

6:05 pm Appt.

11 Depot Street  
Southwick, MA 01077-9501



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Robert D. Landis  
Southwick Police Chief

Date February 9, 2022

To: Town of Southwick Board of Selectman  
From: Chief of Police/Harbormaster Robert Landis  
Subject: Lake Closure Protocol

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to advise the board as Police Chief, and Harbormaster, I concur with the recommendation provided by the Lake Management Committee dated February 9, 2022, regarding the change in the Lake Closure protocol.

From an enforcement perspective enforcing a "NO WAKE" condition 24/7, would be unachievable with current staffing levels and would inundate the Emergency Telecommunications Center with calls to report violations. Having no motorized vessels on the water during this period would eliminate most if not all violations while under this condition.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Chief of Police/Harbormaster

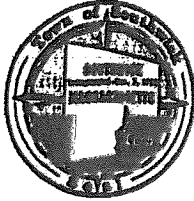
Robert Landis

*1st reading*

*Tabled to  
2/24/22*

*2nd Reading  
Accepted*

*2/24/22*



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# Town of Southwick

## Lake Management Committee

454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

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

February 9, 2022

Select Board

**Subject: Lake Closure Protocol**

Over the past several months LMC members have been discussing the need for an update to the 2013 Lake Closure Protocol at several meetings and the need for update became even urgent the 10-day lake closure resulting from Tropical Storm Ida's 6.5" rainfall in the area. Members discussed eliminating the "NO WAKE" condition of the existing 2013 Lake Closure Protocol as the NO WAKE condition is too subjective and difficult to enforce 24/7.

Existing Lake Closure Protocol (as approved by Select Board in 2003)

- NO WAKE if lake level rising and above 225.2' MSL (0.9' above Berkshire Ave sill)
- NO BOATING if lake level rising and above 225.4' MSL (1.1' above Berkshire Ave sill)
- NO BOATING if lake level falling and at or above 225.0' MSL (0.7' above Berkshire Ave sill)
- NO WAKE if lake level falling and still above 224.8' MSL (0.5' above Berkshire Ave sill)
- NOMINAL LAKE LEVEL: 224.4' +/- 0.1' MSL (224.3' to 224.5' MSL)

The Proposed Lake Closure Protocol (below) was recommended by LMC at our 12/9/21 meeting and subsequently reviewed and approved by stakeholders SEMA Director Charlie Dunlap, SPD Chief – Harbormaster Robert Landis, Office of Fishing & Boating Access Director Doug Cameron, Mass Environmental Police Colonel Shaun Santos – Director and Conservation Commission by vote at their 2/7/22 meeting. Pending that approval from the Conservation Commission, LMC members vote was unanimous at our 1/19/22 to recommend that the updated Lake Closure Protocol be sent to the Select Board for their final approval. The NO WAKE condition in the existing 2013 Lake Closure Protocol was eliminated with the trigger numbers adjusted accordingly due to difficulty in being able to enforce NO WAKE 24/7 and was changed to the following:

- NO MOTORIZED BOATING if lake level is rising and above 225.2' MSL (0.9' above Berkshire Ave sill)
- NO MOTORIZED BOATING if lake level is falling and still at or above 224.8' MSL (0.5' above Berkshire Ave sill)
- During lake closures for these high water conditions, State Boat Ramps and Marinas will be closed for any launching of motorized boats. The launching of non-motorized boats is allowed.
- NOMINAL LAKE LEVEL: 224.4' +/- 0.1' MSL (224.3' to 224.5' MSL)

The LMC is accordingly seeking Select Board concurrence on this proposed updated Lake Closure Protocol.

Richard Grannells – Chair

RG/rg

Cc: E. Mueller  
K. Stinehart

LMC2022 Lake Closure Protocol\_1a

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