

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – November 19th, 2018
Mount Arlington Civic Center

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 (lakehopatcongcommission.org)

II. Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence

III. Roll Call

Present: Mark Crowley, Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: David Jarvis, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Joel Servoss

Alternates Present: Aitor Ostolaza, Thomas Sellaro, Eric Wilsusen

With eleven members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Abstain	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Ostolaza	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Smith	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes 10-1-0 (one abstention).

V. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Fisch gives the Treasurer’s Report, he states that the total list of bills includes ten bills totaling \$11,621.73. He reads the list of bills and states that two checks need to be deposited to the bank. He states that the total in the bank account is 27,153.57.

Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

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Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Ostolaza	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Osowski	Abstain	Smith	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes 10-1-0 (one abstention).

VI. Correspondence

Chair Smith asks Colleen Conover about Commission correspondence. Ms. Conover responds that the Hopatcong Land Use Board meets tomorrow night and the Commission received four applications related to that meeting. She states that she sent out copies of the applications last week, two of the applications require attention since the applicants are requesting variances for boat house and dock construction on the lakefront. She will be attending the meeting in person. She states that the Jefferson Land Use meeting on November 26th is being cancelled because the Bridge Marina application has been postponed again. She states that the Commission also received a follow-up letter on the NJDEP funding meeting from Ray Bukowski Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources. The Highlands Council sent a WIP payment and letter which will be deposited into the Commission account for payment to Princeton Hydro. She states that she requested a quote for a new weed harvester from Aquarius Systems, which was sent in the packet. The Commission harvesters are made from stainless steel so the estimates were derived specifically for replacement of the Commission’s harvesters. Commissioner McCarthy states that stainless steel was a decision made by the Lake Hopatcong Planning Board.

VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Jessica Murphy provides a summary from the cleanup, she thanks Colleen for assisting with coordination of access locations and handing out supplies. She thanks Mayors Crowley, Francis, and Stanzilis for their help in Byram Cove. She states that Commissioner Joel Servoss and Dan McCarthy’s group pulled 1 ton of dock cribbing from Davis Cove. She thanks Commissioner Pravs for her help at Knolls beach where they pulled a roof gutter and wire cable, and she thanks Commissioner Steinbaum visiting cleanup locations throughout the day. In total she states that there were 427 volunteers which equals an assessed amount of \$28,957 worth of labor. The teams cleaned 17 miles of shoreline, filled 275 trash

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bags, and removed 12,790 pounds of trash. Ms. Murphy thanks the township DPWs, State Park for disposing and drop off, the township fire departments for cleaning the tires, and Morris County Mosquito Commission for taking tires. She states that the Foundation is about to move into the train station. Marty Kane provides an update on the grass eating carp pilot proposal. He states that they are waiting to hear how the State wants to move forward. He states that the Foundation has reached out to our two new congressional representatives and invited them to the lake. Chair Smith congratulates the Foundation on the success of the beefsteak dinner for the volunteers. Commissioner Steinbaum adds that it seems like volunteers have a great time during the cleanup. He suggests that some debris ends up in the lake because the townships won't accept many items. Commissioner Crowley comments that in Roxbury if you pull something out of the woods somewhere else and call the DPW they will pick it up. Chair Smith states that Jefferson takes construction debris. Commissioner Crowley adds that most tires come off of a dock and they fall off and people don't retrieve them. Steinbaum states that home owners and marinas are trying not to use tires anymore.

VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates

Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update from Princeton Hydro on the watershed implementation plan. He states that they have had meetings with municipalities and counties to identify potential locations for stormwater projects, shoreline and streambank stabilization. He states that during the two sampling events for cyanotoxins no sample results were above the NJDEP threshold. They have finished the aquatic plant survey, he states that the survey was completed so that there is a database of what weeds are present and in what quantity. The data collected in Crescent Cove will be used in preparation for the carp program. He states that plant density was not as bad as previous years. The study indicates that there are two dominant species, milfoil and tapegrass. He states that the water quality report will be submitted at the December meeting. The last set of data was received a couple of weeks ago. Ms. Conover asks Dr. Lubnow about the zebra mussels reported during the lake cleanup. He states that he has not received any additional information about the location of the zebra mussels. Jessica Murphy states that one of the parents of a scout troop reportedly saw the zebra mussels. Donna is planning to go out and look when the ground is frozen. Dr. Lubnow states that the mussels are very easy to identify and during sampling this spring they will also look for the species. Commissioner McCarthy asks if there is any sampling that should be done during the drawdown. Dr. Lubnow states that there is no additional sampling to be done now, but it will be interesting to see how the drawdown impacts weed growth next year. Commissioner McCarthy asks about the impacts of deicing material on the lake. There is a general discussion of deicing materials.

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IX. Audit Update

Ms. Conover states that the Commission sent questions to Mr. McGuire and he sent a response. She states that the response was forwarded to the Commissioners. Commissioner Stevens and Ms. Conover have been working to update the FY2018 books in preparation for the audit.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Tessier provides an update on the Benecke report. He asks that each Commissioner review the report for December meeting, when Mr. Benecke will be available to discuss the SID project. Commissioner Crowley comments on a TPA grant dredging of landing channel in Roxbury. He states that the Township of Roxbury requests a letter of support from the Commission. He states that there was a grant that was submitted that needed additional spending. In order to meet the requirements of the grant they added dredging in Landing Channel as part of the grant.

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

Chair Smith opens the meeting to the public.
There are no comments from the audience.

XII. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith introduces Thomas Sellaro as the newly appointed Alternate Commissioner for Sussex County. He requests a report and photos of dilapidated docks that were bad in Jefferson. Ms. Conover states that she will get the reporting done and to the Chairman as soon as possible. He states that the Commission has received the draft MOU from NJDEP. He states that the Commission is requesting detailed reporting on the benefits and language that indicates that expenditures by the NJDEP are not to exceed \$355,000. Commissioner Osowski states that the information on fringe benefits are in the draft MOU. There is a general discussion of the Draft MOU.

XIII. Updates

Weed Harvesting and Water Level

Commissioner Osowski gives an update in Alternate Commissioner Castellon's absence. He states that there are currently two permanent employees on staff. The seasonal employees will only assist two to four days at most between now and April 2019 on an as needed basis. He states that all equipment has been transported to the Franklin Building including the Boston whaler. The Weeds harvested for the 2018 season between May 15, 2018 and September 17, 2018 totaled 3,925 cubic yards.

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He states that the water level on November 14 was five feet below pool. The State Park will be maintaining the drawdown until December 15 when the refill will begin. Chair Smith asks if the drawdown has been smooth. Commissioner Osowski states that other than the rain it has been a smooth drawdown. Commissioner McCarthy asks about the Commission's proposed changes to the water level management plan. He states that during the drawdown there were times when the outflow approached 300cfs. He asks if anyone has studied the downstream effects of such a high outflow to determine the feasibility of the Commission's proposal. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the plan would start on the same date and the lake would be lowered faster so that there would be more time to do work while the lake was lowered. Commissioner Osowski states that no studies have been done since the 2010 WLMP, but proposals will be assessed during the updates beginning in 2019/2020. There is a general discussion of the impact and benefit of the five-foot drawdown.

Accounting Update

Commissioner Stevens states that the Income Statement and Balance Sheet were provided for FY2018. These provide a financial overview of the Commission as of mid-November.

Ice Retardant System Committee Updates

Ms. Conover states that she has sent emails to Mount Arlington requesting a meeting, but has only received a response from Tom Mahoney the construction official. She suggests that the committee can meet with Mr. Mahoney to get perspective on issues in Mount Arlington related to ice retardant systems and the Mayor may or may not be in attendance. She states that she has a list of lake front homeowner addresses, so the Commission can mail out their ice retardant system flyers.

November NJDEP/LHC Meeting Update

Chair Smith states that a written summary of the meeting between NJDEP, the LHC, and the State senators was provided to the Commissioners in their meeting packet. He states that comments from the Commission will be emailed to the NJDEP.

2019 Meeting Dates Discussion

Chair Smith states that the Commission is not getting ideal meeting locations. Mr. Kane states that the Train Station will be up and running in 2019 and can host the Commission meetings up to 70 people.

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Insurance Updates – Fairview Insurance DO & Liability

Ms. Conover states that Fairview Insurance is rolling both policies into one which will renew on December 19, 2018. She states that liability will be \$675.00 and D&O will be \$908. This will be included on next month’s list of bills.

XIV. Action Items (Resolutions)

Samuel Klein & Company – Letter of Engagement (RES 18-11)

Ms. Conover states that the Commission has reviewed the letter of engagement and sent questions to Michael McGuire. Mr. McGuire sent responses, and the Commission can approve Samuel Klein and Company as the auditor of record for an audit not to exceed \$5,000.00. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the audit engagement letter. Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Ostolaza	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Smith	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously (11-0-0).

FY2020 Budget (RES18-13)

Commissioner Smith gives a brief overview of the budget. He states that the budget is almost identical to the FY2019 budget. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the FY2020 budget. Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Ostolaza	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Smith	Yes
Sellaro	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously (11-0-0).

XV. Public Comments *(please refer to Section V “Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:”)*

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Marty Kane comments that the Train Station may not be ready for the first three Commission meetings of the year, and suggests that the Commission should make other arrangements for those months and then is welcome to use the Train Station going forward. Chair Smith states that the Commission can meet in Jefferson for those three months and he will check availability.

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

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