



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

Telephone (413) 569-0515 Fax (413) 569-0515

Minutes of meeting held November 14, 2019, 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall College Highway, Southwick, MA, 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): None

1. Members reviewed the minutes from October 24th, 2019. **A motion was made by Mike D. to accept the minutes with noted corrections to above "bingo chart" corrections. Norm seconded the motion. Deb H. abstained. The remainder of present members was in favor and the motion passed.**
2. Lake level
The lake level is acceptable for this time of year. Mike D. did raise the gates, as it shouldn't go below 224.25 ft. Eric mentioned it is on the low side, so we should be keeping a close eye on it. The reason being that if the levels drop below 224.2 feet, the lake level may not recover if there is a lack of inflow in the spring.
3. MVP/MVA Grant
This grant supplement is to seek additional funding to address a clog on Johnson Brook on a private driveway. This brook flows through a culvert under Klaus Anderson Road. The three smaller culverts on private land were installed improperly (wrong size and elevation), which, in turn results in upstream flooding of Klaus Anderson Road. The Town has the grant funding to do the design and permitting to replace the undersized culvert under Klaus Anderson Road with a bridge.
4. Canal Brook & Great Brook Dredging
Dick spoke with Senator Markey's aide in Washington and they would like to know what they can do to help when it comes to pre-ice age Congamond Lakes flooding and water quality issues. In a follow-up email to the aide, Dick noted that dredging Canal Brook and Great Brook would help tremendously with the maintenance of Congamond. This dredging project would not only help improve Congamond water quality, but would also go a long way to eliminating the centuries of phosphorus and other nutrients buildup that trigger the toxic Cyanobacteria algae blooms, which in turn clean up the outflow from Congamond that eventually flows into Long Island Sound. This also would benefit the water quality of the rivers and streams (i.e., Westfield River, Farmington River, Connecticut River) that carry the waters from Congamond into The Sound. The planned alum treatment that will "bind" the phosphorus in the deep water is typically good for 20 years.

However, alum is not effective in binding phosphorus in the muck in shallower areas (less than 10 feet deep). Dredging nutrient laden muck from these shallow areas and coves, and eventually the entire lake bottom would “zero time” the lakes and restore the waters to the pristine quality that was typical in the 1800s when ice taken from Congamond went to as far east as Boston and as far South as New York City. The hope is that Senator Markey is successful in obtaining assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers to take on the desperately needed dredging projects.

5. Alum Treatment Funding

Dennis Clark is drafting a follow-up letter that Con Com plans to send to the EOEEA Secretary and Lt. Governor about the criticality of the funding this fall or early winter for early spring alum treatment to preclude almost certain lake closure for Cyanobacteria and/or mat algae bloom.

6. 159 Berkshire Avenue

The continual major excavation, removal of trees/vegetation on 3+ acres, along with relocating an intermittent stream and adding a dam/impoundment on said stream without the required permits has provided even more concern to members about a torrent of muck flowing into Congamond from this property. This ongoing issue has been discussed numerous times in LMC meetings, with Con Com and the Building Inspector who has the enforcement powers. LMC members strongly believe an immediate Cease and Desist is necessary for this property, with erosion control and stabilization work mandated. No further work should be allowed until the Town Stormwater Bylaws are followed and the required plans, permits, etc are created and approved. A release of muck from this property into Congamond is almost a certainty. A member stated that this is “not if, but when” meaning it is just a matter of time before damaging results to Congamond waters are seen due to the silt migration. Con Com can only intervene and enforce if there is a potential for disaster. Members discussed why this Cease and Desist hasn’t been issued by the Building Inspector despite repeated emails and meetings on the subject. LMC discussed sending a letter to the Selectmen, as LMC members have seen continuing excavation, removal of vegetation and trees, far exceeding stormwater bylaws limits and posing significant threat to Congamond water quality. **Mike C. made a motion for Dick to send a letter to the Select Board summarizing the issues. Norm C. seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion passed.**

7. Sea Planes

It has been noted that there have been a couple of seaplanes recently landing on and taking off from Congamond. In recent years, two planes have crashed on Congamond, but unfortunately, this occurs fairly often throughout the country. Members of LMC had mixed views on this subject, as they don’t believe there are any laws against Sea Planes recreationally landing on Congamond. Congamond is listed as a landing zone in emergency situations. Eric mentioned looking up what lakes similar to ours have implemented as far as laws/rules go for sea planes. Dick will seek information on what restrictions other lakes have in place.

8. Ramp Attendant Pay 2020

LMC members voted on recommending raising the Ramp Attendant/Maintenance pay to \$13.00 per hour for the 2020 season. **Mike D. made the motion to recommend that the Ramp Attendant and Maintenance pay be raised to \$13.00/hour. Deb H. seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

9. Gazebo Roof

The roof on the gazebo at the North Ramp was recently replaced. Fishing and Boating Access paid for this to be done. Dick passed around colored pictures of the roof to show us the great job that was done. Members of LMC agreed that it looks great. Thanks to everyone involved!

10. Docks & Floats

This was a brief topic, but it was mentioned that it would be appreciated if any members can check for structures that they believe will remain in the water past the December 1st, so Con Com can send letters accordingly. Unless specifically allowed by a Variance or Chapter 91 License, docks, floats, moorings and buoys are not permitted to remain in the water for the winter months.

11. Member Swap

LMC member, Rick W. would like to switch voting member positions with Paul M. This is due to Rick not being able to attend meetings as often as he would like due to personal issues. Rick will step down to an associate position and Paul M. will replace him and become a voting member. **A motion was made by Mike C. to accept the position swap. Eric seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.** Dick will check if Select Board concurrence is required.

12. Buoys

LMC wants to personally thank Rick and his son, Nick for pulling the 25 buoys out for the winter. LMC members would also like to thank Randy Wynglarz for moving them to the winter storage area for us.

13. 21 White Street

LMC members briefly discussed the topic of Mr. Ludorf seeking waterfront land ownership across from his home at 21 White Street. All that was mentioned in this meeting was that the town is holding firm on the need for the existing turn-around to be retained and ability to maintain infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater utilities) that is located along the existing White Street right-of-way that includes the turn-around, part of which Mr. Ludorf is seeking to obtain for beach rights on White Street.

14. Norm attends Con Com Meeting

Norm attended the ConCom meeting on 11/4/19. Con Com was very welcoming and was happy to see a member of LMC there. Norm noted that Con Com approved the owner-requested cutting of trees at Two States Avenue. Also, they will most likely approve building a house at 13 North Pond Road. LMC members stated within the LMC meeting that this could be potentially damaging to the lake. Norm noted that in the Con Com meeting they said that permanent in-ground silt barriers would be put in place to avoid damaging the lake. Con Com had some suggestions to LMC that Norm has relayed to us. First, would LMC be able to define some rules of navigation through the North Pond Culvert. Members agreed this was a great suggestion. Secondly, LMC should have a poster stating the top 5 rules of the lake. Hopefully, it will result in a decrease in non-compliant boaters. LMC members also agreed that this is a great suggestion. Lake safety is very important to the LMC and Ramp Attendants currently hand out "Rules Summaries" to those launching at the ramps, but maybe more is needed. LMC wants to thank Norm for attending the Con Com meeting, as this was some great information for us to learn!

15. **A motion was made by Mike C. to adjourn the meeting. Norm seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05.**

16. It was noted that the LMC is now on its winter schedule with meetings only on the 2nd Thursday of the month until April. Accordingly, the next meeting will be held on December 12th, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Annalia Hanson - 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)