



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 January 9th, 2020, 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	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	No	X	
Ken Phillips	Member	No		X
Rick Wylot	Associate	Yes		X

Guest(s): Doreen Crowley, Doug Moglin, Scott Perusse, Corrine Pooler, Chris Pratt, Michelle Pratt, Rep. John Velis

1. Members reviewed the minutes from December 12th, 2019. A topic regarding Salt Concerns was not in the minutes, so there was no vote to accept the minutes. The minutes will be adjusted and voted on at the meeting on February 13th, 2020.
2. Alum Treatment Funding: Dick brought up the topic by stating who letters were sent to about desperately needing the funding for an Alum treatment in Congamond. Those receiving the funding request letters include; Fisheries & Wildlife Commissioner Ron Amadon, Rep. Nick Boldyga, Sen. Don Humason, Lt. Governor Polito, EOEEA Secretary Theoharides and various Town agencies. A key message LMC members continue to use that was first stated by Eric is that it is important to "treat the cause, and not the symptom." This is so important to restate, because just like antibiotics, the cyanobacteria will continue to become more resistant to the copper sulfate treatments if copper sulfate is continuously used in Congamond to treat algae blooms. Though copper sulfate treatment is better than nothing, the time has come that the "cause" is treated in Congamond rather than the symptoms. Eric stated that the blooms have gotten worse and more frequent over the years and there is data to back it up. If the bacteria become too resistant to copper sulfate that is used, more harsh chemicals will be needed, which in turn, can create more problems that could be avoided with an alum (aluminum sulfate) treatment. Eric explained that the mat algae blooms now being seen cannot be treated and there was some mat algae this past year. Further, the phosphorous buildup causes oxygen depletion. The alum treatment locks the phosphorous to the bottom of the lake for up to 20 years! Dick also mentioned that the best time for an alum treatment to take place is in spring shortly after "ice out" and the water is at the optimal temperature for treatment. LMC and Citizens Restoring Congamond (CRC), as well as Con Com and Southwick's residents have been trying very hard for their voices to be heard to obtain

the State funds for an Alum treatment in time for the 2020 season. The Town is requesting \$600k for the treatment , but this number may have to be adjusted based on new bathymetric maps recently received. LMC will continue to work hard to speak to everyone they possibly can to have their voices heard. Lt. Governor Karyn Politio and EOEEA Secretary Theoharides, as well as our local legislators are aware of this issue. Dick queried John Velis, State Representative from Westfield, who attended this LMC meeting, about how realistic it would be to get the funds for the alum treatment released in time for spring treatment. John replied that LMC/Town needs to get their voices heard. John offered some great advice to LMC members, which was to make sure the people that will make things happen, are aware of this issue. If we don't get our voices heard by who needs to hear them the most, then the Town will not likely get the funds they so desperately needed! Verbatim, John said we need to be the "Squeaky wheel that gets the oil." John could not give an answer as to how realistic it will be for the Town to receive the funds in time, as it is not in his control, but he understands how important Congamond Lake is to not only Southwick residents, but even people from neighboring towns and even neighboring states. Although Southwick spends roughly \$50K - \$60K per year on everything lake related, this treatment should really be a state expense. Doug Moglin, Vice-Chairman of the Select Board, who also attended the meeting, mentioned that going through the CPC to get the needed funding could definitely be faster than going through the State. Dick mentioned going parallel with both options is the best idea as of now, especially because the need for the money is urgent. John Velis mentioned that the Pat Carnevale, Director of Western Mass Office, is unaware of the situation.

3. Public Comment: Doug wanted to personally thank LMC for what they do and complimented members on the great job that they are doing at caring for one of Southwick's greatest treasures, Congamond. Michelle Pratt, who is the President of the CRC (Citizens Restoring Congamond), echoed what Doug said. Doug also asked if all members could send him a message as to why they enjoy being on the LMC.
4. Dead Pumpkin Seed Complaints: On social media, it had been said by a Southwick resident, that there has been an abundance of dead Pumpkin Seeds and Blue Gills on North Pond. This was brought to the attention of the Town's a limnologist, who was able to provide an educated answer as to why this has happened. The limnologist attributed this to rapidly cooling water temperature and low oxygen levels, which can happen in winter months.
5. Great Brook Dredging: Dick has been, and continues to stay in touch with the US Army Corps of Engineers to try to obtain federal (USACE) projects to dredge Great Brook and Canal Brook. Congamond is an EPA listed waterbody and that eventually flows into Long Island Sound, which will affect the Sound. Dredging these brooks would help alleviate the flooding due and additional nutrients back-flowing into Congamond from adjacent swamps when the brooks reverse-flow during heavy rain events. Dick has also been discussing possible federal dredging of Congamond to eliminate the nutrient and phosphorus laden muck in Congamond. Testing of the bottom muck so far has shown that it is not contaminated and would be very beneficial to farmers.
6. Local Permitting Program (LPP): Eric recommended a minor change to the LPP application/renewal form that was in LMC meeting packets.
7. LMC Committee Charter: The draft LMC Charter, which states what LMC does and why, was discussed. **Malcolm made a motion to have this be sent to the Select Board. Eric seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

8. Annual Report: Dick presented the draft LMC Annual Report for review. **A motion was made by Mike D. to release the annual report as presented by Dick. Deb seconded and the vote was unanimous.**
9. Salt Concerns: About two years ago, Southwick DPW switched over from a sand/salt mix to just salt for treating the roads in winter months which can cause a rise in salt levels in Congamond. Eric explained that Congamond currently is not tested specifically for salt in the water, but it would not be difficult to begin testing for salt levels. Eric does not think that the winter salt use will affect Congamond anytime soon, as there are stormwater separators on almost all of the Southwick outfalls in the lake which helps to keep the salt out. However, the levels should be monitored.
10. Office of Fishing and Boating Access (OFBA): New in 2020... The Environmental Police through agreement with the OFBA now requires that every tournament boat/vehicle that enters the ramp have a new pass placed on their dashboard that will ensure that tournament participants are properly identified to Mass Environmental Police, who have seen some tournaments not abiding by their stated permit limits. LMC Ramp Attendants already record each tournament participant on the log sheets and issue Launch Hang Tags with a large "T" on the tag to tournament participants.
11. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Malcolm, and Eric seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.**

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)

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