



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

454 COLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

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

Minutes of meeting held May 28, 2020, 7:00 P.M. via online Zoom videocall, 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	No	X	
Ken Phillips	Associate	No		X
Rick Wylot	Associate	Yes		X

Guest(s): Michelle Pratt, Jerry Patria

1. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.
2. Members reviewed the minutes from 05/14/2020. There needed to be a few changes, including adding a few words to #7 to fix an error, and to #6, which stated that CT boats could not be in the water, but they can be. The CT vehicles are not allowed in MA per Governor Baker's COVID requirements. **A motion was made by Mike D. to accept the minutes as corrected, and Deb seconded. The vote was unanimous.**
3. Launch Fee
The fee to launch a vessel into Congamond has gone up to \$8. The issue was raised about whether kayaks and canoes should cost less than motorboats, but the Office of Fishing & Boating Access (OFBA) and the Select Board approved the \$8 per boat launch fee being the same for all vessels. Doug Cameron, OFBA Acting Director, told LMC members that the fee at all but one ramp in the Commonwealth is the same for all vessels. Mike D suggested letting Jess Bishop, a concerned guest from LMC's previous meeting, know about the decision, as she is an avid kayaker at Congamond. Deb H mentioned that on social media, residents understand why the cost has risen once it is explained that the money collected at the ramps, stays at the ramps to pay for the costs to maintain the facilities.
4. 9 Beach Road Dock (Jenkins)
Currently at a halt. Con Com and Park and Rec have told Mr. Jenkins that he may not put a dock into the water until the legal issues are addressed.
5. Lake level:
The current lake level is 224.3' MSL (nominal).

6. LPP Dock grids

As part of the LPP Application, property owners must draw out their docks to scale on a grid. Con Com suggested a 10' x 10' grid, but Eric mentioned making it in 4-foot increments, as most dock sections are 4' wide by 8, 10, 16 or 32 feet long. That will be easier and more accurate for property owners to put their docks to scale on paper. Jerry Patria mentioned that he will bring this up at the next Con Com meeting. The extended property lines must also be shown and Eric mentioned that many of the docks in South Pond are on the property lines. People are also putting their docks in the water without stickers, which needs to be addressed. The stickers not only indicate proper permitting, but also provide important location information for emergency response. LMC members suggested that Con Com should not give dock stickers out to people with questionable docks.

7. Dock installation at North Ramp

The docks were recently placed in the water with the help of Deb, Mike D, Mike C, Malcolm, Norm, Paul, Dick and two men from the DPW. Thank you for your assistance!

8. LMC Mission Statement/Charter

LMC received a copy of the Charter as modified to a Mission Statement by the Select Board. In essence, the Select Board's revision indicates that the LMC must go through the Select Board before contacting any agency in town. Members emphasized the need for rapid communications to any department regarding observed issues to help prevent an issue from becoming a disaster. Sometimes, minutes count! Dick was asked to input the Select Board on their intended meaning of the words "...refrain from interceding into those jurisdictions without the express approval by the Select Board or its designee."

9. 159 Berkshire Avenue

There still appears to be a blatant disregard by the owner of 159 Berkshire Avenue to the Cease and Desist order issued back in early December by the Building Inspector. Reportedly, the Building Inspector does not want to continue with any other enforcement at the property until Covid-19 passes. Michelle Pratt, a guest, as well as President of the CRC, wants to bring this attention to the state level, as this operation at 159 Berkshire Avenue can severely impact Congamond water quality.

10. Buoys

There is an unpermitted buoy in South Pond that the woman whose property aligns with the buoy, stated that it appeared to have been moved during the alum treatment. A couple of members who are South Pond residents offered to take another look at it.

11. North Pond

There has been a lot of cleanup of the new Town open land on North Pond by volunteers. Transfer Station personnel, even though not fully staffed, took all the materials that were cleaned up around the pond. All who were involved did a fantastic job, including several DPW men, and John Whalley, who offered 2 mules to assist in the clean-up. Michelle Pratt stated that everyone did a tremendous effort.

12. Con Com Update

Norm gave members an update on the last Con Com meeting. He mentioned that the Canal Brook Maintenance Order of Conditions and the DPW Generic Order of Conditions were extended for 3 years by Con Com.

13. Concerned Boaters

Deb stated that she has spoken with concerned boaters that go through the interlake culverts to

get from Middle Pond to North and South Ponds. Several have stated to Deb that they have “taken out” their bimini tops on the ceilings of the interlake culverts and have requested warning signs at the entrances. Deb suggested putting signs up on both sides at both underpasses to warn boaters. Dick will check into cost of such signs and potential funding sources.

14. Westfield News

The Southwick Police Log in the Westfield News made note of 4 boating violations cited on Congamond. Members noted that it is good news that there is patrol on the lake and violators are being cited.

15. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eric and Deb seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Annalia Hanson - Secretary

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

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