse to rebuild Floating Island. The sediment would not be trucked away but would be used for rebuilding the island and this is considered beneficial reuse.

XIV. Updates

State Park Updates

Alternate Commissioner Hamilton states the water level is 7.81 feet and was down to 7.7 feet before the rain. Commissioner Steinbaum comments on the low water shortening the boating season and asks if the state park will reduce outflow. Alternate Commissioner Hamilton states that they will not reduce outflow until it is a more significant drought. He states that it would need to come through the chain of command. He states that he will follow up.

CAC Meeting

Alternate Commissioner Hamilton states that there was a meeting with Robin Madden, the Chief of Operations for the Park Service and the Water Level Management Plan will be released in the coming weeks.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Committee Chair Tessier reviews the recent Land Use Board applications. He states that the Commission Planner is on vacation and Mrs. Lyons provided an update.

Budget

Committee Chair Steinbaum reviews spending to date. He states that the Commission's income plus interest is about 26% for the year and spending is at about 25% with Weed Harvesting near 28%. He states that this is appropriate for this time of the year.

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Finance

Mrs. Lyons states that the audit is in management review.

Bylaws

No update.

Planning

No update.

Public Outreach

No update.

Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant

Committee Chair McCarthy states that the committee met with Mount Arlington representatives to understand their concerns over the proposed ice retardant system ordinance.

Ad-Hoc Boating Safety

No update.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

No update.

Ad Hoc Goose Management

Committee Chair Alternate Commissioner Porfido says that USDA will provide a virtual presentation in December.

XV. New Items

No new items.

XVI. Public Comments

Sam DeAlba, Lake Hopatcong comments on the water level management plan and argues that a reduction in outflow is sage. He proposes a plan that would reduce outflow in line with natural reductions in flow seen in streams in the region.

Evan Kurzman, Lake Hopatcong states that he is on the Board of the Lake Forest Yacht Club but is not representing them. He states that people are upset about the lake level and treatments that happened. He states that people did not know about the treatments and they saw people in hazmat suits and were upset. When there are treatments there should be additional communication.

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John Kurzman, Lake Hopatcong states that he had sent a communication to the Commission and asked for the recordings and that the August minutes were not uploaded. He notes that the website should be updated with the projects that are being done. He states that the Commission said it was an alum treatment in Woodport but it was alum and Eutrosorb. He presents his concerns about Eutrosorb and lowering phosphorus without also addressing nitrogen. He comments on lake level and that the reduced lake level is partly due to the outflow. He states that further studies need to be completed so outflow can be reduced below 12cfs. He asks for additional contact information for the Commission.

XVII. Action Items

No action items.

XVIII. Close of Meeting

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

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