

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2026**  
**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, Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Blanca Chevrestt, Karen Porfido, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Eric Wilsusen, Ronald Smith

Absent: Jacob Hamilton, Phil Harvey, Shawn Potillo, Thomas Sellaro, Neil Senatore

Alternates Present: Marie Galate, Ryan Gilfillan, Steven Levinson,

With eleven members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

**IV. Executive Session**

No executive session.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the January minutes. Commissioner Stevens states that the Block Party date is incorrect in the minutes and that the 319 Grant date should be updated from 2024 to 2025. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Chevrestt	Abstain	Steinbaum	Abstain
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Levinson	Abstain	Wilsusen	Abstain
McCarthy	Yes	Smith	Yes
Porfido	Yes		

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

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**VI. Treasurer’s Report**

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer’s report. He reviews interest earned. He reviews the expenses including payroll, USDA, Princeton Hydro invoices, CLC Consulting, weed harvesting expenses, bookkeeping, planner, payroll, health insurance, internet, and pension. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner McCarthy makes a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Hoferkamp seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Chevrestt	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Levinson	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Smith	Yes
Porfido	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. They also received the monthly planner’s report and Princeton Hydro’s monthly report.

**VIII. Chairman’s Report**

Chair Smith provides an update on the weed harvesting committee meeting last week. He states that the program will advertise a dump truck driver position. They will start on May 15<sup>th</sup> with two crews. One north and south. He asks Marty Kane if Weldon Agreement can be a topic at the next Mayors Meeting in the spring.

**IX. NJSP Presentation**

Sergeant Anthony Buro of New Jersey State Police, Lieutenant Tracy of Hopatcong PD and Sergeant Koster of Morris County PD provide an summary of 2025 Policing on Lake Hopatcong. Sgt. Buro provides statistics for Lake Hopatcong in 2025. He states that there were 1,251 total stops with 917 violations issued. NJSP completed 80 vessel assists during 2025. Nine Boating Under the Influence violations were issued. He states that there were 53 noise complaints, but 100s were resolved before they became complaints.

Lieutenant Tracy states that Hopatcong PD now has two boats and 14 officers certified by NJSP Marine Services Unit. Two additional officers will be trained this year. In 2025 they focused on high visibility and assisting NJSP and Morris County.

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There was an emphasis on Byram Cove but they did not have to write summons because of presence of boats on the lake. He states that the department spent 887 hours on the lake this year. Lt. Tracy states that he will be retiring this year and introduces Sergeant Siri who will take over his role.

**X. LHC Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner McCarthy states that Joseph Tuths passed away. He attended commission meetings in the early days and lived in Silver Springs. Commissioner Tessier states that it is good to see the cooperation between municipalities and police.

**XI. Administrator's Update**

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She provides an update on grant activities. She states that the Commission is still waiting for a contract for the 2025 319 Grant. She states that a scope of work amendment was submitted for the Commission's 2021 National Fish and Wildlife Grant (NFWF). The 2024 NFWF Grant for Witten Park planning and bid specifications are moving forward.

**XII. Weed Harvesting Report**

Michael Calderio provides an update on weed harvesting activities. He states that harvester parts were ordered about ten days ago. The harvesting program will need a full-time seasonal truck driver for the season. He states that the harvesters will be at the Block Party in May.

**XIII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Kyle Richter provides an update for the Foundation. Next week PLANJ will meet with Acting DEP Commissioner in Trenton to discuss New Jersey's public lakes. He states that the Block Party is May 16<sup>th</sup>. He states that 2,000 students registered for the spring field trip program. Marty Kane provides an update on the NJDEP's new Commissioner. He states that the Deputy Commissioner worked with Army Corps and he may be able to help with the sewer project in Jefferson. Mr. Kane comments on the Lee's County Pavillion ribbon cutting. Morris County Parks is still working on parking and drainage. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if there any updates on the rowing club. Mr. Kane states there is no update. He states that the fountain is running well and that the museum needs some structural work. Commissioner Tessier asks if the DEP Commissioner will be at the Block Party. Kyle Richter states that he will.

**XIV. Princeton Hydro Updates**

Pat Rose provides an update on Princeton Hydro's activities as outlined in their meeting memo. Commissioner Tessier requests Goose Committee talking points

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for the goose management program. Commissioner Steinbaum requests a proposal for cost benefit analysis of completed projects. Pat states that he will talk to Fred Lubnow. He states that next month he will present on the Trout Study.

**XV. Updates**

**State Park Updates**

Commissioner Chevrestt states that the water level is at 7.15 feet. Fish and Wildlife staff should complete their fisheries report in March and will come to present after it is finalized.

**Committee Updates**

**Land Use Committee Update**

Committee Chair Tessier reviews Russell Stern's February 5th report. He states that an application was heard in Hopatcong Borough for the applicant Davis. The Board approved the application for additional apartments but the Board's engineer is reviewing the application for grading.

**Budget**

Committee Chair Steinbaum reviews spending against the Commission's budget through end of January spending is on track at 58% of budget. He reviews the budget line items.

**Finance**

Committee Chair Stevens no update.

**Bylaws**

Committee Chair Crowley no update.

**Planning**

Committee Chair McCarthy states that he plans to hold a meeting. Mrs. Lyons will provide a list of members.

**Public Outreach**

No update.

**Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant**

Committee Chair McCarthy nothing to report. The Commission has received occasional complaints of systems opening large areas of water.

**Ad-Hoc Boating Safety**

No update.

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**Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat**

Committee Chair McCarthy states that updates were discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Ad Hoc Goose Management**

No update.

**CAC Meeting/WLMP Update**

Committee Chair McCarthy states that the management plan is still operating on the 22-inch water level pilot program. He states that it is a pilot program and if there has been damage because of the water being four inches higher, people should have an opportunity it.

**XVI. New Items**

No new items.

**XVII. Public Comments**

Sam DeAlba – Lake Hopatcong, He states that the CAC has not made any progress and the Water Level Management Plan was released four months ago. He states that the plan should be reviewed annually before April 1<sup>st</sup>. He states that refill is in six to seven weeks and the outlook is not good.

Commissioner Steinbaum states that the reason for the 22-inch pilot program is to provide four more inches of water and help with refill.

**XVIII. Action Items**

**RES 26-03 Approving Princeton Hydro Contracts**

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve Resolution 26-03. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion. Alternate Commissioner Levinson seconds the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Chevrestt	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Levinson	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Smith	Yes
Porfido	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

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**RES 26-05 Approving the Commission’s FY2027 Budget**

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve Resolution 26-05. Commissioner Hoferkamp makes a motion. Alternate Commissioner Levinson seconds the motion. Commissioner Steinbaum reviews the FY27 budget. Commissioner Crowley thanks Commissioner Steinbaum and the budget committee for their work on the budget. Commissioner Tessier states that the Commission is passing a budget that spends more than the \$500,000 statutory funding.

Roll Call:

Chevrestt	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Levinson	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Smith	Yes
Porfido	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

**XIX. 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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