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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Hopatcong Foundation awarded \$192,500 grant from Morris County Historic Preservation Trust for Train Station Purchase

LAKE HOPATCONG (July 10, 2015)—The Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders on Wednesday voted to award nearly \$200,000 to the Lake Hopatcong Foundation toward the purchase of the Lake Hopatcong Train Station in Landing, which will be rehabilitated and open to the public in the coming years.

"This is a very exciting day for the Lake Hopatcong Foundation," foundation president Jessica K. Murphy said. "This generous grant gets us closer than ever to being able to open the doors of this beautiful historic building to the public as a community center and as the headquarters of our organization."

The Morris County Preservation Trust Historic Preservation Program awarded \$192,500 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.

The train station building, which borders Landing Road and the New Jersey Transit railroad, was constructed by the Lackawanna Railroad in 1911 and was historically where visitors would arrive during Lake Hopatcong's heyday as a resort community. Today, the station remains one of the first structures visitors and residents see as they approach the southern end of Lake Hopatcong and one of only a handful of prominent historical structures that remain from the lake's resort days. 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.

"This grant will give us an amazing boost in our efforts to preserve this iconic Lake Hopatcong structure," said Marty Kane, who serves as the chairman of the LHF board of trustees and as president of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum. "Built as part of the legendary Lackawanna Cut-Off, the station adds so much to the community from an architectural stand point as well as the important role it played in this area's development. It is wonderful to see it being given a new lease on life. However, now the real work begins and it will probably be a three-year phased effort to complete all of the necessary renovations. Support to date has been incredible and we look forward to continuing to work with the entire Lake Hopatcong community to make this a success."

The Morris County Freeholders approved spending \$3.5 million from the historic preservation portion of the county's Preservation Trust Fund, based on the recommendation of the county's Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board. The grants, ranging from \$4,151 to \$300,000, will help preserve 32 historic sites and resources across the county. "This money will help finance the vitally important task of preserving and sustaining our county's heritage, to restore and protect important links to the past are key connectors to how this county developed," said Freeholder Director Kathy DeFillippo in a press release from the county.

In an effort to continue raising money toward the rehabilitation of the building, the Lake Hopatcong Foundation will host a benefit barbecue from 3 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, August 2, on the train station grounds. There will be tours of the station with explanations of the upcoming work, as well as a continuous slideshow of historic photos of the station and the surrounding area in Landing. The Lake Hopatcong Foundation will also be unveiling a new miniature of the station available for purchase. Barbecue costs for adults are \$20.00 and \$10.00 for children 12 and under.

To register for the Train Station BBQ event, go to

<http://lakehopatcongfoundation.org/about/lake-hopatcong-train-station-building/train-station-bbq-fundraiser/>

To view the full list of 2015 Morris County Historic Preservation grants, visit:

<http://morrisplanning.org/pdfs/2015HistoricPreservation.pdf> For more information on Morris County's historic preservation program, please visit: <http://www.morrisplanning.org/divisions/PresTrust/Historic/index.asp>

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.

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