

11/4/2013  
Approved as amended \*  
Christine Ward, chair

**Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force Meeting Minutes: Monday September 30 2013 8:30 AM**

**Location: Small conference room on the 2nd floor, off of the Town Manager's office, Town Hall 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA)**

Task Force Members Present: Christine Ward, Ron Dlugosz, Joe Sokul, Jessica Dezieck, Nina Evans, Dale Abrams, Brandee Nelson, Deb Phillips, Kathy Plungis, Chris Rembold (ex-officio) Others attending: Zach Chornyak (Tigh & Bond Project Engineer) & Karen Smith ( Park & Rec. Com. member)

1. 9.09.2013 LMITF Meeting Minutes were approved as written.
2. Old Business:
  - A. Phragmites control at LM/ provided through Conservation Commission / current status: The Commission approved WPA Notice of Intent 167-0379 for Town of Great Barrington for the selective application of herbicide to phragmites at Lake Mansfield. Work will begin after the receipt of MESA approval.
3. Meeting Focus: 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting w/ Zach P. Chornyak, P.E., the Project Engineer from Tighe and Bond (consulting engineering firm) to discuss study of options for improvement of Lake Mansfield Road.
  - A. Task Force Members will discuss pros, cons and possible variations of the 3 scenarios presented in the Tighe & Bond Memo (September 5, 2013)

Christine shared the following excerpts from the *GB Master Plan* as relevant to the consideration of future LM improvements:

- Core Initiative 1. Protect the special places and features – our compact village centers, historic treasures, natural resources, farm and open space – that contribute to Great Barrington's distinctive character.
- Strategy OSR 9.5: Continue stormwater improvements and planning at Lake Mansfield. Pay special attention to Lake Mansfield Road, the boat launch and Knob Hill, and the beach area. Engineering and designs for improving Lake Mansfield Road must account for the safety and enjoyment of all users of the recreation area, including bicyclists, fishermen, runners and walkers, as well as vehicles. Work with Bard College at Simon's Rock to establish a long term water quality monitoring and education program.

Dale asked that the Lake Mansfield Improvement Plan Goals also be used in the consideration of all options.

*Improvement Plan Goals:*

- Provide safe, year-round access to Lake Mansfield for walkers and bikers
- Improve vehicle safety along LM Road (including emergency services vehicles)
- Improve pedestrian and vehicle safety at the heavily used beach parking area
- Provide safe areas for shoreline fishing, wildlife viewing, and quiet enjoyment
- Restore and re-vegetate eroded portions of the eastern shoreline (i.e. vegetated buffer zone) along LM Road
- Control and filter road runoff before entering lake

Discussion of each proposed improvement was discussed. Ron Dlugosz provided this summary of the pro's and con's discussed:

## Lake Mansfield Improvement Alternatives (Sep 2013)/ Pros and Cons (Ron Dlugosz)

### Alternative 1 – Complete Road Rehabilitation (Maintaining Current Use)

#### Pro:

- Status Quo, least objectionable to most residents
- Best for drivers who are just interested in getting places
- Least impact to Lake Mansfield Road homeowner and private pool
- Least traffic impact
- Increased safety for drivers
- Provide a long lasting roadway
- Spreads out traffic throughout town

#### Con:

- Biggest impact on lake environment
- Loss of natural habitat
- Decreased safety for pedestrians and non-vehicular operation
- Decrease in aesthetics (guardrail, ledge removal)
- Could increase traffic and vehicle speeds
- Highest cost option
- Doesn't incorporate any lake improvements or LMITF "visions"
- Regulatory concerns
- Potential impact to vernal pool and Natural Heritage

### Alternative 2 – Reduced Use Alternative (One-Way Traffic)

#### Pro:

- Closest to Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force "vision"
- Good compromise for drivers and pedestrians
- Increased safety for both drivers and pedestrians
- Less impact on lake environment and natural habitat
- Less impact on aesthetics
- Potential to incorporate lake improvements
- Slightly less costly than Alt 1
- Provide a long lasting roadway and pathway

#### Con:

- Objectionable to some who just want to use the road for driving
- Doesn't incorporate many of the LMITF "visions"
- Need refinements prior to implementation such as reducing amount of asphalt
- Requires a safe and well thought out turn-around at start of one-way section
- Regulatory concerns
- Potential increased traffic on Christian Hill Road

### Alternative 3 – Park Access Use Alternative, Roadway Closed

#### Pro:

- Lowest cost
- Least impact on environment and aesthetics
- Best for non-vehicular users
- Decreased traffic even in two-way section near pool

#### Con:

- Potential parking problems and access especially at south end
- Potential loss of existing boat launch area because of turn-around needs
- Requires a safe and well thought out turn-around at both sides of closed section
- Impact to home-owner and private pool
- Doesn't incorporate many of the LMITF "visions"
- Objectionable to some who just want to use the road for driving or viewing by car
- Would most likely be the most objectionable to most residents

The task force agreed to make developing a strategy for next steps to be the focus for our next meetings discussion.

4. Updates from Task Force Members

- Tom Coote/Bard College of Simon's Rock has worked w/ Chris Rembold to prepare a MET Grant application that would allow for Student Water Quality Monitoring at Lake Mansfield. LMA is included as a project partner to support community outreach and education.

5. Next Task Force Meeting set for Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 8:30 AM. Meeting Focus: Continued Review of Lake Mansfield Road Improvement Options and development of next action steps.

Materials Considered:

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM Tighe&Bond

**DRAFT-Lake Mansfield Road Study**

**Town of Great Barrington, MA**

**TO:** Joe Sokul, DPW Superintendent, Town of Great Barrington

Pete Soules, Highway Superintendent, Town of Great Barrington

**FROM:** Zach Chornyak, Project Engineer, Tighe & Bond

Peter Valinski, Vice President, Tighe & Bond

**DATE:** September 5, 2013

Provided by: Christine Ward, Chairperson, Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force