

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda – December 11, 2017
Mt. Arlington Civic Center, Fern Road, Mt. Arlington

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: Daniel McCarthy, Fred Steinbaum, Robert Tessier, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Mark Fisch, Joel Servoss, Ronald Smith, David Jarvis, Joshua Osowski

Absent: Richard Zoschak, Todd Stevens, Mark Crowley

Alternates Present:

With nine members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

IV. Comments from the Audience (on agenda action items only, if applicable)

No Comments

V. LHC Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner McCarthy states that if newly appointed Commissioner, Todd Stevens, were here there would be a full Commission of eleven held seats for the first time in years.

VI. Minutes of Meetings

Commissioner Steinbaum moves to approve the minutes. Alternate Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion carries 6-0-2 (two abstentions)

VII. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Fisch gives the Treasurer's Report. He states that he 319h account has been closed. Commissioner Steinbaum comments that both accounts were labeled as the 319h-grant account, so they were combined under one general account. The signatories are the same, but Commissioner Steinbaum adds that Ron should become a signatory.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

VIII. Correspondence

Land Use – Paul Bezrutczyk

Commissioner Steinbaum states that Paul intends to put a second story on his home. It is not going to encroach on the lake, so he feels that it can be approved because it should not affect the lake. Commissioner Jarvis asks if they have septic systems or sewers and if they are adding a bedroom. Commissioner Steinbaum responds that they are adding a bedroom and are on septic. Commissioner McCarthy states that Mr. Bezrutczyk consulted with him prior to filling out the application and he has to recuse himself of any further discussion. He adds that the hearing date was November 21st so the train may have left the station. He suggests that the Commission should let the Townships know that they are back in business. Commissioner Tessier states that the Commission would not approve or deny the applications, but they would comment on them or approve or disapprove. He suggests that they create a committee for reviewing Land Use applications, Colleen would receive the correspondence and forward to the Land Use Committee and the Commission. Chair Smith asks for volunteers for the Land Use Committee; Commissioner McCarthy will chair the committee, Commissioner Tessier will review the paperwork by email, Commissioner Steinbaum and Commissioner Osowski volunteer. Commissioner Steinbaum suggests that a letter be sent to Stopa Carpentry and Paul Bezrutczyk indicating no objection from the Commission to their request. The Commissioners agree a letter should be sent, and an additional letter to each Township indicating the Lake Hopatcong Commission will be reviewing future Land Use requests.

Roll Call:

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

The motion carries 6-0-3 (three abstentions)

Colleen Conover states that the FY 2019 Budget Proposal was sent on November 29, 2017 with personal letters to each of the recently elected government officials.

IX. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith gives the Chairman’s report. He states that he attended the Senate environmental meeting, which addressed a bill for funding Lake Hopatcong with \$500,000 using boater registration fees. He states that the LHF and Musconetcong Association were also there. The Bill has passed the Senate and is now in the

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Assembly where they will hold a vote on January 4, 2018. He believes that it will pass and the governor is expected to sign it. He congratulates Commissioner Steinbaum on his reappointment. There is a general discussion of the upcoming vote and budget. He states that he also attended the Highlands Council meeting where they confirmed that they will be issuing 200K to the Commission, but he has to have further discussion about how the money can be appropriated.

X. Old Business

STATE PARK

Weed Harvesting Update

Commissioner Osowski gives the weed harvesting update. He states that there are currently three seasonal weed harvesting operators, two permanent operators and two seasonal dump truck drivers on staff. The seasonal employees will assist permanent employees during the winter and spring months with prepping the machines for next season. All equipment is staged at the Franklin Building for the winter. The disassembling process has begun to determine repairs for all equipment. The focus is now on assessing maintenance and major repairs to prepare for next season. Between June 24th and October 16th, a total of 3,872 cubic yards of weeds were harvested. Josh states that FY 2018 is broken down into salaries and operations. Permanent, overtime and seasonal salaries account for \$239,500 and operations including fuel, repairs, welding, parts and maintenance of the Franklin Building account for \$115,500. The total FY 2018 budget is \$355,000. Purchase orders are being set up for parts, supplies and repairs. Chairman Smith, asks if the harvesters will it be ready by May 1st. Commissioner Osowski responds yes, barring any emergencies. Commissioner McCarthy asks how far along they are in the repair identification process and if the staff can identify any major problems by next meeting. Commissioner Osowski states that he will ask the staff prior to next meeting. Commissioner McCarthy states that during the November meeting Dr. Lubnow had some new information regarding the weed harvesting numbers. There is a review and general discussion of Dr. Lubnow's findings. Dr. Lubnow states that he is preparing an addendum to the report. Chair Smith asks Commissioner Osowski for a copy of the MOU between the LHC and NJDEP for equipment for review by the Commission. Commissioner McCarthy states that he has the original 2012 agreement and the new agreement that Commissioner Osowski sent to him. Chairman Smith asks that it be sent to all of the Commissioners prior to next meeting. Colleen will send out the agreements. Chair Smith has asked that the Commissioners come prepared with what they believe should be in the agreement and ready to vote on January 8, 2018. Commissioner Osowski states that he does not believe that MOU will be passed in time if the Commission waits to approve something at the January 8th meeting.

Lake-Wide Permit for Catch Basins

Colleen Conover states that during the November meeting Melissa Castellon was going to send a letter to each of the townships asking for their support in cleaning out the outfalls and catch basins during the 2018 drawdown. Commissioner McCarthy states that he would like to have a copy of the Jefferson permit that they

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previously submitted as a model for the new application. There is a general discussion of the catch basin and outflow clean out.

Recalibration of Gauges

Commissioner Osowski states that he does not have an update.

NJDEP UPDATES

NJDEP/Township MOU – Disbursement Schedule

Commissioner Osowski states that Kerry Kirk Pflugh has reached out to all of the Townships to sign the agreement, but as he understands it Roxbury is the only one that has signed. The Commissioners state that each of their towns have signed the agreement and they were sent in the last month. Commissioner Osowski will reach out to Kerry to determine if the agreement has been signed.

Committee Alternates and Appointments (Melissa Castellon, Todd Stevens, Ron Morris Replacement)

Mount Arlington is in the process of having Ron Morris replaced, and Commissioner McCarthy is working on getting an alternate. Commissioner Osowski is still working on having Melissa appointed as his alternate.

NJDEP & LHC Equipment MOU

The Commission will review the MOU with NJDEP equipment and hold a vote next meeting.

NJDEP Water Level Management

Nothing new to report. Osowski still has not received a recommendation from the CAC from the November meeting, he gives a brief recap of the meeting. Colleen Conover will be sending the recommendation from the CAC to the NJDEP.

XI. New Business

Princeton Hydro Proposals & 319 Grant Review – Dr. Fred Lubnow

Dr. Fred Lubnow states that he is working on some revisions to the Final Water Quality Report and addendum. He states that at the turn of the year there will be contracts sent for the proposals for water quality, cyanotoxin monitoring, and the aquatic plant survey. He states that at the last meeting he believed that there would be an announcement for 319 grants at the end of November, however now he believes that the Fall 2017 funding will focus on Barnegat Bay and another RFP will be available in the spring of 2018 for statewide grant opportunities. Chair Smith states that the Commission may use the funds from the Highlands Council because they can be used for water quality etc. Dr. Lubnow states that he would like to see the Commission update the WIP because it is so old that it doesn't comply with state and federal water implementation plans. He states that when you have an approved WIP you are eligible for more implementation funding. Chair Smith asks Dr. Lubnow for a proposal to update the plan with cost estimates. Dr. Lubnow states that they would be updating the plan with site specific information and include the nine elements of a watershed implementation plan. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if there are opportunities for funding the upgrade of septic systems. Dr. Lubnow

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states that it is possible through federal funding like they received from the EPA for a targeted watershed system. Commissioner McCarthy asks if any of the funding will be for dredging. Dr. Lubnow states that dredging is typically the last step, if the Commission applied for 319 funding for dredging they would see that the TMDL is too high and they would not grant the funding, however there may be other sources of funding for dredging. Commissioner Steinbaum calls for a vote so that the Budget Committee can allocate funding to the three PH proposals. He states that he would like to vote on this now so that enough money is allocated for the Commission to receive their next budget disbursement form NJDEP. He reviews the three proposals and their costs. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the three proposals pending signing the contracts. Commissioner Pravs seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion carries (7-0-2) 2 abstentions

Commissioner Osowski asks that PH alerts NJDEP if they see anything related to cyanotoxins during their monitoring events. There is a discussion of cyanotoxins and blue green algae.

Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Donna Macalle-Holly gives an update from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. She states that the Foundation has been meeting with local officials to brief them on their visit to Candlewood Lake where they were educated on the use of grass eating carpe for weed control. She requests that if the Commission does move forward with an aquatic plant survey that they work with NJDEP to use an approved sampling methodology. She states that the rule against using grass eating carpe in New Jersey is a Fish and Wildlife guideline and not a regulation. She states that if FWS and NJDEP approve the use of grass eating carpe, they may be able to do a small trial in the lake. She states that the Foundation supports Dr. Lubnow's statement that the WIP should be updated so they can be eligible for future grant funding. She states that the Foundation has put in the order for their floating classroom and hope to have it operational by May 2018. They are currently hosting 500 students from fourth grade in Roxbury, but hope to expand the program to 1000 students from different townships. The program will operate out of the State Park where they will install a dock. One day a week in July and August they hope to have the classroom open to the public. She states that she spoke to Assemblyman Weber and he really enjoyed the clean-up during the last five-year drawdown. She states that they will probably be doing it again this year, and she urges the Commissioners to get the word out. Commissioner McCarthy asks if the Foundation has the lake study curriculum from the Regional Planning Board. Cliff Lundin states that the curriculum is available and was used as a starting point. Donna states that now the

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curriculum has to meet next generation curriculum standards not the core curriculum standards. There is a general discussion of the curriculum. Donna states that Princeton Hydro is going to train volunteers how to do scientific experiments and teach the curriculum. She states that the poster contest for the soil conservation district this year is related to watersheds, so to get more students involved the Foundation is matching the County prize if the winner is selected from one of the four towns around the lake.

Insurance Policies

Chair Smith states that the insurance policy for the office at the State Park has been implemented. He reviews another policy for Directors & Officers Insurance which would be \$860 for two million dollars in coverage.

Administrative Updates

Colleen Conover updates the Commissioners on funding a special improvement district, and book keeping updates. She states that she has been working with Bob Benecke and Chris Lynch as referred by Commissioner Tessier to start work on a special improvement district and manage the LHC bank account. She states that she secured the lakehopatcongcommission.org website address and will be switching to a work email cconover@lakehopatcongcommission.org next month. She states that the Commission had proposed the purchase of a new computer, but suggests using an external hard drive instead so that there is a back-up of information for the Commission.

Record Review Committee

Colleen Conover states that the first meeting is going to be organized prior to the January meeting. Pravs suggests that they main organizer should be Colleen since she will be going through the boxes.

2018 Meeting Schedule Resolution

Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to accept the meeting dates as scheduled, Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion. Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of the month unless noted.

January 8th – Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, Landing NJ

February 12th – Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, Landing NJ

March 12th - Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

April 9th - Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

May 14th - Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ

June 11th – Hopatcong Senior Center, 32 Lakeside Blvd, Hopatcong, NJ

July 9th - Hopatcong Senior Center, 32 Lakeside Blvd, Hopatcong, NJ

August 13th – Jefferson Municipal Building, 1033 Weldon Rd., Lake Hopatcong, NJ

****September 17th** - Jefferson Municipal Building, 1033 Weldon Rd., Lake Hopatcong, NJ

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****October 15th** - Mt. Arlington Civic Center, Fern Road, Mt. Arlington
****November 5th** - Mt. Arlington Civic Center, Fern Road, Mt. Arlington
December 10th - Mt. Arlington Civic Center, Fern Road, Mt. Arlington

** Date moved due to holiday.

List of Bills

Chairman Smith introduces the list of bills for the month which include \$860 insurance \$492.44 reimbursement for purchase of a printer/copier/ink/shipping charges, \$1,600 consulting services for November 2017, \$9,810.00 for the LHF for Water Quality Monitoring by Princeton Hydro, and \$727.50 for Liability Insurance. Commissioner Tessier asks about the LHF invoice. Tessier asks for a more detailed invoice. Donna states that she will send the invoices from Princeton Hydro. Commissioner McCarthy motion to vote on the list of bills, Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

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

John Kirsman states that during the 60-inch drawdown, the lake should be allowed to rise when there is ice on it. He asks, if the Commission receives \$500K in funding, would they be allowed to fund the parks department in the current MOA. Chair Smith states that they will determine that if they receive funding. Mr. Kirsman states that he would like to see cyanotoxin prevention through the use of bubblers to keep the water moving. He comments that candlewood lake reduces the depth of the lake ten feet every other year so weeds were bad every other year, so it is not only the carpe, but also the drawdown that aided in weed reduction. He states that the September meeting on September 10th is Rosh Hashanah.

Cliff BeeBee against the law to raise the lake, he has provided everyone with a copy of the law. He states that the federal government should address the violation of personal and property rights.

Cliff Lundin former mayor Hopatcong and regional planning board. He states that in July 2016 he appeared at the LHC meeting and gave a draft modification to the current lake level management plan. He provides a copy of his modifications. He states that the purpose of the modifications is to keep the decision to refill the lake local. He states that the modification also addresses when the refill should be triggered, which should occur

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when the ice is soft enough. Commissioner McCarthy states that the Commission should consider making Mr. Lundin's modifications an official recommendation of the Commission to the NJDEP.

Mark Fisch makes a motion to change the date of the September meeting from September 10th to September 17th Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

XII. Close of Meeting

Commissioner McCarthy moves to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Servoss seconds the motion.

Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 8, 2018
Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, Landing NJ