

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force Meeting Minutes

October 25th, 2010 at 8:30 am

Location: 2nd floor Town Hall meeting room, 334 Main Street, Great Barrington

Next Meetings: November 8th and December 13th, 2010 (8:30, Town Hall)

In attendance: Christine Ward, Ron Dlugosz, Joe Sokul, Marco Crescentini, Dale Abrams, and Chris Rembold (ex-officio)

Meeting documents:

- LMITF Meeting Minutes 9.13.10
- Revised Scope of Work for LM Trails

1. Move to Accept 9.13.10 LMITF Meeting Minutes as Written

Action: 9.13.25 LMITF Meeting Minutes Accepted as written by unanimous vote

Other Business: Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees was distributed. Task Force members are asked to review this summary and to sign and submit a document stating that they have done so. In addition, the task force supported seeking BOS approval for including Marco Crescentini as the alternate Conservation Commission member and Chris Rembold as the Alternate Planning Board Member to the task Force.

2. Grant Updates

a. 604b Approved, Public Announcement

Discussion: The Town of Great Barrington has been awarded its request for Clean Water Act 604(b) funds through Massachusetts DEP for use in designing stormwater management solutions for the Knob Hill Road and boat launch area of Lake Mansfield. We are now finalizing our scope of work and will soon sign a contract with DEP. Chris Rembold provided a community announcement of this grant via The Berkshire Record. The contract has been awarded to Foresight Land Services.

b. Status of 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant: will hear probably by late September

Discussion: The Town has been notified by Mass DEP that our 319 application will be awarded. This grant will be used to implement stormwater improvements for Castle Hill Avenue. The grant is for \$266,000 in federal Clean Water Act section 319 grant funds, to be matched at 40% by Town funds including work conducted by the DPW, staff and volunteer time. Formal approval by US EPA is still pending. The 3 year contract will result in the curtailing of run-off introduced sediments to Lake Mansfield and will greatly enhance water quality and lake health by providing a solution for current water quality impairment.

c. Recreational Trail Grant for Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest: Revised Scope of Work;

Discussion: The task force reviewed the revised scope of work for trail development in the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest as described in the Sept 25, 2010 report provided for grant funding agencies. The current work, now ongoing, will provide an accessible trail bed comprised of compressed crushed stone from the beach area parking lot to the bridge/boardwalk as well as the clearing of ¼ mi loop trail. All work, including signage and blazing is to be completed by spring of 2011. (see attached handout for specific funding information). Work is being completed by Peter S. Jensen & Assoc. and is supported by volunteer efforts involving transplanting of native ferns from trail bed and invasive removal. Joe Sokul said the DPW could support this work by hauling away invasive debris.

3. Vernal Pool in Lake Mansfield watershed

a. Review of levels of Current protections

b. Review of protection available through NHESP

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Discussion: According to information provided by Marco Crescentini and Suzie Fowle (via email) NHESP certification will have a minimum effect on levels of protection if the vernal pool is already a "jurisdictional wetland". The certification does provide the additional protection of prohibiting fill to be introduced to the area.

Next Steps: Marco will investigate the current status of the vernal pool to determine if it is currently a "jurisdictional wetland". Outreach efforts aimed at informing the property owners of the relevance of this resource will wait until this information is acquired.

4. Updates on Recreation Area Maintenance

- a. Update from Joe Sokul: Recent mowing is under review.
- b. Whale Rock graffiti

Discussion: Volunteer efforts have effectively removed Graffiti from Whale Rock. Bob & Jenny O'Haver along with the help of Tom Ingersoll used a power washer to remove the graffiti. Lake Mansfield Alliance provided support of this effort by reimbursing the cost of the power washer.

Joe S. said the town also has the capability to power wash graffiti in case needed in the future.

5. Updates from Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Parks Commission, Town Planner

Discussion: Christine Ward reported that she had informed the Park Commissioners of the need to develop rules and regulations for the Lake Mansfield Recreational Area as the ownership of the Lake by the town is now imminent. The Parks Commission is supportive of this effort and will plan to review the suggested guidelines provided by the task force.

6. Developing Comprehensive Rules for Lake Mansfield

- a. Consideration of an initial draft as submitted by Ron & Christine

Discussion: Joe S. reported that the transfer of Lake Mansfield from the water district to the town is imminent. The Task Force agreed on the necessity for developing guidelines for regulating lake use to provide for safety and water quality protection. Work at reviewing and aligning existing guidelines for the beach area, conservation forest and lake will continue. Ron Dlugosz has developed a document to support this effort. The process will involve developing a consistent set of guidelines for all areas within the Lake Mansfield Recreation Area by the task force to be reviewed by the connected town agencies and presented to the Board of Selectmen for their approval.

Action: Related Boards will be informed of this ongoing process. Christine will contact Water District for current guidelines.

7. Events at Lake Mansfield

- a. Senior picnic, September 13th, 2010 (10:00am- 2:30pm): Report
- b. 2011 Events

Discussion: The ElderBerry Bash was reported a great success. Planning for 2011 event was postponed till November.

Next Meeting: Update on Vernal Pool status, focus on developing guidelines for the LM Recreational Area.