

Minutes approved as amended 10/15/2012

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force Meeting Minutes: Monday September 10 2012 8:30 AM

Christine Ward

Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA

Task Force Members

Present: Christine Ward, Ron Dlugosz, Joe Sokul, Jessica Dezieck, Dale Abrams, Deb Phillips, Chris Rembold (ex-officio)

Absent: Nina Evans, Suzanne Fowle Schroeder, Amanda Sewall, conservation Agent

1. 8.03.12 LMITF Meeting Minutes approved as written
2. Planning for Lake Health (Chris Rembold/ Jessica Dezieck)
 - Geosyntec Aquatic Plant Survey (fieldwork: July 11, 2012) The task force discussed the Plant Survey Draft, suggested revisions for the final draft were discussed to be sent on the Bob Hartzel for inclusion the final draft. The Final Plant survey will be made available via pdf on the LMITF page on www.townofgb.org and on the LMA website.
 - Castle Hill Ave 319 grant construction timeline (Installation of improved storm drainage system). The construction, supported in part by a DEP 319 Grant, is scheduled for next spring (April/May) and is expected to take 2 months. The work will begin at the western end of the project. It will include the improvements of storm drain basins and the repaving of this portion of Castle Hill Road . Deb Phillips said it would be important to include this in the awareness of traffic areas needing support as this is the same period for main street construction. Homeowners in this area will be impacted temporarily as work is in progress.
 - Phragmites Control @ Lake Mansfield /Scope of services and bidding: Although the TF voted to recommend a service provided to the Conservation Commission at its last meeting, subsequent consideration led to the decision to review services needed in order to generate a definitive scope that could go to services providers in order to receive consistent work estimates for review. This will push this work to 2013. Chris Rembold submitted a draft for the TF consideration which outlined the services previously discussed. It was suggested that the scope of services also include a perimeter survey of the lake to map any other stands of Phragmites and minor revisions were suggested in language. The resulting final draft is attached (Attachment1) and will voted on at the Oct ^{15th} ~~8th~~ Meeting.
 - MET water quality monitoring grant with BERK / Simons Rock: Chris Rembold is working to connect with Teachers and students of Bard College at Simon's Rock in order to provide for water quality monitoring that would give us base data before the Caste Hill project is completed. Chris is looking at a grant from the MA ENV Trust as support funding for this effort. Discussion: This work would provide for making a strong work connection with the college in support of lake stewardship. Christine suggested that Lake Mansfield Alliance would be eager to support this as well, offering some limited financing, help in preparing the grant and coverage in the spring 2012 LMA newsletter. A letter of inquiry is due to Met by OCT. 12th.
3. Updates on Recreation Area Maintenance (Joe Sokul, DPW Superintendent)
 - Engineering for Lake Mansfield Road: \$75,000. Chapter 90 funding for this engineering work(concepts for road improvement) has been received. A request for qualifications will be prepared and released.

Qualifications will include experience in working in areas where there are significant environmental considerations. The selected firm will be provided with background materials including the Lake Improvement Plan concept developed earlier by the task force. The result will be a description of possible road improvement options and may include estimated costs for each option as well.

- Improvements to the Speed Hump/ Crosswalk: This work has again been delayed due to the difficulty of obtaining asphalt, and the need for asphalt in other areas. Christine spoke to the importance of completing this improvement prior to Main Street Construction as that work may significantly increase traffic on LM Road as an alternative route.
- Mowing in the LM Recreation Area: this work is on schedule for the coming weeks. Joe noted that it might have been helpful to complete this work earlier in the season to help improve visibility for drivers and pedestrians. Mowing Guidelines have been developed for this sensitive habitat area to help support plant growth in order to prevent further erosion and help filter storm water runoff.

4. Future Options for Lake Mansfield Road

- Barrington Brook Development Proposal / communications: TF members discussed the potential impact of the proposed 59 unit development. Chief among the concerns raised was the impact that increased traffic would have in the Recreation area where vehicular & non-vehicular safety is already of great concern. The TF supported the drafting of a letter to be submitted to the Planning Board for their input and consideration of this project for a special permit. The submitted letter is attached. (Attachment 2)
- Impact of Main Street Reconstruction (time did not allow for specific discussion)

5. Planning for Trails in the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest (moved to next meeting)

- Motorized Vehicles Policy
- New Trail Brochure Available / LMA funded August Trail Work for LMCF (Greenagers)
- GB WALK ABOUT Saturday SEPTEMBER 22 9AM Start: Du Bois Rain Park

6. The Lake Mansfield Recreation Area & the updating of the OSRP

7. Updates from Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Parks Commission, Town Planner, Lake Mansfield Alliance and others. (moved to next meeting)

- Safer Swimmer Floats donated to Lake Mansfield by Simon's Rock College through the efforts of Bill Meier.

8. Next Meeting: October 8th 2012 at 8:30AM, Town Hall 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Future considerations: Design & Installation of changing facilities at the LM Beach Area/ Next Steps

Provided by:

Christine Ward, Chairperson, Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force, ch.wards@verizon.net 413 528 1593

Attachments 1: Phragmites Control @ Lake Mansfield /Scope of services and bidding:

The Town of Great Barrington seeks proposals and price quotes from licensed professionals for treatment and eradication of Phragmites at Lake Mansfield. The area to be treated is approximately 4,000 square feet in area and is located on the eastern bank of the lake south of the outlet stream.

Proposals and prices will reflect the following as an anticipated scope of work:

1. Permitting: The area is governed by the Wetlands Protection Act and Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program and a Notice of Intent will be required. The price will assume that the professional will handle the entire permitting process, with the understanding that the Town will cover the filing fee and abutter notifications as required. This will be conducted in the spring of 2013 weather permitting. *R*

Permitting Price: \$ _____

2. Mapping and Documentation: The area to be treated will be mapped using *GPS* software and illustrative photographs taken prior to treatment. This will be conducted in the spring of 2013 weather permitting. Also included will be a lake perimeter survey for other existing stands of phragmites.

Mapping and Documentation Price: \$ _____

3. Treatment: Prices will reflect treatment of all (100 percent) stems, and will reflect a two year treatment cycle. Proposers will indicate their proposed treatment method, including the chemicals to be used for treatment and dye. This will be conducted in late summer 2013 (with year 2 in 2014).

Treatment Year 1 Price: \$ _____

Treatment Year 2 Price: \$ _____

4. Monitoring and Reporting: Prices will reflect monitoring after the Year 1 treatment to include a follow up inspection and brief progress report to the Conservation Commission in the form of an email. After the Year 2 treatment, the professional will document the program with photos and brief report or memo discussing the process and results.

Monitoring and Reporting Price: \$ _____

Total Price: \$ _____

Proposers will include their full contact information including email, a brief summary of their experience with related work, contact information for references, and names and license numbers of staff who will conduct the work.

Attachment 2: Letter to Planning Board, RE: Concern about Proposed Dev impacts to LM Rec Area

September 11, 2012

To the Members of the Planning Board,

I am writing on behalf of the town's Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force to express concern with respect to the Barrington Brook 59 unit condominium project proposed for Christian Hill Road. The following reflects the discussion at the September 10, 2012 meeting of the Task Force.*

The Lake Mansfield Area is a much used and cherished recreational and natural habitat resource area that deserves careful planning and protection to maintain and improve the resource for current and future generations. The unique value and nature of this space was recognized when it was designated the "Lake Mansfield Recreation Area" which includes the Lake, the adjacent Conservation Forest and trail system and Lake Mansfield Road from the Boat Launch north past the Lake Mansfield Outlet Brook.

Through the coordinated efforts of this task force and its member organizations many improvements have been made within the recreation area. However, throughout our tenure, ***pedestrian and vehicle safety as well as the condition of Lake Mansfield Road have remained among our most pressing and significant concerns.*** The narrowness and condition of Lake Mansfield Road, the lack of sidewalks and the closeness of the road to the lake along with the amount and variety of vehicular and non-vehicular use combine to create an area of special concern. The accessible trails in the conservation forest are resulting in a growing pedestrian use of this area as walkers become familiar with a 3.5 mile loop route that connects The Lake area with downtown, River Walk, and the surrounding neighborhoods. The trails and the connecting route have been developed to help our community move forward in providing for greater community pedestrian access.

Increased traffic on Lake Mansfield Road will serve to exacerbate the current safety issues in this multi-use recreation space. The Barrington Brook development team has indicated that the project would likely produce as many as 600 vehicle trips per day (ADT). Adding this many vehicles on Christian Hill Road would undoubtedly impact Lake Mansfield Road, as many vehicles coming and going from Christian Hill Road opt to bypass downtown by heading around Lake Mansfield Road.

The task force requests that the board and the developers of Barrington Brook do everything possible to ensure that the Lake Mansfield Recreation Area will not be compromised as the result of adding a large number of residential units on Christian Hill Road. As such, the task force requests that the board and developer consider the proposed Barrington Brook development in light of the task force's goals to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety on Lake Mansfield Road; and to minimize the traffic impact on the already challenged infrastructure of Lake Mansfield Road (road width, road surface, drainage, and storm water management) Ideally, we would like to see the town and the developer collaborate in the process of planning to support the protection of this and recreation area.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this concern,

Christine Ward
Chairperson
Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force

*Note: Suzanne Fowle, our representative from the planning board, was not present at this meeting.