

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
April 17, 2024

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 18, 2024 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

Robert Hathaway - absent
Joseph Keenan - present
Rosemarie Maio - present
Judith McGrath - present

Shawn Potillo - absent
Steven Rattner - present
Rudy Shlesinger - present
Lester Wright - present
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.

Jack Sylvester, Vice-President of Saint Cesario Society asked the Board's permission to again shoot off their annual fireworks from the Board's property as they did last year. Mr. Sylvester stated he has already reached out to State Parks and the Division of Fire Safety. Chairman Riley noted it is State Park property that the Board is authorized to use. Mr. Sylvester said they will get more stone to level the area. The fireworks are scheduled for July 20, 2024 with a rain date of July 27, 2024. On motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board granted permission to the Saint Cesario Society to utilize the Board's space on the State Park property to shoot fireworks this year. Mr. Sylvester thanked the Board.

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

ACTION ON MINUTES: On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Minutes of the March 20, 2024 regular meeting, were approved on majority voice vote. Ms. Maio abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

03-20-24 Aquarius Systems -Letter of Interest re: Purchase of Equipment
04-01-24 Fulton Bank – Notice of Closing of Account
04-08-24 Fidelity Investments – Investment Report (3/1/24 – 3/31/24)
04-09-24 Fidelity Investments – Notice of CD Maturing on May 13, 2024

Ms. Maio questioned the notice of closing of account from Fulton Bank. Mr. Keenan responded the letter relates to the account that was hacked a few months ago and had to be closed. Chairman Riley said he spoke to the manager at Fulton Bank in Netcong who told him this notice was sent out automatically by the corporate office. The account has been closed for about six months. On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Ms. Maio 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 last night’s meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled for the beginning of May.

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

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio stated they need to set a date for the annual fishing contest. There will be no Stanhope Day this year. Chairman Riley noted the fishing contest is typically held early in June. Ms. Maio noted the Hopatcong Elks will be holding a Father’s Day fishing contest at Stanhope Park which will be held on June 16th. The Board decided to hold the fishing contest on June 9th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Board also decided not to conduct a senior fishing contest this year since last year there was only one participant. The fishing contest is open to all children between the age of 3 to 13. Chairman Riley will reach out to John Rogalo about the New Jersey Sportsmen’s Federation \$200 donation which is used to purchase prizes. Ms. Maio will create a flyer to be distributed to the schools and municipalities.

Lake Management – In Mr. Hathaway’s absence, Chairman Riley reported Mr. Hathaway has been around the lake monitoring the goose nests for addling. There were a couple of residents on Koclas Drive who were upset about the addling of eggs. Chairman Riley reported so far, they found five nests with a total of 23 goose eggs that will be addled and they found three swan nests with about 15 eggs. All of the eggs will be addled. The addling program is done under the USDA and Netcong gets reimbursed for the program and the Board gets Netcong’s reimbursement. Ms. Maio questioned a communication she received from Mr. Hathaway about all of the towns around the lake to contribute towards the addling and he asked her to reach out to Stanhope and request \$3,500 to take care of the addling. Ms. Maio said she reached out to the Borough Administrator who stated their budget is done. Chairman Riley responded he has no knowledge of this. Ms. Maio stated she reached out to Mr. Hathaway but has not heard back from him. Chairman Riley also reported that the Board’s attorney, Jimmy Bryce, put together a boiler plate contract for the herbicide management this year, that Mr. Hathaway said has a number of technical things to be straightened out before it is brought to the Board and prospective contractors. Ms. Maio questioned why the Board is sending the proposal to Solitude, noting the unsatisfactory relationship with them last year. Mr. Bryce stated the Board does not have to send the proposal to Solitude. At the last meeting it was discussed that while it is not a professional service contract, it is an exempt contract under an “Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service.” The contract does not need to be awarded through the open public contract method. The Board can opt to solicit proposals even though they are exempt from being required to do so. Mr. Bryce stated, from last month’s discussion, it was his understanding the Board does not want to go out to public bid and solicit proposals; they want to give it to a few contractors, but they did have someone in mind. Ms. Maio again questioned why would the Board solicit a bid or encourage a relationship with a company that “screwed them.” Chairman Riley responded they will not give this contract to Solitude. Chairman Riley said he has one company in mind that he would offer this contract to, which is Glenn Sullivan’s new company. The Board has always had a good relationship with Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Bryce stated doing it that way is legal. Ms. Maio stated she has no issue with Mr. Sullivan, her issue is with Solitude. Chairman Riley noted this is time sensitive and they need to make a decision tonight on who to offer it to as soon as they get the contract terms finalized. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to send the contract to Glenn Sullivan’s new company and Aquatic Technologies, who is the applicator for the LMCA. Chairman Riley stated the contract is a one-year term. The contract currently lacks the specifics on the type of herbicide, the areas and the amount to be applied which Mr. Hathaway is working on. Mr. Bryce read excerpts of the draft contract. Ms. Maio noted it does not include the shoreline of the four municipal parks in the lake being 2 in Stanhope, 1 in Roxbury and 1 in Netcong in addition to the 150 acres in the center of the lake that they agreed to treat. Chairman

Riley noted this was an oversight and asked that language be included in the contract regarding treatment of the shorelines for the four municipal parks. Chairman Riley asked if the Board wants to wait for the next meeting to discuss this further or allow him, the Board attorney and Mr. Hathaway finalize the contract and authorize them to go ahead with a contract to present to the two applicators. Mr. Bryce noted that any action would need to be ratified by the Board at the following meeting. The Board agreed.

Operating Budget – Mr. Keenan reported he will meet with Mr. Shlesinger and Mr. Pottillo on May 11th to do an audit of all Board finances.

CD Investment – Mr. Keenan reported there is one CD that is maturing on May 13th and he recommended they renew it for the same term which is a 3-month term. Mr. Keenan suggested going with a shorter term until the next payment is received from the State. The Board agreed the CD should be renewed for a 3-month term.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan reported the voided checks noted on the report is from the closed account. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Shlesinger and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the bills on the Bills List were approved.

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk’s Monthly Compensation \$ 550.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed \$ 4.09

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Keenan – yes
Ms. Maio – yes
Ms. McGrath – yes

Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Wright - yes
Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported he submitted this year’s quarterly report (the third quarterly report on the grant) for what the Board has done. The report has not been approved yet. Chairman Riley reported everything is up-to-date on the grant. The next advanced payment of \$150,000 is before the Budget Committee of the State of New Jersey. Ms. Maio questioned what happens if the harvester is ready before the Board receives the State’s funds. Chairman Riley responded Aquarius told him they will deliver the harvester when it is ready and they will wait on the payment since they know the Board is dealing with the State.

Sale of Equipment – Chairman Riley stated he wants to list the equipment for \$80,000 on GovDeals. Aquarius told him that is what the used equipment is worth. If the equipment does not sell on GovDeals, Aquarius has committed to buying it from the Board. Chairman Riley told Aquarius the Board does not want a credit, they want the cash because a credit would affect the grant. Chairman Riley will list the equipment in the beginning of May and have it listed for three weeks.

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

Chairman Riley noted Ray Guyre in the public and asked for his help with uncovering the harvester platform so he can take pictures of it to post on GovDeals. He will also need Ray's help putting the cover back on when he is done taking the pictures.

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

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Wright, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk