



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# Town of Southwick

## Lake Management Committee

454 COLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077  
Telephone (413) 569-0515 Fax (413) 569-0515

Minutes of meeting held September 14, 2017, 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall College Highway, Southwick, MA, with attendance as follows:

		Voting	Present	Absent
Mike Coombs	Member	Yes	X	
Malcolm DeBay	Member	Yes		X
Mike DeBay	Member	Yes	X	
Dick Grannells	Chair	Yes	X	
Scotty Graves	Member	Yes		X
Sue Hepburn	Secretary	No	X	
Deborah Herath	Member	Yes	X	
Eric Mueller	Vice-Chair	Yes	X	
Ken Phillips	Member	Yes		X
Steve Schmid	Member	No		X
Rick Wylot	Member	Yes	X	

Guest(s): Paul Murphy resident of North Pond

- 1. Mike D. made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 24, 2017 meeting with minor corrections. Rick seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.**
- 2. Lake Level –** The Lake Level is currently at nominal. Eric made a spreadsheet and graphs showing the water levels and +/- inches and (decimal) feet from nominal level at various dates throughout the past six years. Great information Eric!
- 3. North Pond PWCs –** MGL (Mass General Law) Chapter 131 Section 46 states: “that no arm or branch shall be included as a part of such pond unless such arm or branch is at least fifty feet in width and normally one foot in depth”. The LMC believes, from prior dealings with the DEP and the Environmental Police that we are dealing with three separate bodies of water and have had to make reports as such. The law also states on bodies of water less than 75 acres there cannot be any jet skis. North Pond is only 46 acres. Mike **made a motion to have Dick draft a letter to the Selectmen and cc everyone relevant to the matter saying that, Independent of how any of us may feel, the above MGL verbiage that we have found clearly speaks for itself. The law is the law. Deb seconded the motion and all were in favor of the motion passing.**
- 4. Guest, Paul Murphy,** brought up that he believes the Police boat is only on the water a total of 6 hours per week. When he has phoned in to voice his complaints about speeders, overcrowding, or other violations, he was told it would take too long to get the boat in the water and catch the perpetrators. Paul has offered to take the Police out on his boat at any time and both marinas have offered the Police a free slip numerous times.

5. Reappointments - All LMC and Canal Subcommittee members were reappointed by the SB and were reminded to get sworn in ASAP at the Clerk's Office.
6. 46 Lakemont St. Lake Access - We have copies of his quick claim deeds. No action at this time.
7. Airplane on the Lake – It was rumored that a local man is planning on landing a plane on Congamond in the near future. Members discussed this subject at length and decided to think about it and talk it over at the next meeting.
8. LAPA West – Deb attended the conference and shared lots of information with us. Local towns shared their concerns about not being able to come up with enough funds to do the things they'd like to do for their waterbodies. We all need to band together as there is strength in numbers. Deb mentioned to them that if/when we are able to get the dredge funded, it could be loaned out to other towns. Local legislators were extremely excited about the prospect of this idea. Deb will let Dick know who was at this meeting. Deb also learned that some of these towns are not allowing draw-downs which is aggravating their Zebra Mussel problem. LAPA West's goal is to become much more active!
9. Senior Tax Write Off Program – We enjoyed the free services of two seniors from the Senior Tax Write Off Program. Sue thought it was a wonderful, worthwhile program and looks forward to having more seniors (as Ramp Attendants) from the program next year.
10. South Ramp – It's going to happen! The Office of Fishing & Boating access plans to reconstruct the South Ramp next Spring, which is to include new ramp pads, dredging the area around same and adding a handicap-accessible boarding dock.
11. Boat Gatherings – The Harbormaster, Dennis Clark, Tom FitzGerald, Dick and Mike DeBay met to address citizen's expressed concerns about the number of boats that gather together in areas on Congamond. The biggest concerns are hazards to navigation, human waste and trash. They are going to do some research into composting toilets. Members were asked to pass the word along that observers of such activity should take a photo or video of such activity.
12. **Eric made a motion to adjourn and Mike D. seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.**
13. Our next scheduled meeting will be held on September 28, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Hepburn - Secretary

Cc (11): BOH, Con Com, DPW, Fin Com, Historical Com, J. Middleton (email), Park & Rec, Planning Board, SPD Chief/Harbormaster, K. Stinehart, Town Clerk, File (1)