

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force
Minutes of Tuesday, July 30, 2019 meeting

Present: Jeff Cohen (Conservation Commission), Bill Cooke (Selectboard), Brandee Nelson (Planning Board), and Christine Ward (Citizen at large).

Absent: Dale Abrams (Lake Mansfield Alliance), Peter Franck (Citizen at large), Ilana Siegal (Parks Commission),

Staff Present: Chris Rembold, Shep Evans, Sean Van Deusen

Mr. Cooke called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

1. Administrative Business

Cohen moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2019, Nelson seconded. Cohen, Nelson and Ward were in favor; Cooke abstained.

2. Member Updates: Ward said the GBLC hired Sassafras Land Care to clean up the Welcome St./Christian Hill Rd. entrance to the trail system. He pulled poison ivy and replanted bare areas with native plants and pollinator friendly species. She said the pollinator garden at the beach area will soon receive a handsome sign.

Ward added that Sassafras and GBLC are working on a plan for the Knob Hill / Lake Mansfield Road hill, where the drainage work was recently done. Rembold will put her in touch with the adjacent land owner.

Finally, she said yoga at the beach has been very successful. It is Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8am.

3. Project Updates: Rembold said they should hear back about the 604(b) grant for the beach parking lot area in August. Rembold added the Knob Hill stormwater improvements is substantially complete except for replanting and some more outreach about the project.

4. Lake Mansfield Road

Interim Paving: Mr. Rembold said the Selectboard voted to have a portion of the road paved in the short term. Van Deusen said if we don't pave it in the short term we may need to close it for the winter. The pothole patches last a week or two and this is not sustainable or good for the lake.

Task Force members have concerns that paving is not the best option in the short term and the Selectboard should have asked the Task Force.

Motion: Ward moved to ask the Selectboard to reconsider the short-term paving and discuss with the Task Force. Nelson seconded.

In discussion, Cooke thought if it was not paved it could be closed before Thanksgiving. Cohen asked why not Labor Day. It was noted that if the road was closed the DPW would still have to pave on the north and south ends, maintain access to the private driveways, and somehow turn around. Van Deusen said he would like to think about a traffic plan.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 against.

Cooke will discuss with the Selectboard chair and let the task force know when the Selectboard will meet.

Road Design Timeline: Members discussed how to move forward with redesign and seeking grants. Cohen said it will be helpful to know what we're designing for. Is it a paved path, a permeable surface, etc. Nelson said we have the baseline engineering, surveys, concept plans, and the question now is how we design the narrow

corridor. Ward said bank stabilization and stormwater management are important, a recreational path, as well as some sort of emergency access.

Nelson asked about the utility poles, noting the utility companies will still need access to the area for repairs. What are our obligations to make that possible?

It was discussed that paved, three-season, dirt, two-track, or other road designs have different costs, maintenance needs, and longevity. We should review these options.

Nelson said the 2016 comprehensive plan discussed some options as well as grant possibilities. We should all review that and then have a more detailed discussion next time. All concurred.

5. Citizen's Speak Time

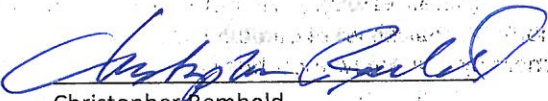
There was a comment that in road designs the task force should use not just an engineer, but also consider a landscape architect's perspective.

6. The next meeting will be: early September, TBD

The Task Force will discuss the 2016 report and possible designs of the road closure option.

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Minutes prepared by:



Christopher Rembold