



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 August 24, 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, C Clark, Michelle Pratt

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
- Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting August 10, 2023 Mike Coombs made a motion to accept the minutes, Deb Herath second the motion, all in favor. Mike DeBay abstained.
- Public Comments – No public comment
- Con Com Update (Norm Cheever) – No meeting due to lack of quorum
- Master Plan Subcommittee Update (Norm Cheever) – No meeting since last update
- CRC Update (Michelle Pratt) – 3 flashing white lights were installed on buoys at the sandbar channel on Middle Pond. CRC is funding 9 flashing buoy lights for the sandbar channel (3 red, 3 green & 3 white), along with remote controls. A big thank you to Mark Colbert for fabricating the buoy light adapters and to CRC for funding the lights and materials for these navigation lights. On September 12 Southwick Police Dept. & Southwick Fire Dept. will be offering CPR AED Training at Town Hall. You can sign up at CRC website www.congamond.org. September 23 is the benefit golf tournament at Edgewood followed by dinner at the Brass Rail. Sign-up at www.congamond.org. CRC elections are in October.
- 151 Berkshire Ave Erosion Site – The Planning Board continued their agenda item on this subject.
- Lake safety – Members commented on swimming, jet skis and partying off of the new private docks located at 141 Congamond Road which has not yet opened. Dick was asked to contact the owner of 141 in case he wasn't aware of this activity. Members are concerned that activity could pose a liability issue for the owner(s) of said property. Members also commented on the number of boats speeding

and towing tubers/skiers close to shore, nighttime speeding of power boats and operation of PWCs in the dark, PWCs towing tubes, speeding through the navigation channels, PWCs operating too close to kayaks and canoes, power boats/pontoons with little children not wearing PFDs, passengers forward of railings while in motion, paddleboard, canoe and kayak operator without required PFDs on board, etc.

- As voted on unanimously at the last LMC meeting, Dick emailed local legislators Mass Environmental Police and Fish & Game, about Massachusetts adopting legislation similar to 40+ other states that already require a License to operate any powered vessel. Members also noted the lack of Boater Safety Training classes since COVID.
- Scotty Graves & Mike Coombs did not get reappointed for Canal Subcommittee during a recent Select Board meeting. Dick Grannells will speak with Doug Moglin about the Canal Subcommittee as it would need to meet regularly if NRCS gives a green light to dredging the Canal and/or Great Brook.
- During the Town meeting with NRCS, Town members in attendance emphasized that the Town doesn't want to just focus on the hundred-year flood as there have been several rain events in the past two decades that have resulted in conditions where Congamond had to be shut down to all motorized boating. .
- Mike Coombs said about LPP stickers lacking for both MA and CT waterfront docks, floats and boats moored on Congamond. Norm Cheever said that he will look into LPP stickers and who is responsible for enforcing LPP stickers.
- Jet Ski Safety – Ken noted seeing PWC operators driving them with animals on board, pulling tubes and going way too fast. Apparently, Sheriffs on patrol were asked by a pet owner to try to locate such a lost dog that was on a PWC.
- Boat Census – The annual boat census again confirms that there are too many boats on Congamond vs. the 8 – 10 acres per boat that many federal state and private safe boating studies recommend. Members also noted the increasing size of engines, especially on pontoon boats where maneuvering is more difficult.
- **Mike DeBay made a motion to adjourn. Norm Cheever seconded the motion and all were in favor.** The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Shute - Secretary

cc (16): 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)