



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

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

Minutes of meeting held on May 11, 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, Doug Moglin, Lt. Rhett Bannish, Laurie Halsie, Martin Andruss, Carol Ann Gauthier

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting 4/27/23. Norm Cheever had a few changes to the minutes as written. **Mike DeBay made a motion to accept the minutes with changes and Deb Herath seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**
- Public Comment – Carol Ann Gauthier said that Tony Casale mows and weed whacks South Ramp and is noticing that there are lots of cigarette butts on the ramp and in the water at the shoreline which are not biodegradable. Karen noted that there are lots of cigarette butts and empty nips left at both ramps.
- Con Com Update – A request was made and subsequently withdrawn without prejudice by the 141 Congamond Road owner to not remove the docks annually by December 1. Congamond Heights Association (CHA) complained about docks at 10- 12 Island Pond Road that continue to move closer and even onto CHA beach land. CHA president, Carol Ann Gauthier also noted that there was a new unpermitted sea wall and that the survey of CHA land indicates that the 10 – 12 fence and shed are on CHA land.
- Master Plan - Norm Cheever reviewed responses to questions 26 - 30.
 - a. Question #26 asked "Do you use public drinking water?" 605 of the responses said yes (67.5%) and 201 responses said no (32.5%).
 - b. Question #27 asked "If you answered Yes to Question #26, is the quality of the town public drinking water acceptable?" 442 or 74% responses said yes and 155 or 26% said no.
 - c. Question #28 asked: "If you answered No to Question 26, would you use public drinking water if it was available to your home?" 112 responses said yes (39.7 %) and 170 responses said no (60.4%).

- d. Question #29 asked “Are you connected to the town sewer system?” 246 or 23.6% said yes and 678 or 76.4 % said no.
 - e. Question #30 asked “If you answered no to Question #29, would you be interested in sewer expansion to your street?” 314 said yes (47.2%) and 352 said no (52.9%).
 - f. On June 1 the MPAC will be holding a public forum to discuss the topic “Did we hear you” This will be a learning session to see if the current master plan goals, themes, and direction make sense to the public. It should help answer the question “Has the MPAC missed anything?”
- 141 Congamond Road – The Town filed the Chapter 91 Draft License Appeal on time.
 - 159 Berkshire Ave – The consultant met with the Planning Board at their last meeting and will provide an update at their next meeting.
 - A North Pond resident had complained about the lake level being higher than the 2021 hurricane. Dick noted that the level at the time of the hurricane had risen to 225.67’ MSL (1 foot higher than current level) and the lake was closed to all boating activity. The lake level was 224.67’ MSL on 4/26/23 (date of the complaint) which is only 3” above nominal (224.4’ MSL).
 - Bacteria Issues – Last year’s high E. coli numbers appear to have been attributable to goose feces coupled with high water temperatures and low water level due to the extended heat wave and drought.
 - Turtles Crossing at Berkshire Ave Weir Gates – Dick explained that the stainless steel weir gates replaced the wooden batter that have been in place for nearly 20 years to prevent the backflow of Great Brook swamp water into Congamond as the brook runs between 6” and 24” or more above Congamond. Dick explained that NRCS has a consultant evaluating options to address backflow of the clogged Great Brook and Canal Brook into Congamond.
 - Invasives Treatment – Solitude is scheduled to treat Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed on Tuesday 5/23/2023. Warning signs need to go up on next Friday or Saturday. Paul Murphy is doing zone 1, Michelle Pratt zone 2, Norm Cheever zone 3, Mike Coombs zone 4 and the DeBays zones 5 & 6.
 - CRC update – Milfoil has been reported in the South Pond Connecticut Cove. Dick noted that Solitude just completed their invasives assessment of Congamond and plans to have the treatment map plotted next week. CRC wanted to thank Eric Mueller for his annual excellent water quality presentation.
 - Ricky’s Porta Pottys – Owner Rick Guyott is retiring and has merged with Regional Restrooms. So far, the transition is going smoothly.
 - It was reported that a Tri-PBJ PBJ Porta-potty and cooking grills are too close to the lake. Members asked if there was any update on the removal of beaver huts there. Dick noted that he has not seen any RDA or NOI for such work.
 - Emergency Services House Number Signs – Dick noted the availability of the green signs through the Senior Center.
 - **Norm Cheever made a motion to adjourn and Mike DeBay seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Shute - Secretary

cc (15): Ag Com, BOH, N. Cignoni, Con Com, DPW, Fin Com, Historical Com, J. Middleton (email to post), Park & Rec, Planning Board, SPD Chief/Harbormaster, K. Scott, Select Board, K. Stinehart, Town Clerk, File