



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held on March 14, 2024 7:00 P.M. via Hybrid Zoom Meeting 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	
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
Karen Shute	Secretary	No	X	

Guest(s): Michelle Pratt

Lake Management Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

- Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting February 8, 2024. **Mike Coombs made a motion to accept the minutes with the minor changes suggested by Norm Cheever. Mike DeBay seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
- Public Comments – No public comment
- Con Com Update (Norm) – Fines have been issued to the owner of one dock on North Pond for refusing to remove his dock for the winter. A letter was sent out to all lakeshore owners concerning “incomplete removal of docks for the winter.” The letter included pictures of some of the examples. Beginning 12/1/2024 these will be subject to fines.
- Master Plan Update (Norm) – The reading file included the Master Plan Action Items from the chapter on Economic Development. The Planning Board has still not approved the Master Plan. They are waiting on the consultant to issue the final document.
- Suffield/Southwick LPP Meeting – Jason Perron is the Southwick Select Board Liaison and is trying to setup the meeting with Suffield and still hasn’t been able to schedule a joint meeting with Suffield regarding LPP. Someone from Con Com needs to represent Southwick Con Com in the meeting with Suffield. **Malcom DeBay made a motion for Norm Cheever to represent Southwick Con Com at this TBD meeting. Eric Mueller seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
- CRC Update – CRC’s annual membership drive has begun. CRC agreed to pay 1/3 of the cost of treatment for invasive weeds including the recently observed Hydrilla. E. coli is still a big concern. There was some more discussion on washing boats to help stop spreading the invasive weeds.

7. The Town/LMC has submitted an application for a Rural Inland Waterways Dredging Grant for \$297,000. The plan is to do “dry” dredging of the cove adjacent to the South Ramp. LMC applied for a \$100,000 in CPA funding to cover any issues that are “unknown” at the time of the grant Application and award, should the Town be awarded the grant that will cover all costs relating to design, permitting, sample cores, lab work, construction, project management and reports. The Select Board and CPC approved the LMC’s CPA funding request. It will now be a warrant article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for voter approval.
8. Chapter 91/LPP Summary. Norm presented data on Congamond Chapter 91 Licenses from his research back to 1964. Norm noted that there were only 13 “active” Chapter 91 Licenses on Congamond.
9. Lake Level - Mike DeBay went over lake level data and suggested a late fall lake level target of 224.0’ MSL to allow for accommodating the heavy rainfall situations, especially when the ground is frozen which has resulted in lake closure due to the high water conditions. Currently, the Canal Brook weir are open but debris needs to be cleared from in front of the gates. Beavers and their multiple massive dams are an issue both in the MA and CT parts of the Canal. It was suggested that maybe a trapper could be hired. Members noted that there have been as many as 4 – 10 beaver dams a year. Scotty made these suggestions: 1. Remove the accumulated rocks from under the railroad culvert south of Mountain Brook (CT); 2. Accumulated debris and silt need to be cleaned out from in front of the weir gates. 3. Canals need to be cleaned out. Dick explained that this is a major (\$M) project that the NRCS is currently evaluating as a project, along with restoring flow to Great Brook.
10. Eric Mueller suggested that we table the lake level issue. Eric wants to do analysis from the 2+ decades of lake level data collected and will assemble a report.
11. Volunteers needed to install the four docks at North Ramp on 3/30/24.
11. **Scotty Graves made a motion to adjourn. Paul Murphy seconded the motion and all were in favor.** The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Shute - Secretary

cc (16): Ag Com, N, Cignoni, 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)