

8.3.2012 Approved as Written
Christine Ward

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force Meeting Minutes: Monday June 11, 2012 8:30 am
Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall 334 Main Street, Great Barrington

Present Task Force Members: Christine Ward, Joe Sokul, Jessica Dezieck, Suzanne Fowle Schroeder, Deb Phillips, Chris Rembold (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Ron Dlugosz, Nina Evans, Dale Abrams & Amanda Sewall, conservation Agent

1. Voted to accept 5.14.12 LMITF Meeting Minutes as Written
2. Updates on Recreation Area Maintenance (Joe Sokul, DPW Superintendent)
 - Out-dated telephone poles have been removed: Joe worked supported this work and met on site to help provide for the removal of the obsolete poles.
 - Improvements to the Speed Hump/ Cross walk: Project postponed due to difficulty in obtaining paving material.

Action: Pursue possibility of refreshing paint as an interim measure to help provide for safety during the lake's busy season.

- Engineering for Lake Mansfield Road has been postponed due to delay in of bonding of Chapter 90 State Funding.
3. The Lake Mansfield Recreation Area & the updating of the OSRP/ next meeting date (Chris Rembold): A July date is yet to be set for the next Open Space & Recreation Forum. A public Forum is scheduled for June 21st (6:00 PM, GB Fire Station - 37 State Road) to review current draft of all goal areas of the Master Plan.
 4. Phragmites Control @ Lake Mansfield / Consideration of the proposal submitted by Tom Coote (BERC), Berkshire Environmental Research Center (Draft Attached). In discussion of the following points were made:
 - Of the two options the task force preferred the standard treatment of all stems as more cost effective & time efficient when considering contracted services; the more experimental approach is better suited to grant funding and would require several years of study to provide reliable data.
 - The question was raised about the balance of eradication vs. control of Phragmites. More plant specific information is needed. This information should include best timing for use of any herbicides. Concern about conducting this work during the swimming season was expressed.
 - While Tom offered to donate 2hrs of time for permitting, concern over the \$200/ hour work rate for additional hours was expressed by many.

- The task force decided to pursue additional quotes for this work, and to review all quotes at its July 9th Meeting.
- Suzie Fowle offered to donate her time in submitting the NOI. Christine offered to donate her time in scanning the lake area for additional phragmites colonies.

Action: Christine will inform Tom of the Task Force decision and she will work with Amanda Sewall to obtain quotes from 2 or 3 other specialists. Suzi will research options for phragmites control and provide the task Force with her findings via email prior to the July Meeting. Christine will informally survey the lake area perimeter for additional phragmites stands.

5. Planning for Trails in the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest

- Update on 2011 Housatonic Heritage Partnership Grant for Trail Projects: The near-final draft of the trail brochure for Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest was shared with the task force, along with its companion brochure for Threemile Hill. A brochure for the Pfeiffer Arboretum is also being developed. Along with the text time and funding is being devoted to developing updated maps at all sights. The Task Force spoke in favor of the brochures made suggestions for the LM Brochure Map: remove Dehon Ave, label the Lake Mansfield Outlet Stream. In addition it was noted that the text should alert visitors to the lack of parking at the pedestrian entrance on Christian Hill Road.

6. LMA Website / Discussion of new website: www.Lakemansfield.org

- Members of the task force were very supportive of the new website: Great uncluttered user friendly format, very complete information, great links. The development of this site was donated by Bill Allen and Charlotte Curtiss. Christine expressed great appreciation of the many professional hours provided to hone the new website. Task members were encouraged to suggest future additions to the site as we work to keep it fresh and current.

7. Certifying the Vernal Pool/ connecting with East View Pool Group. (Jess Dezieck)

- The Vernal pool adjacent to Lake Mansfield (east of LM road) received certification on 2012 -05-30 (CVP 6692). A copy of the certification form and maps is attached. This area is now under two layers of protection as a bordering wetland and a vernal pool) Suzie asked if the presence of the Jefferson Salamander has been documented and submitted. This would provide another layer of protection as estimated habit.

Action: Provide this information to the Conservation Commission; confirm the documentation of the Jeffersonian Salamander.

8. Design & Installation of Changing facilities at the LM Beach Area/ Next Steps

- Discussion postponed to July meeting because of meeting time constraints.

9. Updates:

- i. Conservation Commission: Pat Kinne has resigned as Chair of the Conservation Commission. A new member is being sought. Andrew Mankin is currently serving as the commission's chair.
- ii. Parks Commission: Christine has offered to serve as the liaison to the Park's commission until a Parks Commission is available. The Task Force inquired if Mr. Gibbons is able to serve, as he would be an excellent represented for the Lake providing us with a historic perspective and Park connection.
- iii. Town Planner: The BOS will be asked to give a go-ahead for pursuing the acquisition of the small triangle of private property at the boat launch at June 11th meeting. Also, Geosyntec will be doing the weed study at LM in July. Chris will let us know the work day(s) so we can get some photos.
- iv. DPW: After several years of service, Bob Avery will be retiring from the DPW. Appreciation was expressed about the excellent care Mr. Avery has provided for Lake Mansfield Park.

10. Next Meeting: Monday July 9th 2012 at 8:30AM, Town Hall 2nd Floor Meeting Room

- Suzie Fowle will be unable to attend.

Provided by:

Christine Ward, Chairperson, Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force

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