



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

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

Minutes of meeting held October 27, 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		
Paul Murphy	Member	Yes		X
Ken Phillips	Associate	No		X
Rick Wylot	Associate	No		X

Guest(s): Peter Currier, Jason Giguere, Jerry Patria

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Members reviewed the minutes from the 9/14/2022 meeting. **A motion was made by Mike Coombs to accept the minutes as written. Malcom DeBay seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
- Public Comments – No public comment.
- Con Com Update (Norm) – 26 Island Way ticket issued for docks. Owner is concerned for his kids swimming and where the green buoy is placed. He would like to see it closer to shore since boats are going between the green buoy and the shore. Dick will pass info on for next season. Con Com received complaints about paying launch fees when they have to pay LPP fees for docks, floats, etc. Docks being put in that cannot be removed at 4010 Mountain Rd. Planning a LPP Rules get together with Suffield, CT Select Board.
- Masterplan Subcommittee Update (Norm) - 30 people attended on Thursday public meeting and 20 people attended public meeting on Saturday. Major Congamond issues were overcrowding – 357 water quality – 257 and septic & pollution Issues need to be addressed. Each LMC meeting Norm will review the results of a few questions. Some other issues 158 - Low Water Level, 163 – Local Permit for watercraft, 247 – Lack of Boat Operators License, 270 - Loose marina law or unlicensed marina, Too many liquors licenses, Needs to be mandatory washing of boats, 141 – all watercraft required to be registered – Southwick PD often come to boat ramps and run plates, 200 – Traffic control (buoys etc.), 212 – Change tactics for cleaning the lake, 387 – Eliminating the name Kings Beach, 25 Ft Waterfront – Owners of new Docks need to file chapter 91 License, RDA or NOI depending on waterfront work needed.
- CRC update – No update

- Thank you to 3 CRC members, 5 LMC members, and 2 DPW workers for help removing the docks on 10/22/22. Dick is sending out a note to each.
- 141 Congamond Road – Reading File Pg 26 – 50 Ongoing issues with 141 Chapter 91 License discussed:
 - a. Boating density – more overcrowding. Public launches have 58 spaces that also result in density of 5 usable acres per boat. Members agreed that many hot summer Saturdays & Sundays are over-crowded with more chance of accidents. Most weekdays are not the issue. However, some hot summer Thursdays & Fridays may be crowded. Members are still concerned about any additional Chapter 91 Marina Licenses and agree that we have to take a stand.
 - b. Proposed 150' long docks interfere with interlake culvert traffic. RLA map/plan was supposed to show all the way to the culvert. Cross section of the docks (Pg 36) shows water depth vs length of dock from shore. Per plan, 3' water depth 25' from shore, 4.5' depth 50' from shore. Water depth is about 10' at 75' out from shore. Boats entering South Pond through the culvert keep to the right (counterclockwise). HEADWAY SPEED/NO WAKE is required per boating rules 150' from the end of any marina docks. Pre-existing Tri-BJ Marina is already a HEADWAY SPEED/NO WAKE navigation lane but it is still problematic for visibility through the 100' long culvert into North Pond.
 - c. Removal of docks – The former owner of Crabby Joes's had to totally remove the unpermitted docks as he did not have a Chapter 91 License. Tri-PBJ Martina and Louie B's all remove docks each year by December 1 as removal was part of their Chapter 91 Licenses. Saunders was pre-existing and did not have to be removed.
 - d. Sewer pumps – 2 pumps 1- not working 1 – no electrical connection. DPW needs to get involved –as no pump alarms and pumps were connected to The Town sewer system with no permit or inspection. The lack of alarms and proximity to catch basins connected to Town stormwater system are water quality issues.
 - e. **Mike Coombs made a motion for Dick to draft 2 emails summarizing these ongoing and unresolved issues with 141, one to DEP and the 2nd to Town boards/agents. Malcom DeBay seconded the motion and all voted in favor.** Dick will draft the 2 short and precise emails. Chapter 91 issues email will be sent to DEP with copies to cognizant Town Agents, Boards and Committees. Water quality issues email will be sent to Health Agent, Con Com, Select Board, DPW Director and other cognizant Town Agents, Boards and Committees, with a copy to DEP's Chrissy Hopps.
- E.coli testing 2023 – The Select Board will be initiating a meeting with representatives of the Board of Health, Con Com, LMC and CRC to discuss a plan and protocol for testing and notification for the 2023 boating season. The Select Board will be looking for funds to test for such additional testing.
- USDA/NRCS – NRCS consultant has begun the assessment of causes of flooding on Lake Congamond as it relates to: (1) Canal Brook from the headwaters at the southern end of South Pond to Route 20 in Connecticut and (2) Great Brook from the headwaters by South Ramp in Middle Pond to the Little River in Westfield. The consultant task is to assess project limits, remediation tasks and approximate costs for corrective actions. NRCS will let Dick know if they feel that they need additional federal funding.
- Soap Suds observed on South Pond – South Pond waterfront resident has been taking photos of apparent soap suds showing up each Sunday. LMC, Con Com and Health Agent are involved in trying to determine what and where this is coming from, including samples of the “suds” observed to be emanating from the CT shoreline.

- Thank you to John Blakley for cleaning out the debris from in front of weir gates. DPW will be clearing out more accumulated debris from in front of the weir gates on Canal Brook.
- **Mike DeBay made a motion to adjourn. Norm seconded the motion and all were in favor.** The meeting adjourned at 8:15 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)