

approved
5.13.2013
Christine B. Ward
Chairperson

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force Meeting Minutes:

Monday March 11 2013 8:30 AM

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

PRESENT: C. Ward (chair), J. Dezieck, R. Dlugosz, N. Evans, D. Phillips, C. Rembold (ex officio), S. F. Schroeder, J. Sokul

NEXT MEETING: Monday, **May 13, 2013** at 8:30 AM, Town Hall. Please note that meetings henceforth will be **bimonthly, not monthly.**

Minutes of 1/14/13: Approved as corrected. The name is correctly spelled "Shoval", not "Sheveau".

Recreation Area Updates: (J. Sokul, DPW) If enough Chapter 90 funds in this fiscal year are available Foresight will update their prior estimate of the costs of Lake Mansfield Road improvement. Otherwise this updated estimate will be deferred to the next fiscal year (summer, 2013). The scenarios considered will include: stabilizing and improving the road as a two-way road, making it a one way road with a multiuse path along the lake or converting road into a multiuse path through a linear park. Also to be included in the new estimate is cost of improving lake outlet drain.

Funds are available to redo beach area speed hump this spring.

Phragmites control at lake: (J. Dezieck, Con Com) Scope of work has been transmitted to Conservation Commission and has been approved. Work to be done fall, 2013, avoiding swimming season. It was noted that there is a unique stand of **native** (non-exotic) phragmites at Lake Agawam.

LMITF 2012 annual report: (C. Ward) Provided to Town Manager for inclusion in 2013 Town Meeting Report. To be shared by all LMITF members with their respective committees or relevant groups.

LMA community gathering/ information outreach re 319 grant: Thanks to C. Rembold for his excellent discussion of the grant and to Richard and N. Evans, hosts. Thanks to R. Dlugosz for speaking about the need to revitalize LMA steering committee. He and C. Ward working on this; initial plans are to divide work among new members and meet only quarterly. Next step: letter outlining the reconstruction work to go to affected neighborhood, emergency services and Simon's Rock in April, by which time start date and scheduling for the work can be more definitive.

Enhancing connection to Simon's Rock College: (C. Ward) Email from Tom Coote, biology professor at the college. Interest in pursuing ideas to engage S.R. students and faculty in stewardship of Lake Mansfield and its surrounds. Suggestions: provide S.R. with summary of mandated levels of protection, engage students in clearing of invasive species and fish and water quality monitoring, tying S.R. trails into Conservation Forest trails.

LMITF meeting frequency: Will try bimonthly instead of monthly meetings, starting with next meeting.

Town Board and Committee updates: (C. Ward and J. Dezieck) LMA Lake Mansfield Intern's work has included weekly visits to the Forest, with journal entries reporting on natural history sightings, trail conditions, trail users. This information will be made available on the LMA website. Other ways of providing this natural history information to the community at large will be explored as a way of fostering greater community appreciation and understanding of this beautiful resource.

Thanks to J. Sokul and his team for keeping the beach area parking lot open through the snowy months.

Upcoming relevant dates:

LMA newsletter to be mailed: 4/2.

Berkshire Volunteer Day: 4/18 from 9 -1, attempt to extirpate garlic mustard from the Forest
Lake Mansfield Celebration and Clean-up Day: 4/28 from 10:30-3:00

N. Evans, Recording Secretary