

LAKE MANSFIELD IMPROVEMENT TASK FORCE MINUTES 9/14/15

PRESENT: C. Ward (chair), D. Abrams, B. Cooke, N. Evans, G. Lachance, B. Nelson, K. Plungis, C. Rembold (ex officio), J. Sokul

Visiting: Tom Coote, Water Quality Program Supervisor (MET Grant)
KZLA representatives Kyle S. Zick and Danielle Desilets

NEXT MEETINGS: 9/21/15, 8:30 AM, Town Hall, solely to plan for Lake Mansfield Celebration over Columbus Day weekend, concomitant with trial of making Lake Mansfield Road one way (assuming permission for the trial is obtained from the Select Board.)

10/12/15, 8:30 AM, Town Hall, next regularly scheduled LMITF meeting will be rescheduled as we will all be at Lake Mansfield Columbus Day Weekend celebration.

MINUTES OF 7/13/15 MEETING: Approved as written

LAKE LIMNOLOGY: Tom Coote summarized (see attached) results from the first six months of a two year study being conducted by his students at Simon's Rock. Data, obtained from two sites away from the lake and six sites bordering it, included total nitrogen (TN), total phosphates (TP), the TN/TP ratio, total dissolved solids (TDS), and pH. Though not all data have been analyzed preliminary findings were not unexpected and included:

Lake pH dropped to 6 in winter and currently is very basic at 9.3.

TN/TP should be less than 10 and at several sites was far in excess of that. High ratios increase the likelihood of algal blooms, a small one of which occurred this summer, perhaps for the first time. Total suspended solids were not measured.

By far the highest reading for TDS was, unsurprisingly, from the site that sources where the 319 grant created the new drainage system.

VOC's (volatile organic compounds) i.e. acetone and methyl tert-butyl ether, were also found on one occasion from the above site.

In winter parts of the bottom of the lake were virtually anoxic but extensive fish kills did not occur. Probably there are relatively oxygen-rich springs feeding the lake and sustaining the fish thereby.

LETTER OF COMPLAINT: Received by J. Tabakin, letter complained of poor maintenance of porta-potties, cigarette butts on beach and illegal road parking. There was Consensus that a more active police presence would be useful and that increasing summer lake usage has taxed current facilities.

KZLA: First meeting of all of LMITF with the firm (the unanimous choice by the LMITF subcommittee of the four applicants who completed proposals) chosen to spearhead planning for the Recreation Area. There was Extensive give and take clarifying LMITF members' visions of what the process might yield and responding to KZLA queries. Several concrete initial steps:

Public Forum tentatively scheduled for 11/04/15: first of multiple citizen information gathering and information promulgating sessions, to be led by KZLA, who suggested live real time streaming on FaceBook for those who could not be in physical attendance at the meeting but wanted to participate. Publicity for meeting to include radio, Berkshire Edge, Berkshire Eagle, website, Eileen Moody, the hill google group.

Prior to above meeting LMITF unanimously agreed to ask Select Board for a trial of making Lake Mansfield Road one way south to north from launch to parking lot over the three day Columbus Day holiday (10/10 – 10/12). C. Ward to make said request. (All members present (K. Plungis needed to leave meeting early) voted to seek this approval from the Select board on 9/28. Christine and Brandee are available to present the request to the Selectboard at that time.

Assuming the Select Board agrees to the above request, we should have people fully experience what the Recreation Area can offer with the weekend filled with activities, to be planned at a special LMITF meeting next week. Suggestions included biking, led hikes, and making/sailing lanterns on the lake at night to a bagpipe accompaniment.

Nina Evans, Recording Secretary