

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, Ledgewood, NJ

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 and posted on the Lake Hopatcong Commission website (lakehopatcong.org)

II. Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence

III. Roll Call

Present: Mark Crowley, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Mark Fisch, David Jarvis, Joshua Osowski, Joel Servoss

Alternates Present: Aitor Ostolaza

With seven members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Minutes of Meetings

Commissioner Pravs moves to approve the minutes, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report

In Commissioner Fisch's absence, Colleen Conover gives the Treasurer's Report. She states that the balance in the bank account is \$40,842.12. The list of bills totaling, \$4,620.36 was submitted for approval. Chair Smith inquires about when the Commission can draw down the rest of their funding from NJDEP. Colleen Conover states that the Commission will hit the \$50K total in mid-May and will request the additional funding at that time. Chair Smith calls a vote to approve the bills. Commissioner Steinbaum moves to approve the list of bills, and Commissioner Crowley seconds the motion.

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Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Correspondence

Colleen Conover states that the Commission received a letter from Joshua Osowski in response to the November and December letters from the LHC and CAC regarding the 60-inch drawdown. Commissioner Steinbaum gives a brief overview of the letter. He states that generally; the plan will remain the same for various reasons the most notable of which is the need for a public comment period prior to making changes to the plan. He states that the letter also indicates that the plan will be revised starting in 2019 with a new plan implemented in 2021. Commissioner Pravs states that at last year’s symposium the public requested more local control, and this letter dismisses that notion. Commissioner McCarthy states that he feels that the proposals submitted by the LHC and CAC were minor in nature, and not a complete overhaul of the plan. Commissioner Tessier states that it is a policy that the NJDEP will wait 10 years between revisions of the plan, but the Commission could request a separate public hearing to make an amendment to the plan before it is revised. Commissioner McCarthy states that he would like to make that request because a lot of time and effort as well as, public input has been put into the proposals that were made by the LHC and CAC. Commissioner Crowley states that he would like to send a letter that states that the Commission will fund the public hearing process because in the past the NJDEP has stated that the process is time consuming and expensive. Commissioner Tessier states that the Commission could offer to reimburse the NJDEP for the cost of the public hearing process. Commissioner McCarthy asks Melissa Castellon to estimate the cost of mailings. Melissa states that it was approximately \$700-\$1,000 for printing plus postage. In addition, someone must be paid to record the public hearing. She states that the pilot program took only a few months (not a year) to send the letters, receive feedback, and hold the hearing. She states that there are other changes to the plan that will require research and data assessment, and that will take additional time. She states that the NJDEP had discussions and the consensus is that they want to have a major review of the WLMP every ten years. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the point of the CAC was to make minor revisions in between the major reviews. Commissioner McCarthy agrees that there were drafts and redrafts of the plan and the CAC would stay together and meet once a year to see if there was a need for fine tuning in the interim. Commissioner Steinbaum suggests that the

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Commission send a letter that expresses their disappointment in the decision of the NJDEP to postpone revisions to the plan and also offer to provide financial support for the public hearing process only for the interim revisions, not for the overhaul of the entire plan. Ms. Conover will draft a letter.

VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation states that there is a lot of water coming over the dam. He states that Fred Lubnow is putting together a proposal for a trial project of the grass carp and a presentation for NJDEP in about two weeks. He states that the floating classroom is going in at Nolan's Point initially and will arrive on Wednesday. The Foundation has 16 trips planned this year covering the four municipalities and Netcong as well. He states that at the train station the restored windows are back in, and they are getting closer to opening. He states that this Saturday is the Musconetcong Clean-Up (April 14th meeting there at 9:00am). On May 5th, the Foundation will have a native plant sale at the train station from 9am-1pm. He states that the Foundation Block Party is being held on May 12th from 10am-5pm. Commissioner Steinbaum asks how many adults the floating classroom will hold. Mr. Kane states that it will hold 40 adults and they are aiming to have an event on Monday's in the summer for adults. There will be a modest cost to go out and do water sampling. The Foundation is working with Princeton Hydro on training volunteers. He states that Jessica Murphy is coming back to the office on April 30th.

Commissioner McCarthy revisits the role of the Commission and CAC and reads from the WLMP. The role of the Commission representative from NJDEP is to;

- Facilitate annual reviews of the Lake Hopatcong Water Level Management Plan with members of the Citizens Advisory Committee, Lake Hopatcong Commission and the Division of Parks and Forestry and Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- Incorporate any necessary changes to the procedures outlined within this plan based upon annual review.

Melissa Castellon states that the NJDEP is not required to accept all of the suggested changes and they have facilitated annual reviews with the members of the CAC.

VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates

Fred Lubnow states that he is working with the Foundation to create curriculum for the floating classroom. Eventually, the idea is to have the curriculum set so that the Foundation can run the training in the future. He states that this year Princeton Hydro will begin water quality monitoring, starting in May, and they will begin cyanotoxin monitoring in June. Generally, the blue green algae will not be present

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until water temperatures are fairly high. He states that an aquatic plant survey will begin in July or August when the weeds are at their highest. He states that the Highlands Council WIP contract should be sent to the Commission from the Highlands Council soon; a contract from Princeton Hydro will follow. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion that the Chairman sign the contract once they receive the written agreement from the Highlands Council. Commissioner Crowley states that since Musconetcong is involved the Chairman of the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board, Earl Riley should also approve the WIP. Earl Riley inquires about the cost to Lake Musconetcong. Dr. Lubnow states that it will not cost the LMRPB any money, but he would like the Board to be involved in the process. Fred Lubnow states that the second study, the Hydrologic Study proposal will be submitted to the Highlands Council once the WIP is underway. Earl Riley requests that documentation for the WIP be provided to the LMRPB at their next meeting on Wednesday. Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion made by Commissioner Tessier for Chair Smith to sign contracts from the Highlands Council and Princeton Hydro for the Watershed Implementation Plan.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

IX. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Steinbaum states that he spent some time on a small lake in Central Florida that has grass carp. He states that the carp eat hydrilla and nothing else. They have noticed a decrease in hydrilla in six months. He states that a barrier was not required at this lake. Dr. Lubnow states that in PA and NY that they absolutely require a barrier, and that he suspects that NJ will require a barrier as well.

Commissioner Crowley states that he was at the Marina today and he saw that the Foundation had their blue flyers out for common sense on the lake. He also thanked Marty Kane for coming to the Nixon School in Roxbury. Mr. Kane gave a history lesson to the second through fourth graders, and the children got to name a piece of land on the lake.

Commissioner McCarthy asks the Ice Retardant System Committee to set a time to meet with the Hopatcong Zoning Officer, Mayor and Construction Official. Commissioner Steinbaum presents a timer and thermostat that are used to regulate the run time of an ice retardant system. Commissioner McCarthy presents a video of an ice eater that was still running on the first day of trout fishing. Colleen

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Conover presents an ice retardant system flyer that will be made available to the public at the Block Party.

X. Comments from the Audience (*on agenda items only, if applicable*)

No comments from the audience.

XI. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith states that because the Commission is now funded and will be subject to an audit he has instructed Ms. Conover to purchase a laptop and Quickbooks. Commissioner McCarthy asks who will conduct the audit and what will it cost. Commissioner Stevens suggests researching the required monetary threshold for an audit. Chair Smith states that he is still pressing the NJDEP for an update on the MOA.

XII. Updates

State Park Weed Harvesting Update

Melissa Castellon's states that they have three seasonal weed harvesters and two full-time. They have hired two additional seasonal employees for the weed harvesters and will be interviewing for a dump truck driver tomorrow. She states that equipment is still at the Franklin building and they are waiting on other parts from vendors. One of the large harvesters and one small harvester were overhauled. They decided to postpone the routine maintenance of dump trucks until July due to the cost to overhaul the harvesters and they still need to pay for fuel through June 30th. They have expended \$114,000. Their goal is to begin harvesting on May 14th, since they will be off of the lake earlier this year due to the drawdown they are trying to get out on the lake early. Chair Smith asks if Melissa knows why the MOA discussion has been stalled. Melissa states that she does not know.

NJDEP

Due to Commissioner Osowski's absence there are no updates from NJDEP.

Alternate Appointments

Commissioner Pravs introduces Aitor Ostolaza. He moved to the lake in 1998 and he was part of save the lake 2000 and served as a weed harvester operator for two years. He was also employed by the Mount Arlington DPW and is responsible for the state of the art stormwater management maintenance. Chair Smith welcomes Alternate Commissioner Ostolaza. Commissioner McCarthy asks if he was part of the team used GPS to locate each of the stormwater catch basins and if he knows where the data is. Alternate Commissioner Ostolaza states that he was part of the team but does not know where the data is.

Commissioner Crowley states that the Commission only meets twice before they are supposed to take over weed harvesting. He states that he is concerned that they

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don't have an agreement with the NJDEP that states that the NJDEP will continue weed harvesting after June 30th. Melissa states that they will not stop cutting the weeds, and she will contact the NJDEP and the Commission should do the same.

XIII. Public Comment (please refer to Section V "Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:")

Marty Kane states that the Boat Regulation Committee will be holding a meeting at the Yacht Club on July 11th at 10am. Commissioner McCarthy asks Mr. Kane if there will be a continuation of the Byram Cove project this year, and if he will give an update at the BRC meeting. Mr. Kane states that they will continue the project and will give an update at the meeting.

Earl Riley inquiries about the MOA with the NJDEP. He asks what the Commission will do with the small harvester. Chair Smith states that when they know about the MOA they will let the LMRPB know.

Commissioner Steinbaum asks about the proposal from Benecke Economics. Commissioner Tessier states that he has not heard anything from him and he will follow up.

Chair Smith introduces the land use request from Mount Arlington. Commissioner Pravs gives an overview of the request and her concerns. She states that there is a cesspool on the Site very close to the lake and there should be a pumping station from the secondary residence to the sewer system. Commissioner Crowley suggests a letter that states that the secondary residence be put on the sewer system, and the existing cesspool be properly abandoned. Commissioner Pravs expresses concern over the removal of old growth trees on the Site. Commissioner Tessier suggests that the Commission make recommendations to the Townships. He states that there should be a subcommittee of two to three people who review the applications and submit a response of either; no comment, minimal impact, significant impact etc., and the Commission's recommendations to the applicant/township. If there is an objection they may choose to send someone to the meeting. In reference to the Mount Arlington application he suggests that the letter include recommendations for pervious pavers, a bond for the Municipal Engineer to inspect the trees until they are fully established and another for the Municipal Engineer to inspect the silt fencing during construction. Commissioner Pravs states that the application will go before the Board on April 25th. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion that Chair Smith sign a letter drafted by Colleen Conover with recommendations on the Mount Arlington application. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion. The committee will include Commissioner Tessier, McCarthy, Pravs, and Steinbaum.

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Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner McCarthy asks Melissa Castellon if the Commission can receive information for dock permits. Commissioner Tessier states that if the Commission would like to make additional requests, they should be made through the Townships because they determine what groups need to be notified of land use, dock, or any other requests. Colleen Conover will follow-up with the municipalities for additional requests.

Commissioner Steinbaum inquiries about the oil spills around the lake. Colleen Conover states that there will two spills on the lake; a home heating oil spill and the other was by Valiant Contracting near Woodport Road. She states that she contacted NJDEP and received information on both of the spills, which has been posted on the website. Commissioner Steinbaum asks what the mechanism is for the Commission to receive notification when the Lake is impacted by an environmental concern. Colleen Conover states that the Regional Field Office for NJDEP stated that NJDEP will notify any paid Fire Department or Police Department in the Township where the concern occurs. If the Commission would like to receive notification it would be through the Fire or Police department. Colleen Conover will make a request to the Townships for the Commission to be notified when there is an environmental issue on the Lake. Commissioner Crowley recommends that the letter be addressed to the Mayor and Township Manager.

Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to adjourn, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourned.

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