



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held April 8, 2020, 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 |
| Annie Hanson | 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, Sharon Jones, Marc Bellaud, Dominic Meringolo

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Members reviewed the minutes from March. No changes were made. **A motion was made to accept the minutes by Mike D and Eric seconded.**

3. Public Comment

Michelle Pratt talked to Chief Bishop about lighting on the buoys. Dick mentioned that LMC had tried various types of buoy lights and they were very expensive and constantly being destroyed by vandals. Michelle would like to discuss this more at the next meeting.

4. Alum Treatment

Dom and Marc, representing Solitude that did the alum treatment in 2020, mentioned that the treatment met the goals for the alum treatment. Dominic mentioned that the lake could see more improvement this, the second year, over last year. Ken Wagner told Dominic that there is still the "good" algae in the lake, which is a great improvement. Eric also noted that the clarity is the highest it has been in at least 15 years for this time of year. The alewife population has somewhat limited the benefit that the alum treatment could achieve, but the benefits have been incredible. Dominic also mentioned that Solitude, will be doing some spot invasive weed treatment. Dom

noted that with increased clarity conditions, the lake could see more weed growth, but there are a lot of good native species and Solitude feels that the native (good) species will dominate.

5. Con Com Update

At the March 15 meeting, there was some discussion on the LPP Application that was mailed to waterfront property owners. Con Com believes that this was clerical change only, and the blame was put on Dick's absence, but LMC was fully functional during his absence.

More updates include:

- 56 Berkshire Ave- A massive project was approved by Con Com, including new retaining walls, a new deck, and some tree removal.
- Chapter 91/LPP Updates on LMC agenda;
 - 7-9 Lakeview Street. - These are two properties with multiple docks and Con Com stated that the multiple docks are okay. Eric mentioned that this is still on the LMC agenda because these properties have been using their docks to rent out to boat owners that are not the resident's boats.
 - 129 North Lake Ave - The DEP pulled their Chapter 91 license about three years ago on these 3 permanent structures that exceed 600 sq ft total and cannot be permitted under LPP. Accordingly, this will remain on the agenda. It's been brought up for years because the owners received 2020 LPP stickers even though they cannot be permitted under LPP.
 - 641 Forest Road- Con Com was in contact with the gentleman, but Dick mentioned he has since passed away. There was never any LPP documentation on his docks, floats and/or boats previously.
 - 140 Summer Drive- the owner has a valid Chapter 91 license for his dock. Dick mentioned that the reason this is still on the agenda was because someone that does not live on the waterfront wants to put a dock there, but the waterfront parcel belongs to the North Pond Views Association.
 - 84 Point Grove Road- This matter should not be discussed publicly until it is resolved by the DEP and Town Council. This topic will be put on hold until further notice.
 - Mayflower Lane - There was a dock in the water over the winter. That waterfront property is owned by BGH Materials, and they reportedly did not give anyone permission to put a dock on their property.

6. Bass Tournaments Complaint

Dick received a complaint from a resident about the noise, number and size of bass tournaments on Congamond. Dick forwarded same to the Director of the Office of Fishing & Boating Access for comment. The Director also conferred with the Commissioner and subsequently replied to the email. Dick forwarded that response along with comments about some erroneous information that was in the original complaint. Dick also spoke with the complainant to answer any other questions and concerns.

7. SPD Boathouse

Chief Bishop, the Select Board and Dick sent a formal request to the Office of Fishing & Boating Access to put a boathouse for the SPD patrol boat on the North Ramp. SPD is looking to get grant money to build the boat house in parallel to getting State permission to do so.

8. Canal Brook Weir Gates

Southwick DPW cleaned upstream and downstream of the weir gates. They also fixed the erosion problem on the west side where it was washing out into Canal Brook. Malcom and Mike D. mentioned that the beavers are eating trees again just south of the weir gates, but have not yet built any dams on the Southwick side.

9. Beaver lodges

There are some beaver lodges, two on the Canal and two in the northwest corner of Middle Pond. These “homes” represent the addition of many more beavers each year. Eric mentioned that a professional, license trapper could remove them, but the Conservation Commission and Board of Health need to approve the action.

10. Citizens Restoring Congamond (CRC)

At the previous meeting, Michelle Pratt (CRC President) had asked LMC if CRC could attach banners to some buoys to promote CRC. Dick checked the request out with Mass Environmental Police. Unfortunately, 323 CMR 2.07 (5) prohibits such action. However, Dick noted that they can be put flyers on the bulletin boards at each ramp. CRC is a citizens group that volunteers a lot of time into maintaining the integrity of the lake and related matters.

11. North Ramp docks

One North Ramp dock shaft and wheels were fixed by OFBA. Ramp Attendant, Ken made repairs to the balance of the docks. LMC fully appreciates all who assisted in the dock repairs. The docks will be going in on Saturday, April 10. The South Ramp dock was already installed by OFBA.

12. Lake outlets

Dick is working on getting federal projects or funds to assist with dredging Canal Brook and Great Brook. If this goes through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), they will be able to cross state lines to continue dredging the canal into Connecticut as we cannot dredge over state lines, but NRCS can. The dredging is beneficial to water clarity, as well as property values. It is expensive, but very beneficial to lake health.

13. Dock square footage and boat lifts

It is important to note that boat lifts with a canopy counts as square footage. A lift with no canopy does not count towards the square footage. One resident has proposed using Wave Armor dock system which they want to leave in the lake year around which is not permitted under LPP unless a Variance is approved. Also, the total square feet (shadow cast in the water) of these floating dock systems must be considered in the application.

14. S319 Grant Application

Dick is working on an S319 Grant Application to address the three remaining untreated outfalls in Middle Pond. The plan is to infiltrate the stormwater which would allow for elimination of the outfalls.

15. Lake Quinsigamond

The lake association there is looking to adopt an LPP as they are having increased frustration with not being able to fund their lake patrols.

16. Annual Town Meeting/Special Town Meeting

LMC has a Warrant Article to move the \$5000 for Canal Brook debris/dam removal from an Operations account to a Capital account. That way unused funds can be carried over to the next fiscal year, rather than appropriating the money every single year. Canal cleanup is usually needed for an emergency/flooding situation where there is not sufficient time to request an emergency transfer of funds.

17. Salt Concerns

Deb has continued to raise concerns about the salt in the lakes, as the DPW has switched over from a sand/salt mix to 100% salt for winter storms. Eric noted that unfortunately it will take awhile to see the rise in salt levels (measured by conductivity) and he continues to monitor it. Ken Wagner always suggests that towns that use salt should use less salt in areas around bodies of water to avoid a rise in salt levels. Michelle will ask Suffield what is being used by Suffield and Connecticut DOT for snow and ice storms and if there has been a change in recent years.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deb and Norm seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Annalia Hanson - Secretary

Cc (11): Ag Com, BOH, Con Com, DPW, Fin Com, Historical Com, J. Middleton (email), Park & Rec, Planning Board, SPD Chief/Harbormaster, K. Stinehart, Town Clerk, File (1)