



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held February 10, 2022 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	
Karen Shute	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): J. Patria, Sabrina Pooler, Peter Currier, Andrew X, Jason Giguere, Ann Griskus

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mike DeBay made a motion to accept the minutes with the noted minor corrections. Norm seconded and all were in favor.

2. Public Comments - There were no public comments.
3. Con Com Update (Norm) – Lake Closure Protocol was reviewed and unanimously approved as LMC recommended. The Town of Southwick is asking permission to put sand at South Beach but nothing happened because more specifications are needed in their request.
4. 141 Congamond Road - Many thanks to Mike DeBay for all the research work on over-crowding of the lake. LMC's annual boat survey in 2021 indicates that there are now 600 power boats and nearly 600 non-power boats resident on Congamond. Taking into account shallow areas, Headway Speed inside 150' of shoreline, navigation channels, interlake culverts, marinas, public beaches and state launches, reduces Congamond's 460 acres to 300 acres remaining for power boat water activities. That equates to 2 resident power boats per acre. Mike found several government agency and consultant reports on this subject. Army Corps of Engineers did flyovers and pictures and had teams work for years on this subject. Government and consultant studies on this subject have consistently recommended 8 to 10 acres per power boat for safe boating, which is far different from 2 resident power boats per acre on Congamond. In addition, the two State boat ramps collectively can and do add another 58 mostly power boats. More boats on Congamond can negatively impact boater enjoyment and safety, resulting in opportunities for more accidents. Goggle Maps show the former Crabby Joe's docks that were used only for temporary docking for restaurant patrons. Further, several of the proposed 63 parking spaces have issues. Eleven spaces are in the Town right-of-way. Another 6 spaces do not meet the 15' setback from property lines

requirement and the proposed 17 spaces along Beach Road may not meet the 15' setback requirement. Besides adding to the boat density problem, LMC members see this facility having major parking issues with the addition of the proposed 60 berth marina and committing only 15 spaces for the marina users. The claim is that there will only be 95 persons allowed in the restaurant, bar and deck. LMC members asked about how the 95 person limit would be enforced and what the penalties were for violations. Reportedly, the owner is looking to use private land in Connecticut some 400' - 500' east of the restaurant which would not meet the 200' maximum from the main entrance to the facility. There are also issues with storm water management and infiltration or outfall of same as the water cannot be discharged into the lake without pre-treatment. In summary, there is a lot to be addressed on the proposed design. **Paul made a motion, and Norm seconded the motion to have Dick send a letter to the Planning Board summarizing tonight's discussion and expressed concerns. All were in favor.**

5. Southwick Police Dept. Boat House. SPD would like to have the facility at the North Boat Ramp operational for the coming boating season and is seeking grant funds to get this project going. Members mentioned a relatively new push button motor winterize that takes only 3 minutes. Paul will try to find out more information about this feature.
6. Lake Closure Protocol – The proposed changes to the Protocol were previously approved by SEMA, the Southwick Police Chief/Harbormaster, Office of Fishing & Boating Access (OFBA), Mass Environmental Police (MEP) and Con Com were sent to the Select Board for concurrence at their next meeting on 2/22.
7. Berkshire Ave Great Brook Weir Gates - A bid was received from Golden Harvest (GH) \$50,400 for the two gates, plus \$2500 shipping and \$2500 per day for tech support during installation. Mike DeBay was there with Dick while GH was taking photos and measurements. **Mike DeBay made a motion to recommend that the SB accept the GH bid subject to completing Due Diligence. Scotty seconded the motion and all were in favor.**
8. Submarine Boats – Dick recently saw an \$85,000 “personal submarine” that a contestant won on a recent Let's Make A Deal Nighttime show. Members discussed safety issues and whether any State laws or Town bylaws addressed submarine boats. Dick will send a note to MEP and OFBA to see if they have any information regulations addressing these recreational submarines.
9. Local Permitting Program (LPP) Application - Some members felt that where the current version says vessel owner, it should include the actual owner information & registration. Unfortunately, this would add a lot of work for the Con Com Secretary who is already so backed up and busy with boat stickers and other Con Com work. LMC members agreed to not pursue adding this information to the form at this time. Norm and Jerry Patria agreed to help with the overflow of LPP work. There are at least four pre-existing docks off Lily Drive (paper waterfront road) associated with properties that are across from this paper road. The docks have been there for decades, just like several on the old tow path. Members agreed to recommend to Con Com that LPP continue to be issued for docks, floats and boats associated such properties.
10. Budget Hearings - The LMC's budget hearing is currently scheduled for 9:20 AM on Saturday 3/5/22. Eric and Dick plan to represent LMC and the hearings are open to all. Eric will update the slides for the hearing.
11. Federal Dredging – Dick has again contacted the offices of Senator Markey and Representative Neal, along with NRCS, seeking NRCS projects to address both of these “clogged” waterways that currently reverse-flow during extended heavy rainfall events, like Tropical Storm Ida this past year.

NRCS has requested financial impact on waterfront homes that are within the 229' MSL FEMA lake flood level.

12. Master Plan Sub-committee – Norm reported that there are 19 members who have had 5 meetings thus far and are about to sign a \$47,000 agreement with The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to assist in development of the updated Master Plan. They will be working a housing plan and phase one of the master plan on what is anticipated to be a two-year project,
13. Norm thanked everyone for the improved meeting etiquette and he really appreciated it.
14. **Eric made a motion to adjourn. Norm seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Shute - Secretary

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)