



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held on March 9, 2023 at 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): Jerry Patria & Michelle Pratt

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting 3/9/23. **Mike Coombs made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Norm Cheever seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
- Public Comments – No public comment.
- Con Com Update (Norm) - Canal Brook Order of Conditions (OOC) extension was approved. There was North Pond Preserve discussion about closing off the beach, stopping ATV's riding on the property, how to control the litter, cutting the rope swing, cutting limbs and adding a porta-potty by the parking lot. Getting the service truck to a porta-potty nearer the lake may be a problem. There was discussion about 141 Congamond Road violation for installing a wall in the buffer zone without Con Com okay.
- Master Plan Update (Norm) – Norm reviewed 3 of the Master Plan survey questions. "Over the next 20 years, would I oppose, be neutral, or support the town providing affordable and accessible housing options through development of:" Here are the significant support responses: In-Law apartments, 533 votes; AMA compliance housing, 526 votes. The top oppose items are: 554 votes for Apartment buildings; 480 votes for financing options for limited income homes; and. 492 votes for Duplexes and 3 family homes.
"Over the next 20 years, where would you like to see new housing built?" Here are the results: 436 votes for "minimal residential development"; 377 votes for "Along existing roads with little existing development; 259 votes for "As part of mixed use development; and, 220 votes for "New subdivisions that require new roads"

“In your opinion, how important are the following transportation-related items over the next 20 years?” Here are the significant results: “Maintain roads and sidewalks” 890 votes; “Parking for Rail trail and open spaces” 760 votes; “Road signage” 735 votes; “Streetscapes” 647 votes: and “Mid-block cross walks” 647 votes.

Norm then introduced the “Write-in of Freehand “Appendix. This is a 751 page document that Norm developed to organize the 9,063 “Write-in” responses. This index organizes all the responses into 602 different categories.

- CRC update (Michelle Pratt) – CRC has concerns about the North Pond property in different areas like fencing area off, growing vegetation plants, sending wrong message to users and open space. More discussion is needed about porta-potty near the well area easement, the sandy shoreline, rope swing, & trash. CRC has its Annual Membership drive and the 2023 dues are the same as 2022. CRC members have free access to Babbs Beach and CRC’s first 2023 meeting is on 4/11. CRC thanks Eric Mueller for a great presentation and thanks to Jerry Patria for all he does.
- 141 Congamond Road – The sewer pumps are still an open issue as the code requires 2 pumps with sound and light alarms. There is concern about the sketch showing re-piping to eliminate pumps in the 5000 gallon upper chamber and sending all building effluent to the lower ~1000 gallon chamber.
- Canal & Great Brook Dredging – NRCS consultant RJH rough cut recommendations focus on flooding without addressing negative impact on water quality. NRCS has setup a video conference with Dick, Eric, Ken Wagner and NRCS Consultant RJH. A major LMC concern is the proposed new North Pond outlet and resultant reversing the water flow (south to north) during major storms. The normal flow is from North Pond (best water quality) to Middle Pond to South Pond (lowest water quality). LMC would like them to reconsider about the water flow and impact on water quality. Also, Suffield & Granby CT areas adjacent to the Canal get flooded during major storm events.
- USEPA will be mapping the coves and shallow areas for muck depths and sampling the muck for any hazardous materials. USEPA efforts will begin in late spring and LMC was therefore able to remove a \$45,000 line item from its FY2024 budget request.
- 159 Berkshire Ave Erosion Issues – Planning Board has given the owner until 3/28 to come in with a final plan or face being fined.
- Buoy lights – Dick created a detailed design using 7” OD aluminum tubing with 6.5” ID. A CRC member has volunteered to make an aluminum prototype.
- USGS Hydrogeology - Congamond watershed will be included in Westfield River watershed study at no cost to the Town. This study should provide invaluable information to the Town on what is above and below ground in this area.
- Rick Wylot – Has put in his letter of resignation as an LMC member. Members expressed their great appreciation for all the work that Rick puts into buoys and water quality monitoring and testing. **Mike Coombs reluctantly made a motion to accept Rick Wylot’s letter of resignation, Mike DeBay seconded the motion and all reluctantly voted in favor.**
- Eric noted that monthly water quality measurements need to be taken. 3 basin 1 sample from bottom, 2 samples from the surface. Samples need to be taken 6:00 am – 7:30 am. Someone to volunteer to take the samples to Lee / Wilbraham. Train 2 people to do samples of water. Weather – Weekends. No Fridays. Norm Cheever and Mike DeBay volunteered to run samples to Lee, MA.
- Buoys – The plan is for LMC volunteers to install in early April. LMC requested and received an extra \$2,400 (FY23) from the Town for buoys.
- Boarding Docks – The plan it to install the North Ramp docks either April 1 or 8 depending on weather.
- Budget hearing – open to public – Eric Mueller & Dick Grannells will be attending.

- **Norm Cheever made a motion to adjourn. Mike DeBay seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
The meeting adjourned at 8:15 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)

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