

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force
Minutes of Monday, June 19, 2017 meeting

Present: Bill Cooke (Selectboard), Brandee Nelson (Planning Board), Christine Ward (Citizen at large), Kathleen Triem (Citizen at large), Peter Franck (alternate Citizen at large), Gaetan Lachance (Conservation Commission).

Absent: Dale Abrams (Lake Mansfield Alliance) and Parks Commission rep. (seat is vacant)

Staff Present: Shep Evans, Chris Rembold, and Sean Van Deusen

Acting Chairperson Gaetan Lachance called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at Town Hall.

1. Administrative Business:

A. Ward moved to approve the minutes of 5/15/17, Frank seconded. All were in favor.

2. Updates from Task Force representatives

A. (i.) Ward said last week 21 seventh graders from the "Green Beans" club released trout into the lake, which they had raised in a class project. They also spend time in the Forest learning about that. She said this was another great opportunity for educational outreach and connections with students. (ii.) Ward also said there has been some vandalism and questionable activity nearby in the forest. She said the Police are aware of the issues. (iii.) Ward said invasive knotweed is a problem and can be seen near Christian Hill Road. She said some citizens are interested in seeking control options.

B. Evans said the Conservation Commission is looking into phragmites removal cost options. He said it would be about \$1,200 - 1,400 per year. Evans and Rembold will investigate funding sources and the Task Force can take action at the next meeting.

C. Van Deusen said the DPW will install "yield to pedestrian" signs along the road. He will look into repairs needed on the life guard chairs.

D. Evans also noted that the combination of dogs, fishermen, swimmers and boaters at the boat launch could lead to safety issues. It is something to consider.

E. It was noted a Parks Commission rep. on the Task Force is still needed.

3. Lake Mansfield Improvement Planning

A. Rembold reviewed the scope and timeline for the baseline engineering of Lake Mansfield Road and outlet structure. Frank asked whether this process would result in a design for the road, and if so how could it, if there are still so many questions to be answered. Rembold said this work will focus mostly on the drainage, road subsurface, permitting, and the outlet. Nelson suggested this scope be clarified. It was generally agreed that the process has been a long one and this work should result in useable information that takes the design decision to the next step. It should give enough detail and costs so that the Town can make design decisions.

Evans noted that Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is willing to review and advise on the outlet designs when we are ready.

B. Rembold gave a summary of the grant application he submitted for federal 319 grant funds (through Mass DEP) for the Knob Hill Rd storm water mitigation project was submitted.

C. Rembold said he has not heard back from the OFBA yet about the boat launch improvement plans.

Triem asked if the concept would separate users, to deal with potential safety issues that Evans mentions. Ward said this had not been part of draft designs.

There was a comment from a citizen present who said that fish hooks left in the water or weeds are a hazard not only for dogs but also boaters and swimmers who use the boat launch. It was noted that

fishing from the road is not necessarily the safest fishing spot, so many fishermen use the boat launch. There was a comment that all lake users including fisherman, and dog owners needed to be responsible and considerate. There were some suggestions about signage and education to address these concerns.

D. Van Deusen said the DPW will look at filling holes in the parking lot area.

E. Ward said she has a new estimate of almost \$24,000 to complete the accessible loop trail in the forest.

4. Citizen's Speak Time

- There was a comment that the Town should consider limiting the capacity of the beach by posting signage. Task Force members said the life guards would not be able to police that very effectively. Cooke suggested better parking enforcement along the road would serve to limit the number of people using the area.
- There was a comment that the Town should not expand the beach parking area, given existing concerns about vandalism and illicit activity in the forest. A bigger lot, further away, could increase these activities.
- There was a comment that the Town should mow and trim the bushes on the road to increase site distance for drivers. Task Force members said policies for limited mowing are in place so that the vegetation there can continue to reinforce the limited bank that still exists.

5. The next meeting will be Monday morning July 10 at 8:30. Nelson will chair.

6. Lachance adjourned the meeting at 9:35 AM

Minutes prepared by:

