

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2018
Hopatcong State Park, Landing, 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, Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith, Mark Fisch

Absent: Joel Servoss, Joshua Osowski, David Jarvis

Alternates Present: Russell Felter, Eric Wilsusen

With nine members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Minutes of Meetings

Commissioner Steinbaum confirms that one correction to the minute has been made. Colleen Conover confirms that the correction was made. Commissioner Pravs moves to approve the minutes, Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

V. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Fisch gives the Treasurer’s Report. He states that the Commission did not receive a bank statement prior to the meeting. The list of bills totaling, \$19,013.82 was submitted for approval. Chair Smith calls a vote to approve the bills.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2018
Hopatcong State Park, Landing, NJ

VI. Correspondence

Colleen Conover states that no correspondence has been received. Commissioner Steinbaum suggests that a letter be sent to the Mayor of Mt. Arlington to appoint an alternate for Commissioner Pravs. Commissioner Pravs states that the mayor is still in the recruiting process. Commissioner McCarthy states that the Commission does not have an alternate for Sussex County, and suggests sending a letter to the Sussex County Freeholders.

VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Marty Kane of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation states that the floating classroom boat is almost complete. He states that the tentative launch date is May 1st 2018 and they have 16 days set aside for school groups for this year. Marty states that the train station restoration is ongoing, progress is being made and they hope to move in this July. He states that the LHF plant sale will be held at the train station the first Saturday in May.

VIII. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Pravs states that educational volunteers for the floating classroom are going to be trained by Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro.

Commissioner Steinbaum commends the NJDEP for closing the dam early this year, on February 22nd. He states that the refill was set at 8cfs and will change to 12cfs starting in April. He states that this is the first he can remember water being over the damn in March.

Commissioner McCarthy states that if you read some of the old articles in the Lake Hopatcong Breeze they state that one of the main reasons for the annual drawdown was to prevent downstream flooding. He states that he will be watching to see how well heavy rains in late March will be managed, if we have them. He states that the Ice Retardant System subcommittee met tonight before the meeting. He states that the committee consists of Commissioner Steinbaum, Commissioner Stevens, and himself. They identified the problem and came up with some solutions and observations. He states that they want to have a public outreach campaign starting with groups that Commissioners are already members of such as the Knee-Deep Club. He states that the next step is to sit down with the zoning officer and discuss options and hear his perspective. Commissioner Pravs asks, if Lake Hopatcong does not have its own zoning department, who reviews proposed new development around the lake. Commissioner Tessier states that the municipal land use law states that each municipality is given the land use powers, but they all have certain requirements like waste water management plans. He states that one of the Lake Hopatcong Commission responsibilities is to review site plans and subdivisions that impact the watershed. He states that he and Colleen Conover are working on a letter to each of the municipalities requesting that any proposed new development in the watershed be sent to the Commission for review. He states that the Commission can only give advice and suggestions to reduce impacts to the lake. Chair Smith states that it may be important to have a meeting with the four mayors to get consensus on how to work together. Commissioner Pravs asks if the

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2018
Hopatcong State Park, Landing, NJ

municipalities are the only ones to review the plans. Commissioner Tessier states that some drainage projects will also go to the counties, otherwise the municipalities are the ones to review projects. He notes a few exceptions such as, some select groups like the Highlands Council, Pinelands Commission, and Meadowlands Commission. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the NJDEP is also involved in reviewing permit applications for some specific projects. Commissioner Crowley asks that the letter sent by the Commission be sent to the planning board, zoning board, and township manager. Commissioner Tessier agrees. Commissioner Pravs asks where a concerned resident should go. Commissioner Tessier states that they could go to the municipality or they can write to the planning board or land use board. They can also make requests for records, and attend the meetings.

IX. Comments from the Audience *(on agenda items only, if applicable)*
No comments from the audience.

X. Chairman's Report

Chair Smith comments that the Chairman from the Greenwood Lake Association called to ask about what the LHC is working on for the ice retardant system ordinances among other things. He asks Colleen Conover if she forwarded him the information that was requested. She responds that she did. He states that he asked Commissioner Osowski for an update on the MOU between the NJDEP and LHC. He states that the NJDEP is requesting another meeting, so he will follow-up next meeting with additional information. Chair Smith states that the Lake Hopatcong Foundation Block Party is coming up in May. He states that the Foundation has donated a booth to the Commission that is front and center at the event. Colleen Conover states that she has been thinking about Commission branded items that can be distributed at the event as well as publications about water safety, ice retardant system use, etc. Commissioner Tessier suggests that whatever is handed out should have the LHC web address on it. Commissioner Steinbaum suggests a flyer that states that the Commission is funded and the projects that they are working on for the lake. Commissioner Crowley states that he would like to see the Lake Hopatcong for All flyer handed out at the booth. Commissioner Pravs suggests handing out the meeting schedule.

XI. Updates

State Park Weed Harvesting Update

In Superintendent Melissa Castellon's absence, Colleen Conover gives the weed harvesting update. She states that three seasonal weed harvesting operators plus two permanent operators and two seasonal dump truck drivers are on staff. Seasonal employees will assist permanent employees (as needed) during the Spring months with the prepping of machines for the start of the season. She states that all of the equipment is staged at the Franklin Building for the winter. Equipment has been disassembled, and most purchase orders have been received and they are waiting on parts. She states that the State Park still needs to submit a purchase order request for Campbell Supply to service the dump trucks and trailer. The four large harvesters and shore conveyors have been taken apart, some items have been

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2018
Hopatcong State Park, Landing, NJ

ordered. Melissa has received quotes for parts and ordered parts for Aquarius. The small harvester has been disassembled and orders have been placed for parts. She states that the State Park has received 4 of 7 drums of hydraulic oil, and they are waiting on the remaining order. Two dumps and the trailer are being sent in the Spring to Campbell Supply for routine maintenance and Melissa has received a quote for the trailer. Colleen reads Melissa's report and states that the refill of Lake Hopatcong began on February 22nd, and the State is currently maintaining an outflow of 8 cfs, which will return to 12 cfs in April. She states that the refill of Lake Muscontecong has not begun due to dam repairs. Melissa's report states that she expects that the refill will begin on March 17th or soon after. Colleen gives a breakdown of the FY 2018 funding on behalf of Melissa Castellon and states that \$239,500 was allocated to permanent salaries, overtime and seasonal salaries, \$108,451 was allocated to fuel, repairs, welding, parts and maintenance of the Franklin Building. The current balance for servicing trucks, hydraulic hoses and fittings, communication devices, seats for the harvests, covers for operator's seats, roof repairs of the building, propellers for the second barge, and fuel and diesel through the end of June is \$7,049. The total allocation for FY2018 is \$355,000. Commissioner Steinbaum asks that Colleen inquire about when the State Park plans to have the harvesters on the water. Colleen states that she will follow-up with Melissa. Commissioner Pravs states that she now understands where the \$355,000 goes. Commissioner McCarthy states that he asked Commissioner Osowski for a detailed report on the budget from the past year. He still has not received it. He also states that he would like to focus on weed disposal. He states that having this information would give them information on how to approach the MOU with NJDEP.

NJDEP

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

XII. Action Items

Princeton Hydro Partial Invoices – Approved earlier in the meeting

Commissioner Emails

Colleen asks the Commissioners whether or not they would each like to have an email for Commission communications. Commissioner McCarthy states that in the past, all emails were sent to the Administrator and then distributed to the Commissioners. Commissioner Crowley states that if each Commissioner receives an email address and then they leave the Commission, by law we are required to keep all of the email addresses. He suggests that the Commission have one additional email address such as commissioner@lakehopatcongcommission.org where all correspondence can be sent and then distributed as necessary.

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

Lou Tarascio of Lake Hopatcong asks if anyone has looked into further developments with the oil spill near Woodport. Chair Smith states that he believes Jefferson Township is the point of contact for the oil spill. Mr. Tarascio asks if

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2018
Hopatcong State Park, Landing, NJ

anyone knows what is going on, on the property. He states that many of the booms have been removed, but one near the outfall pipe still remains. Colleen Conover states that she will contact the NJDEP and post updates to the website. Commissioner Steinbaum states that there were two additional spills around the lake, one from a home heating oil tank and another from an auto accident. He states that the Lake Hopatcong Commission should be notified of spills around the lake. Commissioner Pravs asks if there is any monitoring being done near the outfall pipe. Mr. Tarascio states that the contractor hasn't been back in a couple of days, but there is still a boom to capture any oil that remains.

BethAnn Meredith of Hopatcong comments on the water level. She states that she read on Facebook that the dam has been closed and the lake level has come up very quickly. She is concerned for her home, which is at a low elevation. When motor boats go past her house and the water is high water pushes against her dock and can cause damage. Commissioner Pravs states that there is a no wake rule when the water is at or above 9.5'. Mrs. Meredith states that she lives in River Styx cove and even when there is no wake, people still produce a wake. She is happy that the lake level is up, but hopes that there will be prevention for high water issues. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the WLMP is up for review and revision and in 2021 and he hopes to improve the plan at that point. Until then he believes the best option may be increased policing of the no-wake rule.

Mayor Michael Francis states that Hopatcong has a new alert system. He states that if you text the word "Hopatcong" to 888777, they will put you on their alert system. Commissioner McCarthy asks if this will replace the existing system. Mayor Francis states that it will, but old numbers were not necessarily transferred over. He states that if the Commission has an alert about the lake he can text it out to through the alert system.

Marty Kane has a follow-up on the grass carp presentation from the February meeting. He states that NJDEP requested that the LHF make a formal proposal to NJDEP for a trial project. He states that this does not mean that the project will happen soon, but they did not want to go forward with the proposal unless they had the approval of the LHC. Marty states that they would look at a small portion of the lake for the trial, currently they are thinking about Crescent Cove because it is a small area with a lot of weed problems. He states that the project couldn't be started until after the aquatic plant survey that the LHC is conducting with Princeton Hydro. Any model that the LHF would recommend would be very conservative, and they would need to submit a plan to NJDEP that includes parameters on how to measure success of the project. He states that they plan to vet this with the community prior to the project. Chair Smith asks Marty if the LHF will be handing out information on the grass carp project at the Block Party to educate the public. Marty states that they may do that. Marty states that Princeton Hydro has volunteered their time to help create a proposal. Commissioner Tessier asks who sets the number of fish that would be used in the trial. Marty states that there are models available, but they would use a very conservative model, and possibly use even less than the model. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if a containment structure

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2018
Hopatcong State Park, Landing, NJ

is necessary for Lake Hopatcong. Marty states that yes it would be necessary according to the NJDEP. They would not consider the trial if there is no containment in the lake, and that is standard protocol. He states it is expensive to build the containment system, but when you compare the cost to weed harvesting it is not too expensive. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to support the proposal. Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Abstain
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes		

The motion passes 8-0-1 (one abstention).

XIV. Close of Meeting

Commissioner Steinbaum moves to adjourn the meeting, Alternate Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 9, 2018
Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ