

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON**  
**SELECTBOARD'S MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 2016**

**7:00 P.M. – SPECIAL SESSION**

**FIRE STATION, 37 STATE RD.**

**ORDER OF AGENDA**

**PRESENT:** DANIEL BAILLY  
STEPHEN BANNON  
BILL COOKE  
SEAN STANTON  
ED ABRAHAMS - Absent

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

**7:00 PM – OPEN MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**2. PRESENTATION OF LAKE MANSFIELD COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO SELECT BOARD.**

Town Manager Jennifer Tabakin opened the public meeting with a brief overview of the project. The project began in 2015 when a design team was hired to gather public opinion on what the Lake Mansfield project should entail. This presentation is a result of the consensus of Great Barrington's interests and opinions. Our goals of the meeting are to convey the concepts, and to get the public up to speed and aware of the processes going into the project. We are not voting on anything tonight we are just here to present the official report.

The Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force Chair, Christine Ward, spoke on behalf of the Task Force. The Task Force has been meeting monthly on this project for the last 6 months, working very closely with the planning consultants and community.

Kyle Zick, a landscape architect, presented the Lake Mansfield Improvement Plan. The goals for the future of the Lake Mansfield Project are: to improve the recreation area, and improve water quality for the betterment of lake health, surrounding habitat, and a safer swimming environment for all users.

Our recommendation for the plan is to turn the road into a one-lane traffic flow. The proposed one way road will be 12ft wide with left over room for pedestrians and cyclists, making the access to the lake much safer. Our recommendation is based on a variety of feedback and our attempt to keep the mentioned goals in mind.

It is a high priority to address the storm water flow, especially the run off that occurs in the boat launch and parking lot.

Building these plans is dependent on funding so no action has been taken to begin these projects.

### **3. COMMENTS & QUESTIONS**

A number of citizens that attended the meeting spoke in favor of keeping the Lake Mansfield Road a two way road. Many expressed that it will add a significant amount of time onto daily commutes to work, to attend social gatherings on the other side of the lake, and to get to the northern part of town if you live on the northern end of the lake. A number of others spoke in favor of the one way plan. There was a general agreement among community members that the health of the lake is immensely important and if the one lane traffic flow is better for the overall health and quality of this integral part of Great Barrington; sacrificing convenience is something we should be willing to do.

Chris Rembold spoke on the reason for decision of having the flow of traffic go from North to South. He explained that the overall majority preferred the North to South flow, but what really made the decision was that it seemed more accessible to get emergency vehicles to the beach or to the south end of the lake if the flow was from the North.

#### **Select Board Comments:**

Bill Cooke stated that he is in favor of the plan.

Dan Bailly inquired about the cost analysis done on the option of keeping the road a two way traffic flow. The cost analysis is located in the appendix of the report. Dan B. also inquired about the plan to deal with parking overflow, 28 extra spaces will be added to the parking area.

Ed Abrahams could not attend the meeting but sent an email. He wanted to convey to the Town that while a one way traffic flow was not his first choice for the Lake Mansfield plan, he understands why this recommendation has been made. He saw firsthand that no suggestion was ignored and all opinions were taken into consideration.

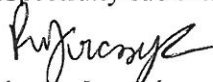
### **4. POSSIBLE VOTE BY SELECTBOARD ON COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT PLAN:**

No vote was made.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Sean Stanton, seconded by Dan Bailly, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

 2/26/16.  
Rebecca Jurczyk  
Recording Secretary