



# 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 9, 2021, 7:00 P.M. via online Zoom video call, with attendance as follows:

		Voting	Present	Absent
Norm Cheever	Member	Yes	X	
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
Annie Hanson	Secretary	No	X	
Deborah Herath	Member	Yes	X	
Eric Mueller	Vice-Chair	Yes	X	
Paul Murphy	Member	YES	X	
Ken Phillips	Associate	No		X
Rick Wylot	Associate	No		X

Guest(s): Jerry Patria, Peter Currier, Kelly and Scott Parker, Michelle Pratt

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Members reviewed the minutes from 8/26/2021. One change needed to be made to number 10 which was deleting anything out about Hurricane Ida because the hurricane hit the area after the 8/26 meeting. Add "Mike D reported the Lake Level of 225.15" and keep the last sentence. Norm made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes, Mike D. Seconded and all were in favor.
3. Public Comments - There were no public comments.
4. Con Com Update - There is no update.
5. CRC Update - Michelle Pratt updated LMC on the golf tournament. There have been plenty of sponsors. Michelle also mentioned that CRC or volunteers are eager to help getting the buoy lights out into the buoys.
6. Lake Level - The high was 225.67 MSL. Dick said there is still no motorized boating allowed due to the lake level. The level has remained unchanged today from yesterday (9/8/2021). The lake level needs to be at or below 224.8 to reopen. Mike D mentioned that LMC is not following protocol because the lake is technically at a NO WAKE level. Eric disagreed and mentioned waiting until the lake is at a level that the interim NO WAKE would not be necessary. There was further discussion on whether or not to wait until the lake was back to being open to all boating or an interim NO WAKE condition. There will be a reading tomorrow morning to see if the lake level is at an acceptable level to open the lake for NO WAKE. Norm recommended ensuring the police patrols were available when it is open for NO WAKE. Dick said that he would contact the Harbormaster regarding patrols and his position on re-opening to a NO WAKE condition vs. waiting another day for the lake to be at or below 224.8' MSL at which time all boating restrictions would be removed.

7. 159 Berkshire Avenue – An engineer has been hired by the owner, which was mandated. This owner is subject to fines. The owner continues to work without any permits. The owner of this property said that he was only doing work to take down a dead tree. There is a lot of water retained behind the unpermitted earthen dam. Malcom and Mike C. mentioned that this topic has been talked about for years and hardly anything has been done. Members asked Dick to bring this topic to the Select Board because violations continue 2019 Cease and Desist Order in place. LMC's interest is in protecting the water quality of the lake from large release of silt-laden water into it.
8. Buoy Lights - Dick has the major parts to be able to finalize the buoy lights guard and mount design. Hampden County Sheriffs have offered SPD to have prisoners make these within a prison.
9. 101 Point Grove Road – The DEP sent a Notice of Noncompliance to Jeno, Inc. on 8/5/21 stating that all moored boats must be off the docks by August 27, 2021. Dick mentioned that there are currently 13 boats docked at this property. During discussion on ongoing 159 Berkshire Avenue issue, Mike C commented that this 101 Point Grove Road boat mooring issue too has been ongoing for more than 3 years.
10. Tournament Rules - Letting fish go from away from the shore cannot be enforced, but can be recommended. Michelle Pratt spoke with the state and the state said that there is nothing negative about letting the fish go from the shore. Per Mass Fisheries & Wildlife Aquatic Biologist, the fish will swim back to where they want to be. **Mike D made a motion to change the tournament rules to let fish go from the land or boat docks instead of boating to past the no wake buoy. Deb seconded and all were in favor.** Updated Tournament Rules will be sent to tournament permit holders and OFBA.
11. Other - Norm said that his research indicates that 8.5% of the total value of Southwick homes comes from lakefront properties. Norm also noted that all MA and CT properties on the lake should have a CODE RED calling system. This would be beneficial to know about lake treatments, lake closures, etc. Dick said the capability is already in the CODE RED system to target have specific areas affected and needing information (on the map). One can draw polygon around the targeted area. The CODE RED system is a voluntary signup system and anyone can sign up. Norm also mentioned having an LMC email where people can email complaints to LMC. This would also be beneficial to people who would like to get updates similar to CODE RED. Deb mentioned having a vote to nominate Norm to be the chairman of the new committee. **Deb made a motion to nominate Norm. Eric seconded and all were in favor.**
12. North Pond Porta Potty - Michelle Pratt is very open to the idea of going back to the state to request being allowed to place a porta potty and trash receptacles on the North Pond Property. LMC supports having a porta-potty and trash receptacles there and commented about being be handicap-accessible.
13. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Norm and Paul seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Grannells - Chair

cc (15): Ag Com, BOH, Con Com, DPW, Fin Com, Historical Com, J. Middleton (email), Park & Rec, Planning Board, SPD Chief/Harbormaster, K. Scott, Select Board, K. Stinehart, Town Clerk, File (1)