



Town of Southwick

Lake Management Committee

454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

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

Minutes of meeting held August 13, 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): Doug Moglin

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Members reviewed the minutes from of 7/23/2020. A change wanted to be made to #8- after The LMC maintains a strong working relationship, insert "and respectful" between "strong" and "relationship" as mentioned in the previous meeting. **A motion was made by Mike D. to accept the minutes with the change, and Mike C seconded. The vote was unanimous.**
3. Lake level
224.25 ft MSL
4. 159 Berkshire Avenue
It was reported that the owner has a consultant working on the stormwater permit. LMC is still concerned about removal of the unpermitted dam and restoration of vegetation in the streambed.
5. 23 Veteran Street
The resident at this property has put in a request for a dock. The requested location is part of the road ROW that ends at the waterfront. Con Com will deny the request due to being in the ROW.
6. Boat Census
There has been a 12% increase of "resident" boats on Congamond this year. Members commented about the increase in boating that seems to correlate to the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions.
7. Buoys and Safe Boating on Congamond
Dick reported that the damage to buoys and moorings this year has been "phenomenal." Boaters are literally destroying buoys continuously this year. Rick Wylot has been continuously replacing and repairing buoys, and SPD has been doing repairs as well. The requested FY2021 budget for buoys was reduced to zero this year, which is more than problematic, considering the uptick in

damage. Mike C. suggested asking if LPP funds could be used for buoys. There are no lights on the buoys (residents have ask on social media why there aren't any) because unfortunately the very costly lights (~\$500 per light assembly) were deliberately destroyed in the past. The speed limit is 10 mph MAXIMUM overnight and all buoys have wide reflective bands, so there *should not* be issues with hitting them at night. Besides, much of the damage has occurred in broad daylight. The Environmental Police did a presentation on boating rules for Southwick and area police who may be patrolling Congamond. Dick and Eric also presented boating safety segments during the training session. Dick learned from one of the participants that police can have enforceable "Policies" that relate to boating and navigation safety. This might be a means of addressing the South Pond issue where the large number of boats and floats being moored in the southern end is resulting in dangerous navigation conditions. It was also suggested by one of the session participants that the Con Com's Annual LPP Permit Renewal require that the renewal applicant sign for receiving (and reading) the boating rules. This would serve as proof so police could issue tickets directly as opposed to warnings for claims that "I didn't know." Paddleboards are now considered a vessel and users must now have a proper PFD (Personal Floatation Device) on board and wear on September 15 through May 15. Also, any boat that has a motor of any kind must be registered. If it's just paddled by oars, paddles or feet, it does not need to be registered.

8. Old Town Beach

No fires, no swimming and no wading will be strongly enforced per Chief Bishop who visited the site to be absolutely sure that it is properly posted. Chief Bishop recommended to Park & Rec that signs be added at the Berkshire Avenue gate, so that all are aware of what is prohibited before entering from the street or water.

9. 14 Berkshire Avenue

There was a dock request at this location. Dick requested the purpose of these docks as it does not appear that they will be able to remove them by December 1 annually as required by LPP. Otherwise the docks will need a chapter 91 license.

10. 34 Grove Street

The homeowner wants to add a deck out over the water, which requires several licenses. This appears to be in the flood zone as well. Con Com is most likely going to deny this request as it cannot be covered by the LPP and no specific plans or permits were attached.

11. Increased Police Presence on Congamond

Westfield News Police Logs show lots of "stops" on Congamond and members have seen a marked increase in lake patrols, which is great news due to the expressed safety concerns by lake residents.

12. Con Com update

The Boat Lift Survey was sent out by Con Com which has also taking action on missing LPP stickers.

13. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike D and Malcom seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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)