



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

454 COLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

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

Minutes of meeting held on February 9, 2023 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): Michelle Pratt (CRC President)

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting 1/12/23. **Mike Coombs made a motion was made to accept the minutes as written. Scotty Graves seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
- Public Comments – No public comment.
- Con Com Update – 13 North Pond Road issues with septic / sewer and septic tank not crushed. Dick commented that sewers have not yet been extended to North Pond Road area, so septic tank is still operational. Docks at 16 Babb Road not yet removed and was covered by an approved Variance in the past. There is a large beaver lodge adjacent to Tri-PBJ Marina docks. Dick commented that Select Board member Jason Perron set up a 2/7/23 meeting with Con Com, Town Planner, LMC, the new owner and his contractor to discuss required permits and actions to remove said beaver lodge.
- Master Plan update- Norm reviewed four of the Master Plan Survey results. “Would you be in favor of limiting the maximum square footage of a new building?” 79.6% of the responders said yes and 20.4% said no. “Would you be in favor of adopting a maximum expansion size for an existing building?” 72.7% of all responders said yes and 27.3% said no. To the question “I live in:” 91.3 % lived in a single family home, 5.4% lived in a Condo or Townhouse, and 3.3% live in all other. To the question “Do you believe there are sufficient housing options in Southwick?” 78.2% of the responders said yes and 21.8% of the responders said no.
- CRC update- Michelle Pratt commented favorably about LMC working with NRCA to dredge Canal Brook and Great Brook and the LMC efforts with EPA to map the muck depths in the shallow areas and coves in Congamond. Michelle noted that March is CRC’s annual membership drive and that CRC volunteers will be available to assist in installing docks and buoys in early April.

- Brass Rail New Docks – Members noted that there are many new docks lined up in the Brass Rail parking lot and that perhaps those docks are being stored there for 141 Congamond Road.
- 129 North Lake Ave – There are 3 permanent docks and Chapter 91 License was not granted by DEP due to 1800 sq. ft. area far exceeding Chapter 91 License maximum requirement and docks are not within owner's extended property lines. Those 3 docks are not eligible for LPP either. DEP is continuing its investigation. **Norm made a motion for LMC Chair to send email to DEP's Chrissy Hopps along with history, maps, photos, etc. Mike C seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
- 141 Congamond Road – Stormwater, sanitary sewer and 4' fence on Town ROW issues have not been duly addressed yet. Chief Landis agreed about removing the extended fence and that it is too close to the fire hydrant.
- Bathymetric mapping of shallow areas and coves for future dredging would be \$45K - \$60K just for mapping if Town funds it. Ken Wagner gave Dick contact name at USEPA District 1 for EPA project to map the lake bottom. Dick is following up with that contact.
- NRCS – NRCS has awarded RJH Consultants the task to assess Canal Brook and Great Brook and then develop a series of options to address the Congamond flooding issues. Dick has provided NRCS with photos, videos and data on high water and flooding events that were provided by various LMC members. Dick contacted Granby & Suffield Ct. about photos, videos and data on Canal Brook flooding conditions in their respective towns.
- FY 2024 Budget – Members reviewed the proposed FY 2024 Budget package and the request for a \$2,400 Reserve Fund Transfer to fund additional new buoys for this boating season. **Mike Coombs made a motion to accept the budget and Paul Murphy seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
- Members discussed continuing having the Chair sign bills and payroll and the Vice-Chair do so if he Chair unavailable. **Malcom made a motion to accept and Scotty seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
- PBJ Marina – Select Board member Jason Perron set up a meeting with Con Com, LMC, Planner, Health Agent the new owner, Frank Grillo and his contractor regarding removal of the two beaver lodges by their docks. The owner also wants to move docks away from the tunnel to provide better line-of-sight. He was advised of the process that included Con Com and DEP for the various aspects. Frank noted that he will be requiring stickers to park in the Tri-PBJ parking lot.
- Channel 15 – Eric is going with Russ Fox to talk about LPP, E. coli and what goes on with monitoring water quality in Congamond's three ponds.
- LMC would like to thank You to John Blakeley and his friends for clearing debris from the weir gates
- **Norm Cheever made a motion to adjourn. Eric Mueller seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 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)