



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held June 25, 2020, 7:00 P.M. via online Zoom videocall, 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	No	X	
Ken Phillips	Associate	No		X
Rick Wylot	Associate	Yes		X

Guest(s): None.

1. The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7 pm.
2. Members reviewed the minutes from of 5/28/2020. The only change needed was to add Paul Murphy to item #7, as he helped with dock installation. **A motion was made by Mike D. to accept the minutes with the changes, and Deb seconded. The vote was unanimous.**
3. 84 Point Grove Road
There has been an ongoing issue about the docks at this address overtaking the neighboring property's dock. The neighbor, Paul Murphy, expressed a continued frustration over the refusal of moving the docks to allow his boat to freely come and go as he pleases. The docks appear to be in a clear violation of the LPP permit. Paul waited 30 days to take action about the issue. He has not received any responses from Con Com regarding the issue. LMC members suggested that he speaks with Con Com Chair, Chris Pratt, once Chris is back from vacation to try to resolve the issue.
4. 159 Berkshire Avenue
Mr. Joseph Baldarelli, owner of this property, had received a Cease and Desist order at the end of 2019. It is clear that clearing and reconfiguring the land with equipment has continued on this property, which is a violation of the Cease and Desist Order. Kyle Scott, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, has sent another letter to Mr. Baldarelli.
5. Con Com – Boat Lifts
Con Com has an LPP form that must be filled out for anyone that owns a boat lift on the lake. Con Com asked LMC to make any comments on changes that would be needed on this document. Members are okay with the modified form that Dick & Eric collectively prepared. No additional changes were needed at this time per LMC.

6. Agricultural Commission

The Agricultural Commission has commented on lake treatments, as was been noted that farmers reportedly were upset because of the lack of advance notification on when treatments will take place. Farmers use the lake water to irrigate their crops. Unfortunately, when an algae bloom arises, it is necessary to take proper action immediately. Dick stepped forward to say that in the future, when a treatment is scheduled, he will notify the Agricultural Commission via email as soon as possible. He will also do his best to notify them when an emergency treatment is needed, though this may be difficult because of how urgent and necessary these treatments are.

7. Cove by Saunders

It has come to the attention of LMC members that there was some green algae in the CT cove to the east of Kurt Saunders home. Unfortunately, this is tough spot for algae when the wind blows in in certain directions. Eric identified the algae as Mat Algae, which is typically not harmful. Ken Wagner commented on the presence of this type algae as being normal immediately following an alum treatment.

8. Con Com Update

Norm updated LMC members on the recent Con Com meeting. Norm updated members on the property at 115 Point Grove Road, as a new walkway was approved. Also, on Island Pond Road, a neighbor's dock was reportedly on the Congamond Heights Association property, but it was determined to be a non-issue, as both parties relocated their docks. A Variance was granted for the permanent dock at 101 Lakeview Street on the condition that the permanent dock will be removed and replaced by a seasonal dock next year.

9. Mission Statement

Karl Stinehart, Chief Administrative Officer, replied in an email about 159 Berkshire Avenue that "This is not a lmc purview matter.... The mission statement of lmc does not permit the issue being sent to others w/o BOS approval. None of which was sought." Accordingly, LMC cannot intercede with any other boards or committees. LMC often identifies issues that need to be addressed immediately and cannot wait for a decision through the Select Board. LMC would like to talk with the Select Board to clarify this wording. Mike D suggested a meeting with the Select Board regarding the Mission Statement language. Dick mentioned writing down some key topics about the Mission Statement for when LMC members have the suggested meeting with Select Board.

10. Buoys

Rick has been repairing and replacing all too many buoys already this season on an extremely low budget. So far, three buoys have been damaged beyond use and the FY21 buoy replacement budget was cut to zero dollars. Buoys have been a big issue this year and LMC members want to thank Rick for his continued efforts in trying to keep the buoys repaired and attached to where they belong.

11. Planes on South Pond

Eric was on South Pond recently and became concerned about a specific Sea Plane that landed in the pond. The plane was very close to Eric and his family, who were enjoying a Saturday morning on the lake. Eric was wakeboarding on the water when he witnessed the landing and takeoff of this plane. He was mainly concerned that Saturdays on the lake can be very busy and the lake is so small that a jet skier could easily collide with a plane. It was also mentioned that jet skiers not only won't hear the plane, but they can travel at such high speeds, that it can easily turn into a disaster in seconds. Some members discussed that they lake should only be a landing spot for emergencies,

but not everyone agreed on that statement. Dick mentioned that anyone can contact the FAA if they think it is a problem, but LMC does not want to take the action to do so. A few members on LMC strongly expressed that they do not want any part in policing what the Sea Planes do.

12. North Pond Porta Pottys

Residents and visitors on Congamond, specifically in North Pond, would like to see portable toilets on this recently acquired Town land to encourage boaters to use these instead of the land or the water. It would also be beneficial to add trash cans to this area, to hopefully avoid pollution of human waste and trash. LMC members would like to hear an update on this, as it's been said in the past that this will not happen. LMC members agree that this would be beneficial to both residents and visitors.

13. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike D Eric seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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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