



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 November 9, 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): None

Lake Management Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

1. Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting October 26, 2023. A **motion was made by Mike DeBay to accept the minutes as written. Mike Coombs seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
2. Public Comments – No public comment
3. Con Com Update (Norm) – 81 Point Grove Rd. was on the agenda and was continued with no discussion. 16 Berkshire Ave owners built a gazebo at the waterfront. They apologized to Con Com. Con Com wants the name of the contractor who did the work. There is the potential for a violation at 142 Berkshire Ave for reconstruction of a fence within the buffer zone. Con Com members expressed some concern about other activity behind that fence but they should get approval for the fence. Con Com approved the Variance for non-removal of the dock at 4010 Mountain Road. They discussed 141 Congamond Road request to revise the Order of Conditions SC#7 that required the removal of the docks. The vote was 5 to 1 in favor of leaving the docks in the water over the winter. A recommendation was made to require an annual review of the conditions because of the ice damage potential. Town counsel approval that. The other discussion was about the chapter 91 license what the owner can do and what the owner wants to change. Eric said that the chapter 91 license allows him to leave up to 1,999 square feet of dock in the water and what is in the order of conditions is correct. The owner claims that the docks can only be removed by a crane, and they would have to come over the building. The Turtle Cove docks are on Crestview property and they didn't know anything about the docks. Crestview finally determined who put them in and had them removed. Crestview sold the property and the new owner has no interest in having an Association dock off his land.
4. Master Plan Update (Norm) – Nothing new to report.

5. CRC Update – The annual Christmas party is 12/9 at the Brass Rail from 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM. Tickets are available from Sharon Jones.
6. You all have a copy from Solitudes annual lake report, including the results of the treatment and what they plan to do next year. Solitude will also be mapping the Hydrilla. LMC will need to seek additional funding because the Hydrilla appears later than the Eurasian Watermilfoil or Curly Leaf pondweed and therefore treatment will have to be done at different times.
7. The next discussion was about the reported “strange looking thing” in South Pond. That was Solitude’s hydrorake that was used to remove the Canal Brook beaver dam which turned out to be three dams. The other two dams were found by Solitude just below water level. Solitude removed all 3 at a cost of \$4,670. CRC will be willing to help with the cost of dam removal.
8. The owner of the permanent dock at 4010 Mountain Road requested a Variance to leave it in the water. The requested Variance was approved by the Con Com. Following a short discussion, **Mike Coombs made a motion to approve the Variance. Norm seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
9. Meetings will be held second Thursday of the month November – April. Not knowing what the weather conditions will be during the winter months, Dick made the suggestion that those meetings be done by Zoom only. **Mike Coombs made a motion to do so, Norm seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**
10. Everyone needs to do ethics training.
11. All are welcome to join the Town’s Holiday Party December 15th starting at 4:30pm in the auditorium.
12. Doug Cameron, Fishing & Boating Access Director, is retiring at the end of June. Dick is working with him to put the new building in South Ramp and Doug is amenable to help funding a building that would be a smaller version of the Visitor Center that was built at North Ramp some years ago.
13. Update on the SPD Boat House – Still working on it. Doug Cameron suggested that the building be expanded to 20’ wide to allow work on the SPD boat when it is in the building. OFBA will provide the necessary license to allow construction of the SPD Boathouse on State land. There would also be a fenced area where the buoys can be stored. SPD is seeking grant funds for the project.
14. **Norm made a motion to adjourn. Deb seconded the motion and all were in favor.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Shute - Secretary

cc (16): Ag Com, N, Cignoni, 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)