

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
October 16, 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:

Jacob Hamilton - absent	Shawn Potillo - present
Robert Hathaway - present	Steven Rattner - absent
Joseph Keenan - present	Rudy Shlesinger -absent
Rosemarie Maio -present	Lester Wright - present
Judith McGrath - 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. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Potillo, the Minutes of the September 18, 2024 regular meeting were approved on majority voice vote. Ms. Maio, Mr. Wright and Chairman Riley abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications received. Mr. Hathaway noted an email received from Mr. Shlesinger that is not listed under Communications. Mr. Hathaway said Mr. Shlesinger's email included comments regarding the area of the shed on Port Morris Avenue. The Clerk said she did not receive the email. Chairman Riley noted emails between him and Mr. Shlesinger and told the Board that he and Mr. Shlesinger had a major disagreement at the place where the harvester is stored that involved some teenagers who thought they had permission to use the Board's Jon boat. They indicated they were given permission by Mr. Shlesinger. Chairman Riley said he and Mr. Shlesinger had a very heated discussion during which Mr. Shlesinger verbally resigned from the Board. Chairman Riley said he accepted the resignation through an email however; since Mr. Shlesinger is a Mayor's appointment from Stanhope Borough, he has no authority to accept the resignation. Chairman Riley said he and Mr. Shlesinger are still at odds personally over the conduct that surrounded the incident, but he is still a member of the Board. Mr. Hathaway asked that the Board discussed the comments in Mr. Shlesinger's email regarding the conditions at the site on Port Morris Avenue, noting Mr. Shlesinger is a neighbor to the site. Mr. Shlesinger said the area is often unkept, the shed is an eyesore relative to its condition and the docks are not in the best condition. Mr. Hathaway agreed with Mr. Shlesinger's comments. Mr. Hathaway stated it would be easy to clean up the immediate grounds and that they may need more supervising on the Board's part relative to the volunteers, who are not always the neatest. Mr. Hathaway said he would like the Board to discuss this and the impact on the neighbors. The presentation area is not the best. The clean up aspect is easy, but to address the docks would require the Board to hire a contractor. Mr. Hathaway expressed his opinion that the docks are not an immediate issue, but the shed needs to be addressed and the area needs to be cleaned up. Chairman Riley noted the roof of the shed has a few small leaks and needs to be sealed, the docks are functional for the Board's utility. Mr. Hathaway agreed, adding he does not think the docks are an eyesore and he would not be of a mind to do anything with the docks. Mr. Hathaway said he believes Mr. Shlesinger's comments are valid, noting the area outside the shed is a mess and the roof of the shed needs to be painted. The Board discussed the condition of the property and agreed it needs to be addressed. Mr. Hathaway suggested possibly using participants

in the SLAP program to help with the clean up. There are items outside the shed that the Board no longer uses and has no value to the Board that can be disposed of. Ms. Maio asked about Mr. Shlesinger's comment regarding a security issue. Mr. Hathaway responded that he and Chairman Riley discussed several times the potential need to have some type of camera security equipment, especially with the new equipment. They are more concerned with security on the outside where they have had problems in the past. If the Board decides to install security cameras, they should be installed at both sites. Mr. Hathaway researched some solar powered cellular connected security cameras and the cost for the two sites would be about \$200 per month (\$2,400 per year). Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that, after all of the time and effort the Board and he have put into getting the equipment that is valued at over \$500,000, they should have some sort of security installed. The cost of \$200 per month is minimal and the Board can afford it. The Board agreed. Mr. Hathaway will research further and bring his findings to the Board. There has been vandalism at the site where they store the conveyor. Chairman Riley noted the property is public property and open to the public. The Board does not own the property, it is owned by the State of New Jersey. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Potillo and carried by the following majority roll call vote, the Board authorized Mr. Hathaway to organize volunteers to clean up the area outside the shed in Stanhope, and possibly paint the shed's roof, and take any necessary steps to dispose of or donate the items outside of the shed at a cost not to exceed \$1,000:

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - abstain
Mr. Keenan - yes
Ms. Maio - yes

Mr. Potillo - yes
Mr. Wright - yes
Chairman Riley - yes

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 – Ms. Maio reported the Elks Club had asked about the potential of combining the Board's fishing contest with theirs and now they want to know if we do it, would it be held on the day of the Board's fishing contest or their fishing contest. The Elks hold their fishing contest on Father's Day followed by an invitation for all of the participants to go back to the Elks Club. Mr. Hathaway noted the selection of the date for the Board's fishing contest was to have it on Stanhope Day. Ms. Maio stated there will not be a Stanhope Day, adding Stanhope Day is now history. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to hold the joint fishing contest on the Elks date, being Father's Day. Ms. Maio stated the fishing contest will remain the Board's fishing contest, being co-sponsored by both organizations and the State Parks. Chairman Riley noted the Board did not receive the annual contribution of \$200 from the Sportsmen's Federation for this year's fishing contest so they will not be listed as a co-sponsor. The State Parks will remain a co-sponsor because if not, the Board will have to get a Special Use Permit. Mr. Hathaway reported the lake will be drawn down beginning on October 23, 2024. It only takes a few days to get down the 12" and the lake is already down 4". Since the lake is already down 4", the additional 12" will bring it down to 16". Mr. Hathaway has notified the community Administrator's of the drawdown and will send another reminder to them.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported today, for the first time, they took out the new equipment. There were a few challenges but they were successful. They were challenged because the lake level has not been managed properly and the lake was not at the appropriate level. Mr. Hathaway reached out to Mr. Hamilton, but they did not connect with each other. Mr. Hamilton did agree to have Mr. Hathaway educate him on the process. Chairman Riley said, although he is happy with the new equipment, he is not happy with the entire process. He is very satisfied with Aquarius, but is disappointed in the fact that they were not able to put the shore conveyor in place and have the harvester in for practice for next season. The shore conveyor is still not in place. The pad the conveyor sat on needs an excessive amount of repair. The current pad is deteriorated and the wood is full of bees nests. Chairman Riley said he discussed with Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Swistak if they had to replace or repair the pad. They were not able to facilitate a repair of the pad before they had to take the harvester out. They have two proposals to replace the pad. One proposal is almost \$10,000 and the quote from Frank Base is approximately \$4,700. Chairman Riley would like to have this approved at tonight's meeting so they can have the pad repaired. They will not repair the wood; they will repair the pad and replace the wood with concrete. Ms. Maio noted the State does not permit a permanent structure without a permit. Chairman Riley said it will have two lifting lugs on it so it can be taken out. Mr. Hathaway noted it would be a Permit By Rule because they are repairing an existing structure, not replacing it. Mr. Hathaway said in addition to the estimate, there will be additional materials needed. Mr. Hathaway said he will be involved in setting the wheel chock mounts. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Potillo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for the repair of the pad by Frank Base and to put in the removable wheel chock mounts.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Potillo - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Ms. Maio - yes	Chairman Riley - yes

Operating Budget – There was no report.

CD Investment – Mr. Keenan reported information on the CD's is contained in the Treasurer's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: Ms. Maio questioned the bill from Murphy McKeon, P.C. for the Board attorney's services. Chairman Riley also questioned why the Board was receiving this bill. Mr. Hathaway said, with respect to attending meetings, the attorney was going to do it gratuitous. Chairman Riley said when he and Mr. Hathaway first met with the attorney, he told them he would be attending meetings pro bono. Ms. Maio questioned why the attorney receives the agendas for every meeting. The Clerk said, in the past, the attorney only received a copy of the agenda for meetings he was asked to attend. After a brief discussion, it was agreed the attorney will only be sent the agenda for a meeting he is asked to attend. The bill from Murphy McKeon, P.C. for \$150 will be pulled from the agenda. Chairman Riley will discuss the bill with Mr. Bryce. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Potillo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the bills on the Bills List with the exception of the bill from Murphy McKeon, P.C. in the amount of \$150:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk's Monthly Compensation \$ 550.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed \$ 5.33

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes

Mr. Keenan - yes

Ms. Maio - yes

Mr. Pottillo - yes

Mr. Wright - yes

Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported the Board has spent \$300,000 to date. They still owe Aquarius \$137,500. All of the equipment was delivered with the exception of a few spare parts, which Chairman Riley has already discussed with Aquarius. Aquarius will give the Board a credit for the missing parts. As soon as the Board receives the next \$150,000 check from the State, they will pay the balance of \$137,500 owed to Aquarius. At the last meeting the Board authorized Mr. Keenan to write a check to Aquarius for the balance owed after receipt of the \$150,000 check from the State. Chairman Riley said the next step in the process under the grant is the purchase of a backhoe, which has to be done before the next season. Chairman Riley submits quarterly reports to the State and financial reports every 6 months. The next financial report is due the end of December.

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 Mr. Keenan, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk