



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 August 10, 2023 7:00 P.M. via Hybrid Zoom Meeting 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): Jerry Patria, Paul Yocum

- The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm
- Members reviewed the minutes from the last meeting that was on June 8, 2023. **Mike Coombs made a motion to accept the minutes. Paul Murphy seconded the motion and all were in favor.**
- Public Comments – Karen Shute made a comment that from the Town Beach, she observes people at Four Dads Pub (not open for business) located at 141 Congamond Road swimming off the docks into the navigation channel and using the docks to change riders on Jet Skis. She and other members expressed concerns that this is an accident waiting to happen. That would be an issue for the facility owner and the Harbormaster.
- Con Com Update – Norm updated the committee on several Conservation Commission updates: a patio within 100 feet of lake was approved at 15 North Pond Rd; a replacement sea wall was approved at 21 White St; a replacement retention wall was approved at 20 Evergreen St; and the dock issue at 10/12 Island Pond Rd was resolved as both parties agreed upon a compromise.
- Master Plan – According to Norm, the Master Plan Advisory Committee has the draft of the 8 chapters of the plan completed. The final product will be completed and presented back to the Planning Board at their 2nd meeting in September.
- Norm Cheever was nominated to continue on representing the LMC on MPAC. **Mike Coombs made a motion and Deb Herath seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**
- Park & Rec approached Norm about quads & dirt bikes riding over the Canal Brook weir gates culverts and onto the Rail Trail. Dick suggested placing bollards on the eastern side of the weir gates twin culverts. Dick will contact DPW and Crestview about installation of bollards or other possible solutions.

- NRCS - Deron Davis Town Work Session – Dick noted that the Town completed the necessary forms for Great brook & Canal Brook funding for the next phase project and NRCS got the go-ahead to continue on the next phase which will be a “boots-on-the-ground” assessment.
- Tom Hibert and LMC are looking for labs that do DNA testing of lake water in order to determine if the high e.Coli is being caused by human, animal and/or fowl.
- Mike Coombs noted that PWCs are towing floats and operating after dark. Scotty wants to know what happened with the giving tickets to violators (see Police Logs). It was also noted that Coast Guard regulations require those in canoes, kayaks and paddleboards are required to have the appropriate PFDs on board and to wear them from September 15 thru May 15. Members expressed concern about the increase in dangerous and unlawful actions by an apparent increase in number of boaters. Members want to continue lobbying Massachusetts legislators to adopt a mandatory Boating License requirement for operating any power craft as is the case with all but a handful of states in the US.
- Dick had received an email from Duane Stagg regarding Eurasian Watermilfoil that he observed in the Connecticut Cove and Turtle Pond. Per our DEP permit, it is too late to do another treatment. Ken Wagner noted that this resurgence of milfoil has been a problem in lakes all over and appears to be attributed to the weather conditions the past few months.
- Norm said there was a Southwick & Suffield Town Officials meeting regarding LPP but he hasn’t heard anything more about it. Quantities of docks without stickers was noted.
- Scotty noted that he and Malcolm DeBay had pulled out a lot of rocks from under the old railroad culvert and that there are still many in place that block the flow of water under same.
- CRC Update- CRC is willing to pay for the removal of the tree in North Pond.
- Members discussed the 2023 Boat Census and the shift from “power boats” to the much larger and less maneuverable pontoon boats.
- Members again discussed the need for the Commonwealth to require a license to operate a motorized vessel in Massachusetts, like some 38 other states, including bordering Connecticut.
- Dick was nominated to remain as Chair of LMC, and Eric as Vice-Chair. **Mike Coombs made a motion and Deb Herath seconded the motion. All voted in favor.** Following a short discussion on signatures for LMC, **a motion was made by Mike Coombs that Dick or Eric can sign. Paul Murphy seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
- **Deb Herath made a motion to adjourn and Mike Coombs seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**
The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Shute - Secretary

cc (15): Ag Com, BOH, N. Cignoni, 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)