

Minutes of the Lake Hopatcong Commission

June 19, 2006

A meeting of the Lake Hopatcong Commission was held on June 19, 2006 at the Mount Arlington Municipal Building, 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey. At 7:30 p.m., Chair Ondish called the meeting to order.

Salute to the Flag: Chair Ondish and all those in attendance joined in a salute to the flag.

Moment of Silence: Chair Ondish called for a moment to silence for our soldiers and their families.

The Chair announced that Mr. McCabe resigned from the Lake Hopatcong Commission and once he receives his formal resignation he would read it into the record.

Roll Call:

Present: Elizabeth Gantert, Eric Grove, Richard Hodson, Richard O'Connor, Charles Richman, Richard Zoschak, Frank Hughes (Morris County Alternate), Robert Mitchko (Jefferson Township Alternate), Patricia Rector (DEP Alternate) and Arthur Ondish

Absent: Colleen DeStefano, Ken Klipstein, David Jarvis

Alternates Present: Robert Gruber (Mt. Arlington), Nicholas DePalma (Roxbury), Daniel McCarthy (Hopatcong Alternate)

With ten members present at Roll Call, Chair Ondish declared a quorum.

Also present: Chris Krupka – Princeton Hydro

Guest Speaker

Chair Ondish introduced Trooper Kenneth Lang. Tpr. Lang was representing the NJ State Police Maritime Security Initiative, a community watch program for the maritime environment. He stated an important item the program offers is a link to NJ State Police for any maritime websites at www.njstatepolice.org/maritime. This website includes a description of the Security Initiative, a maritime related questions section, water requirements for boating and ways to report suspicious water-related activities, which are relayed to Division Headquarters. He indicated the Security Initiative offers a 45-minute detailed presentation of the program for the public with a question & answer session. Tpr. Lang responded that unsafe boating calls should go to the regular phone number. The security initiative is strictly for criminal or suspicious activity. In response to an inquiry, Tpr. Lang stated that Newark Bay has nine additional staff. Tpr. Lang provided brochures on the maritime initiative.

Communications

Chair Ondish asked for questions or comments on the communications package. There being no inquiries, the Chair moved to the next agenda item.

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Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills

Eric Grove reviewed the Reconciliation Summary as of May 31, 2006. He reported an ending register balance of \$272,791.39 in the VNB account. He stated a Revised Bill List of \$18,231.64 was distributed for approval. Mr. Zoschak made a motion to move the Revised Bill List. Mr. Mitchko seconded. Mr. Zoschak inquired how long the Commission funds would last and Mr. Grove responded a couple of months. Mr. Mitchko asked about the Roxbury Township \$50 bill for fire inspection. Mr. Zoschak stated it is a yearly inspection for every commercial building in Roxbury and it is not included in the commission lease.

ROLL CALL:

Gantert	Yes	Zoschak	Yes
Grove	Yes	Hughes	Yes
Hodson	Abstained	Mitchko	Yes
O'Connor	Yes	Rector	Yes
Richman	Yes	Ondish	Yes

Motion carried 9-0-1 (one abstention).

Minutes of Meeting of May 15, 2006

Chair Ondish asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes and requested a motion. Mr. Mitchko made a motion to move the May minutes. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. There being no comment, the Chair requested a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL:

Gantert	Yes	Zoschak	Yes
Grove	Yes	Hughes	Yes
Hodson	Abstained	Mitchko	Yes
O'Connor	Yes	Rector	Yes
Richman	Yes	Ondish	Yes

Motion carried 9-0-1 (one abstention).

Public Comment

Chair Ondish stated that the first public comment is limited to items on the agenda and asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

Estelle Klein, Member for Hopatcong Borough, stated there were four other council members present. She had several questions beginning with the number of weed harvesters in operation. She distributed photos of River Styx weed growth to the Commission and audience members. She indicated she would be sending the photos to State Senators and the Governor. She also questioned why the low level of the lake was not addressed earlier and when the flow reduction can be done during drought emergency. Chair Ondish stated that the State controls the level of the lake through the dam. He also stated the Commission does not control the level of the lake. Ms. Rector stated that Mr. Klipstein, of the DEP, was working with the Deputy Attorney General to look into future water level issues when a drought emergency is not declared. Chair Ondish referred to the Lake Hopatcong Water Level Management Plan, which is how the State controls the level of the Lake. Ms. Klein discussed her concerns about water level and the economic impact on marina owners. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated she reported at last month's meeting that she

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contacted some marina owners about the economic impact on their business relative to the lake level. The Chair responded to Ms. Klein's lake level inquiries explaining what actions the Commission and the local municipalities took to address the issue. There was discussion as to when the lake level was at such a low level. Ms. Klein stated the photos were taken in the River Styx area, but Crescent Cove and Ingram Cove are just as bad.

Loretta Busch, resident of Mt. Arlington Blvd, stated harvesters have not been in her cove or out on the Lake this season, her family cannot swim and the lake looks terrible. Chair Ondish explained to the public that this year the lake is packed with weeds due to the lack of ice on the lake from the winter and the low water level. There are six harvesters actively working everyday and they are doing the best job they can. There is a schedule on the Commission's website as to where the harvesting is taking place, but unfortunately, they can not be every where. Ms. Busch inquired whether the harvesting could be started prior to May. Ms. Busch informed the Commission she was told by some residents it is difficult to obtain a permit to treat with herbicides. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated residents can apply for a permit to use herbicides through the DEP or contact companies that apply the aquatic pesticides and they will handle the permit process. She stated that there are currently 26 areas that are being treated by private homeowners or lake associations throughout the Lake. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that many of the companies that apply herbicide stated that the weeds came up so fast, the companies cannot apply the chemicals quick enough. Chair Ondish stated, when possible, the Commission harvests the areas to be treated first. Ms. Busch reiterated that it does not look like anything is being done with the weeds. Chair Ondish responded the harvesters are doing the best job they can and will continue to remove as much as they can.

Lisa Peluso, resident of Hopatcong, asked what the residents and Commission can do to correct the weed problem prior to the start of summer to prevent the problem from escalating. Ms. Peluso inquired if the Commission has looked at a process called "sonar" that is used at Lake George or other alternative solutions. She questioned what exactly the Commission has been doing for the weed problem. She stated that the State clearly does not care about Lake Hopatcong. Chair Ondish stated it is important for the residents to write letters to Senators, the Governor and the DEP Commissioner asking for more funding to rectify the problem. Ms. Peluso stated that some responsibility has to be taken regarding the condition of the Lake. In response to Ms. Peluso's inquiry about what exactly the Commission is doing, the Chair stating that weeds are being removed from the Lake. He informed Ms. Peluso and the audience that the Commission applies for grants and participates in projects to address storm water runoff, to reduce the phosphorus levels. Another way the Commission is trying to lower the phosphorus level in the Lake is through its Lake Friendly Fertilizer campaign to inform residents that fertilizer use causes weed growth.

Mr. Zoschak stated the Commission's budget request for this year was over \$845,000. Last year the Commission received \$500,000 from the State and this year the Commission anticipates receiving only \$400,000 for operating expenses. Ms. Peluso asked why the state does not care about the Lake. Ms. Rector stated that it is not a matter of the State not caring, but that there is a major budget crisis in the State. Chair Ondish stated the Lake Hopatcong region had \$200M revenue stream to the State and the Commission cannot get \$900K back to maintain the lake. Chair Ondish stated he spoke with the Governor and DEP Commissioner about the issue. Members of the public were encouraged to tell as many people to write letters, send photos and appeal to the Governor. Chair Ondish stated he has invited the Governor to come and see the lake so he can see what the State is not funding. He asked the audience to submit positive suggestions and feedback to the Commission as to alternative solutions.

Mr. Hodson addressed issues to include in a letter writing campaign. He suggested mentioning to public officials this is an immediate and future issue regarding the water level and that DEP can look at a changing the plan for the release of the water. DEP should take into consideration when the lake level is low and there is not a drought emergency in effect. If the signs are there before the summer, there should be a way to reduce the flow depending on the conditions down stream. Ms. Peluso implored the Commissioners to think of anything more that could be done to improve the lake situation and to do something different to get funding. The Chair stated he was opened to suggestions. Mr. Zoschak stated a list of all the information needed to contact your elected representatives is in the Sunday Daily Record opinion page.

Ms. Gantert strongly urged the audience to get the word out to friends and neighbors in the lake community to help with a letter writing campaign to Trenton. She reiterated continuous public communication would make heads turn.

Sylvia Petillo, Councilwomen for Hopatcong, had several questions in response to calls she received from residents including the weed harvesting, obtaining herbicide permits and the geese population. Ms. Petillo expanded upon the weed growth problem. She stated residents are concerned that the weed harvesting does not seem to be working. Chair Ondish responded the weed harvesting is working but it takes a long time and there are six harvesters to harvest nine miles of lake. She suggested starting harvesting earlier by three weeks or a month. Chair Ondish explained that due to the water level the harvesters could not begin too early in the season, but did begin harvesting two weeks earlier than last year.

In response to Ms. Petillo's concern about the weed harvesting, Ms. Macalle-Holly stated the Commission relies on the access points from the community, which are impacted by the water level. The harvesters started two weeks earlier this season, however, as everyone knows, the weed growth is about three weeks ahead of schedule. She asked members of the public to take a copy of the weed harvesting hand-out, prepared by Dr. Lubnow, Environmental Consultant, which addresses most concerns. From the field staff data, Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that in 2002, the first year the Commission was harvesting with the new six harvesters, they removed 2,390 tons of aquatic vegetation. Last year, as a point of reference, the Commission harvested 1,021 tons. There is a significant difference in the aquatic vegetation from year to year. Due to the weather and climatic conditions, Lake Hopatcong along with lakes throughout the Northeast, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey are experiencing the same problem. She stated the harvesters move at a top speed of 5 mph when they are not harvesting. For example, if the harvester was traveling at full speed of 5 mph from the tip of Point Pleasant to the beach at the State Park with the harvester bar up and not cutting, it takes 15 minutes for the harvester to cover that distance. To harvest that same it, it would take about a half hour. The harvesting process takes a long time. The lake is almost 2,700 acres and the harvesters try to get to as many places as they can with equipment for two crews. The width the harvester cut is 10 feet.

Ms. Petillo asked about the Mayors that sit on the Commission. She also suggested the writing campaign would be most beneficial if the Governor heard from the Mayors and then the Commission before the residents. Chair Ondish stated the Commission has contacted the proper officials asking for funding to improve the quality of the lake by harvesting with an operating budget. The Chair stated he invited the Governor to take a look at the lake and suggested the letter writing campaign is essential for the lake. Ms. Petillo also stated residents were having trouble obtaining the herbicide permits from the DEP. Ms. Macalle-Holly responded that when this issue was brought to her attention, this issue was quickly resolved and the permits are being

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issued. She stated she received a phone call from a Hopatcong resident thanking her for expediting the permit. There was discussion the geese problem and how Mount Arlington and Jefferson are addressing the geese population. Each municipality needs to get the appropriate permits for geese addling.

John Kurzman, resident of Lake Hopatcong, discussed a number of concerns including weed harvesting, the lake's water level, a website for weeding tools and the Commission funds. Mr. Kurzman stated he was impressed with the results of weed harvesting. Chair Ondish responded that it is good to hear positive feedback and truly appreciates the hard work of the harvesting crews. Since the Commission funds are low, Mr. Kurzman recommended that everyone could take responsibility for their own weeds and purchase weeding tools. A helpful website is, Readersdigest.com and its' links. Mr. Kurzman questioned whether there were enough funds to keep the staff running until the end of the season. Mr. Grove explained how frustrating it was for the Commission not to be included in the State's budget. Mr. Grove stated the Commission cannot depend relies on residual funds to continue its operations. He reiterated the frustration of trying to plan without knowing what funds the Commission is going to receive.

Ray Fernandez, resident of Hopatcong, stated he started a petition that was distributed to the local businesses in Jefferson Township section of Lake Hopatcong. To learn more about the petition, he suggested residents could contact him at 973-663-1976 or email at info@richmarinainc.com. A list of government representatives' addresses, emails, etc. will be attached to the petition.

Mr. Clark, resident of Landing, focused on several items including water usage cut back, weed over growth and the letter writing campaign. Mr. Clark's noted that the lake has never looked so terrible. Mr. Clark pointed out the State has more interest in shore area so more tax dollars go to that area instead of the State's largest lake. Chair Ondish reiterated the lake residents need to be patient with the weed harvesting and the Commission is doing all possible to care for the lake. The Chair also reiterated the more letters written from the residents, the greater the chance the Commission will receive a response from the State.

Cathy, resident of Landing, questioned what other ideas could be developed to help build a fund for the lake. There was discussion on how Lake George is funded and how Lake Hopatcong's legislation does not allow the Commission to levy fines or collect fees. Mr. Zoschak pointed out that a Supplemental Funding Committee is looking into different funding possibilities such as charging fees, which the Commission would have to get approval from the State to do. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that over the past two years, the East Shore Property Owners Association sends letters to their members soliciting donations from members on behalf of the Commission to provide small monetary donations. Ms. Macalle-Holly indicated other lake communities have fees for permits and decals and fundraising activities through organizations like Friends of the Lake. Also, non-profits are eligible for different types of grant funding than the Commission.

Ms. Macalle-Holly discussed ways to help the Commission to educate the residents in and around the lake community. The Commission has been advocating the use of phosphorus-free fertilizer. She encouraged members of the public to let their neighbors know, how using phosphorus-free fertilizer cuts down on weed growth. She also discussed the importance of pumping out septic systems every three years. Other issues she discussed were the laws against feeding waterfowl and the importance of stopping people from dumping pollutants into the storm drains. In summary, people of the Lake Hopatcong community must change their environment views and habits to help restore the lake.

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In response to an unidentified member of the public question regarding what the Commission would do if it received one million dollars, the resident was advised that the Commission would address stormwater management issues. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated the grants the Commission recently received from the DEP and the EPA describing the pilot studies for the alternate septic management system and the catch basin iron-oxide sleeves to remove phosphorous. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that the information about the grant award is available on the Commission website. Chair Ondish stated these grant projects are long term solutions. The short-term solution, which Princeton Hydro can attest to, is weed harvesting. A resident suggested changing the zoning regulations for building around the lake and inquired whether the lake could become a reservoir. The Chair responded that for years some towns have made zoning changes but there are ways around the changes. He also mentioned the Lake probably would not become a reservoir as it is already designated as an emergency water source.

Lou Baretta, resident of Hopatcong, addressed numerous issues including the harvesters spreading the weeds, but his main concern was about controlling the weeds with herbicides. Mr. Baretta suggested adding the amount of weeds removed to the website. He also suggested that Princeton Hydro look into whether the harvesting process could be causing the spreading of the weeds in other areas. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated the State does not allow the Commission to use State funds for aquatic pesticide treatment. She further explained how the Commission works with the DEP and the licensed firm that applies the pesticides notifies the Commission when an aquatic pesticide treatment will be done. To the best of Commission's ability, when possible, an area to be treated is harvested first because it will benefit the entire lake in the end. The harvesters remove the biomass so it does not fall to the bottom when the weeds are treated. This year there were 26 approved permits for treatment. Ms. Macalle-Holly informed the audience that by harvesting the pesticide-treated areas first, this would cut down on the amount of weeds that fall to the bottom. Mr. Baretta suggested that the Commission take a proactive approach to organizing the pesticide treatment areas. He also suggested that the Commission should notify residents that they can apply for permits to treat with pesticides. He also discussed the title of the Lake Hopatcong Commission and that it should represent an authority. Mr. Hodson discussed how the State of New Jersey created the Commission and gave it both its name and the authority it has. Mr. Baretta discussed the frustration residents have with the Commission. Chair Ondish stated he would like to see this much interest from the residents year round. There was discussion on the importance of getting information out to the public on various issues and the use of electronic signs around the Lake and other alternate communication methods such as stickers on boat. The Chair suggested putting a committee together to consider other communications approaches.

Rich Reichert, resident of Hopatcong, asked whether the Commission knew about a fish that ate grass. Ms. Macalle-Holly responded that she spoke to Dr. Lubnow and he said the State of NJ does regulate the use of grass eating carp. The State does not allow carp to be stock in lakes larger than 10 acres or if the lake has an outlet. Regulations are imposed because it is not known how the carp will effect the water quality, the fish habitat or what it will do to the weeds in a large lake.

Richard Bunce, Council President for Hopatcong and Chair of the Hopatcong Sewer Subcommittee, stated he was appreciative for the grants the Commission received to address the storm water management issues. He stated the grants were partially due to Hopatcong's proactive approach to sewer about 45% of Hopatcong at a cost of \$60M spent to date. He discussed the Commission's leadership ability to address resident's concerns voiced tonight. He acknowledged several issues and one of his key concerns is that the Commission should inform the public early

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when any problem is anticipated before a critical point occurs. The best time to urge residents to help with letter writing campaign, fundraising, etc. before a problem becomes overwhelming. He suggested that the Commission advertise in the local newspapers and mail out letters and notices to all lake community public officials and residents. Ms. Gantert reiterated the importance to attend all public meetings not only to vent frustrations but to hear new information about the lake. She stated most of the public's subject matter commented on tonight has been discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Zoschak discussed his efforts to provide updates about the Commission that are available in the Roxbury Register. Mr. Bunce stated, as Council President, he is not getting information about the Commission and suggested that the Commission make an effort to keep Sussex County updated. Mr. Bunce addressed the heated nature of some of the discussion including that with Ms. Klein. The Chair extended his apology and thanked everyone for their comments. Chair Ondish reiterated the convenience of the Commission's website at www.lakehopatcong.org.

Brad Guice, resident of Hopatcong, suggested charging a surcharge or boat fee due to the overcrowding on lake to add to the Commission funds to help clean up the lake. Chair Ondish reiterated the Commission does not have the authority to levy those fees. Ms. Rector stated the Supplemental Funding Committee has discussed this and she addressed how the Greenwood Lake Commission is trying to move forward with legislation to assess fees on boats. She asked if some of tonight attendees would be interested in participating in the next subcommittee meeting to address boating fees. Chair Ondish discussed why he is opposed to boating fees. Mr. Richman stated the reality is that the State of New Jersey is not going to produce any more money and the Commission should be concentrating on finding another source.

Mr. McCarthy addressed the Commission funding issues and supplemental funding committee, alternatives of boating decals, the April water level, storm water management, and use of chemicals. Mr. McCarthy's focus was the boat decal issue, which was discussed at length at a committee meeting. Mr. McCarthy is against boating fees since there is not a mechanism to monitor the issuance of boat decals. The committee has differences of opinion and the issue has not been resolved. Mr. McCarthy stated that there are many issues relative to implementing a boat decal program and it may not offset its cost. He discussed various taxes that are imposed such as the realty transfer tax. He discussed the Commission staffing issues relative to the budget reduction. He read from the April meeting minutes regarding the discussion of the lake level and stated that a quicker reaction time to respond to lake level issues is needed. Mr. McCarthy stated the storm water management project is a great way to keep nutrients out of the lake. He cautioned the use of today's well-known chemicals could be tomorrow's hazard to the lake.

Mr. Guice continued his comments stating that the surcharge of the boats was a suggestion and the immediate attitude was that it would not work. He stated the surcharge could be added to boating registration and would not have to be policed. Mr. Zoschak stated that registration fees go to the State Treasury. Chair Ondish stated that during the budget hearing a question was asked about the tax on tire disposal for cleanup and was advised that it went to the general fund. Mr. Guice encouraged audience members to send out letters to their lake associations to treat with herbicides. There was discussion on the enforcement of using fertilizer with phosphorus. Ms. Macalle-Holly responded that the harvesters are out there every day Monday through Friday except holidays or when they are doing maintenance, having mechanical difficulties or during rain.

There being no further public comment, the Chair closed the public comment period.

Chairman's Report

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Chair Ondish stated he did not have a report.

Old Business

Field Staff Report

In Mr. Clark's absence, Ms. Macalle-Holly stated the field staff has been deployed and during the two weeks of harvesting, 466 cubic yards of aquatic vegetation were removed. She stated that residents were calling about a harvesting schedule. She indicated a harvesting schedule is available on the website. The staff is unable to provide harvesting schedule more than a week in advance because the length of time will vary based on the amount of weed being removed, the weather including the wind and rain, and possible mechanical difficulties.

Lake Hopatcong Water Level

Ms. Macalle-Holly stated the current water level for Lake Hopatcong, as of June 19, 2006, according to the gauge monitored by the USGS, is at 8.91. Last year on June 19, 2005 the water level was at 8.92. According to the rain gauge at the Musconetcong River, over the past 31 days, the Lake Hopatcong area has had 5-1/4" of rain to help bring up the lake water level. Mr. Hodson inquired where the lake water level data for the year is recorded. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that data on the USGS website only goes back 31 days, but there is 25 years of data from 1976-2000 included in the Lake Hopatcong Water Level Management Plan. The State Park continues to monitor the water level manually which is not available electronically but only on paper.

Ashley Cove Riparian Buffer Project

Ms. Macalle-Holly reported on the project stating that the Commission worked with North Jersey RC&D, Watershed Ambassador Douglas Jay and Jefferson Township DPW and Recreation Departments. She stated that almost 90 trees and shrubs were planted on the site along Ripplewood and Espanong Road. She stated a one-page summary of the project was distributed to the Commissioners for their review.

Princeton Hydro Report

Ms. Krupka stated the major issues were summarized in a written report Dr. Lubnow provided. She reported on the progress being made with the municipalities in selecting the installation sites for 319 grant. She stated that Princeton Hydro staff and Ms. Macalle-Holly have been working on responding to EPA's questions regarding the work plan and quality assurance protection plan. Chair Ondish requested that the residents' questions be provided to Dr. Lubnow to address at the next meeting.

Ms. Krupka discussed weed harvesting bringing in new species of vegetation. She indicated it was unlikely because new vegetation could be brought into the lake in many ways including from boats traveling from one lake to another. Weed harvesters does not transport new vegetation in that way. Mr. Hodson stated the resident's concern was the spreading of the current species of weeds. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that milfoil has been predominant throughout the lake for years.

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Sub-Committees

Chair Ondish stated the Bylaws Committee was postponed until next month for various reasons.

Ms. Gantert stated the Audit Committee would be putting together the work for the audit very shortly. She inquired if there was a time limit. The Chair indicated the sooner the better.

Mr. McCarthy reported the Project Planning committee met a few weeks ago. The committee reviewed the status of projects and the goals of the committee. Future project planning initiatives will depend on funding. Mr. McCarthy stated the shared services project seems like a good idea but depends on the staffs availability and agreements with the towns. Members of the committee will meet in Hopatcong this week and emphasize on getting started with finding shared services for the 2008 drawdown to cleanup the lake.

Chair Ondish stated the personnel committee did meet and that will be discussed in Executive Session.

Chair Ondish stated the lake-friendly fertilizer campaign is still in progress. Ms. Rector asked if any member of the public were interested in serving on subcommittee such as the lake-friendly fertilizer to help get the message out. The Chair encouraged anyone that wanted to be involved to let him know.

Ms. Macalle-Holly reported about the Site Plans Review committee. She stated Mr. Risko is doing most of the work and that Mr. O'Connor is available to help Mr. Risko. Mr. Zoschak suggested that perhaps the Commission, in its site plan reviews, should comment on curbing the development as they are trying to do in Roxbury. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated Mr. Risko tries to get that point across when he states that even small increase to the lot coverage will have an overall impact on the lake.

New Business

Resolution #06-05 – Temporarily Appoint Certifying Officer

Chair Ondish announced Resolution #06-05 – Temporarily Appoint Certifying Officer for Health and Dental Benefits, Pension and Deferred Compensation due to Mr. Clark's illness. Chair Ondish has volunteered to serve as the temporary Certifying Officer. Mr. Richman made a motion to move the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zoschak. All those in favor signified by saying "aye" and those opposed by saying "no." There being a unanimous "aye", the motion was carried.

Coverage for July 17 LHC Meeting

Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that a couple months ago she had advised the Chair that she would be on an extended family vacation during the week of July 17. At that time, Mr. Clark graciously agreed to cover Ms. Macalle-Holly's responsibilities at the July meeting. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated she spoke with the Chair about having coverage at the meeting in Mr. Clark's absence. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that Ellen Horack, who previously handled these responsibilities for the Commission, was available to cover the July 17 meeting. Ms. Horack could cover the meeting and be available prior to the meeting for a review on Commission meeting procedures. Ms.

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Macalle-Holly stated that Ms. Horack's rate is \$25/hour. Mr. Zoschak made a motion to spend up to \$250 to cover secretarial services in Ms. Macalle-Holly's absence for the July meeting. Ms. Gantert seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Gantert	Yes	Zoschak	Yes
Grove	Yes	Hughes	Yes
Hodson	Yes	Mitchko	Yes
O'Connor	Yes	Rector	Yes
Richman	Yes	Ondish	Yes

Motion carried 10-0-0.

Mr. Zoschak stated as a point of information, there was an oil spill in Landing which he forwarded the emails to Ms. Macalle-Holly. An outdoor tank rusted out and approximately between 50 to 100 gallons were released some of which entered Duck Pond in Landing. He stated DEP responded immediately to place booms and it was contained. He stated there is ongoing site remediation.

Ms. Rector suggested that a webpage on the Commission site be developed to address frequently asked questions and to include the information provided by Princeton Hydro about the weed growth.

Public Comment

Rich Reichert, resident of Hopatcong, stated that three dogs drown in the Lake and if someone came by his dock, they would become tangled up. Chair Ondish stated that the safety of the public is a huge concern and the State Police are charged with that responsibility.

Mr. Zoschak discussed a previous meeting with Jose Fernandez, Director of Parks & Forestry regarding the safety issue at the seawall near Lake's End Marina is.

There was an inquiry if a Sussex County representative was on the Commission. The Chair indicated it was Mr. Grove.

Mr. Kurzman, resident of Jefferson, stated that boating license is only required for non-tidal waters and discussed why the State does not give that money back to non-tidal waters. He stated his frustration when he learned this is not how the State works. He stated other funding mechanisms that had previously been considered were the Lake Hopatcong license plates or to give a donation in the New Jersey Tax Returns and indicated the roadblocks to these alternatives. He stated that if residents donate money then the State looks at how much money is in the Commission's bank account. He suggested that perhaps residents could make donations towards the purchase of an asset such as a truck. He addressed other comments made about spreading the weed species in the lake or addressing the weed situation by sending in divers. He stated Lake Hopatcong is way beyond that because the weeds are all over and every year it is a different species. He stated the harvesters are pulling out the biomass and the nutrients. He asked about Ashley Cove Restoration Project and inquired how a tree's root system could filter the water. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated that the project itself, as it was originally planned, was scaled back significantly due to permitting issues with DEP. The project is still referred to as a buffer project and there are plans to do more with the project. He suggested that the Commission develop some guidelines that as new storm drains are installed to monitor how they are affecting the lake. Ms.

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Macalle-Holly stated Mr. Klipstein had contacted someone from DOT to discuss the possible lake delta issue from their projects.

There being no further public comment, the Chair stated the Commission would move into Executive Session. He thanked everyone for coming, again apologized for the heated discussion and encouraged everyone to come back to the meeting every month. Mr. Zoschak made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Grove seconded. There being a unanimous “aye”, the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned to executive session.

Chair Ondish stated the Commission was back in open session and had two items to discuss. He stated that the Commissioners discussed the added responsibility that Mr. Calderio is taking on in Mr. Clark’s absence. The Personnel Committee made a recommendation to increase Mr. Calderio’s salary by two steps in his class. He will remain as Foreman and is not becoming the temporary Field Director. Mr. Calderio salary would increase from \$49,514 to \$52,642. The small increase is for the added responsibilities although he is not doing the full work of the Field Director.

Chair Ondish stated that many other responsibilities of Mr. Clark were assumed by Ms. Macalle-Holly. To assist Ms. Macalle-Holly and to offset the time she spends on Mr. Clark’s responsibilities, the Commission will hire a part-time clerical person for possibly up to 20 hours a week. Chair Ondish stated that this issue and Ms. Macalle-Holly’s position would be revisited in three months since they were unsure of what would happen to Mr. Clark at this time. The Chair directed Ms. Macalle-Holly to fill the clerical position. In response to Ms. Macalle-Holly’s inquiry, Chair Ondish stated the clerical position would be temporary, part-time position. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated she would fill the temporary position through State contract. The Chair stated the temporary position would be up to 20 hours per week at \$15/hour.

Mr. Zoschak made a motion to increase Mr. Calderio’s salary two steps to \$52,642 effective for the past pay period for three months and it will be re-evaluated every three months. Mr. Hughes seconded.

ROLL CALL:

Gantert	Yes	Zoschak	Yes
Grove	Yes	Hughes	Yes
Hodson	Yes	Mitchko	Yes
O’Connor	Yes	Rector	Yes
Richman	Yes	Ondish	Yes

Motion carried 10-0-0.

The Chair requested a motion to hire a temporary, part-time clerical person to assist Ms. Macalle-Holly in the office at an hourly rate not to exceed \$15/hour and no more than 20 hours per week to be evaluated in three months. Ms. Gantert made the motion and Mr. Zoschak seconded.

ROLL CALL:

DeStefano	Yes	Richman	Yes
Gantert	Yes	Zoschak	Yes
Jarvis	Yes	McCarthy	Yes
Klipstein	Yes	Risko	Yes
O’Connor	Yes	Ondish	Yes

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Motion carried 10-0-0.

Mr. Ondish questions if the Morris County Planning Department was receiving the Lake Hopatcong Commission meeting minutes. Ms. Macalle-Holly stated she would check on her meeting minute's electronic distribution list, but she had not removed anyone from the distribution list recently.

The Chair stated the next meeting is Monday, July 17 at the Roxbury Municipal Building. Mr. Zoshak made a motion to adjourn. All those in favor signified by saying "aye" and those opposed by saying "no." There being a unanimous "aye", the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Lori Dowhan and Donna Macalle-Holly