

Minutes of the Lake Hopatcong Commission June 19, 2017

A meeting of the Lake Hopatcong Commission was held on June 19, 2017 at the Lake Hopatcong Senior Center, 32 Lakeside Boulevard Hopatcong, New Jersey. At approximately 7:00p.m., Acting Chair McCarthy called the Meeting to order. He stated the meeting was being held in accordance with "Open Public Meetings Act."

Salute to the Flag: Acting Chairman McCarthy and all those in attendance joined in a flag salute.

Moment of Silence: The Acting Chair asked for a moment of silence for our armed forces.

Roll Call:

Present: Mark Crowley, Daniel McCarthy, Mark Fisch, Joshua Osowski, Fred Steinbaum, Joel Servoss, Robert Tessier (7:25)

Absent: Eric Wilsusen, Richard Zoschak, Ron Morris, David Jarvis, Anne Seibert-Pravs

Alternates Present:

With six members present, Acting Chair McCarthy declared a quorum.

Communications

Acting Chair McCarthy and Commissioner Steinbaum discuss the status of meeting minutes. Minutes from the previous year and January 2017 have been posted on the Commission website. Additional meeting minutes are being transcribed.

The Commission is attempting to gain control of the Commission website.

Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills

Acting Chair McCarthy had previously sent around the latest statements. He stated that the Valley National Bank balance as of May 31, 2017 was \$515.85 and the 319(h)-grant balance is \$456.18. Acting Chair McCarthy asks for comments. There are no known outstanding invoices.

Correspondence

No new correspondence.

Lake Hopatcong Commissioners' Comments

Acting Chair McCarthy takes a moment to remember late Alternate Commissioner Arthur Crowley who passed away about a month ago. Art was a teacher in the Lake Hopatcong school system and was very active on the lake as well as in the community. He will be missed. Commissioner Osowski reads an article that the State Park published about Art and his involvement in the New Jersey State Park service life guarding

program. He notes that the program would not be as strong and respected as it is today without Art's influence.

Acting Chairman's Report

Acting Chair McCarthy discusses an email he received from the Governor's Appointment Office on June 13, 2017. He states that the Governor has named three individuals to serve with the Commission. Dr. Fred Steinbaum was reappointed for another term, Todd Stevens who owns the Sunset Sailing Center in Lake Hopatcong, and Ronald Smith from Lake Shawnee for Chairman. He comments that he hopes to fill the remaining alternate vacancies for Sussex County, Jefferson Township, and Hopatcong State Park.

Old Business

Water Level Review Update

Acting Chairman McCarthy reviews the water level update. Commissioner Osowski reports that he spoke to the Commissioner's office, but has no updates.

Commissioner Steinbaum asks for a vote by the Commission on his recent three-part proposal. Part one proposes that the yearly drawdown be reduced from 22 inches to 16 inches to protect docks and that the drawdown be started later and be completed by December 16th saving an additional 6 inches of water. Part two proposes that the 60-inch five-year drawdown be continued, but done in a shorter time frame at 2 inches per day instead of the current 1.5 inches. The drawdown would be completed by October 15th rather than November 1st and the refill would begin on December 1st rather than December 15th. Part three proposes that the NJDEP must be more flexible in the plan when the lake level is below normal. The 12 cfs outflow should be lowered to 8 cfs when the lake level is below 8 feet. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to send the proposal as a recommendation to the NJDEP for them to comment on all three parts of the proposal. Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion, and Acting Chair McCarthy opens the meeting for discussion of the proposal by the Commissioners. Commissioner Tessier declines comment. Commissioner Servoss is in accord with the proposal. Commissioner Fisch comments that the plan was updated from 26 inches to 22 inches as an experiment this year, and maybe the Commission should wait to see the results before making additional recommendations. Commissioner Osowski is going to reserve comment until after the proposal is reviewed by the NJDEP. Acting Chairman McCarthy states that he agrees with Commissioner Fisch regarding part one and does not support this portion of the proposal, however he supports parts two and three. Commissioner Steinbaum thanks the commissioners for their support of parts two and three and adds that in reference to part 1 he believes that the climate is changing and that we need to be prepared for more extremes from drought and low lake level. He states that protection of lake structures may be better achieved using ice eaters or bubbler systems. A general discussion continues.

Public Comment

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John Kurzman resident of Lake Hopatcong states that he gave a presentation to the LHC about a year ago about many of the issues covered in the proposal. At this time, he asked to put together a committee to discuss these issues. He supports the proposal by Commissioner Steinbaum.

Earl Riley of Lake Musconetcong comments that he believes that part three of the proposal would be easier for residents downstream to accept if it didn't go as low as 8 cfs.

Cliff BeeBe of Beebe Marine, comments that the proposal must be approved by the advisory board.

Dave Motorana of Landing comments that he would take the risk of ice damage over low water level because he has lost value in his property due to low water level and having to take his boat in and out of the water.

A motion is made to recommend the proposal to the NJDEP.

ROLL CALL:

Steinbaum	Yes	Servoss	Yes
Osowski	Abstain	Fisch	Yes
Tessier	Abstain	Crowley	Yes
McCarthy	No		

The motion does not carry 4-1-2 (two abstentions).

Weed Harvesting Update

Commissioner Osowski reads the 2017 harvesting updates posted on the Hopatcong State Park website. He states that a lot of repairs were needed on the harvesters this year and that they got a late start. Melissa Castellon, Park Superintendent has hired for all of the open positions. Weed disposal has been reduced by the disposal facility, and weeds will be dried and disposed of to reduce the weight for disposal.

Acting Chair McCarthy states that the commission needs to vote on the Musconetcong MOU pending final action. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion. A vote is held.

Roll Call

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

The motion carries 5-0-2 (two abstentions).

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Commissioner Tessier states that there is a reasonable chance that the Commission's budget proposal will be included in the state budget because they do not want a gap in the 35-year data stream from the lake. They should have an answer by June 30th.

Marty Cain of the LHF is introduced by Acting Chair McCarthy. He states that the LHF is hosting a symposium on August 3, 2017 at the Jefferson House. The symposium is limited to 80 people including elected officials and people involved in the NJDEP. The purpose of the symposium is to discuss water level, weeds, dredging etc.

Acting Chair McCarthy discusses the Byram Cove Stakeholders' Meeting.

New Business

No new business.

Public Comment

Dennis Duran comments about new algae on the lake. Marty Cain states that it is an environmental issue, Lake Shawnee has had a similar problem as well as Mountain Lakes. He states that the condition will clear on its own or it can be treated.

Dave Motorana comments on the location of the small harvesters and the MOU with Musconetcong. One harvester goes to Lake Musconetcong and the other is in Franklin.

Mr. Kurzman comments on the drying of weeds prior to disposal, and states that he is willing to work with the Commission to get the website back under their control.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. with a motion by Commissioner Steinbaum, seconded by Mr. Fisch.