

Contacts: Marty Kane, LHF board chairman  
[martin.i.kane.civ@mail.mil](mailto:martin.i.kane.civ@mail.mil)  
973.271.8659

Jessica K. Murphy, LHF president  
[jess@lakehopatcongfoundation.org](mailto:jess@lakehopatcongfoundation.org)  
973.663.2500

Donna Macalle-Holly  
[donna@lakehopatcongfoundation.org](mailto:donna@lakehopatcongfoundation.org)  
973.663.2500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lake Hopatcong Foundation celebrates train station building**

*Fundraising event includes check presentations from the Lake Hopatcong Protective Association and the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders*

LAKE HOPATCONG (August 3, 2015)—The Lake Hopatcong Foundation on Sunday celebrated its purchase of the Lake Hopatcong Train Station last fall with a summer barbecue and fundraising event, which drew more than 130 attendees and included two check ceremonies that substantially bolster the young nonprofit organization.

“It was a wonderful event that really reflected the community’s enthusiasm around this building and around the mission of our organization,” foundation president Jessica K. Murphy said. “The fact that we could not only bring together supporters, but also accept two generous grants as part of the festivities made it an extra special day in the life of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation.”

Shortly after the event kicked off, three members of the Lake Hopatcong Protective Association, which dates back to the early 1900s, made a presentation in which they donated more than \$18,000 to the Lake Hopatcong Foundation as part of an effort to join forces for the betterment of Lake Hopatcong. The LHPA grant reflected the amount that remained in its accounts after years of fighting for the protection of the lake’s waters. The foundation agreed with the LHPA to earmark the money for the foundation’s water quality and water safety initiatives.

That wasn’t the only check ceremony to take place at the fundraising barbecue, which featured a grill cookout, a retro Good Humor truck, 50s music, and tours of the train station building, with all money raised during the day going toward the train station rehabilitation project.

In July, the Morris County Freeholders awarded \$192,500 from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund to the foundation to help pay off the mortgage on the historical building, which the foundation purchased on November 6, 2014. The amount of the grant is equal to half the cost of the value of the land and property, as determined by an appraisal, and was approved by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders. On Sunday, Freeholder David Scapicchio was in attendance to present the ceremonial check to the Lake Hopatcong Foundation.

“Efforts like these help preserve the history of our county for future generations ... helping them understand the past and, hopefully, using that knowledge to make our county a better place in the future,” Scapicchio said.

Marty Kane, chairman of the LHF board of trustees, who spent time flipping burgers at the barbecue said, “This is a great opportunity for the community to learn about the station and our plans for its renovation. Visitors were given a small glimpse of what the future holds in store for this iconic building.”

The train station building, which borders Landing Road and the New Jersey Transit railroad, was constructed by the Lackawanna Railroad in 1911. The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is in the process of developing a

preservation plan through the services of the historical architectural firm Connolly and Hickey, and will then work toward rehabilitating the building to be open to the public as an event space, a central location of lake information, and the offices of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation.

“We are so thankful not only to have the support of so many in the community, as reflected by those who attended our fundraising event, but also to be able to partner with the Lake Hopatcong Protective Association for the betterment of the lake, and with Morris County for the rehabilitation of the train station building,” Murphy said. “And now we just hope to keep moving forward, celebrating and improving the lake for this wonderful community and region.”

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that was established in 2012 and is focused on improving the lake environment and experience. To learn more, go to [www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org](http://www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org).

To learn about how to support the train station rehabilitation, including how to sponsor a tile or purchase a handpainted Lake Hopatcong Train Station miniature, go to <http://lakehopatcongfoundation.org/about/lake-hopatcong-train-station-building/lake-hopatcong-train-station-capital-campaign/>.

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*If publishing attached photo, credit as follows: Photos courtesy of Lake Hopatcong Foundation.*

Photo 1: LHF members receive check from Lake Hopatcong Protective Association.



Photo 2: Freeholder David Scapicchio presents LHF members with ceremonial check for train station grant.



Photo 3: Marty Kane, LHF board chairman flips some burgers with president Jess Murphy.

