

**BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 15, 2023  
MINUTES**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7:30 P.M. BY MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS.

ALL STOOD FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE.

PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT READ INTO RECORD BY MUNICIPAL CLERK CAPASSO:

IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4, OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED IN TWO NEWSPAPERS AND POSTED ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE, THAT A WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF JUNE, 2023, WITH THE WORK SESSION TO BEGIN AT THE HOUR OF 7:30 P.M. AND THE REGULAR MEETING TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AT THE LAKEHURST COMMUNITY CENTER, 207 CENTER STREET, LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY, AT WHICH TIME, THE BUSINESS OF THE BOROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED.”

ROLL CALL:

COUNCILMAN DAVIS: ABSENT	COUNCILWOMAN HODGES: PRESENT
COUNCILMAN DiMEO: PRESENT	COUNCILMAN McCARTHY: PRESENT
COUNCILWOMAN DUGAN: PRESENT	COUNCILMAN OGLESBY: PRESENT
MAYOR HARRY ROBBINS: PRESENT	

WORK SESSION:

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk Capasso reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Robbins stated the erosion around the lake is progressing adding the Borough Composter Andrew Hodges did some investing and found that native plants can help improve the lakeshore.

Andrew Hodges stated that the bulkhead work that was completed many years ago was great; however, he noticed very few plants in that area along with sand and fill dirt. Mr. Hodges proposed additional work to the area to create a self-sustaining system to preserve the work that was done and improve it even further in an ecological sense. Mr. Hodges first suggested filling the area with more native plants that are specifically for

waterline areas, are self-sustaining, and are a stabilizer for the shoreline. Mr. Hodges explained that there is an extensive list of native plants for this project adding he has personally ordered plants from a company that only sell plants that are native to New Jersey adding they have native plants that are affordable and plants that are not found at other nurseries. Mr. Hodges second suggestion is to amend the existing “dead” soil with compost and mulch adding these resources are available at the Ocean County Recycling Center. Mr. Hodges handed the mayor and council information regarding the native plants and stated he is able to volunteer his time to help assist with the planting.

Mayor Robbins directed Municipal Clerk Capasso to pass the information to Public Works Department Head Dave Winton to start the process of obtaining the native plants, compost, and mulch that will help repair the bulkhead.

Mayor Robbins introduced the next presenters, Amy Lowe and Debby Pease.

Debby Pease stated that Amy Lowe and herself are here tonight to present the idea of having a kickball tournament to help raise funds to restore the basketball court at Fuccile Park. Mrs. Pease stated that the event would consist of teams playing kickball in a way that would ultimately end with one winner. Mrs. Pease also stated that they would solicit both local and corporate businesses for sponsorship on t-shirts, a beer garden sponsored by the VFW, and police department, who would share the proceeds, fire department, or first aid squad, would sponsor a 50/50, and there will be food trucks and vendors on hand. Mrs. Pease went on to say that they would need the borough to help with registrations so that the fees are “ear marked” for the basketball restoration. Amy Lowe added that they would solicit the local eateries to participate in the day’s events.

Councilman DiMeo explained that people have approached the Youth and Recreation Committee regarding the deteriorating basketball court and added that the price to make the repairs is higher than what was expected. Mr. DiMeo went on to say that when Mrs. Lowe saw the price to repair, she and Mrs. Pease came up with a kickball tournament to help with the cost.

Mayor Robbins stated that the borough has reached out to MEL JIF to inquire about the borough’s responsibility of holding such an event and added that they responded that the borough needs to request that all sponsoring parties have certificates of insurance.

Mrs. Lowe stated that the Lakehurst Elementary School has had a kickball event for years and it was always well attended. Mrs. Lowe added that this is a great event to get the residents out.

Mrs. Pease asked for the governing body’s approval so that they can begin making flyers and soliciting sponsorships.

Council President Oglesby suggested closing the surrounding streets for pedestrian safety.





COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Time opened: 7:54 p.m.

Bruce Margeson, 5 Geneva Road, stated that something needs to be done at Lake Horicon in regard to the geese, adding it is very slippery along the water and is causing a major problem. Mr. Margeson suggested that the borough issue permits to hunt.

Mayor Robbins responded hunting is not permissible within 450 feet of residential homes.

Council President Oglesby added that the borough has tried many different options adding some work, but only work for a short period of time. Mr. Oglesby stated that the only real solution is to make sure no one is feeding the geese and to increase the snapping turtle population, adding snapping turtles love goose eggs.

Mr. Margeson reported that the playground is in need of mulch.

Mr. Margeson also reported that three years ago the rent in the trailer park was \$850, today it is \$1650 adding the borough needs a Housing Commissioner for rent control. Mr. Margeson stated that some of the rental properties in the borough are as high as \$3000 a month, adding the borough needs to protect the seniors and low-income families. Mr. Margeson also stated that surrounding municipalities have Housing Commissioners, and the borough needs to do the same.

Time closed: 8:02 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

Resolution to go into closed session read:

**RESOLUTION #23-121**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, **and**

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Lakehurst, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is as follows:

