



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 28, 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		
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): Mike Smith, John Velis, Doug Moglin

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Members reviewed the minutes from of 8/13/2020. **A motion was made by Mike D. to accept the minutes, and Scotty seconded. The vote was unanimous.**
3. Lake level
224.16
4. 14 Berkshire Avenue
Mike, owner of 14 Berkshire Avenue has sent in a proposed plan for a permanent dock structure. Mike has a retaining wall in front of his patio, and a very narrow section of water in front of his property. Mike used to have a wooden dock that extended throughout of the width of the property. Mike also explained that a patio would look more aesthetic, as well as allowing himself and guests to use the area recreationally. He would be using aluminum docks, as well as a removable structure in the winter. He will need a variance and have his neighbors sign off, as he will be within 25 feet of them. Mike strongly believes his neighbors will sign off on this. **Eric made a motion to approve this by LMC and to send this over to ConCom, Mike D. Seconded. The vote was unanimous.**
5. Public Comment
Mike wanted to thank LMC members for fixing the lighting issue at the South Ramp from a few years back. He also wanted to mention that the rules state 150 ft headway speed, but South Ramp signs mention it is a 300 foot headway. Dick will verify and change accordingly. Jet Skiers are racing past Mike's home, which has become an annoyance for not only him, and Dick wanted to stress calling the police anytime they see something. Chief Bishop wants the same. John Velis joined in

and stressed how much he wants to help with everything involving the lake. John and Eric M plan to set up a time to talk more about/explore the lake so that he can be more involved. John has a genuine care for the lake and safety of the lake.

6. 34 Grove street

The incline is greater than 5%. The issue is that there is going to be a permanent structure over the lake. ConCom told him that he needs a consultant to make a design due to several factors. Mike D mentioned that regardless, he wants LMC to be able to weigh in on this topic. There is also a square footage issue here, also. LMC will make a recommendation back that he should pull the deck back and have a seasonal dock for the boats. Also, that there should be no permanent structure overhanging the lake. **A motion was made by Mike D to give feedback to ConCom to have him come back with a design that will work, as well as be in compliance with LPP. Paul seconded. The vote was unanimous.**

7. Buoys and safety on Congamond

The traffic has been very heavy most days because most people are home due to Covid-19. There has been an increase in patrols at scattered times. The police have inherited a boat from Westfield, which is equipped with the lighting and electronic equipment. The reason that there are no lights on buoys is because they are so expensive and people were smashing them. It is not practical to have them due to the negligence of boaters. LMC members want to suggest finding a way to get lighting on the buoys that will be impossible to break. The placement of buoys have been an issue, also, especially when the cables are cut and then are replaced in a new location. Members suggest trying to get donations or getting a buoy that can survive any conditions, both of which are expensive. Dick is going to look into the pricing of ocean-style buoys. Eric suggested asking the Coast Guard for the buoys. The issue would be what will happen to them in the winter. If permanent, they will need lights due to snowmobilers.

8. Old town beach

At the Chief's request, Dick placed this sign so that people could see the sign before trespassers get down there. The sign says no swimming, no wading, no picnicking, no fires.

9. Boating laws and requirements

Massachusetts is along the minority in the states as far as needing any boating licenses and boating safety. Nick Boldyga personally wanted to bring up an incident he saw on the lake and he plans to convey this issue to the chief. The insanity, especially on the weekends, is outrageous. Dick wants to see Massachusetts adopt a boating safety course. LMC members do not want this to be expensive, but necessary to insist safe boating.

10. Mission Statement

The updated mission statement was sent to Dick via E-mail. The change was sent to the select board and the Select Board came back without the word 'respectful'. **A motion made by Mike D to accept the mission statement with the word 'respectful' in it, Eric seconded. The vote was unanimous.**

Police logs pr

11. Float-In Concert

It appears that they may need to be 2 permits from State agencies. Dick will help with this.

12. Con com update

DPW's vegetation plan will take months to be implemented and LMC will discuss in future as more is known. Jean updated the LPP collections to date. Saunders Marina has submitted funds for 72

boat stickers, but the survey indicates that there are over 100 boats. Norm will check with Kurt about this.

13. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scotty and deb seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Annalia Hanson - Secretary

Cc (13): Ag Com, BOH, Con Com, DPW, Fin Com, Historical Com, J. Middleton, Park & Rec, Planning Board, SPD Chief/Harbormaster, K. Stinehart, Town Clerk, File (1)

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