



# 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 June 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. via Hybrid Zoom Meeting with attendance as follows:

		Voting	Present	Absent
Norm Cheever	Member	Yes	IP	
Mike Coombs	Member	Yes	IP	
Malcolm DeBay	Member	Yes	IP	
Mike DeBay	Member	Yes	IP	
Dick Grannells	Chair	Yes	IP	
Scotty Graves	Member	Yes	IP	
Karen Shute	Secretary	No	IP	
Deborah Herath	Member	Yes	IP	
Eric Mueller	Vice-Chair	Yes	Zoom	
Paul Murphy	Member	Yes	IP	
Ken Phillips	Associate	No	IP	
Rick Wylot	Associate	No		X

Guest(s): Michelle Pratt

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting May 25, 2023. **Malcom DeBay made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Scotty Graves seconded the motion and all were in favor.**
- Public Comments – No Public Comment.
- Con Com Update – An Emergency Certification was issued to remove a dying tree and replace the tree in the future at 104 Berkshire Avenue. Con Com heard input regarding 10 - 12 Island Pond Road dock interference issue with Congamond Heights Association (CHA) Beach docks to the north. CHA had their land surveyed and the 10 – 12 dock is over extended property line. CHA also noted that the neighbor's shed is partially on CHA land. Con Com & LMC will look into situation.
- Master Plan – Master Plan Advisory Committee update, Norm reviewed master plan survey questions 35 through 39.
  - a. Question 35 asked: "List three recreational activities that you would like to see in Southwick over the next 20 years?" The top seven responses were: Hiking (134); Biking (99); Team sports (91); Swimming (87); parks (86); Congamond (85); and pickleball (70).
  - b. Question 36 asked: "List three entertainment or cultural activities that you would like to see in Southwick over the next 20 years?" Here the top 6 responses: Music (215); Festivals (203); Recreation (92) Movies (77); Theater (76); and Entertainment (68).
  - c. Question 37 asked: "Please check all of the activities that you enjoy (in Southwick or elsewhere)?" The top 8 items in Southwick were: Walking/hiking (540); Biking (484); Bird/nature watching (421); Dog walking (417); Swimming (287); Road biking (286); Motorized boating (249); and Non-motorized boating (243). Here are the top 5 items for outside of

Southwick: Biking (306); Swimming (224); walking (184); Bird/nature watching (166); and Court sports (158).

- d. Question 38 actually had 4 questions. "To what extent do you agree with the following statements:"
    - i. "The Town of Southwick has been successful in improving the water quality of Congamond Lake." (348 agreed with that statement, 187 disagreed, 207 were neutral, and 143 had no opinion.)
    - ii. "The Town of Southwick has been successful in controlling invasive weeds in Congamond Lake." (354 agreed, 161 disagreed, 218 were neutral, and 152 had no opinion).
    - iii. "Measures, such as dredging, should be taken to improve the water quality and water flow around Congamond Lake." (491 agreed, 58 disagreed, 173 were neutral, and 159 had no opinion).
    - iv. "Congamond Lake is overcrowded with watercraft." (355 agreed, 91 disagreed, 191 were neutral, and 120 had no opinion).
  - e. Question 39 asked: "Over the next 20 years what do you believe are the top 3 issues facing the Town of Southwick relative to Congamond Lake?" Here are the top 8 responses: Overcrowded (357); Water quality (240); Pollution (118); Policing (111); Weed control (75); Safety (64); Overdeveloped (60); and Litter (50).
- CRC Update- July 13 is a cornhole tournament at Brass Rail and September 23 is the annual Golf Tournament at Edgewood followed by Dinner at Brass Rail. The next CRC meeting is June 13 and CRC is assisting in testing reported "bubbles" in South Pond.
  - NRCS Draft Preliminary Investigation Findings Report which is based on accommodating a 100-year flood:
  - NRCS's consultant proposed a new North Pond outlet for release of high water. Members expressed concern about reversing the normal flow of North Pond (deepest, best springs and water quality) to Middle Pond (2<sup>nd</sup> deepest and 2<sup>nd</sup> best springs and water quality) to South Pond (shallowest, warmest and lowest water quality). "Reverse flowing" South Pond to Middle Pond to North Pond would move high-nutrient levels swamp water from Canal Brook and Great Brook into the best water quality waters. Members feel strongly that Canal Brook needs to be dredged and that the 100-year flood tolerance is not realistic. Canal Brook could be restored to the original canal size of 15' wide minimum and 9' deep minimum which would go a long way toward preventing the current fairly regular reverse flowing of same during periods of heavy rainfall. Great Brook normally is 6" to 24" or more above the level of Congamond. A 3000, section of Great Brook south of Industrial Road was dredged by NRCS in the mid-1980s but unfortunately, the section from the weir gates on Berkshire Avenue northerly to the dredged area is total overgrown. Scotty Graves made a comment – Widen the Canal back to original size, lower and widen the culvert at Phelps Road, dredge Great Brook as Great Brook is a disaster. Eric reminded all that the stated goal of 100-year flood tolerance could probably take any project off the table. Following discussion, all agreed that Dick should pen a note to NRCS regarding re-sizing the project to see what the project would look like to address 25 and 50-year storms instead of 100-year storms.
  - Thanks to Scotty Graves, Malcom DeBay, & Mike DeBay for clearing lots of rocks out of the old railroad culvert that carries the canal under the railroad just north of Phelps Road.
  - Annual Boat Census – Scott Graves & Deb Herath will do Middle Pond, Paul Murphy will do North Pond, Mike Coombs & Mike DeBay will do South Pond.

- 159 Berkshire Avenue – The earthen dam that was reportedly installed by the landowner was never permitted as required by DEP – Members want to see “no disturbing of the land in the future.”... The consensus was that Dick should send an email to the Planning Board & Com Con about this. **Malcom DeBay made a motion for Dick to do so. Mike Coombs seconded the motion and all were in favor.**
- Beaver hut at Tri-PBJ Marina – Members asked about the status of removal of the beaver hut. Dick noted that he hasn’t seen any NOI being filed with Con Com by the owner to do so.
- Several members noted that the docks are all in place and the marina sign is up 141 Congamond Road. There may be an issue with handicap accessibility for the docks that were installed.
- Lake safety – Life jackets must be worn when in canoes or kayaks or on paddle boards September 15 – May 15.
- Docks at Prim3 St3akhous3 (101 Point Grove Road) – Reportedly there are only 3 transient and 15 rental spaces but no marina spaces have been rented thus far. A question was raised about the lack of transient spaces vs. the Chapter 91 License requirements.
- **Deb Herath made a motion to adjourn, Mike Coombs second the motion, all in favor. The meeting adjourns at 8:10 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Shute - Secretary

cc (16): Ag Com, BOH, Nadine Cignoni, 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)

