

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
April 17, 2019

Chairman Riley opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a reading of the Open Public Meetings Notice which was sent to the Daily Record and New Jersey Herald on January 17, 2019 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

Mark Crowley - absent	Rosemarie Maio - absent
George Graham – absent	Steven Rattner - present
Robert Hathaway - present	John Rogalo - absent
Joseph Keenan - present	Lester Wright - present
	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communications listed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Riley opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Chairman Riley closed the public portion of the meeting.

ACTION ON MINUTES: Chairman Riley made the following revisions to the minutes under “Lake Management”: line 20 the word “Hey” should be changed to “He” and on line 23 the word “Lake” should be changed to “Last.” On motion by Mr. Keenan seconded by Mr. Wright, the Minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting and closed session were approved, as amended, by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

- 03-22-19 Notice to Property Owners – Notice of Freshwater Wetlands Application re: site located along Ledgewood Ave (US Rt 46) between intersections of Barone St. and Old Traveled Way, Roxbury Township
- 03-27-19 Chris Squazzo – email re: LU Flood Hazard Certification GPC9
- 04-12-19 Roxbury Township – purchase order and check in the amount of \$750 re: 2019 herbicide treatment
- 04-16-19 Notice to Property Owners – Site Plan to increase number of previously approved units, etc. re: 2 Flanders Road, Netcong

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Wright and carried by unanimous voice vote, the communications were accepted.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was no report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner reported former Board member John Wexel was appointment by the Morris County Freeholders as an alternate on the Management Council. Mr. Rattner reported that the Native Plant sale will be held on April 27th in Asbury and the Run for the River event will be held on May 5. The cost is \$30 to participate and in addition to the run, they will also have something separate for participants who want to walk and not run. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is tentatively scheduled for September 14th at Centenary College and there will be a charge this year. Mr. Rattner also reported the river clean-up was held this past week. There were 700 people who signed up and about 400 people showed up. Most of the garbage was located where they have public access. Mr. Rattner stated he was also informed that there are 319 grants available and this year lake management is a priority. If you received any 319 funds last year, they will not accept your application this year. The Highlands Council mentioned they still have a lot of planning grant money

available. It is only for planning and only if you are in the Highlands. The funds can only be used for planning and not actual work. Chairman Riley stated in the past six to seven months, there has been a discovery of infestation of New Zealand Mud Snails downstream from us. Chairman Riley said he attended training on identifying the New Zealand Mud Snail. They are extremely difficult to identify and they are less than a quarter of an inch in length. The problem with the New Zealand Mud Snail is when the fish eat the snails, the snails close themselves up and they pass through the digestive system of the fish unharmed. The fish gets no nutrients from the snail and since they are not getting nutrients, they will die. Mr. Rattner stated the MWA was denied funding to do a study on the New Zealand Mud Snail.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – There was no report.

Lake Awareness – In Ms. Maio's absence, Mr. Hathaway reported the Board will be hosting the fishing contest on June 9th. Volunteers are needed for this event, as well as publicity.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported he received a proposal from Solitude Lake Management for a variety of services. The Board is going to treat the back end of Byram Bay and deal with the water chestnut in that area as they have in the past. It remains unclear what the Board's commitment will be towards herbicide because they do not have significant identified funding for the herbicide. Mr. Hathaway said he told Solitude the Board has about \$16,000 to spend plus the money for the water chestnut and he asked them to give the Board ways to best spend the money. This is with the Board receiving no State funding. Mr. Hathaway stated he and Chairman Riley will be attending a meeting on May 2nd with representatives of the State, including the DEP Director, Senator Bucco, Assemblyman Bucco, Mark Texel, Olivia Glen, Melissa Castellon and Josh Osowski. They will be discussing State funding. Mr. Hathaway suggested the Board withhold any decision until after that meeting. The Board members agreed with Mr. Hathaway's suggestion. Mr. Hathaway said he also asked Solitude to consider continuing to look at the Arbolino Bay project together with Aquafix (the micro biologists). Mr. Hathaway stated he has a meeting with representatives of Aquafix on April 24th to discuss the possibilities. They have currently proposed the Board use the entire \$16,000 for 12 acres which is half of Arbolino Bay. They previously quoted about \$100,000 for the entirety of Arbolino Bay. Chairman Riley stated he is not available to attend the meeting and he asked another member to attend in his stead. Mr. Keenan offered to attend the April 24th meeting with Mr. Hathaway. The meeting will be held at the Netcong Municipal Building. Mr. Hathaway will confirm the time and inform Mr. Keenan. Mr. Hathaway said his interest would be to do a verifiable experiment in most of Arbolino Bay. There areas near the inlet will be excluded. Mr. Hathaway expressed his opinion that the Board should ask for more than the proposed 12 acres. This experiment may enable the Board to go to the State for better funding. The proposal is \$16,000 for 12 acres and they guarantee a 50% reduction in that area. It will make whatever area is done 4 feet deeper, which is significant. Mr. Hathaway noted between the Board and the LMCA they spent about \$30,000 and the lake looked great. Chairman Riley said he is in agreement with Mr. Hathaway and believes it will work well for the Board and he does not believe there will be any negative impact on the lake. Chairman Riley also stated it will be very beneficial to the manufacturer. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that the Board can negotiate a better deal because it will benefit the manufacturer if it works as predicted. Mr. Hathaway agreed, adding he does not believe the proposed area is large enough. Mr. Hathaway will suggest that they do 20 acres for the \$16,000 because that is all the money the Board has and if they do the whole area, they will give us all the science to back the Board. This serves the manufacturer well and serves the Board. Mr. Hathaway stated at the May 2nd meeting there will be discussion on funding and general policies. He would like the Board to permit him to discuss 319 funding. Mr. Hathaway spoke about 319 funding for the necessary hardware to operate a compost facility for the material

being removed from both Lake Musconetcong and Lake Hopatcong. He suggested 24 months of funding. Both lakes would no longer be paying Ag Choice or the MUA because they will have their own facility. On motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board authorized Mr. Hathaway to discuss the 319 grant for possible funding for a compost facility at the May 2nd meeting. Mr. Hathaway stated they need to get the jon boat in the water soon and they need to start the addling program within the next week or two. The equipment will be deployed in May. Chairman Riley reported Byram Township will take the material to Ag Choice. Chairman Riley also reported that Melissa Castellon negotiated \$7.00 per cub yard for both Lake Hopatcong and Lake Musconetcong. Byram will transport the material and charge the Board \$100 per load. Mr. Hathaway stated they will begin harvesting in June. They can operate the hydro rake mid-July. It is his goal to have the disposal issue resolved between now and then. They will focus the hydro rake on Lakeside Park in Stanhope.

Operating Budget Committee – Mr. Keenan had nothing to report.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. The balance in the account is \$4,860.29. Mr. Keenan noted the towns are in the process of adopting their budgets so funds should be forthcoming. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: On motion by Mr. Keenan seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the following bills are to be paid if and when funds are available:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk’s Monthly Compensation \$ 500.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed \$ 3.15

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway – yes

Mr. Wright - yes

Mr. Keenan – yes

Chairman Riley - yes

Mr. Rattner - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Riley stated after discussion at last month’s meeting he reached out to the people who approved the Board’s permit for disposal of the material and the response back was very confusing. Chairman Riley interpreted it that if the material coming out of the lake is removed by the homeowner by hand, they can do whatever they want with it, or, it can be removed by machine (by the Board) if it is within “x” number of feet from an inflow. The question he asked about if it could be left on the homeowner’s property was not addressed. Chairman Riley will try to clarify his question. Chairman Riley commented that it appears Fish & Wildlife is constantly researching areas of research that will stop the Board from using the hydro rake. Chairman Riley noted in a 2010 report, Fish & Wildlife said the only way to save this lake is to dredge it.

Firemen’s Boat – Chairman Riley stated he has not heard anything further on this issue. Mr. Hathaway stated Alan Bookspan, Chief of Stanhope Fire Department reached out to him and asked if the Board has taken a position on the boat. Mr. Hathaway believes Netcong Fire Department is waiting for the Board to take a position. On motion by Chairman Riley, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried

by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board agreed to inform the Stanhope Fire Department that the Board will not pay for the insurance cost on the boat since it is not the Board's boat.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway – yes

Mr. Keenan – yes

Mr. Rattner - yes

Mr. Wright - yes

Chairman Riley - yes

Chairman Riley asked Mr. Hathaway to relay the Board's decision to Alan Bookspan and suggest he do whatever they want with the boat, whether to return it to the Board or donate it to the Netcong Fire Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Riley noted Stanhope Day and the Fishing Contest are being held on June 9, 2019. Chairman Riley informed the Board he will be out of town that day and needs someone to take charge of the events in his absence. Chairman Riley will go to Ramsey's and get the prizes and he will arrange for the trophies for the fishing contest. Yonnie Guyre, present in the public, stated REG Communication will donate the trophies for the fishing contest.

Chairman Riley also informed the Board that he is unable to attend the May meeting due to a family commitment.

Chairman Riley reported in 2020 there will be a new 319 grant focused on the Upper Delaware River area, which includes the lake. Chairman Riley believes it would be a good idea to do a joint grant application for the two lakes (Hopatcong and Musconetcong) between the Board, Lake Hopatcong Commission, Hopatcong Foundation and State Parks for a large grant to fund a compost facility on State property. The area in mind is at the back end of Tilcon. The funds would pay to set up and manage the facility for a year or two. After that a determination will be made as to who will manage and run the facility.

Chairman Riley stated he and Mr. Hathaway attended Pat Rector's retirement party last month, at which they were informed she is not being replaced. Chairman Riley noted Pat Rector was doing the reporting for the 319 grant for the hydro rake. Since there is no replacement, Chairman Riley will prepare and submit the reports. As Pat did, a payment voucher to the State of New Jersey will be prepared and the Board will be given the funds designated for the reporting. Mr. Hathaway said it was suggested to them that unless organizations like the Board asks for her replacement she will probably not be replaced. Mr. Hathaway will draft a letter to Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders asking for Pat Rector's position to be refilled.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Riley opened the meeting to the public.

Yonnie Guyre, Landing resident, asked if the Board creates a compost facility and they sell the compost and generate funds, will the Board receive the funds. Mr. Hathaway responded the funds generated by selling the compost probably would not go to the Board, State Parks or the Hopatcong Commission. It might be the Lake Hopatcong Foundation who would receive the revenue.

Thomas Bruno, 110 Main Street, Stanhope, volunteered to help with lake management. Mr. Bruno also knows of a volunteer who wants to help the Board.

Melissa Castellon, Superintendent of State Parks, informed the Board that she just heard from Lisa Barno they are going from 12cfs to 8cfs beginning tomorrow. Chairman Riley expressed concern that if it drops that low the level does not meet the requirements as set forth in the management plan. Chairman Riley also questioned why Lisa Barno is making that decision. Ms. Castellon will look into the matter.

Seeing no one further from the public wishing to speak, Chairman Riley closed the public portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk