



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held January 19, 2022 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	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): P. Currier, Andrew X

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Dick noted that the originally scheduled 1/13/22 meeting had to be cancelled due to problems with Zoom access. The meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday 1/19/22 due to member conflicts with other already scheduled meetings.
3. **Malcolm made a motion to accept the minutes with minor changes as noted. Scotty seconded and all were in favor.**
4. Public Comments - There were no public comments.
5. Con Com Update (Norm) – 16 Grandview project to replace stairway and to construct new with manual labor approved; 4010 Mountain Road LPP Variance approved; 22 Babb Road North Pond Open Space land damage – The fence was repaired by owner and the violator is picking up reparation expenses. Con Com Coordinator's position to include CPC coordination and be reposted as a 32 hour per week position with benefits.
6. 141 Congamond Road – New owner is seeking four 150' long docks with 80 spaces, 20 for restaurant patrons and 60 for marina rental. Permit states only 95 person capacity restaurant indoor & deck space. Members feel strongly that this restaurant capacity number is way underestimated as is the stated 63 parking spaces to support the restaurant and proposed marina. Members wanted to know what criteria (bylaws, state regulations, etc.) are used with regard to adding a marina on Congamond. The 1/11/2022 RLA plan shows 11 parking in the Town's right-of-way. Customer numbers in the restaurant appear to be problematic. Members stated that the annual boat census shows 600+ power boats are already moored on Congamond. Members spoke of lake safety issues, 150ft docks, navigation hazards, parking, traffic and excessive noise (DJ

booth). There appears to be misinformation being used by the new owner regarding a pre-existing permitted marina at 141. Crabby Joe's was never a (DEP) permitted marina. The docks only served restaurant patrons and Con Com required them to be removed as a Chapter 91 License was never obtained. Google map shows only 1 dock with 8 fingers. The proposed 4 docks have only 10' fingers spaced 20' apart. The 10' fingers will not allow for proper tie-up of typical 20, – 26' long boats. Also, spacing between the long docks and tied-up boats won't allow for passage between. The Planning Board has this proposed project for 141 Congamond Road on their February 2 agenda. LMC members feel that the docks are too long and overall feel that the marina proposal is a bad idea for lake safety. **Eric made a motion for Dick to pen a letter summarizing LMC's issues with the plan. Mike DeBay seconded the motion and all were in favor.** Side note: Dick asked that in light of the boating safety issues raised if anyone can do research on Great Pond regulations, commercial marinas on a Great Pond, boating density vs. boating safety, etc. He noted that someone in State government offices may have some information on safe boating density.

7. 159 Berkshire Ave – Dick provided the latest email on the ongoing disturbing, excavating and clearing activity at 159 Berkshire and adjacent 179R Berkshire Ave property that is owned by Robert E Arnold Tobacco Corp. The Planning Board has an agenda item to review the Consultant's corrective action plan. Nobody wants to see a repeat of the December 2018 release of muddy water from this site into Congamond.
8. Canal Data Link – SEMA volunteers plan on running a test using radio communications from the Canal Weir Gate area and the South Ramp to the North Ramp Visitor Center. If successful, the plan is to link probes in the Canal and Great Brook with the weather station being installed at the Visitor Center.
9. SPD Boat House – The office of Fishing & Boating Access is all set to grant Southwick the authority to construct a boat house on the North Ramp (State) property and just needs a sketch showing the location and size of the desired boat house in order to complete the transaction. Dick volunteered to do the needed sketch once PD determines the size boat they are seeking to replace their 37-year old Boston Whaler.
10. Annual Town Report – Members were all set with the draft report as presented. **Mike DeBay made a motion to approve as written. Norm seconded the motion and all were in favor.**
11. Crestview Construction has completed fabrication of new batter boards for the twin Great Brook culverts on Berkshire Avenue. Replacing the boards is a temporary repair until new weir gates can be installed. Bids for these weir gates are due by 10:00AM on February 2, 2022 at which time they will be opened.
12. Lake Closure Protocol – Dick provided copies of the protocol as modified at the last meeting. **Malcolm made a motion to accept as written and Scotty seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
13. LPP 2022 Applications. Copies of various forms were presented to review. Send comments back to Dick so he can forward to Con Com.
14. LMC FY2023 Budget – Dick noted that the FY 2022 buoys have been ordered and buoy prices have increased by nearly 20%. Dick presented the LMC proposed FY2023 budget and noted that the \$5000 in Operations for clearing debris from the Canal had been moved to Capital. Buoy Capital request was increased to \$2400 due to increase buoy costs. **Mike DeBay made a motion to accept the recommended budget as presented. Deb seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

15. Lake Restoration FY2023 Budget \$6500. Dick noted that he continues to work with Federal legislators and the NRCS regarding dredging Canal Brook and Great Brook as Federal projects. Members were all set with the budget recommendations presented. **Norm made a motion to accept the recommended budget. Eric second motion and all were in favor.**
16. Norm has been taking daily water samples off his dock and shore during the boating season and up to 1/14/22. Eric has been including that data in his lake water quality data. Eric stressed the importance of this data as it provides critical and very timely information on the “health” of the lake.
17. Open Meeting Law – Dick reminded all to sign up for one of the two webinars on the subject.
18. Dick reminded all that everyone needs to be sworn in at the Town Clerks Office in Town Hall.
19. Ice Safety – Dick and Norm noted that Middle Pond has a very large open water area. Dick will be sending Chief Landis-Harbormaster photos taken of this open water area.
20. Deb noted that there is a tree down in the channel north of the culvert into North Pond. Dick determined that is on Brass Rail property and has sent a letter to the owner.
21. **Norm made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Scotty second the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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)