



# Town of Southwick

## Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held December 9, 2021, 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	
Karen Shute	Secretary	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

Guest(s): Sabrina Pooler, Diane Gale

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Members reviewed the minutes from 9/9/2021. Regarding 186 Berkshire Ave Creative exterior retaining wall that was moved 18 inches along with the silt fence. 42 Depot St. Condos were approved. **Norm made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted. Malcolm seconded and all were in favor.**
3. Public Comments - There were no public comments.
4. Con Com Update – Members have noticed that as of 12/8, there were still several docks in the water. In accordance with the Local Permitting Program, unless covered by an approved LPP Variance, all docks must be out of the water by December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Kurt Saunders was asked about this as his crew removes many docks for homeowners. Kurt explained that he was a bit behind schedule due to weather issues and all his crew's work should be done by this week.
5. It was mentioned that there has been very little blue green algae at the end of the second season following the alum treatment.
6. Canal Brook Beaver Dams – Solitude removed some five beaver dams on Canal Brook. Suffield DPW moved and subsequently reset large boulders at the South Pond Connecticut Cove hydrorake launch site. Southwick DPW or Crestview services will be needed to remove some debris and muck in front of the western weir gate.
7. Thanks to Malcolm, Scotty & Mike for moving some rocks from the culvert under the Rail Trail that is located just north of Phelps Road. A back hoe will be needed to remove the larger rocks.
8. The Office of Fishing & Boating Access has provided Southwick a draft agreement that would allow the Southwick Police to build a boat house on the North Ramp shoreline to store the boat on the

water. The draft agreement is being reviewed by Town counsel and ultimately has to be approved and signed by the Select Board.

9. Dick has new “NO SWIMMING, DIVING...” signs that need to be installed on the public fishing pier. Members suggested that we wait till the water freezes and then we can walk out and replace them.
10. Funding – Funds to replace batter boards and add weir gates were approved by Select Board. The batter boards are being replaced by Crestview and weir gates will hopefully be installed in the May – June timeframe. The weir gates will be lockable. The LMC and Select Board hope that some of the hundreds of billions of federal funding can find its way to NRCS so that NRCS can design, permit and dredge (1) Canal Brook (estimate \$2M – \$3M) and (2) Great Brook (\$4M - \$5M).
11. Lake Closure Protocol. Members agreed to eliminate the NO WAKE condition from the flood protocol. The proposed protocol is:
  - a. NO MOTORIZED BOATING if the lake level is rising and above 225.2’ MSL (0.9’ above Berkshire Avenue sill)
  - b. NO MOTORIZED BOATING if the lake level is falling and still at or above 224.8’ MSL (0.5’ above Berkshire Avenue sill)

**Mike C. made a motion to accept this recommended protocol. Malcolm second the motion and all in favor.**

12. LPP Variance – New owner of 4010 Mountain Road (West Suffield) has requested a LPP Variance to permit them to leave a pre-existing “permanent” dock in the water for the winter. Members noted that there is a huge concrete block associated with it that has been there for many years. Lights and orange barrels need to be installed during the winter so it’s more visible, especially at night. Members also agreed that when the dock fails, it should be replaced with a seasonal removable dock. **Mike C. made a motion to recommend accepting the Variance request with the conditions as noted. Malcom second the motion and all were in favor.**
13. Everyone needs to be sworn in, so please stop by Town Hall Clerks office.
14. FY2023 Budget Recommendations – Buoy replacement needs to be raised to \$2,400. Canal Brook beaver dam/debris \$5,000.
15. LPP Application Form – Members noted that there was no information on boat lifts or lift stickers. Dick will do a follow-up email requesting members to review the current Con Com LPP Application.
16. Southwick Police & Fire Departments, with the towing assistance of Interstate Towing, pulled what appeared to be an old Grand Torino car from the lake.
17. Members discussed replacing the nearly two decades old 50 HP motor on the LMC/Town boat and collectively recommended that we seek a 90 – 150 horsepower motor as the current one is underpowered for the size/weight of the tri-pontoon work boat.
18. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deb and Mike D seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Shute – Secretary

cc (15): Ag Com, 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)