

Minutes of the Lake Hopatcong Commission December 12, 2016

A meeting of the Lake Hopatcong Commission was held on December 12, 2016 at the Mount Arlington Civic Center Building, 18 North Glen Avenue Mount Arlington, New Jersey. At approximately 7:00 p.m., Commissioner Steinbaum called the Meeting to order. He stated the meeting was being held in accordance with “Open Public Meetings Act.”

Salute to the Flag: Commissioner Steinbaum (Acting Chair in Acting Chair McCarthy’s absence) and all those in attendance joined in a flag salute.

Moment of Silence: Commissioner Steinbaum asked for a moment of silence for our armed forces.

Roll Call:

Present: Anne Seibert-Pravs, Daniel McCarthy (7:30), Mark Fisch, Robert Tessier, Joshua Osowski, Fred Steinbaum, Joel Servoss

Absent: Eric Wilsusen, Richard Zoschak, Ron Morris, David Jarvis, Mark Crowley
Alternates Present: Arthur Clarke

Speakers: Fred Lubnow (Princeton Hydro)

With seven members present Commissioner Steinbaum declares a quorum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from October 2016 are approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Fisch provided the financial report. He stated that there are \$557.57 dollars in the account. There has been no further information on the safety deposit box. Commissioner Fisch is unsure as to whether Acting Chair McCarthy has contacted the bank again.

Communications

Commissioner Steinbaum states that the only correspondence he has received is from Princeton Hydro in the form of a bill. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro states that the grant expired in September 2016.

Commissioners’ Comments

Commissioner Crowley inquires about the grants from the National Science Foundation pertaining to lakes for cyanotoxins and long term climate change. Fred Lubnow states that he believes the grants to Lake George are for cyanotoxins and require in-situ monitoring of groundwater parameters. The automated samplers are expensive and a large portion of the grant money could be going to the purchase of those machines. He indicates that the grants that are important for Lake Hopatcong are for projects that will improve the water quality of the Lake.

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There is a general discussion of available grants. Commissioner Pravs inquires if there is a classification for lakes that may be used as an emergency water supply. Fred Lubnow states that there is a classification under NFWF, however Lake Hopatcong does not qualify as one of the 19 lakes/watersheds because there are problems with the pipelines. He states that he would like to tie (funding) to the TMDL through NJDEP and EPA guidelines. He adds that the reason weeds are worse now compared to 2004-2006 is that at that time they removed 10% of total phosphorus through weeds. This season 1% of phosphorous was removed through weeds for the first time since 2010.

Princeton Hydro Report

Fred Lubnow (Princeton Hydro) begins his report. Water Quality management was covered under the 2016 319(h) grant. River Styx and Crescent cove are above the TMDL for phosphorus so efforts are generally focused on this part of the lake. There is a general discussion of the blue-green algae found on Lake Hopatcong and surrounding lakes in the area. He states that this was the first time since he has been monitoring in Lake Hopatcong that the center of the lake has shown a loss of habitat in both carry over and optimal ranges. This occurred in August and was due to the unusually dry conditions this year. He adds that there was still carry over habitat in Byram Cove. Acting Chair McCarthy inquires about why there is a large section of the lake that is not represented by the stations. Fred states that the main body should be fairly homogeneous and the coves are where heterogeneity occurs. This is why there are more stations in the coves. There are about 16 stations and that number allows PH to visit every station in one day. The stations were established in 1981 by the regional planning board. He states that they recorded less algae in 2015 and 2016 than in 2014, but more weeds in 2015 & 2016. The weed harvesting program removed an additional 1,000 cy of weeds in 2016 than in 2015, but there were higher amounts of weeds in 2015 than in 2016. He states that the 319(h) grant summary will be submitted end of 2016 early 2017. Fred concluded his presentation by describing the effectiveness of the bio filtration systems and best management practices (BMPs) throughout the lake.

Continuation of Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Osowski states that the NJDEP started the annual drawdown. They will be following the draft proposal and will only be drawing down to 22 inches this year. He states that the drawdown began on December 6th. There is a letter being sent to lake front property owners which asks for homeowners to please give feedback on the pilot program. He states that they will be providing an email address. He states that NJDEP's Kerry Pflugh was not able to come to this meeting, but they have responses to questions about the water level management plan and they are seeking approval from the state commissioner before they make the responses public.

Commissioner Servoss states that many lake front owners who leave for the winter are already gone with their ice eaters in and running. He is concerned that this may be a problem if the lake level changes.

Acting Chairman's Report

Acting Chair McCarthy reports that annual budget was sent to Trenton. He states that he had a conversation with our senators and they are trying to schedule a meeting in Trenton. The

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meeting was supposed to be scheduled right before Christmas when all of the senators will be in session for a vote. However, the meeting will be put off until January.

Old Business

Commissioner Steinbaum stated that during the meeting of the CAC there was a topic that was received favorably by the members of the NJDEP. He states that when it rains and there is ice on the lake, the ice level goes up and that is when damage occurs. He states, that in the past when this would happen a new lake level would be established because when you drop the water level with ice it causes more damage. This is called creep, and it was allowable in order to prevent damage to homeowner property. Commissioner Steinbaum states that he would like this to be adopted this year as a matter of common sense. He adds that ice eaters are destructive contrary to the old ice bubblers because they cause a massive opening in the ice. He makes a motion to send a letter to the municipalities regarding creep and ice eaters. Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Steinbaum	Yes	Servoss	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Fisch	Yes
Tessier	Yes	Pravs	Yes
McCarthy	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

Old Business

Weed Harvesting Update

Commissioner Osowski reports that the park service is working on repairs to the harvesters.

Memorandum of Understanding

Acting Chair McCarthy discusses the creation of a more formal agreement for renewal of the MOUs in the future. He states that he has drafted a letter to the NJDEP which needs to be reviewed. A general discussion of the MOUs is held. Commissioner Steinbaum moves to renew the MOUs until the next meeting. Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Steinbaum	Yes	Servoss	Yes
Osowski	Abstain	Fisch	Yes
Tessier	Yes	Pravs	Yes
McCarthy	Yes		

The motion carried 6-0-1 (one abstention).

Acting Chair McCarthy requests a subcommittee to review the MOUs. Commissioners Servoss, Steinbaum and Pravs will chair the committee.

Fiscal Year Budget

No commissioners have comments on the next fiscal year budget.

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Safety Deposit Box Follow-Up

Acting Chair McCarthy inquiries about the safety deposit box. Commissioner Osowski states that he does not have any new information, but he will follow-up.

New Business

Commissioner Fisch inquiries about a new list of locations and times for the Commission in 2017. Acting Chair McCarthy states that Open Public Meeting Act notifications will be done through Jefferson.

January 9 - Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, Landing

February 13 - Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, Landing

March 20 – Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood

April 17 - Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood

May 15 - Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood

June 19 – Hopatcong Senior Center, 32 Lakeside Blvd, Hopatcong

July 17 - Hopatcong Senior Center, 32 Lakeside Blvd, Hopatcong

August 21 – Jefferson Municipal Building, 1033 Weldon Rd, Lake Hopatcong

September 18 - Jefferson Municipal Building, 1033 Weldon Rd, Lake Hopatcong

October 16 – Mt. Arlington Municipal Building, 419 Howard Blvd, Mt. Arlington

November 20 - Mt. Arlington Municipal Building, 419 Howard Blvd, Mt. Arlington

December 11 - Mt. Arlington Municipal Building, 419 Howard Blvd, Mt. Arlington

January 8 – Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, Landing

Public Comment

No Comments.

Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with a motion by Commissioner Steinbaum, seconded by Commissioner Fisch.