

**Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force**  
**Minutes of April 20, 2023 meeting**

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, via audio/video teleconference as noted on the agenda.

Present: Andy Didio, Brandee Nelson, Cindy Schoenfeld, Christine Ward.

Members absent: Dale Abrams, Leigh Davis, Bill Meier

Also present: Chris Rembold, Assistant Town Manager / Director of Planning & Community Development

Ward served as Chair for this meeting.

Administrative Business

Nelson moved to approve the minutes of August 30, 2022; Schoenfeld seconded.

Roll call vote: Didio-aye, Nelson-aye, Schoenfeld-aye, Ward-aye. Passed 4-0.

Updates & Areas of Concern for discussion

- a. The installation of the new playground has been completed.
- b. Ward shared an upcoming events calendar. There are volunteer events including clean up days and a fundraising event. (See attached)
- c. Water chestnut. Last year a lot was removed mostly from the north end of the lake, but it's been spotted elsewhere. Volunteers should contact Dale Abrams.
- d. Phragmites. There is some new growth suspected on the west side of the lake. More information is needed.
- e. Spongy moths. Nelson will develop an informational flyer to post.
- f. Geese. The members discussed that the Canada geese need to not feel comfortable to settle into the beach area and nest. Once eggs get hatched that family can't move until the goslings fledge, so they cause issues at the beach all summer. The members discussed various strategies including flashing strobe lights and coyote decoys. They agreed the lights would be disruptive to other wildlife and people in that area, and that the coyote would not be effective for long (and might end up thrown into the lake). Members agreed that spraying grape kool-aid is the best strategy. There is something in the formula that makes the vegetation distasteful to the geese.  
Ward will initiate this work.
- g. Water quality study. Rembold provided an update. No major findings so far. Some initial results seemed to indicate higher phosphate levels at the Knob Hill outfall culvert, but these have been determined to be lab errors. The storm drains on Castle Hill and Knob Hill show elevated nutrients and Cl but these are not making it into the lake.
- h. Aquatic weeds study. This was completed last summer it is now posted on the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force webpage.

Lake Mansfield Comprehensive Project:

Rembold gave an update, saying the wetlands permit application – the Notice of Intent - will be heard at the Conservation Commission on April 26. This is for the entire project – the culvert, parking area, beach area, and the road removal/path conversion.

Members agreed that outreach will be important prior to construction start, especially about the noticeable items like tree removal to create the new parking area. Outreach methods suggested were local radio (WSBS) including Smitty's show, the Eagle, the Edge, the NEWsletter, the groups who use Lake Mansfield (including at the August 27 event), the Town website, and the GB Land Conservancy website. Rembold said that outreach and education will be key to the success of the project and is in fact a grant requirement. Rembold added that he has reached out to the school's science teachers to develop a science curriculum.

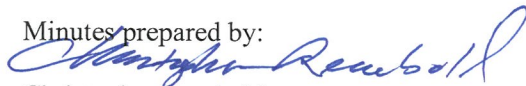
Rembold said funds are not yet in hand for the road portion of the project, and the earliest that work could start would be the late fall of 2023. He said the work is not too complex but it could impact the summer 2024 season.

Citizens Speak: None

Next Meeting: May 16 or May 18

Adjourn: Didio moved to adjourn, Schoenfeld seconded. The meeting adjourned without objection at approximately 6:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by:



Christopher Rembold