

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
December 20, 2023

Chairman Riley opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Notice which was sent to the Daily Record and New Jersey Herald on January 19, 2023 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

OATH OF OFFICE: Chairman Riley administered the Oath of Office to Judith McGrath.

ROLL CALL:

Laura Franek – present	Judith McGrath - present
Robert Hathaway – present	Shawn Potillo - present
William Hayden - present	Steven Rattner - present
Joseph Keenan- present	Rudy Shlesinger - present
Rosemarie Maio – present	Lester Wright - absent
	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no modifications to the agenda.

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: On motion by Mr. Keenan, seconded by Ms. Maio the Minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting, were approved on majority voice vote. Mr. Hayden, Ms. McGrath, Mr. Potillo and Mr. Rattner abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: : The following communications have been placed on file:

- 11-27-23 Fulton Bank – Confirmation of Address Change (to 77 Main Street, Stanhope, NJ)
- 11-27-23 Selective Insurance – Notice of Billing Pay Plan Changes (move from a 4-Pay Plan to a 4-Quarterly Pay Plan)
- 11-27-23 Adelino and Sylvia Benavente – copy of letter to Sussex County Administrator Ron Tappan re: request to rename portion of CR-616 (Newton-Sparta Road)
- 11-30-23 Notice to Property Owners – Variance Application of T3 Innovations to build single-family house on property known as Blk 10607, Lot 8 (3 Walton Street, Stanhope)
- 12-01-23 Daniel Benitez, Solitude Lake Management – Service Contract
- 12-04-23 Mayor Patricia Zdichocki – Season’s Greetings Card
- 12-06-23 T. Duncan, Solitude Lake Management – reminder of unpaid invoices 10/1/23 and 11/1/23 each in the amount of \$1,284.00
- 12-08-23 Fulton Bank – bank statement
- 12-08-23 Fidelity – Investment Report
- 12-11-23 Fulton Bank – notice of returned check (from Board payable to Board for \$14,662.51)
- 12-13-23 Solitude Lake Management – Statement showing outstanding invoices: 10/1/23 balance \$353.00; 11/1/23 balance \$699.00; 12/1/23 balance \$1,284.00 for total due of \$2,336.00
- 12-15-23 Fulton Bank – Additional documentation required to open bank account
- 12-15-23 Notice to Property Owners – Variance Application of Juntos Holdings re: Block 11205, Lot 4.01 (1-3 Kelly Place), Stanhope

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was no report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – There was no report.

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

Lake Awareness – There was no report.

Lake Management –Mr. Hathaway reported they had a successful shoreline clean-up. There were about 30 volunteers and an enormous haul of all kind of trash was removed. The Netcong DPW removed the large debris from the lake which included a large carpet and some timber. Mr. Hathaway noted they had volunteers from all four towns and it was one of the better clean-ups they have had.

Operating Budget – There was no report.

CD Investment – Mr. Shlesinger noted rates are starting to go down and Wall Street expects three rate cuts to be coming. Mr. Shlesinger stated 4% will look good and he believes the Board should revisit the idea to go with a longer investment term when the next CD matures. Mr. Keenan noted the next CD matures mid-February. Chairman Riley stated since they started the investment process, the Board has gained more money than they have in the past ten years and he feels they should continue doing what they have been doing and rolling them over every three months. Mr. Keenan cautioned the Board cannot invest for too long in case they need the funds. The Board had a brief discussion about the length of the investment. Chairman Riley noted the purpose of this Board is not to make money on investments. Mr. Hathaway stated they need to understand the payment and delivery schedule of the weed harvester builder and when they have that information, they can have discussions on how to invest the money. Until that time, they must continue doing as they are doing now. After a discussion, it was agreed that the CD Investment Committee will do a cash flow analysis and provide a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan reported the transfer from the old account to the new account has finally been completed. Mr. Keenan and Mr. Hathaway have the new debit card and he will give a new card to Chairman Riley. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: Chairman Riley noted the bill from Solitude Lake Management in the amount of \$1,284.00 was not signed by the Board. Chairman Riley stated according to his and the Board’s Clerk’s accounting, the Board’s credits have been resolved with Solitude and they owe them one more month, which is \$1,284 for this month, which concludes the contract. This check will be the final payment. Chairman Riley stated this resolves their contract issue with Solitude; however, there is still the issue of the missing MD Pellets. Solitude owes the Board the cost for the nine bags of pellets they lost, which is approximately \$26,000 worth of pellets. Chairman Riley asked Solitude for a cash credit or check. The Board discussed the amount owed to them by Solitude and expressed concern with making their final payment of \$1,284 with such a large outstanding amount owed to them by Solitude. The Board agreed the bill from Solitude Lake

Management in the amount of \$1,284 should be pulled from the Bills List. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the bills on the Bills List were approved, with the exception of the bill from Solitude Lake Management in the amount of \$1,284, which will be pulled until the MD Pellet issue has been resolved.

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk's Monthly Compensation	\$ 550.00
Cliff Lundin – legal services for general services for period 7/17/23-11/20/23 (\$787.50) and services re: grant agreement for period 7/23/23-9/29/23 (\$254.75)	\$1,041.25

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 4.09
Robert Hathaway – reimbursement of expenses re: shoreline clean-up: (Staples - copying cost: \$37.32; Lowe's – supplies: \$85.21; Dunkin Donuts – refreshments for volunteers: \$103.65)	\$ 226.18

ROLL CALL:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| Ms. Franek – yes | Ms. McGrath - yes |
| Mr. Hathaway – yes (abstained from his bill) | Mr. Pottillo - yes |
| Mr. Hayden – yes | Mr. Rattner - yes |
| Mr. Keenan – yes | Mr. Shlesinger - yes |
| Ms. Maio – yes | Chairman Riley – yes |

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported he submitted a report for the financials on the grant and for the in-kind hours. They disapproved more than half of the hours that he put in. They had told him he could include the hours he put in on the grant and in this period, it was 50 hours. They disapproved 20 hours because it was not justified. Chairman Riley asked how they want him to justify the time he spent on the grant and they never got back to him. Chairman Riley said he created a timeframe of the work he did and submitted that to them, but has not heard back from them yet. The Board cannot get the next advanced payment to buy the backhoe until this report is accepted and approved. Mr. Hathaway noted the communications with them are void of any detail. Chairman Riley said the volunteer hours should include everyone on the Board for their time during the meetings at which they are discussing the grant, the health of the lake and lowering the TMDL as well as time they spend preparing for the meeting. The Board members agreed that it all contributes to their volunteer hours that are in-kind contributions to the grant. Chairman Riley said he tried to justify this to the NJDEP after they disapproved his report. Chairman Riley stated that going forward, he has to have a sign-in sheet for himself and for all Board members for their time. He has to track every single hour, including the harvester operators' hours. The NJDEP will not approve the financial report until he does that.

Ms. Maio asked if they heard back from Josh Osowski regarding the aerator. Ms. Franek stated Mr. Osowski did respond about the property around it and that it was the town's property. Chairman Riley noted Mr. Osowski said it was not in the lake, it was in the canal in Stanhope and since it was Stanhope's property it is Stanhope's responsibility. Chairman Riley noted Mr. Osowski said it is not a State issue, it is for the town in which it is located. Mr. Hathaway questioned if the Board may want to take over since it is in the lake. Ms. Maio noted it is in the canal, which is not part of the lake. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that this Board has no obligation beyond the dam.

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.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Franek, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk