



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# Town of Southwick

## Lake Management Committee

454 COLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

Telephone (413) 569-0515 Fax (413) 569-0515

Minutes of meeting held March 12, 2020, 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall College Highway, Southwick, MA, 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	Member	No		X
Rick Wylot	Associate	Yes		X

Guest(s): Jerry Patria (Con Com)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM. Members reviewed the minutes from February 13, 2020. **A motion was made by Malcolm D. to accept the minutes as written. Mike D. seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**
2. 7 & 9 Lakeview Street - The current plans call for two new homes (one each at 7 & 9) to be built on the subdivided property as per the most recent plans provided. This will likely impact the number of docks (5) previously associated with this property as DEP has clearly stated that it is one dock per residential property.
3. Alum Treatment Funding - Bids were received from HAB and Solitude. The Select Board, with advice from Con Com and LMC, voted to award the contract to Solitude. A Warrant Article for a planned 3/23/2020 Special Town Meeting Approval seeks voter approval of \$800,000 of CPC funding to fund the alum treatment and oversight by the Town's consultant limnologist, Ken Wagner. Dick reminded all to please
4. Lake Level - The lake level is currently at 224.33' MSL (nominal). DPW cleared significant amounts of beaver cuttings that were clogging the waterway at the weir gates.
5. Con Com Update (Norm Cheever) - Norm represented the LMC at the 3/2/20 Con Com meeting. Permitting of boat lifts was discussed as the concern is for the potential hazards for those powered by electricity (shock) and those hydraulically operated (water pollution). LMC and Con Com will work together to inventory all boat lifts on Congamond and to categorize them for possible future action.
6. 159 Berkshire Avenue - Norm attended the March 9, 2020 ZBA hearing on 159. Norm noted that he witnessed and photographed Mr. Baldarelli excavating in the intermittent stream alongside the Rail Trail while still under a Cease & Desist Order that was being appealed. Ultimately, the Board of

Appeals denied the appeal and thus restored the required actions (and associated fines for not following the Cease & Desist Order) defined by the Cease & Desist Order. Members expressed the hope that the Cease & Desist order will be duly enforced by the Code Enforcement Officer.

7. Great Brook & Canal Brook Dredging – Dick explained that the Army Corps of Engineers by charter cannot help with dredging either of these two waterways as their estimated flows of 11 CFS to 30 CFS is far below their 800 CFS minimum flow where they are permitted to take action. However, Dick's contact at Army Corps did determine that the analysis and dredging of Great Brook in the mid-1980s was done by NRCS. Dick contacted Senator Markey's Washington Aide, Eric Kashden, who contacted NRCS on our behalf. Dick just transmitted all the data previously sent to Army Corps to NRCS and expects to have a telecom with them in a couple of days.
8. Boating Rules on Congamond – Eric drafted one sheet of rules each for Boating and PWC. Dick made a few changes and presented both to LMC members. Members concurred with using the latter versions with lake maps added to the opposite side of each handout for the 2020 boating season.
9. Salt Concerns -Eric is plotting the historical and current conductivity measurement data to see if there is any trend. The topic will be moved to "future topics"
10. LMC Charter – LMC members are awaiting comments from the Select Board on the draft Charter presented to them.
11. Budget Hearing – The budget hearing for LMC was on attended by Dick, Eric and Norm on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 9:30 am. A copy of their presentation was provided to members. Dick subsequently added the request for funding (priority 2) for replacing the 10-year old LMC boat motor that has required increasing repairs to keep it operational.
12. Canada Geese – Dick presented photos of 500 to 700 geese that wintered over on Congamond and information on the pollution created by same. All agree that the geese are becoming a serious issue as this flock represents literally a half-ton of excrement per day that is going into Congamond, which represents a significant phosphorus and nitrogen load. Phosphorus is linked to the algae blooms and a major cause of the need to treat the lakes with alum.
13. North Pond Culvert Safety Protocol – Dick has had several discussions with Mass Fisheries and Wildlife (F&W) personnel about this topic and the hazard created by two beaver lodges near said culvert that are preventing shifting of the docks at Tri-PBJ marina westerly to allow clear line-of-sight to the culvert on the southern side. A F&W marine biologist explained that the lodges could be removed if they are deemed a health or safety hazard by Board of Health or Con Com.
14. Jack Sheppard – Dick gave information on the recent passing of Jack Sheppard, OFBA Director, who Town/LMC has worked with for decades on ramp improvements.
15. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eric and Mike D. seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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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)