



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held September 23, 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, Michelle Pratt

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Members reviewed the minutes from 9/9/2021. Regarding #7 (159 Berkshire Ave), members stressed the lack of closure (now 3⁺ years) on the violations at this site that started back in 2018 and continues to current day. Regarding #9, Mike C noted that he had stated that similar lack of closure for 3+ years existed on the issue about 101 Point Grove Road docks and moored boats. Norm noted that "chairperson" should be "representative" in #11. Members wanted to stress that LMC members support having a porta-potty and trash receptacles in #12. **Norm made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted. Malcolm seconded and all were in favor.**
3. Public Comments - There were no public comments.
4. Con Com Update – Norm noted that there were several NOIs presented at their last meeting. Norm also provided an update on LPP audit and Con Com LPP follow-up letters... 27 replies to 57 letters sent out and that Suffield paid Southwick \$2400 per agreement vs. \$4170 that would have been collected under LPP. Select Board told Con Com to not pursue any action on delinquent homeowners.
5. CRC Update - Michelle Pratt updated LMC on the golf tournament. There have been plenty of sponsors. There was some discussion about pulling weeds at the CRC meeting and follow-up discussion at this LMC meeting. There is still some confusion about hand-pulling weeds and the need (or not) for Con Com approval (RFA) for each site. Michelle also mentioned that CRC or volunteers are eager to help getting the buoy lights out into the buoys.
6. 101 Point Grove Road (Louie B's) – Another violation ticket was issued by the Code Enforcement Officer and a copy was sent to DEP as the "resident" moored boats still have not been removed

from their docks. Members again asked why these violations have continued and gone on unchecked for more than 3 years.

7. 159 Berkshire Avenue (Baldarelli) – Fines were imposed by the Code Enforcement Officer several months ago, yet excavation and clearing on the land adjacent to 159 (179R) now is occurring even though a “Cease & Desist” order was issued to the owner of 159. Norm also raised the concern about the observed wash-down of salt spreading trucks on that property following contract plowing and salting of state roads for MassDOT. Members again noted that this is a 3-year old unchecked issue and the concern for another release of silt-laden water into Congamond as was the case of a major release in December 2019.
8. Tournament Rules – Dick has discussed the originally specified “release of fish post weigh-in past the 2 buoys by the fishing pier” with the Aquatic Biologist at Fisheries & Wildlife who explained that fish will move where there is food or favorable habitat. It was recommended that such a statement is not necessary and should be removed. Dick subsequently removed from the 2022 Tournament Rules. **Malcolm made a motion to accept the Tournament Rules as presented. Mike C seconded and all were in favor.**
9. Malcolm DeBay, Mike DeBay, Brent DeBay (Mike’s son) and Scotty Graves installed a new lake level gauge that was made by Ken Phillips at the weir gates. Thanks to all for a great job.
10. Lake Level –That discussion was followed by
11. Lake Level Protocol – Members then had a lengthy discussion about the Lake Closure Protocol, including both rising and falling lake level action triggers. Dick explained the history of the current protocol establishment and approval that was provided in the Reading File. Discussion primarily focused on whether to eliminate the NO WAKE condition and just have a NO MOTORIZED boating condition based on lake level triggers. The rising and falling lake level triggers were also discussed along with the “nominal” lake level. Several members noted that “boating” has changed since 2003 when the Lake Closure Protocol was put in place. They further explained that much larger wakes are now common with some of the boats that frequent Congamond. Members seem to be more in favor of eliminating the high water NO WAKE condition and just have a NO MOTORIZED BOATING with adjusted rising and falling triggers. Accordingly, members discussed having NO MOTORIZED BOATING for lake rising if above 225.2’ MSL and continue NO MOTORIZED BOATING for lake falling if still above 224.8’ MSL. Members also discussed the desire of some homeowners wanting to remove their boats during the NO MOTORIZED BOATING condition. A possible solution could be to require anyone absolutely needing to remove a boat to request a police boat escort to the nearest ramp for such removal. Members also discussed the desirable “nominal” lake level and impacts of same. A suggestion was made to seek a nominal of 224.33’ (224’ – 4”) MSL which is the elevation of the Berkshire Avenue box culverts concrete weirs. Eric offered to run some “what if” analyses on the 11 years of lake level data taken by LMC volunteers and present it at the next meeting. The discussion was continued to the next meeting.
12. Batter Boards – There was a brief discussion about ensuring that the rotting batter boards at the Berkshire Avenue Great Brook twin culverts were being replaced as water was observed to be rushing through them into Middle Pond during Storm Ida. Dick had contacted DPW regarding replacing the boards and will follow-up with them on the task.
13. Other – The condition of the (old railroad) culvert under the Rail Trail just north of Phelps Road. Scotty noted that there are quite a few large rocks still in the bottom of same and felt they were restricting flow during periods of high flow. Dick has asked Suffield DPW to check into the matter.

- 14.** Other – Dick noted that we have new “PROHIBITED SWIMMING... ” signs for the fishing pier that will replace the totally faded ones and sought volunteer(s) to install them on the pier stringers with new stainless steel lag bolts.
- 15. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scotty and Deb seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 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)