

Approved on 2/10
Christine Ward

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force Meeting Minutes:

Monday January 13, 2014

PRESENT: C. Ward (chair), D. Abrams, J. Dezeick, N. Evans, B. Nelson, K. Plungis, C Rembold (ex officio), J. Sokul

NEXT MEETING: 2/10/14, 8:30 AM, Town Hall

Upcoming Events: 4/27/14 Lake Day

1. MINUTES OF 12/09/14: Approved as written

2. UPDATES:

- a) 2013 report on summer Lake Mansfield activities (attachment 1)
- b) Discussion of the task force supporting the installation of a changing area adjacent to the portalets, Dale provided sketch for consideration of a simple roofless fence structure to be attached to the existing portalet structure. A cost estimate is needed to help inform discussion with the parks commission. LMA would consider helping meet construction costs and providing volunteer labor for installation.
- c) Planning for 2014 LMA newsletter:

2/24: deadline for writing

4/2: mail to recipients

d) Topics for inclusion in newsletter: (authors)

- Beach improvements including new swings and porta-potty enclosure
 - Students in Town Forest (Christine Ward / Collin Adkins)
 - Water Quality Improvements Accomplished 319 Grant/ Student lake Study (Chris Rembold)
 - Invasives: boat cleaning protocols (C. Ward)
 - phragmites control & warnings about wild parsnip toxicity (Jessica Dezeick)
 - Planning for Road Improvements (Brandee Nelson w/ Joe Sokul)
 - Other: Greeting, Events, Nature notes, Summer Yoga, Lake Day 2014 (Christine & Others)
- e) Engineering for Lake Mansfield Road: applied for inclusion for permitting process in fiscal 2015, for actual work in fiscal '17, '18, '19. Jessica Dezeick spoke to importance of specifying improvements to the resource area for ConCom permitting.
- f) Considering and planning a phased approach to remediation/improvements of and in Lake Mansfield Recreation Area to be deferred to next meeting.

N. Evans, Recoding Secretary

2013 Summer Parks Management Report

After another very successful summer Berkshire South Regional Community Center is proud to present our end of the year report for the Great Barrington Parks. We had a great turn out this year for users at all of our parks and were able to see a lot of great improvements occur at all the parks.

Lake Mansfield Report

Information Provided by Reed Licki, Waterfront Coordinator

Hours of Operation: 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Dates: Weekends May 25th - June 16th and August 31, September 1, 2.

Seven days per week June 20th - August 30th

Two lifeguards on duty

Total Park Visits: 15,865

Lake Mansfield Swim Lessons

3 half hour lessons running twice each week for 2 sessions running 3 weeks each (12 days total)

Hours of Operation: 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Dates: July 9-August 15

Two Instructors plus one lifeguard

Total slots used: 54

Overview

2013 was a very successful summer for us at Lake Mansfield. We had many warm days this summer that allowed for large numbers of users to come and enjoy all the amenities that the lake has to offer. The new wall around the port-o-johns this year made many of the lake users very happy. The park stayed nice and clean this year through regular cleaning by the staff, and the town did a great job of regularly stopping by to empty out the trash cans. We had many users come to the lake to build sand castles, learn to swim, catch fish, cook out, and in general use the park to have a great time.

Patron Usage & Statistics

- Average daily number of patrons per hour 41
- Average number of patrons per day 273
- Average number of cars in the lot per hour 17
- Busiest time of the day 2:00pm
- Slowest time of the day 11:30am
- Busiest day of the week Saturday
- Slowest day of the week Tuesday
- Busiest day of the summer July 6th
- Slowest day of the summer July 8th (Rainy Day)

Incidents

This year at the lake we did not have many incidents at all. There were several skinned knees, a nose bleed, a few bumps and cuts but in general no injuries. The only real incidents that we had at the lake were related to two different men on two separate occasions taking pictures of children. In both incidents the police were immediately called, they came and dealt with the people who were taking the photos, as well as collected statements from everyone involved. Due to the observation of the staff at the lake we were able to catch both of these activities as they occurred, rather than after these two individuals had left the park, making it easier for the police to investigate and follow up. Other than that it was a very safe and incident free summer at the park.

Management Report

This summer went very smoothly for us at Lake Mansfield and we were able to provide a great service to the community. It is great for us to be able to provide a safe and enjoyable location like the Lake for members of our community to come and use. The Lake Mansfield area is a great draw for many recreational activities including fishing, sunbathing, boating, swimming, running, biking, and hiking. It is great to know that it is used by so many people on such a regular basis, and we are very happy to be able to partner with the town to provide that amenity to everyone in the surrounding area.

Equipment

The equipment provided to us at the lake this year was all in great shape and in perfect working order. One thing that I did notice was at the end of the season when we removed the ropes that encircle the swimming area, is that the ropes themselves are getting pretty worn. I assume this wear is just a cause of being exposed to the elements year round, but it might be something that needs to be replaced in the next year or so, at which time we can purchase rope to enlarge the swimming area. Also the board in the back of the second lifeguard chair never got replaced, which would be great to have done by next season. Other than that the rescue board, rescue tubes, and umbrellas are holding up great as well as the other equipment used at the beach.

Staffing

We had a wonderful staff this year that was hard working, reliable, and dedicated to the members of the community using the park. A lot of the staff was able to connect in a very positive way with many members of the community and grew to know many of the regulars on a first name basis. It was great to see everyone able to use such a space as the park to grow and enjoy a beautiful summer.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we had a great summer at the park, and were able to boost our attendance numbers by close to 300 users this summer. We did not have any major incidents this summer, which shows that we were able to make a difference in helping to provide a safe place from families to use. We were also able to make many connections with users of the lake to help provide a more fulfilling and safe experience for everyone involved.